

ALBERT WILLIAMS

# Welcome to my blog

[albertwilliams.tech.blog](http://albertwilliams.tech.blog)

by

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*Welcome to my blog* first published by the author in the United Kingdom  
2022

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## Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank all those who have contributed in one way or another to this project.

Especially to my wife Tempie Williams without whom this journey as an author would be a lonely road.

All graphics are used under fair use for scholarly purposes

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CONGRATULATIONS! On just receiving your very first Post Graduate Assessment Mark! It is high and nice. God is truly with you. It is his time. We love and admire you!

CARRY ON FORWARD...

Your wife and #1 Fan Tempie Williams AIAAP MIAB

February 27, 2017

# Welcome to my blog

## PREFACE

Welcome to a time capsule of academic papers, blogposts, commentaries, biographies, reflections and news written by Albert Williams for the past 6 years in his blog: [albertwilliams.tech.blog](http://albertwilliams.tech.blog)

The tome comes at the end of the writer's, year-long 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations as a published author.

Launched on December 5, 2016, and initially comprised of pieces centered around his Open University experience while working towards a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Computing and Information Technology, and later his postgraduate studies in Technology Management.

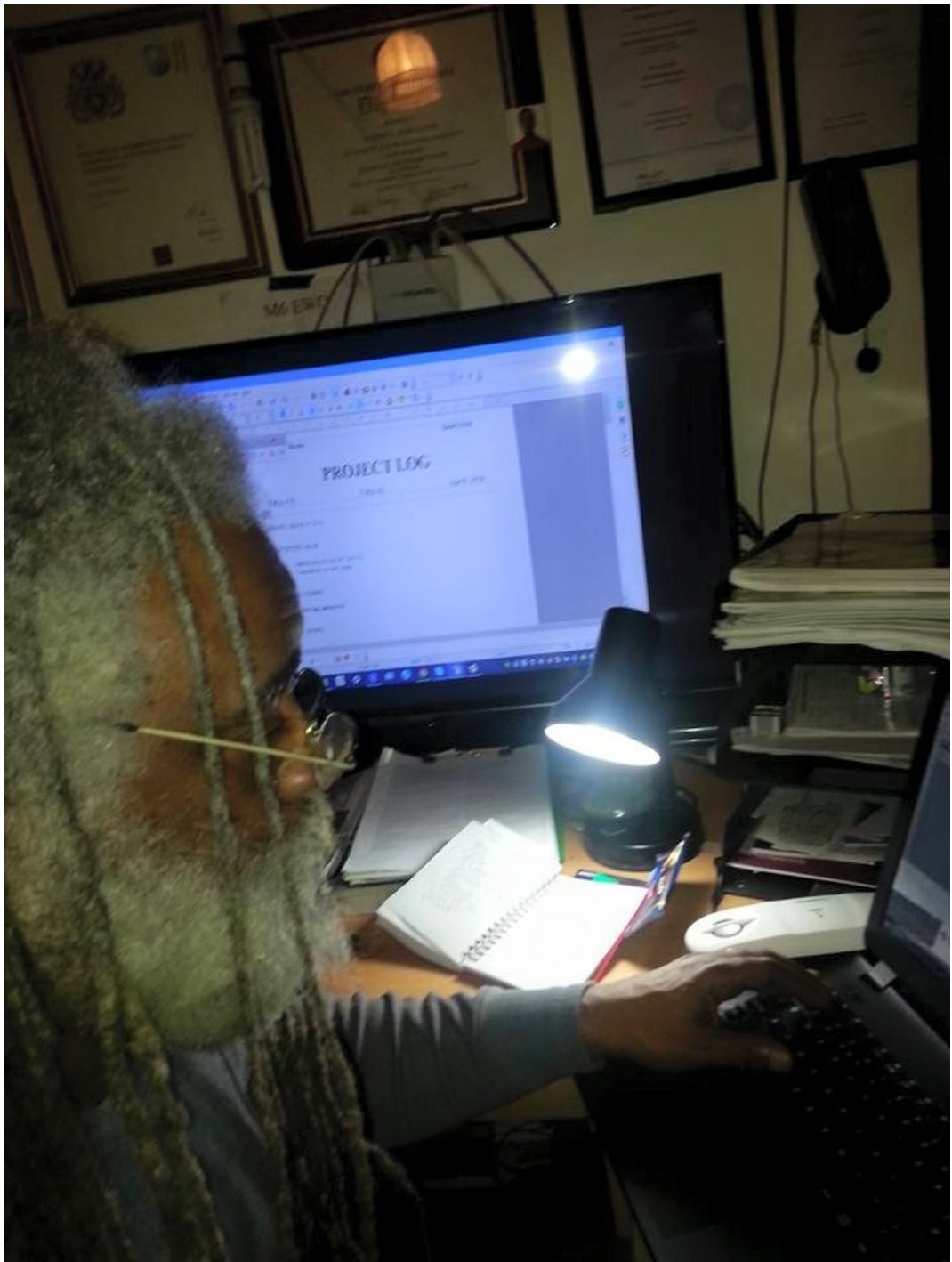
Besides academic subjects, in this commemorative publication, Williams shares blogs posts that featured in his Albert Williams Reporting, formerly [albertwilliams.tech.blog](http://albertwilliams.tech.blog) from 2016 to 2022 on such themes as the devastating 2017 hurricane season which saw two cat-5 storms, Irma and Maria wreak considerable damage to the Caribbean. He also followed the chaos caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across the world, the volcanic explosion in St. Vincent, the death of the Queen Elizabeth II and many more topics of a general nature.

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend this substantial volume of some of Albert Williams's best work to you.

Tempie Williams (author of Feelings)  
AIAAP MIAB

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Welcome to my new computing and information technology blog | December 5, 2016



# Welcome to my blog

Dear reader,

This is a work in progress, so please accept my apologies if broken links appear now and then, as we are still in the teething process of deciding on the best theme to work with.

I welcome your comments, ideas and suggestions. I am a big fan of, open source and open innovation. The meeting of minds from anywhere on the globe makes for a very productive and informative debate.

Be Sure to follow my postings here and on Facebook on issues in tech that I care about.

Yours truly

Albert Williams

December 5, 2016

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**An Information Technology Security guide for end-users. An overview of the best practices to mitigate cyber-attacks at the front-end of an enterprise environment, with special emphasis on the implications of firewalls |**

**December 5, 2016**



# Welcome to my blog

## 1 Introduction

Welcome to your Information Technology Security guide for end-users: An overview of best practices to mitigate cyber-attacks at the front-end in an enterprise environment An Information Technology Security guide for end-users An overview of best practices to mitigate cyber-attacks at the front-end in an enterprise environment, with special emphasis on the implications of firewalls

This brief overview of the some of the threats to your organisation will recommend best-practices in the IT security industry to keep your organisation's information assets safe from prying eyes. Or at least, to make it harder for 'the bad guys' to infiltrate your network. Companies and organisations, big and small, every year are subject to cyber attacks for various motives. On the one hand, some are perpetrated by persons who simply get a thrill out of the satisfaction of knowing they have hacked into your network. While on the other, organised, cyber criminals are motivated by commercial or political reasons.

The results of a successful cyber attack can be personal, financial and can even lead to death, that is why a well-written security policy is paramount to your organization's survival in cyberspace.

The segment of your network most accessed by members of staff in your enterprise is most obviously those who operate daily at your end-devices: workstations, desktops computers and in recent time, smart phones and tablets. While many of the cyber attacks can take place at the network level, it is also important to maintain good practice at the end-user level too. Moreso, if your enterprise is providing e-banking, e-government, e-health or other safety-critical services to the public.

In 2015, according to The HM Government's, 2015 Information Security Breaches survey, in the UK, 90% of large organisations reported that they had been attacked, while some 74 % of smaller organisations reported similar failings. It stands to reason, therefore, that failing to prepare for a cyber attack, is tantamount to an open invitation to, career and opportunist cyber hackers.

## 2. Human resource: your most valuable asset

The personnel who command your end-devices are perhaps your most vital resource in the fight against cyber crime. Even with all the relevant anti-virus software and encryption; security policies and risk assessments that may already have been put in place. According to the Cisco 2016 Annual Security Report, it could take between 100 and 200 days before an organisation even detects that its IT infrastructure has been compromised. Your information assets could already be in the hands of cyber criminals as we speak.

For these and other reasons, it is your staff who are the foot soldiers on the ground who need to keep a watchful eye on how they interact with the worldwide web as they carry on company business. Password security is not enough. Passwords can be compromised. Either by malicious

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software or social engineering. A well-worded, and promoted, IT security policy in the work place is a must to increase the chances of mitigating the ‘bad guys’ taking control of your network and bringing it to financial ruin, and its reputation marred.

## 3. Not all end-users are equal

In an organisation, all clerical staff may have physical access to computers on the network. E-business is the modern way of conducting business, but not all staff should be granted the same amount of privileges and access to company information. Even in a very small organisation of less than 10 staff, this rule should be observed. Having said this, according to the size of the organisation, some roles such as the Information Security Officer, might be coupled with that of an administrator. Not ideal, but it happens, if the responsibility of internal IT security has simply evolved as the organisation grew.

The standard in the industry is for network resources to be managed by an Administrator whose responsibility is largely to monitor the network, and to provide the necessary permissions to other users on the network. Below him/her, are Privileged users who have access to certain parts of the network necessary for, say, his/hers department. Below, privileged users are general users. They maybe front-end staff who interact with the customers through the company’s interface responding to customer queries, for instance.

Other persons, who may need access to your parts of your network, may be Business Partners. These are contractors and organisations with whom you do business and may need to log on to the system to respond to company request for supplies or maintenance, or finalise payments. Finally, Other users, who may have an account on your network such as customers or clients. These accounts may have customer passwords, bank details, address and date of birth stored on the company data base.

Let us now take a brief look at some of the common threats to the network that end-users may encounter on a day-to-day basis.

## 4.Types of threats

### Ransomware

To be clear, the threat of privacy invasion, loss of productivity, infringement of intellectual property and theft of financial and personnel data, are very real threats. According to Cisco (2016b) ransomware campaigns, namely, The Angler Exploit kit creates havoc for organisations by rendering the victims’ computer unusable by encrypting it, and demanding a ‘ransom’ to be paid in bitcoins to obtain the decryption key to have your computer unlocked.

### Distributed denial of service (DdoS)

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The SSHPsychos DDoS network is also in the spotlight of current cyber activity in 2016. It operates by taking control of, up to thousands, even tens of thousands of information systems, like desktop computers distributed all over the world-wide web. The reason for this distributive approach is to avoid detection by usual means. Its main aim is to create a botnet, using brute-force attack on Secure Shell (SSH) traffic. It has the power to launch a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack that cannot be addressed on a device-by-device basis. In this case, the botnet was being created using brute-force attacks involving secure Shell (SSH) traffic to obtain passwords and infiltrate an IT system.

## Browser infections

Returning to the Cisco 2016 Annual Security Report that disclosed that, browser add-ons and browser infections constitute an acute, an immediate danger to a company's security. An end-user clicking on a malicious browser extension or even visiting a webpage with a 'compromised browser' can help an attacker to access sensitive data, user credentials, customer data and knowledge of your company's internal APIs and infrastructure'. Malicious browsers are particularly harmful in that they may not only steal sensitive data, but can release malware and adware onto your system. They do this by staff, unbeknownst to them, clicking on malicious links or 'malvertising' embedded in pop-ups and other advertisement graphics. According to Cisco (2016c) These links download viruses that, "can hijack users' browser requests and then inject malicious web pages into search engine results pages."

## Social engineering

Some of the attacks may come in the form of an interaction with a hacker through social networks. By clicking on links supposedly from Facebook, for instance, but are really designed to load malware that captures passwords. What you post online about yourself, can also be used against you by someone high jacking your identity. They may then go on to impersonate you, open fake accounts and/or distribute malware through messages apparently coming from you.

## **5.How to recognise an infected computer, and what to do about it**

As an end-user, and one of the vital links in the security policy network within an organisation, you are probably the first to realise that your device is not working properly, or that unwanted ads are flooding your screen. For instance, your desktop may be taking a long time, or never at all to load certain applications. They may be long lagging moments. In severe cases, a pop up might appear saying that the program is corrupt. Another tell-tale sign, is that unwanted advertisements flood your screen, or the computer begins to operate in an unusual manner.

To ensure security hygiene, a few points must be emphasised: end-users should :

Report any unusual computer behaviour to your immediate supervisor or information security officer as appropriate.

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Do not turn off or reboot the infected system.

Ensure that other members of staff are aware of the problem and that all computers on the network are checked for similar symptoms.

Provide a written statement of the time and date, and description of what you observed that triggered your report.

Seek guidance if you receive any unusual request from applications to click on a link.

Use company network resources for company business.

Avoid surfing the web or visiting social media if your Intranet at work connects directly to Internet.

Having said this, it is also the company's responsibility to ensure that only licensed software is purchased and installed on company network. It is also the collective responsibility that the software is used in accordance with the said licence. Having legally purchased software on your system, also makes it possible to receive updates and patches. Another incentive to use legal software is that, the company stands in breach of copyright legislation in your country and can lead to litigation, huge fines and unfavourable press.

## 6. Technologies for protecting privacy and intellectual property

An efficiently, implemented IT security policy puts in place several safeguards to ensure that breaches of the network are quickly detected and at best, kept to minimum. To do this, administrators of information systems deploy several technologies and controls to counteract illicit cyber activity, and to protect proprietary data. In this guide, we discuss several technologies, that are able to protect valuable company information as it traverses the internet including;

Encryption

Digital rights management(DRM)

Intellectual property rights

Digital signatures

Encryption

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Encryption can be defined as a digital technique that transforms ordinary text, images and audio into a string of garbled characters that are not interpretable to another human being or information system without being in possession of the decryption key. It achieves this by using a mathematical algorithm to create an encrypted form of the information, which is called plaintext. The encrypted information is called ciphertext. In order for the encrypted text to be read, one must be in possession of the decryption key that reverses the process.

## Digital Rights Management (DRM)

Digital Rights Management (DRM) is suite of technologies that enable the copyright holder or an institution to whom the rights belong, that permits or prohibits access to digital works such as audio and video, or e-publications. DRM is also used in tracking and reporting on the use and ownership of such digital products. DRM can also prohibit copying of such works.

## Intellectual property rights

Intellectual property rights are a suite of privileges accorded to persons and organisations. Copyrights are the rights of the creator of a work of literature, a musical composition, a CD or DVD. Copyrights are also associated with dramatic works such as radio programs and cinematic creations. Other intellectual property rights include: Trademarks. A trade mark is a symbol or any identifying mark that associates the holder with a certain brand and reputation. Patents. Patents are a form of protection given to holders in connection with inventions. And finally, Design rights. Design rights protect the aesthetic qualities of a product.

## Digital signatures

A Digital signature is an electronic digest of a message that is encrypted and appended to the original message. It is proof of authenticity that the person sending the message, is whom he said he is. The digital signature itself, has to be verified by a Certification Authority (CA) CAs are themselves authenticated by being part of what is known as public key infrastructure. Which is a chain of certification authorities that can vouch for the integrity of the identity of digital signature holders.

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So far in this report we have looked at how the human resource is a company's most valuable asset and that not all end-users enjoy equal access to all resources on a network. Additionally, we have briefly discussed some of the threats lurking on an untrusted network such as the Internet, and how to recognise an infected computer, and what to do about it. We have also looked at some of the technologies deployed in the protection of the privacy and the intellectual property of your information systems at the user-end and beyond your network. The remaining content of this guide will be dedicated to the use and the role of firewalls in a

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networked environment, such as a trusted Intranet for example, and how firewall technologies assist in the effort to keep your network secure.

## 7. Firewalls

### Introduction

Firewalls are considered the first line of defence against cyber intrusions on a local intranet. Other authors disagree, and say that firewalls should be the last line of defence. As a protected gateway after all other intrusion detection software and anti-virus software are put in place. Nevertheless, firewalls provide a secure connection point between a private trusted network and a public, untrusted network, such as the world wide web. There are hardware and software solutions, or a combination of both, that filter out would-be hackers, spammers, malware and spyware and other undesirable viruses lurking on the internet, that if allowed unto the network could create many adverse consequences. Firewalls work by scrutinizing packets entering and leaving the network, to decide after matching against a custom-designed policy, to allow or prohibit the session to proceed.

Modern, firewalls, are also used to control the level of access that hosts on your network have to the external digital world through maintaining a secure gateway. Basically, acting as a filter to determine which websites and services local workstations may connect to: for example, the Internet in general and social media in particular.

In this section, I draw on expert opinions from academics and organisations to present an evaluation of the effectiveness of firewalls and any apparent limitations to productivity they may have on a business's information and telecommunication systems.

### Why use firewalls?

One of the biggest challenges facing organisations today, is the theft of company data, and the invasion of privacy by cyber criminals. Cyber attacks in recent time are becoming more and more frequent, deploying increasingly sophisticated ways of compromising our systems. These cyber criminals take advantage of any vulnerabilities in our networks, or openings created through human error. No organisation, from a global corporation to a sole trading sitting in his living room on a computer, is exempt from being the target of hacker. At the same time, there are also attacks that originate from within the organisation itself. Disgruntled employees may abuse our systems with the intention of inflicting financial harm or engaged in espionage such as stealing company proprietary designs.

The Cabinet Office (2011), in it's UK Cyber Security Strategy for 2011, defines Cyberspace as, “ ... an interactive domain made up of digital networks that is used to store, modify and communicate information.” according to the author, this definition also includes the internet

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and other electronic information systems which lie at the heart of our domestic, commercial and national infrastructure.

The cost of a cyber attack on a business can be measured not only in terms of its monetary value, but also in terms of harm to its reputation. As well as the loss of client trust and the legal costs to remedy the situation. Moreover, cyber attacks can greatly affect a company's productivity, and theft of its intellectual property could lead to bankruptcy. In the most severe case, damage done as a result of an attack, could have catastrophic consequences. Putting persons in harm's way, if it involves 'safety-critical systems' such as the management of nuclear installations or utility infrastructure facilities.

Chadwick D. (2004a) cites, that conducting business over the internet is particularly risky because the worldwide web may be accessed by anyone from anywhere without having to be subject to any authentication procedures. He suggests protocols such as TCP and UDP are only concerned with authentication of the IP address of the hosts concerned. Other concerns he flags up in his paper, Network Firewall technologies is the availability of software, either freely available on-line, or developed by developers that can seek to snoop on our networks and try to steal our data. Programs and applications like, port Scanners and sniffer programs that take advantage of any open ports on our computers and workstations, or install programs that are able to intercept user names and passwords since such information may be transmitted unencrypted over the internet.

I will be presenting a more detailed analysis of the vulnerabilities of some firewall techniques below in Table 1.

**What do they do?**

Firewalls are enforce the security policies that are determined by the administrators. Through the various configurations, that administrators may set on the machine's software- firewalls filter in-bound and out-bound network traffic according to predetermined rule-sets. These filtering procedures take place at the: application, transport, network and data-link levels of the Open Systems Interconnection ( ISO) network model. The ISO model is regarded as the standard in how information and telecommunication systems interact with each other. It is a conceptual idea that illustrates the different technologies and protocols that govern how the communication takes place at the various levels of the communication stack.

**How do they do that?**

**Demilitarized Military Zone (DMZ)**

One of the main methods used by firewalls to maintain safety of the network is to demarcate an area on the network known as a Demilitarized Military Zone (DMZ) to maintain the safety of the boundaries of your network. Ingham and Forrest, (no date) explain that a (DMZ) is a logical

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space on the network created by the Firewall to host email and web servers so that should they be compromised they can not propagate the offending virus or attack.

## Packet filtering

Figure 2-Packet filter Open Learn works (2016)

Packet filtering is used by firewalls to control access in and out thought the network boundary. Packet filtering (figure 2) is concerned with the firewall reading the headers of the packet being transmitting and judging against the instructions detailed in the policy. According to Ingham and Forrester (n.d) relating to such as: “source address; destination address; options in the network header; transport-level protocol (i.e., TCP, UDP, ICMP, etc.)” to make the decision to allow or prohibit the transmission to proceed.

## Packet filtering with state

Packet filtering with state on the other hand, according to the author of Network Security Bible, Cole E, (2015) , is based on the validation of whether the packets meet with the record of the parameters of the last state of connection between the two parties at the layer four of the ISO model in the firewall’s memory. “ The connection information is maintained in state tables that are normally controlled dynamically,” says Cole (2015a) adding, “Each connection is logged into tables, and after the connection is validated, packets are forwarded based on the rules set defined on that particular connection.” He goes on to give an example. Invalidating packets coming from ports higher than port 1023, as servers usually respond to calls from ports 0-1023 as standard.

## Proxies or Proxy firewalls

The next firewall technology we will discuss is Proxies or Proxy firewalls which operate at the transport (Layer 4) and application (layer 7) layers of the ISO model. These are programs found within a firewall that are run at the layers 4 and 7 to represent the network rather than the network its self being exposed to a connection request from an external source. Proxies may be set up to deal with TCP and UDP requests only at the transport layer. Or a separate rule for protocols appearing at the application level, such as those found in Telnet, FTP, HTTP and SMTP. Proxies are an effective method of achieving a high level of privacy in communication between two networks because, according to Cole E, (2015b), a remote host cannot see the true identity of the network.

## Content filtering.

We turn our attention to Content filtering. Chadwick W (2004b) describes Content filtering as a

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server that scrutinises application data as it enters the network. The content filtering server then examines each payload to open zip files to inspect their content to see whether it contains any viruses or malware. In addition, if the message comes with a digital signature, it compares this with a list of approved signatures in its tables, to decide whether to let the data through. The content server also looks for banned words and phrases such as sexual language and may even remove ActiveX applets according to the firm's security policy.

## Normalization

Going back to that paper, Network Firewalls by Ingham and Forrest, we take a look at Normalization. This is technique that deals with policing and intercepting abusive protocols. It is a method of correcting intentional attackers that seek to infiltrate a network through broadcasting overlapping IP fragments and/or out-of-order TCP byte fragments (Ingham and Forrest). Normalization compares the data stream with what it deems a normal data stream, and determines whether the stream is safe or injurious to the network.

## Distributed Firewalls

Distributed firewalls according to Ingham and Forrest this type of firewall is achieved by the firewall policy that is installed at the perimeter of the network, being installed on individual hosts on the network. They in turn carry our further filtering operations on packets moving through them, identifying individual IT equipment by its 'cryptographic certificate'. According to the authors cryptographic certificates provide a more secure authentication procedure in conjunction with 'Intrusion detection systems (IDS) than merely using the machine's IP address.

## Dual Homed Gateway

Chadwick D (2004c) in his paper discusses dual Homed Gateways as a hybrid of an application gateway deployed in concert with a packet filtering router. According to him, the combination of the two methods provides a double network interface which connects with the world wide web, an untrusted network, and the local network which is a trusted network. Security of the network is maintained because all IP traffic must pass through a proxy server and not directly to the host.

## Dynamic Firewalls

Dynamic firewalls are a type of filter named so, because these firewalls have the ability to read the packets coming through the system, and consequently, depending on the rule-set in the policy, is able to adjust the rules. The rules are implemented at the time of the session, and change according to which interface the traffic is interacting with. According to Juniper Networks (2014a) there are four classes of dynamic firewalls. Static filters are activated at 'a

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logical interface' and come into their own once that interface has been triggered by network traffic. Parameterized filters are bespoke filters that are implemented to match a particular subscriber session these filters keep a record of the IP address and substitutes, what the authors call 'variables' such as destination addresses and or ports to create a filter to allow or prohibit the traffic.

Ascend- Data-filters, meanwhile, are a type of dynamic filter that responds to data emanating from the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) server. A RADIUS server is basically an authenticating service that authenticates users dialling into the network by requesting a password and user name. Ascend-Data-filters create a filter based on the data stream coming from the RADIUS server to create a profile of the subscriber, and to create a rule that the router follows for all subsequent traffic from that user.

Fast update filters the last of the four classes of dynamic filters, are subscriber-specific rather than interface specific, according to Juniper Networks (2014b). As the name implies, these filters can react quickly to logical changes regarding hosts on the network. This implies changes made to the network, by adding and removing hosts or other significant modifications, like adding a new subnet.

## **Application level firewall**

The next firewall technology we will discuss is that is deployed at the application level. Like the proxy method, the Application level firewall is a dedicated computer or workstation, known as a bastion host which receives messages from the packet filtering router. The bastion host , typically acts as another line of defence by vetting messages from the internet confirming whether any of the messages are emanating from a known sender, and that an appropriate application proxy exists on the network. Proxies such as those associated with FTP, HTTP, Telnet and SMPT are common services.

## **Signature -based firewalls**

Signature based firewalls are another firewall method that is based on a proxy being transparent at the user-level. Also known as application scrubbing (Ingham and Forrest) Its main goal is to arrest hazardous streams

## **Do firewalls have any vulnerabilities?**

Firewalls although have been used in network safety for the past 20 years, and are able to keep a network secure, they do have certain challenges as some of our chosen authors explain. They do suffer from vulnerabilities. We shall now discuss a few of these weakness. Burkitt, M. (1999) cite in his paper The failure of the traditional firewall, in a study by the American Society for

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Industrial Security revealed that the value of the loss incurred by intellectual property crime worldwide was in the region of US\$ 24 billion.

Besides firewalls becoming bottle necks and consequently reducing productivity time scales, an additional apparent weakness of a firewall says the author, is that firewalls do not have a reporting system to alert administrators. . “ What is needed,” he says, “ is an entirely new model of perimeter security that recognises the strengths of the firewall as an enforcement point, then empowers it to ‘actively’ communicate with the rest of the network, responding to new attacks and modifying security measures accordingly.”

Burkitt,M(1999b) suggests the manufacture of an ‘Active firewall’. That according to him, “ is a distributed firewall system that integrates alarms, scanners, detectors and central monitoring communications to effectively prevent security breeches both inside and outside the network.” I enlist some of the short comings of the technologies we have discussed above in Table 1 below.

Technology

Vulnerability

Packet filtering

-Difficulty to write correct filters

-Unable to identify specific users

-Cannot prevent spoof attacks

Packet filtering with state

-Prone to attacks against bugs in TCP/IP transmissions

Proxies

-Client software needs to be modified

Distributed Firewalls

- Firewall rules can be overridden by users

-Assumes all hosts within the boundary are trusty-worthy

Dynamic firewalls

- Cannot detect spoof attacks

Application level firewalls

- Confidential information may be compromised while using FTP and SMPT protocols

Table 1

firewall vulnerabilities

Best practices

To conclude this brief Information Technology Security guide for end-users An overview of best practices to mitigate cyber-attacks at the front-end in an enterprise environment, with

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special emphasis on the implications of firewalls, I present some recommendations for the governance of firewall technologies as summarised from the readings of authors referenced in this report.

1. Any firewall must be complemented by, “intrusion protection, vulnerability scanning, virus and malicious code scanning etc to booster effectiveness of the security plan.
2. Avoid errors in the management of your firewall to avoid opening up security weaknesses and disrupting business flow.
3. Update firewall rules as necessary whenever there are changes to the network.
4. Ensure that your organisation complies with industry and government regulations
5. Assess all risks to the firewall policy regularly.
6. Avail yourself of any in-built automated management tools already embedded in the firewall software.
7. Ensure that staff are aware of your security policy and are enforcing it
8. Seek to make your network firewall policy as less complex as possible
9. Act fast to any network changes to determine how these changes will affect performance and security.
10. Keep an open mind towards the all scenarios that may harm your network to create a sense of predictability.

## Firewall Vendors

Below is a list of some firewall vendors that you might consider to help you to install or upgrade your firewall requirements. Information posted on their websites should also prove very informative to anyone seeking to explore network security in general, and firewall technologies in particular.

Checkpoint Software Technologies – <https://www.checkpoint.com/>

Cisco Systems – <http://www.cisco.com/>

Fortinet – <https://www.fortinet.com/>

Juniper networks – <http://www.juniper.net/us/en/>

McAfee – <http://www.mcafee.com/uk/index.html>

Sonicwall – <https://www.sonicwall.com/>

Watchguard – <http://www.watchguard.com/>

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## **WHAT IS WEB 2.0? Design patterns and business models for the next generation of software | December 6, 2016**



### **Introduction**

This report is a summary of an article written by Tim O'Reilly, one of the main spokesmen on the topic of Web 2.0, entitled, WHAT IS WEB 2.0? Design patterns and business models for the next generation of software. I look at the main points he has raised about the evolution of web 2.0, and conclude with a glimpse of its future application, and, the impact of web services on education, medicine and modern living.

Furthermore, the intended audience for this review are students of T215 who wish to acquire a more thorough understanding of how web 2.0 and user-generated content in particular has changed the way we interact with the internet.

### **The Web as platform**

O'Reilly, founder of O'Reilly Media, an American firm that specialises in the business of publishing books and websites and produces conferences on computer technology

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topics(Wikipedia 2013.), in his article published in the Open University's Online Communication and Collaboration A Reader (Donelan H, et al 2010), describes the evolution of the world wide web from web 1.0 to web 2.0 using anecdotes regarding some of the major internet companies that defined those eras.

In essence, O'Reilly observed that what distinguishes a web 1.0 company from a web 2.0 one, is that the latter realised that the internet was integral to the delivery of 'web services' and not a means to an end.

Moreover, O'Reilly summarized that web 2.0 companies 'embraced the power of the web to 'harness collective intelligence.' (O'Reilly T.2005a). Among other observations, O'Reilly cited that it is hyper linking that is the 'foundation of the web' and that Internet companies such as Yahoo, Google, Ebay and Amazon have realized that it is the analysis of this data regarding the user's engagement with the companies that led to their dominance of the web.

## **Web 2.0 a two-way communication**

Consequently, it was the move from static web pages'-information flowing in one direction from the company to the user, (Web 1.0) to 'dynamic websites' which allowed users to interact with what they discovered on the web, or a two-way flow,(web 2.0) that fundamentally changed the web into what the author calls, a 'global brain'. Thus, O'Reilly thinks that any web 2.0 success story stems from the understanding that it was the provision of web services and the analysis the of data of its customer base that according to O'Reilly added value to their applications. "You can almost make the case that if a site or product relies on advertising to get the word out, it isn't Web 2.0."(O'Reilly 2005b).

## **Web science**

Nevertheless, according to Anderson P(2007)Tim Berners-Lee who is credited as being the inventor of the world wide web, is proposing Web 2.0 be studied as a science to understand the growth of the Web, its emerging topology, trends and patterns and to develop new scientific approaches to studying it." (Berners-Lee et al., 2006). Smartphone technology is introducing a whole new platform for web service, and next frontier is the 'The Connected car'. Car manufacturers are saying that, "by 2014 every new car will be connected to the web, and this is already the third fastest growing technological device after phones and tablets," (Hudson A 2013)

Wearable technology.

Similarly, another phenomena that will impact users is wearable technology. Blogging on the website, WT Wearable Technologies (2013), Björn Eskofier, who is lead researcher at the Digital Sports and Sportronics Group at the Pattern Recognition Lab of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg says, "I think that Wearable Technologies will most likely

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enter the medical market...We have, for instance, joined forces with industrial and medical partners to work on a Wearable Technologies' system for the early recognition and therapeutic support of sufferers of Parkinson's disease."

## Conclusion

However, Paul Anderson a technology writer and Technical Director of Intelligent Content Ltd. in his paper, What is Web 2.0? Ideas, technologies and implications for education, warned, "there are profound intellectual property debates ahead as individuals, the public realm and corporations clash over ownership of the huge amounts of data that Web 2.0 is generating and the new ways of aggregating and processing it," he said.

(698 words)

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## A REPORT ON TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION SYSTEMS | December 6, 2016



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report explains how two-factor authentication systems work. I was commissioned by the management of Dynamic Plumbing Supplies (DPSL) to present my findings to assist the company in arriving at a decision whether or not to replace the present method used by the company to authenticate its customers during telephone sales, with a two-factor authentication system. DPSL in recent months has seen a spike customers complaints that they are being charged for products that they have not ordered.

The company suspect that this may be down to human error, or calculated fraudulent activities committed by staff or external persons. At present, customers are asked security questions at the beginning of any phone conversation, the new system will require customers to type a ten-digit numerical password on their phone's keypad. In addition, they will speak their password into the receiver.

Consequently, I have outlined the benefits of a two-factor authentication system, which usually includes some sort of biometric authentication, such as using voice, face or finger print verification. I present an overview of biometric recognition systems in general, and provide an overview of how such a system would be implemented at DPSL in practice. A key section

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of the report is a comparative analysis of the current authentication method with the proposed two-factor authentication system utilizing the parameters of convenience, reliability and acceptability from both the point of view of the customer and the company.

In conclusion, it is my view that the two-factor authentication system being proposed by management in its current form is not robust enough to prevent fraudulent activities. I cite an increased risk of customers having to write down their ten-digit numerical password to remember it, and someone obtaining a recording of the password and use it to fool the system.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by the management of Dynamic Plumbing Supply Limited (DPSL) with the view of exploring the possibility of introducing a new authentication system to vet customers of the firm when placing orders over the telephone. More specifically, management at DPSL are proposing the installation of a ‘two-factor authentication system’ which main features are a ‘ten-digit, numerical password’ together with the deployment of biometric, speaker-recognition software. The decision to consider this new authentication system is as a result of numerous complaints from customers that they are being billed for goods that they have not ordered. To date, when a customer places an order over the telephone, the salesperson on duty authenticates that customer’s identity by matching the caller’s answers to several security questions to those held in the company’s database on that customer. These questions include the caller’s name, date of birth, address and telephone number.

This is clearly a matter of great concern for the management of DPSL, its sales personnel and most of all, its customers. In a bid to mitigate against any fraudulent activity in the company, or incidences of identity theft by persons who may have illegally obtained customer details, and to further strengthen the authentication process, DPSL is considering replacing the

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current authentication method with this new two-factor authentication and speech recognition system.

Consequently, in the report that follows, I have discussed and explained what a two-factor authentication system entails, and what are the known benefits of utilizing such a system to fight against fraud. In the section 3, I provide an overview of biometric recognition systems, particularly, voice recognition software, and then go on to explain how the proposed new authentication system would work in practice at DPSL. For those readers who would like a more detailed explanation of biometrics, I have included a supplement at the end of the report in an appendix.

Additionally, in section 4, I draw a comparative analysis between the authentication method currently in use at DPSL with the proposed two-factor authentication system being proposed by management according to their convenience, reliability and acceptability.

Finally, in my conclusion, I offer my recommendation to DPSL as to the merits of adopting the new, two-factor authentication system or retaining the method currently in use based on my findings.

A comprehensive reference list, bibliography and glossary are included at the end of the report should readers wish to explore, in depth any of the methodologies and technologies expressed here.

## 2. BENEFITS OF TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

To prove that a person is who they say they are, most companies that provide services on-line deploy a process of authentication. Williams. J, and Phillips. D, (2013) state that, “Most authorisation decisions depend crucially on authentication—the proof of identity – so identity becomes a key attribute to gaining access to places, systems and services” The authors add that, “if a person is able to assume the identity of another, they gain unauthorised access to these same places, systems and services, often with dire consequences in terms of individual, corporate or national security.”

The benefits, according to technology company Conjungo, of a two-factor authentication system are: improved security, lower risk, saved money, reduced data theft, increased flexibility, disaster recovery, improved productivity, convenience for users, ease of use.

Overall, a two-factor authentication system such as proposed by DPSL will provide another layer of protection for customers and the business. Biometric authentication and authorisation methods are a lot harder to fool, so the potential for fraud is minimised. Another point I must raise here, is the company’s proposed use of a ‘ten-digit, numerical password’ and speaker-recognition software means that if a fraudster were to somehow illegally obtain the ten-digit password of a customer, the chances of them passing the speaker recognition test would be very small.

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In the section (3) I provide an overview of biometric systems and the describe some of the options open to the company.

## 3.AN OVERVIEW OF BIOMETRIC RECOGNITION SYSTEMS

Biometrics is a branch of science that uses technology to record certain behavioural and physiological characteristics of a person whose measurements are used to identify that individual during an authorisation and/or authentication process. A biometric recognition system, therefore, is an authentication process built on biometrics that measures anyone of the following individual's: Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA); Gait (the manner of walking); finger print; iris pattern; signature; keystrokes; personal odour; face and voice digital measurements. (Wong. P, and Walker. M, 2009) (Tech Target 2013) All biometric recognition systems harvest, process, store and evaluate these measurements, that I have mentioned above, based on an architecture comprising of a sensor; feature extractor, storage, match maker and decision maker similar to Damato's biometric system model in figure 3.1 below:

A BIOMETRIC MODEL By Alessio Damato (Own work) [GFDL  
(<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>), CC-BY-SA-3.0

If there is a match, it said to be a positive match by the decision component of the system. However, according to the sensitivity settings of the system, there may be occasions when the decision maker makes a false positive match, meaning that an individual that should have been denied access or entry to a restricted area or service is allowed through. (false match rate(FMR)) The opposite of this being a false negative, or the false non-match rate (FNMR) That is a person who should have been given access is denied. For this reason, biometric system designers seek to establish what they call an acceptable threshold as a result of testing of the equipment in the field. This threshold is called the equal error rate ERR) when the number of false matches and false non-matches are somewhat equalised. (Wong. P, and Walker. M, 2009)

## 4. HOW THE NEW SYSTEM WILL AUTHENTICATE CUSTOMERS

How this new system proposed by DPSL will authenticate users is demonstrated briefly in the following scenario.

Albert Williams of A Williams and Sons, a home radiator installer company calls the sales department of Dynamic Plumbing Supply Limited (DPSL) requesting five 300 millimetre double radiators. The salesperson, Miss Druample, asks Mr Williams whether he has an account with DPSL. To which he answers yes. Miss Druample informs Mr. Williams that before she can proceed with the order she needs to go through the security checks. She asks Mr. Williams to use his phones keypad and type in his ten-digit numerical password. He does so, and after a short pause, the system informs the salesperson Mr Williams that his password has not been accepted.

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She adds that he has two more attempts before he is looked out and will have to contact the customer help line. On the second attempt, Mr Williams remembers the correct sequence of numbers, and this time he is successful. Miss Druample, then asks Mr. Williams to ‘speak his password into the phone. The system returns a voice match. Consequently, the sales person can proceed with the customer’s order with no further security checks, as the address to where the items need to be delivered and the terms of payment are electronically filed in the customer’s account details.

A more detailed treatment of how speaker recognition systems capture and process user’s data can be found in appendix 1.

### 5. A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CURRENT METHOD AND THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

In the table 5.1, I have compared the two methods of authentication side by side, and in putted my comments in the ‘convenience’, ‘reliability’ and ‘acceptability’ columns on how I think the methods meet these parameters.

#### CURRENT SYSTEM

CONVENIENCE

RELIABILITY

ACCEPTABILITY

The salesperson authenticates  
the customer over the phone based  
on answers to security questions

#### COMPANY:

The onus is on the efficiency of salesperson to accurately record the information given by the customer.

Although the time frame to do this is about a minute, it is still laborious.

The process is open to fraud and error.

#### CUSTOMER:

The customer is expecting his/her records to be up-to-date

The customer may be annoyed that for each transaction they need to go through a long list of security checks.

#### COMPANY:

The company expects honest from the caller

Possible identity theft attacks

Possible staff dishonesty who cold sell customer information to fraudsters

#### CUSTOMER:

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Customer may have a bad phone line

COMPANY:

Company desires to protect its customers as the level of complaints is unacceptable.

CUSTOMER:

customers have no choice but to use the system

PROPOSED SYSTEM

CONVENIENCE

RELIABILITY

ACCEPTABILITY

The salesperson authenticates  
the customer based on the  
customer keying in a ten-digit  
numerical password on their  
phone's keypad, and speaks their  
password into the phone.

COMPANY:

The new system speeds up the authentication system.

A significant improvement in authenticating caller's identity.

CUSTOMER:

Although the time frame for authentication is shorter, customers may be forced to write down  
their ten-digit number in order to remember it. This number could then be discovered by third  
party.

Customers may be worried that the information stored on the company's server is safe from  
employee theft.

COMPANY:

The system though not 100% reliable is strengthening of the authentication system at the  
company.

CUSTOMER:

Customer will have to remember their 10-digit number, or forced to write it down, or keep it in  
their phone, thus presenting a risk factor.

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## COMPANY:

The company may be willing to under the cost of implementing the news system and the training of staff.

## CUSTOMER:

The customer will be responsible for keeping their password safe

table 5.1,

A comparison of the two authentication methods

## 6. RECOMMENDATION

Having compared above the present authenticating method with the proposed two-factor system proposed by management, it is my recommendation that the Dynamic Plumbing Supply Limited delay moving ahead with the adoption of the proposed system. In addition, in my opinion, although the system is an improvement on the manual method described in this report, the proposed system needs tweaking, if it is to provide the high security that the company hopes to obtain.

For instance, the fact that the customer has to key in their ten-digit number and then repeat the whole number into the system could lead to the risk that the customer could be in danger of being overheard, or even worse still being recorded by persons using basic surveillance equipment

Following, I have offered a few improvements to the proposed system:

That the customer should be asked to input three random digits from their password via phone key pad.

and

That a further three random digits should be spoken into the speaker authenticating system. This way, the chances of the salesperson or any other person listening, or retrieving or making note of the customer's ten-digit password is greatly diminished.

## 7. GLOSSARY

Authentication – A process or method of determining whether an individual is who they declare themselves to be.

Biometric – An identification of humans by the measurement of their unique characteristics.

Enrolment – The act of registering the biometric characteristics in any one of the various authentication systems.

Equal error rate – When the threshold value of the false acceptance rate equals the false rejection rate in the system.

False positive match – The allowing of a person access to a service who should not have been allowed.

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False non-match rate – The value of how many times a biometric system allows an imposter to have access to a system, service or place.

Two-factor authentication – A security authentication method that requires two forms of identification. Usually one being of a biometric nature and the other a pin number or a smart card.

Password – A word or string of characters known only to the user used during authorization to enter or use a service or place.

Positive match – A value that indicates that there has been a match in the biometric sample and a stored template.

Speaker-recognition software -Software that can be trained to recognise an individual based on biometric measurement.

Speech recognition – Software that can interpret the spoken word and translate it into text.

Text-dependent – An authentication method where a known word or pin is matched during a speaker recognition test

Text independent – An authentication method where the spoken word is matched with text

Threshold – The point at which a biometric system authenticates an individual to entry to use a website, service or place.

Voice recognition software – software that encodes the human voice to be used in verification process.

## APPENDIX

### Speaker recognition systems

Earlier in this report I mentioned that I would provide a more detailed treatment of how speaker recognition systems capture and process user's data. Since the 2nd step of the new two-factor authentication system proposed by management, will include a speaker recognition component, let me say from the out set of this appendix that there is a major difference between speaker recognition and speech recognition, although to the layman, the two may be mistaken for one and the same process. The sub committee on biometrics of the United states of America's, National Science and Technology Council defines speaker (voice) recognition as, "a biometric modality that uses an individual's voice for recognition purposes." while speech recognition on the other hand, "recognizes words as they are articulate." the former being biometric, and the latter not so.

### How do speaker recognitions work.

Speaker recognition systems work by extracting various characteristics of the human voice of a speaker and comparing it to a stored template collected by the system during the enrolment or registration phase of that individual. Reynolds D (2002) refers to this extracted information as a 'speech signal conveying speaker identity.' The voice sample obtained during the enrolment

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phase are usually obtained over the telephone when a customer is first asked to register or sign up for a telephone service, such as the order line at Dynamic Plumbing supply Limited (DPSL). This sample could be based on what Reynolds D(2002) calls ‘text- dependent or text independent’ methods. The speaker recognition system proposed by DPSL falls under the text-dependent method where the customer is expected to learn a ten-digit numerical password and speak this whole password into the telephone which in turn will be manipulated by the extractor software of the system, stored and used to compare the customers voice, the next time he or she calls to make an order. On the other hand, a ‘text-independent process does not involve the system having a stored template of the caller, but will verify a speaker based on speech recognition process I mentioned in my introduction, and will seek to recognize the password from the actual words spoken.

The human voice is unique to an individual. The shape of his trachea, mouth and nasal passages and how they interact with the jaw and tongue during speech is what makes speech both a physiological and behavioral biometric identity. To capture this biometric essence, to date, there are a number of speaker recognition modeling techniques in use. Which one or combination of techniques deployed by the company will depend on factors such as where the system will be put to use, how expensive is it to train and install the system and other technical considerations in regard to on or off-site storage of the data and generally the organization’s network infrastructure.

(2,903 words)

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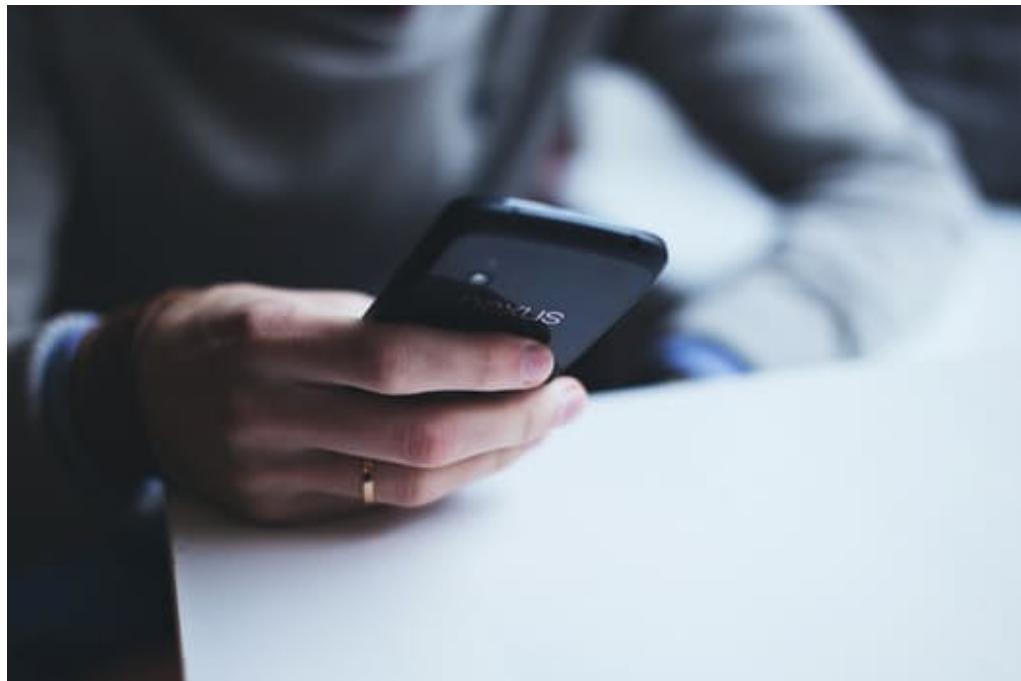
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# Welcome to my blog

## 4G and its current state of play in the UK | December 6, 2016



### What is 4G?

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) defines 4G as the fourth-generation mobile phone communication technology standard. Currently, 4G comprises those mobile telephone networks whose data rate speed's are faster than 3G, and can potentially meet the specifications of ITU's IMT-Advance system finalised in 2010. The two Technologies that are deemed to fit this criteria are the LTE Advanced and WiMAX 2.0. (Walker M. 2012a)

### 4G compared to 3G and HSPA

The 3G system, introduced in the 1980s was a generic term to cover the two prevailing standards at the time—the Universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) and the CDMA2000 (Code division multiple access).

Later, HSPA (High-speed packet access) which is a combination of: Release 5 of the 3GPP's (3rd

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Generation Partnership Project) High-speed downlink packet-access (HSDPA), and Release 6, High-speed uplink packet access (HSUPA) were upgrades to the existing Universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) standard. (Walker M, 2012b). In 2010 a further enhanced HSPA+ standard was launched globally that featured bit-rates in the range of 168 Mbit/s (downlink) and 22Mbit/s (uplink) (Wikipedia2013)

As you can see from the comparative table below the data throughput has been steadily increasing and reaches a maximum with 4G.

STANDARD

UPLINK

DLINK

3G

5Mbit/s

100Mbit/s

HSPA+

22Mbit/s

168Mbit/s

4G

500Mbit/s

1Gbit/s

figure 1 Table comparing uplink and downlink data rates

## Some technical details about 4G

4G accommodates high-speed access to ultra-broadband for future innovations in smart-phone handset designs and USB wireless modems. A higher quality of gaming services, video-conferencing and 3D television is also sustained. As well as better IP telephony services made possible by OFDMA multi-carrier transmission backed up by FDE schemes and other devices based on the LTE Advanced standards, and the 802.16m or WiMAX(Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access)

However, the two main characteristics of the 4G network is that it is based on the ‘IP packet switched network protocol’ which results in lower-latency of data transmissions. It is also based on the IPv6 standard which offers a wider range of IP addresses for devices on the internet.

Another feature, pertaining particularly to mobile devices, enhanced bit rates through the deployment of ‘Smart Antenna’ utilizing the Multiple-input multiple-output communications technology. Peak data transfer rates of up to 100 Mbit/s for devices on cars, trains, buses and other vehicles, and 1Gbit/s for wireless access and inner city dwellers and business

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establishments are expected. Under 4G, networks network resources able to greater network traffic and to offer the same much more access to network resources right down to the cell infrastructure.

Additionally, 4G networks are highly structured to provide seamless hand-overs of mobile calls between Visitor local Registers of participating providers. It uses the bandwidths of 5 to 40 MHz band on electromagnetic spectrum which is scalable, and boasts a peak link spectral efficiency of 15 bit/sHz (downlink) and 6.75 bits/H (uplink)

Condensed from a Wikipedia entry

## 4G in the UK

So what is the current state of play regarding 4G in the UK? On February 20th, 2013 the Office of Communication (Ofcom) which is the United Kingdom's authoritative body responsible for overseeing regulation and competition matters regarding telecommunications here, announced that five telecommunication companies (see figure 2) had emerged winners in the recent 4G spectrum auction. (Ofcom 2013)

According to the February 20, 2013 communiqué from the agency, the five companies surfacing as lead bidders are:

Everything, Everywhere Ltd.

Hutchinson 3G UK Ltd

Niche Spectrum Ventures Ltd

Telefonica UK

Vodafone Ltd

The release added that, “The auction has achieved Ofcom’s purpose

Figure 2

United Kingdom, LTE share by operator,

Source: Wireless Intelligence

of promoting strong competition in the 4G Mobile market. This is expected to lead to faster mobile speeds, lower prices, greater innovation, new investment and better coverage.” Ofcom noted that the segment of the radio spectrum auction off to the highest bidders was 250 MHz of the spectrum in two bands, namely: 800MHz and the 2.6GHz. The agency expects that the entire British Isles will have access to 4G mobile services within 5 years.

## Conclusion

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

In this report, I have traced the developments and reasons that led to the introduction of 4G in the UK in the shape of LTE Advance and WiMAX 2.0.

In addition, I briefly compared data rates of 4G with its predecessors 3G and HSPA and also surveyed the technical aspects of 4G. Finally, I looked at the current players in provision 4G services in the UK.

No doubt, public demand for faster mobile broadband will continue drive up the demand for faster data rates. Ultimately, consumers can expect to see more innovation in newer handsets, laptops and tablets to deliver the service as ever more larger swathes of the country cross the digital divide. (793 words)

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# Some thoughts about the social implications of accessible computing | December 6, 2016

# Welcome to my blog



In this report, I examine the article, 'Some thoughts about social implications of accessible computing', (David and Fano 1965) to see whether the technology has evolved as they predicted.

I will be looking at

The 'complexity' of handling expert systems such as MYCIN and the tax system in the United states of America. The role of the Internet in information management  
The threat to our privacy occasioned by the utilization of social networks and other databases, and how we should conduct transactions on line.

Computing in the next 50 years.

A handle on complexity

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

David and Fano saw that application of a computer program, to assist the laborious American tax system as desirable. . “One can conceive also of having the program approved by the Inland Revenue Service so that no question would exist about its correct interpretation of the law” (David and Fano circa 1965) What they were suggesting was an ‘expert system’. According to the website, <http://www.jhigh.co.uk>, an expert system is “A system [that] helps the user make decisions by asking questions and then, based on the user’s answers and the knowledge that it holds, offering advice.” Another website, Webopedia qualifies an expert system as “part of a general category of computer applications known as artificial intelligence. Adding, “To design an expert system, one needs a knowledge engineer, an individual who studies how human experts make decisions and translates the rules into terms that a computer can understand.

MYCIN was one of the earliest expert systems to be developed in the 1970s at Stanford University used to “identify bacteria causing infections, such as bacteraemia and meningitis, and to recommend antibiotics, with dosage adjusted for patients’ body weight....The Mycin system was also used for diagnosis of blood clotting diseases” Modern day expert systems differ from Mycin in that they are no only used in the medical profession but are also in agriculture, education, environmental management, geographic information systems “They are also used in engineering and manufacture in the control of robots where they inter-relate with vision systems.

The tax system described in David and Fano’s article, if it were a reality, would be described as an expert system.

## A HANDLE ON INFORMATION

The authors at the time of writing remarked, “Information has the unfortunate habit of most often being outdated, hard to locate, and recorded in a form poorly suited to one’s needs.” Fast-forward to 2011, and the emergence of the information super highway or the worldwide web the reverse is true with an information over load. To some extent, information found on the internet is outdated, as not all sites regularly update their content. Site such as Wikipedia, are of a dubious nature, because it is edited by its users. Generally, information found on the web is well presented. with the introduction of web 2.0 in 2004 much more interactivity with the website afforded much more functionality and graphic displays. Web 2.0 has made it possible for social networking, blogs, video sharing, and web applications etc where information is shared and exchanged. However, plagiarism is rife on the internet as some authors simply cut and paste indiscriminately when writing copy for the web.

## THE THREAT TO PRIVACY

Three organisations in this country that, in my opinion being used as, “...the equivalent of safe deposit boxes for private information.” according to the vision of David and Fano are:

# Welcome to my blog

Driver and Vehicle Licensing agency (DVLA).

This organisation hold records of the year of manufacture; date of first registration; engine capacity; colour; expiry date of the current tax disc or SORN declaration; vehicle excise duty rate. ([www.direct.gov](http://www.direct.gov)) The site also keeps a record of the start and expiry date of licence holders and their addresses and contact details of every vehicle in the UK among other data.

Office for National Statistics

This organisations holds data on a wide range of categories including how much we earn,; economic indicators and other social indicators; employment, gross domestic product and population figures; retail sales, education and census results.

The Police

The police hold large databases on citizens in order to carry out law enforcement activities. Crimint is one such database that is run by the Metropolitan Police Service of Greater London, which holds information on criminals and suspected criminals and other intelligence. “As of 2005 it contained seven million information reports and 250,000 intelligence records in its database.” ([wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org))

The collection of personal information, however, is a matter of concern in regards to the privacy for the individual. For instance, sensitive information falling into criminal hands. There is also the problem of identity theft and the loss of information due to mechanical or human error. All three concerns above are problems associated with data collection in the modern world.

The Cult of Impersonality

Some of the modern day security concerns are using your credit card to make transactions online. Three of the precautions that you should take when doing so are according to M150, Unit 14 are;

1. Ensure that the site uses secure technology such as Secure Socket Layer (SSL) or Verisign.  
Do not send your credit card details by email  
Keep a record of all transactions either as a print out or on your hard disk and keep in a secure location.

Computing in the future

Technology will be at the centre of education and communication between teacher, parent and student. In the next 50 years the use of paper books will be a thing of a bye-gone age. In its

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

place will be the Ipad or tablet. The learning of Information Technology and computing will be integrated into every subject. It will be commonplace for assignments to be requests for students to create computer solutions, create software, apps and other hard ware gizmos.

Parents will know where their children are by the insemination of RFID tags ... “planted under the skin” Making all this possible will be the advancement in radio frequency identification (RFID) and intel chip technology.

(996 words)

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## Technology blogs and me...| December 7, 2016

# ALBERT WILLIAMS



Dear readers,

Since the explosion of web 2.0 blogging has become big business. Vlogging and/or blogging has catapulted some very young entrepreneurs to international fame and loads of cash.

From topics as different as international travel, to medicine, to technology, everyone is getting in on that cyber wagon. Yesterday, I launched my technology blog, <https://rasalbertwilliams.tech.blog/> which features some of my past assignments that were written during the pursuance of my degree.

It is my intention to write on a variety of topics in computing and information technology. Mainly those topics of which I have some authority in such as computing and human interaction design, information security and mobile technology.

Managing technological innovation

Meanwhile, my postgraduate studies, in Technology Management, is providing me with a lot more ideas and scope over a new set of topics and issues. My current module is, managing technological innovation. This is a lot more involved than the title suggests.

For Instance, we can speak of landmark innovations, or process innovation or even, product and/ or marketing innovation. We can go onto speak about eco-innovation or sectoral innovation systems and so on.

## Welcome to my blog

I am really looking forward to my newest literary/ journalistic challenge. I aim to write a serious piece once a month in the first instance. And I may occasional give my comments on a current news story in the news, or something that has crossed my mind and want to share it with you.

So sign up to receive my blog in your email. Feel free to engage me with your comments and questions. How exciting it is that you could be with me at the very birth of this mind-child.of mine.

20 top UK based technology blogs

To give us something to consider, check out this article on the 20 best technology blogs in the UK. This list will give you a sample of what a technology blog should look like.

So until next time, enjoy.

Ras Albert Williams

<http://www.workspace.co.uk/community/homework/technology/20-top-uk-based-technology-blogs>

## A Critique of 'Organising for radical innovation – A multi-level behavioral approach' | December 12, 2016

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

What drives the management of Radical innovation projects has become a fascination of mine for some time. In my opinion, Buschgens, T. et al( 2013), in 'A Critique of 'Organizing for radical innovation — A multi-level behavioral approach', present a very strong case for the speedy adoption of the multi-level behavioral theory approach by small, medium and large enterprises.



I

**experiment with new ideas, and old ones ([Pexels.2020](#))**

When an individual is nurtured to perform at his optimal state, this leads to maximum idea-generation. Which in turn, translates into more productivity within the firm, as well as greater profits for shareholders. The fact that up until now, businesses have been more concerned with the output of the group or business as a whole, rather than the productivity of the individual, merits some concern. The theme of this paper is to, "develop a concept of how management can motivate individuals to generate novel ideas and organize groups to support creativity, and

# Welcome to my blog

provide the dynamics that are needed to implement radical innovation," Buschgens, T. et al( 2013).

I agree in principal with the authors, there is a need for companies to realize that incremental innovation of existing products is not the same as managing radical innovation products, markets or services that could potentially affect tens of millions of consumers. Consequently, the authors propose a synthesis of the well-established, 'Self- Determination, Group-Effectiveness and Cognitive behavioral theories to create a hybrid understanding of the processes that take place within an organisation, with special emphasis on the motivation of the individual to produce highly creative work for their employers.

## Methodologies

The methodology used by the authors is an evaluation of an exhaustive list of academic papers from a wide range of scholars. The authors extract from them, of what in their view, are those components that would be useful for the strengthening of managerial practices of firms who are already developing radical innovation product and processes , or who may be considering to enter this challenging sector.

Although the paper does not mention what are the qualifications of the authors are, one can assume that they are of a doctoral level, or above. Consequently, I am of the opinion that they are experts in this field and are well qualified to make such assumptions and give recommendations as is done in this paper.

To get their message across to the reader, the authors use a series of ten(10) numbered propositions to recap their discussions and findings. They also use of visual aides such as 'Organisation level' research model (fig 1) and the description of the behavioral modes, and influencing factors for doctrinal and imagistic in tables 1 and 2 breaks up the otherwise flow of print, that can make reading and comprehension of the subject matter difficult to grasp quickly.

## Validation and limitations

What is not clear though, is to which geo-political area are their findings restricted to? Are they generalising or speaking to companies that exist in the developed world, such and the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Or to emerging economies such as India and Africa. On the question of reward systems, pay-scales and remuneration of salaried workers would change from region to region in my opinion. Another aspect that is not clear to me, is whether intrinsic motivation of the individual is recommended at the national, regional, sectoral and technological innovation system levels. I would like to think that it is.

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[Pexeles 2020](#)

*When an individual is nurtured  
to perform at his optimal state,  
this leads to maximum idea-generation.*

## Further research

While I am in agreement with the paper as a whole, the authors have failed to impress me with their closing statements on the paper. They did not state that there needs to be further work/research carried out in this area. In my opinion, in order to ‘sell’ the idea of autonomous motivation and multi-level behavioral theory approach to managers, it needs to be presented in a less complex manner. The language of the paper is verbose, and does not conclude with a declaration of a new theory. I would suggest naming the theory, ‘Radical Innovation behavioral theory’, which should be written along the style of the propositions, in plain English. There is also no evidence that any first hand data-gathering was carried out by the authors. The team point to a secondary source, and use phrases like, ‘extant literature’ and ‘literature reviews’. I would expect that in an updated paper, that some effort be made to conduct their own surveys. It would be interesting to capture the thoughts of those involved in radical innovation projects early in the product cycle and after it is finally released to the general public, for instance. To interview managers and information workers at every stage of the radical innovation process. The concluding section, 4. therefore in my opinion is weak and leaves a lot to be desired for the work to be truly holistic. It does not give the impression that there is need for further research, or need for an investigation into their claims for the theory. Additionally, the authors failed to invite other scholars to enter the debate. I also think that the paper could be improved by identifying specific examples of radical innovation covered by this survey.

## Closing remarks

Finally, this paper has brought to my attention some interesting thoughts on organisational culture. Moreover, it has given me, a great insight into the attributes of individuals and the sharing of the value systems that underpin the interactions in the work place and how these interaction can be tweaked to bring out the best in the individual. I realise that this may not be the definitive work on multi-level behavioral theory, and that I do have to engage in further research on the topic myself. This paper masterfully, brings together the strands of understanding necessary to build a solid foundation for further study, refinement and reflection.  
(1000 words)

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## ALBERT WILLIAMS

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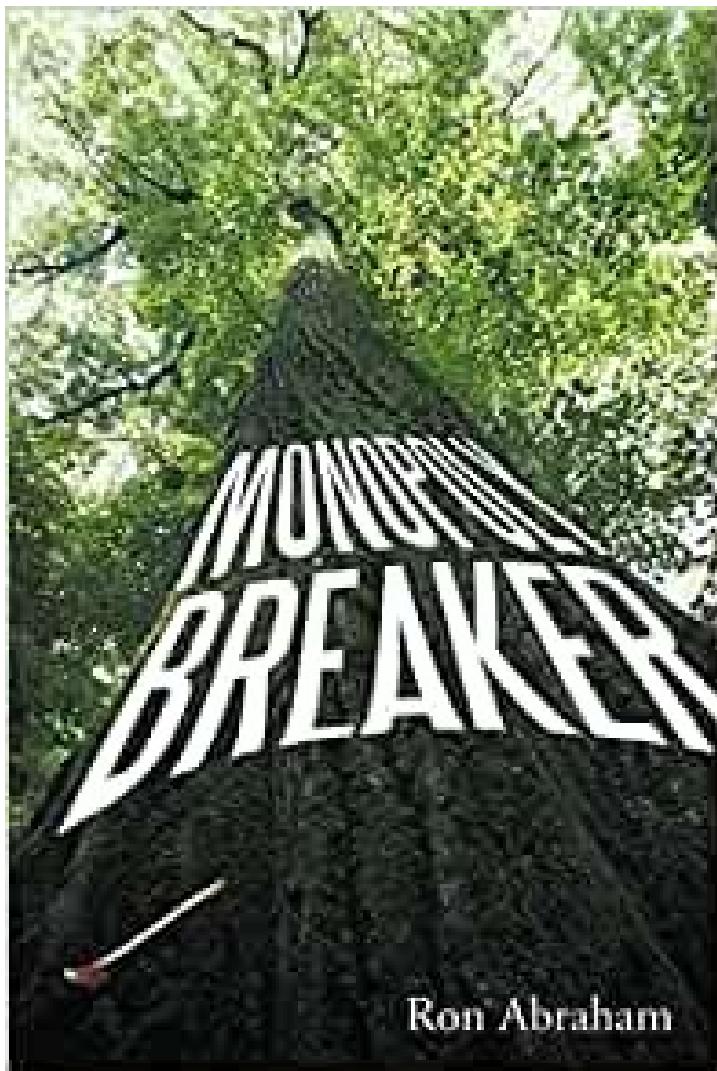
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## Monopoly breaker: A book review | December 21, 2016



(L-R) Ron Abraham, Albert Williams and Tempie Williams

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



by [Ron Abraham](#)

Monopoly Breaker: A Case study of how a Dominican entrepreneur, Ron Abraham, established Marpin Television and Telecoms that crushed a 25-year monopoly held by a corporate giant, Cable and Wireless only to find that within his own organisation were his most bitter enemies.

One would have thought that an offer from Abraham to the Dominica government in the late 1970's to set up a television studio would receive a warm reception. On the contrary, opposition and struggles; and victories and disappointments form the subject matter of this publication. That in its informative and lucid style outlines the tale of the uphill battle that was to confront him for over ten years to bring diversity to providers of information technology and television to this country.

**Monopoly Breaker, ISBN 978-1-4490-9193-4** (75 pages; paperback) published by Author House and written by Ron Abraham in 2010 is informative, accurate and spellbinding.

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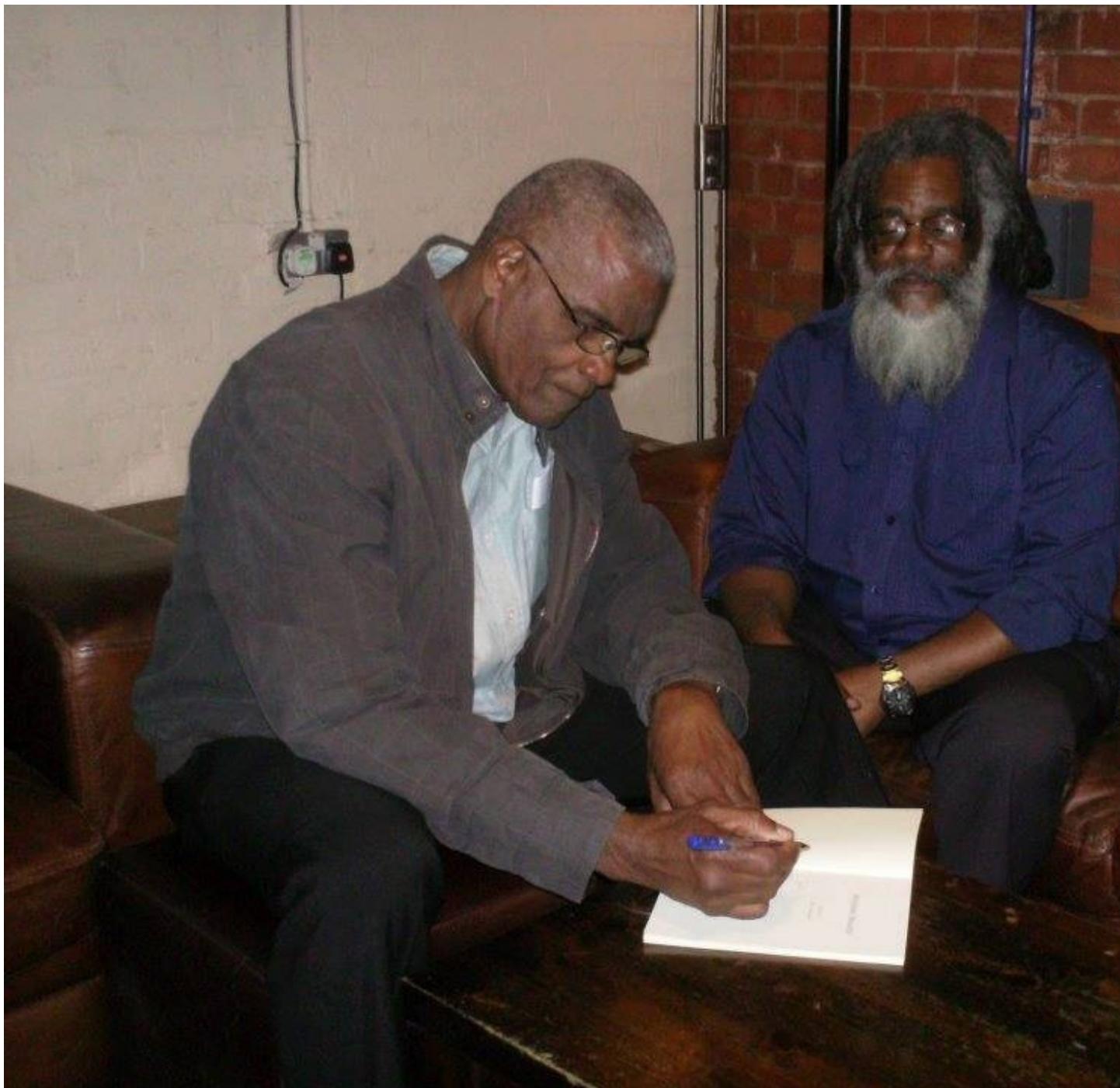
From the photograph of a small axe imbedded in the roots of a mighty tree on the front cover to the short blurb on the back that reads in part, “A must read for anyone contemplating doing serious business of any kind in Dominica...”

Abraham bears his soul and shares object lessons learned from his journey, making this book a useful tool for any business student, particularly those contemplating entering the telecoms industry.

The book gives an account of the early history of Television in Dominica and the factors that made it possible for the introduction of internet and mobile technology and the legal obstacles that nearly kept Dominica in the dark side of the digital divide.

The book draws on anecdotes from his early childhood in St. Joseph and his migration to the United Kingdom in 1961 where he studied Electronics, Electrical Technology and Telecommunications Principles and accepted as a Fellow Member in the Institute of Incorporated engineers. Abraham is registered with the Engineering Registration Board of the United Kingdom.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



Entrepreneur/ author, Ron Abraham (left) autographs a copy of his book signed to Albert and Tempie Williams (2010- London) (Photo: Tempie Williams)

The body of the publication is concerned with the formation of his company and the internal rivalry that would see him eventually lose control of the Company even while still being the largest shareholder with 14% more than the next closest.

## Welcome to my blog

It describes the constitutional battles of his legal team with Cable and wireless and the two successive administrations in the High Court in Roseau and right up to the Privy Council to effect a change to Dominica's telecoms industry that would have wide reverberations across the Caribbean.

Included in the book are excerpts from the Dominica Sun and Independent Newspapers, correspondence between Marpin and Cable and Wireless. The book is dedicated to his mother, Mrs. Una Darroux and deceased Senior Counsel, Jenner Armour.

Finally, this work is timely and timeless, an epic journey of one man that changed the lives of many. Abraham is an unsung hero, and perhaps this publication will preserve some of the facts that led to that momentous occasion when a piece of legislation that made it illegal for a citizen of Dominica to apply for a telecoms license was deemed unconstitutional paving the way for new entrants in the sector.

Monopoly Breaker, (ISBN 978-1-4490-9193-4) written by Ron Abraham is a must read for both students of business studies and students of business law.

The book is available online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Waterstones, WH Smiths and Authorhouse

Amazon.co.uk. (2020). [online] Available at: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Monopoly-Breaker-Ron-Abraham/dp/1449091938> [Accessed 18 May 2020].

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## F36 MSc Technology Management: My Study Pathway | January 16, 2017

### **F36 MSc Technology Management**

**180 Credits**

#### **Overview**

Technology has the capability to transform products and processes and, if managed effectively, can make a significant contribution to organisational performance, economic growth and social well-being. This MSc will provide you with the knowledge and skills critical to making the right decisions about technology strategy, innovation and management to really make a difference to your organisation and your own professional development. It is applicable to a wide range of sectors, including IT, manufacturing, healthcare, defence, financial services, local and national government services – and throughout your studies you'll be encouraged to apply your learning to your own particular technology context. You'll begin by focusing on the operational aspects of managing technological innovation and change, before moving to explore a range of capabilities that are key to the strategic development and management of technological innovation. Your studies will conclude with an in-depth investigation of a technology management topic or problem of your choice.

#### **My Study Pathway**

#### **T848**

Managing Technological Innovation

# Welcome to my blog

The history of technological innovation has been nothing short of remarkable, affecting our lives, the effectiveness of organisations, the profitability of industries, the well-being of societies and the prosperity of nations. Understanding the processes that underpin technological innovation is therefore crucial, whether you are a user or producer of technological innovation. And if you are involved in managing innovation processes, an understanding of the overall process of innovation and its variations is a core professional competence. This module examines innovation from a management perspective, enabling you to improve how you contribute to the process and management of technological innovation.

## **T849**

### **Strategic capabilities for technological innovation**

The need for ongoing technological innovation has become a strategic necessity for many organisations. Even in traditionally stable sectors the option of maintaining the status quo is seldom viable. This creates challenges for how organisations acquire and manage the resources and capabilities necessary for effective approaches to innovation and create and maintain contexts that support strategic action. This online module draws on material from the resource-based view of organisations and strategic and innovation management more generally to produce a multi-layered, practical, approach to the development and management of technological innovation. It is suitable for anyone interested in developing or improving their skills and expertise in this area.

Certificate awarded

## **TU812**

### **Managing systemic change: inquiry, Action and interaction**

This module views change as inescapable in managing everyday situations ranging from personal to workplace to society in general. Rather than passively accepting change this module will equip you with skills to shape the nature and direction of change. It will develop your abilities to manage change with others so as to avoid systemic failures and improve joined-up actions amongst stakeholders along supply chains, in projects or, even, social activism. It is about learning to use systems thinking and practice to help you engage with change and act accordingly to recognise the interconnected nature of organisations and environments.

## **TU811**

### **Thinking strategically: systems tools for managing change**

This module is about managing complex situations. Managing is ultimately about taking action in complex interconnected situations, where others involved may have contrasting understandings,

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

motivations and interests, and where conflicts inevitably arise. You will develop your understanding of complex situations using robust tools from the traditions of systems practice to think strategically about change and uncertainty. The situations that you choose to work with in the module to develop your practice with systems tools can either derive from your existing, or aspiring, professional capacity or simply be of general interest to you.

Diploma awarded

**T802**

**The Research project**

This research module builds on your existing postgraduate diploma to enable you to complete your MSc. You'll design a research proposal by identifying and developing a research problem relevant to your MSc. Your research will involve a literature review, original data collection, data analysis and the drawing of conclusions. You will then communicate the outcome of your research by writing up and submitting your dissertation. Support is available to you at every stage from the study materials, your supervisor and online forums. Early registration is recommended as you will need to complete preparatory work before the module starts.

Masters Technology Management awarded

**Career relevance**

There is an increasing demand across public, private and not-for-profit sectors for people with the vision and the operational and strategic capability to plan, develop and manage technology and technological innovation effectively. This qualification is designed to develop managers who can make complex decisions associated with identification and evaluation of technologies, developing new or improved products and processes and integrating technology with other business processes, and to manage change required by technological innovation and implementation. It will help you develop the analytical skills and practically relevant knowledge that will equip you to succeed in a variety of management and leadership roles. The competent technology manager is a highly valued professional, capable of ensuring that the organisation reaps all the potential rewards from its investment in technology of whatever type. You will develop a range of job-related and transferable skills such as critical thinking, creative problem solving, and the ability to cope with rapid technological change.

The capabilities in research and problem-solving developed can be exploited in all professional situations at all management levels. Employers are also impressed by the commitment and determination it takes to succeed with the OU while keeping up family and work commitments. These benefits, together with the opportunities to add value by applying your learning to the

## Welcome to my blog

workplace as you study, make technology management programmes very attractive vehicles towards success in senior management roles. Open University (2017)

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*F36 – MSc in technology management – open university* (2017) Available at: <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/qualifications/f36#careers> (Accessed: 15 January 2017)

**Internet Society speaks out against proposed password disclosure requirements | February 24, 2017**

ALBERT WILLIAMS

# No Passwords

Let the U.S. Department of Homeland Security know that asking for people's social media passwords as a condition to enter the United States is not acceptable.

[Share our Statement](#)

by MS. KATHRYN BROWN President/CEO

Published: 21st February, 2017.



Today, the Internet Society, along with 50 organizations and trade associations and nearly 90 individual experts who care deeply about an open, trusted Internet, expressed our deep concerns that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security may require individuals to disclose their social media account passwords as a condition of entry into the United States. Last week, the new U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security indicated that the U.S. government is considering such a policy as an MS. element of border screening.

# Welcome to my blog

MS. KATHRYN BROWN President/CEO

We signed onto this statement because we believe that this policy would gravely undermine Internet security and would represent an alarming intrusion on individuals' rights of expression, opinion and privacy. We also worry that other nations may replicate this approach, leading to a cascading decline in Internet security for users across the globe.

The Internet Society is a global organization that is comprised of staff, chapters, members and volunteers around the world who all share a deep commitment to the ability of individuals to communicate freely and securely via the Internet. Coercive action by a government to demand user passwords is contrary to our values and creates unacceptable risks to our community's ability to travel and communicate freely.

We remain committed to opposing policies such as this that would compromise global Internet security and place our community's security and privacy in jeopardy. Please join us in showing your support by sharing this statement across social channels. Together, we can send a strong message that this proposed policy approach is not acceptable.

Click below for full text of the coalition's statement

<https://cdt.org/insight/no-to-dhs-social-media-password-requirement/>

## My official response



So the preceding was the official statement from the Internet Society, yet only very few of my Facebook friends' seemed to be outraged by this perverted type of legislation. When I reposted this on my Facebook page yesterday. What you have to realise, that this measure is not only a concern for those applying for a USA visas.

For instance, the privacy of your communication to a friend or family of yours is also compromised.

Texting, email and messaging as well as the use of various social media platforms has become a way of life in this 21st century living. Digital technologies, like the worldwide Web and the Internet, have radically transformed how we live, learn, do business and recreate and in some sense, the vulnerability that users already face is now being exacerbated by the notion that a law-abiding citizens should be confronted to such draconian and fascist action.

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Compliments: <https://www.pexels.com/search/information%20technology/>

It behooves me to ask you, my friends to not be silent on this matter . If such a governmental policy is allowed to proceed unchallenged, this opens the way for other so called democratic governments to do likewise. This is the behavior of of a dictatorship such as obtains in North Korea, and one-party states like China. Where these regimes are afraid to let free-thinking exist.

Imagine that you are a businessman going to the states for a few days to a conference, or a family going to a wedding a musician going on a tour through the states, would you be happy to surrender your passport, er...sorry, password, to obtain a a visas to the states?The inevitable consequence of this policy should it go ahead, is a massive loss of economy both in and out of the USA many people will look for alternative ways to spend their money, not at the expense of their privacy.You know as well as I do, that when we perceive that a medium is private, that sensitive information, that is not the business of anyone except the person to whom it was intended, maybe communicated.

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Having said this, I call on the giant, technology companies such as Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, Samsung, Cisco, Badoo, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc, etc to use their enormous wealth to protect their customers' from such blatant civic abuse.

I call on civil society to get behind the cause and echo this message loud and clear on all their social media platforms, and even beyond. There is a lot more at stake here than what is initially being proposed.

If you care about human rights and justice, you will act Now.

This is unconstitutional and an affront to our democratic values. Nay a crime against humanity.

Albert Williams Bsc (Hons) Comp & IT (Open), MBCS, is a postgraduate of the Open University working towards a MSc Technology Management by 2019

He is a member of the Internet society, The Chartered Institute for IT, The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, Radio Society of Great Britain, Author's Licensing and Collection Agency, researchgate.net and Academia.edu



**Can we trust US consular staff with our passwords and pin numbers? |**  
**February 27, 2017**



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**My response to the USA's proposed password disclosure requirements as a criterion to receive visas to enter that country.**

Privacy on the Internet, is the number one concern of technologists. If your privacy is not assured, then there is no point in using social media, for instance for nothing but browsing, as was the case in Web 1.0. Computer scientists over the last two decades, since the personal computer became commonplace, have devised numerous ways to keep our content safe. From introducing usernames and passwords to, two-factor authorization and biometric identification. There are numerous protocols that protect our data in transit. You may have heard of: secure E-mail (PGP and S/MIME); Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocols; Secure Socket Layer (SSL) and secure IP (IPSec); Secure HTTP (S-HTTP), DNDSEC, SSH to name a few, that encrypts, otherwise clear-text that could be easily read by snoopers and eavesdroppers using simple tools available on the web.

Yet, there is still a threat from people you may or may not know, who want access to your private data. Cyber-stalkers and hackers may hold you ransom. Yet still any giant technology company is a target for thieves who steal company data and sell them on to buyers on the dark web.

## **Visas requirements**

So when we hear that a government intends to make the surrendering of your usernames and passwords of your email and social media accounts as a condition for entry to that country. We find this wholly unacceptable.



What you have to realise, that this measure is not only a concern for those applying for a USA visa. For instance, the privacy of your communication to a friend or family of yours is also compromised. Texting, email and messaging as well as the use of various social media platforms has become a way of life in this 21st century living. Digital technologies, like the worldwide Web and the Internet, have radically transformed how we live, learn, do business and recreate and in some sense, the vulnerability that users already face is now being exacerbated by the notion that a law-abiding citizens should be confronted by a such draconian and authoritarian action.

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You will be asked to give your passwords to your phone, social media etc (Compliments: pexels.com)

It behooves me to ask you, my friends to not be silent on this matter . If such a governmental policy is allowed to proceed unchallenged, this opens the way for other so-called democratic governments to do likewise. This is the behavior of a dictatorship such as obtains in North Korea, and one-party states like China. Where these regimes are afraid to let free-thinking exist.

Imagine that you are a businessman going to the states for a few days to a conference, or a family going to a wedding a musician going on a tour through the states, would you be happy to surrender your passport, er...sorry, password, to obtain a visas to the states? The inevitable consequence of this policy should it go ahead, is a massive loss of economy both in and out of the USA many people will look for alternative ways to spend their money, not at the expense of their privacy. You know as well as I do, that when we perceive that a medium is private, that sensitive information, that is not the business of anyone except the person to whom it was intended, maybe communicated. Having said this, I call on the giant, technology companies such as: Amazon, ebay, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, Samsung, Cisco, Badoo, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc, etc, use their enormous wealth

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and resources to protect their customers from such blatant civic abuse. We have heard of stories of governments wanting Facebook and Apple to allow access to to certain person's account. **Call to action** So we need clarity on this. We need to establish a separation between someone who is under surveillance and warrants a suspension of that person's liberties, and an ordinary citizen going about their lawful business. Therefore, I call on civil society to get behind the cause and echo this message loud and clear on all their social media platforms, and even beyond. There is a lot more at stake here than what is initially being proposed. If you care about human rights and justice, you will act Now.

This is unconstitutional and an affront to our democratic values. Nay a crime against humanity.



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# Google's Self-Driving Car project: A critique of its innovative technology transfer strategy

| May 2, 2017



## The project

Google Inc is a technology company based in Santa Clara County, California, in the United States of America (USA). Among the many online services and products that it has introduced to the information technology market are: the web browser, Google Chrome; the application Google Streetview and the mobile phone operating system, Android. As well as numerous mobile devices. (Google.com. 2017)

It is a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc. a holding company set up on July 23, 2015, by the founders of Google Inc, Larry Page and Sergey Brin (Reuters 2017). Google's interest in autonomous vehicles began as far back as 2007, but it wasn't till 2009 when it acquired the start-up companies 510 Systems and Anthony's Robots, who were the inventors of Google's street view cameras, and who had already developed the proprietary technology for self-driven cars and begun trials, that Google began to be associated with the self-driving car project. (Malhotra, 2017a)

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The takeover was at first kept secret from the media until 2010 when the company announced that its prototype of the self-driving car was complete. (Poczter et al 2014a). In December 2016, Google's Self-Driving Car project was incorporated as a company and is now called Waymo.

Figure 1, is a systems map that indicates the management structure prior to the company formation.

This project meets the EMA requirements for part one because, T848 Block 1, identifies product innovation as any measure that adds improvement to an artefact in a significant way adding value for the end user. (The Open University 2016) as identified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). According to Google its autonomous vehicles will reduce traffic accidents through prevention of driver errors. In addition, it will be a personal time saver, because driving would be done for you. The project would also help in the reduction of carbon emissions. (Poczter et al 2014b)

Additionally, the project also falls under the the Fifth-generation innovation wave (Rothwell, 1994; Dodgson et al., 2008) cited in The Open University 2017. The fifth-generation innovation wave is characterized by the growth of information technology companies, and concerns issues relating to technology transfer (The Open University 2016b) which is at the heart of my EMA submission.

The intellectual property associated with the project is the most valuable asset of the company. As recent as January, 2017, the project which since 2016 has been incorporated into a company- Waymo, has filed a law suit against Uber claiming that its autonomous vehicle technology was stolen from the company. (The Verge 2017)

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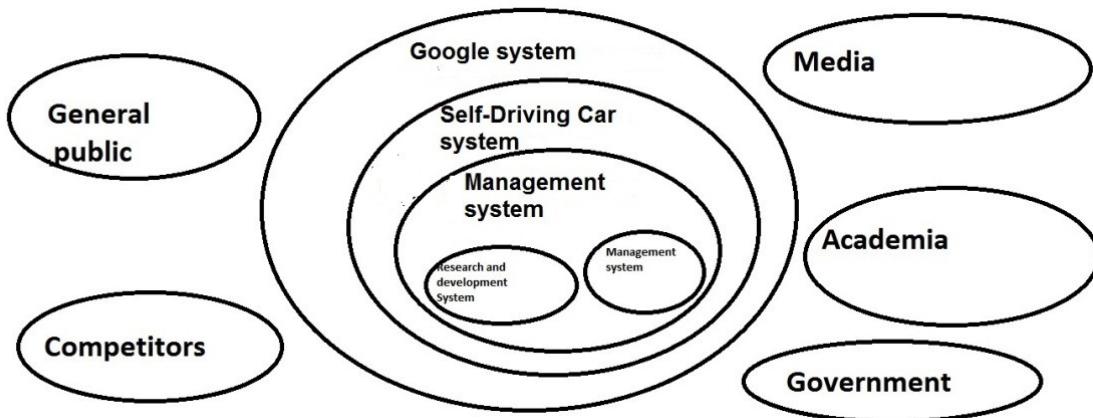


Figure 1  
Google's Self-Driving Car Project's systems map

## The technology

The United States Patent and Trade Marks Office lists the patent for Google's Self-Driving Car Project as a patent for 'Engaging and disengaging for autonomous driving' filed by Google Inc as patent number US9,352,752 B2 on May 31, 2016. (ROI, A. 2017) Table1 below, summarises the basic technologies that make a typical autonomous vehicle possible.

- 1.A Lazar range finder
- 2.A front camera for near vision
- 3.Bumper mounted radar
- 4.Aerial that reads precise geo-location
- 5.Ultrasonic sensors on rear wheels
- 6.Altimeters, gyroscopes and tachometers
- 7.Synergistic combining of sensors
- 8.proprietary software
- 9.Mapping software
  
- 10 Bespoke algorithms

Table 1  
Technologies that make the autonomous vehicle possible

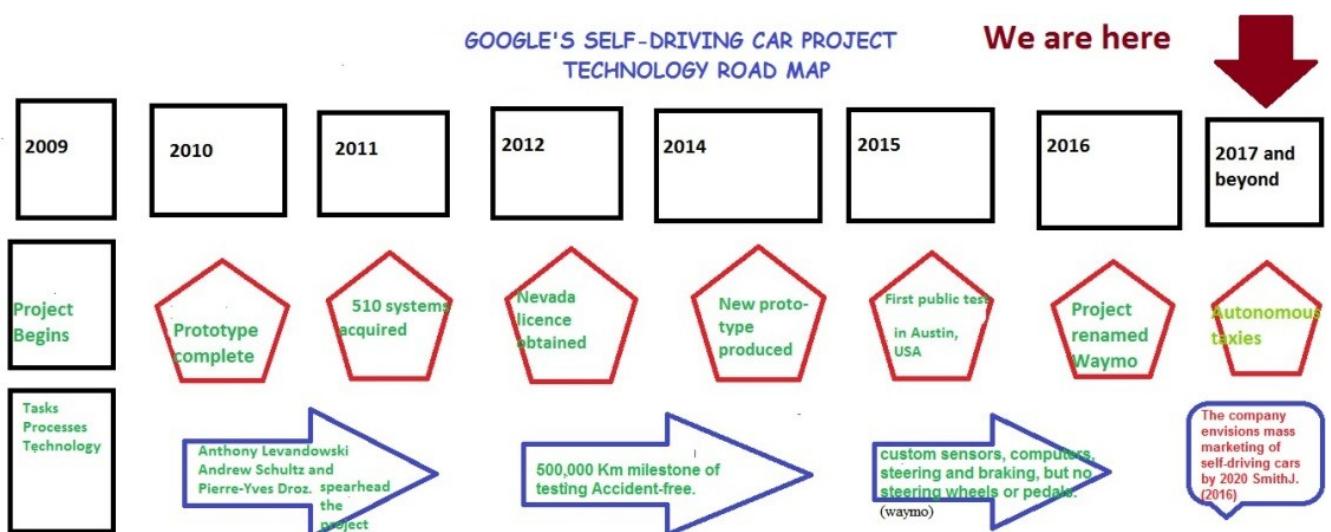
## Innovation management used

One of the reasons that Google did not identify with the 510 System's self-driving car project in 2009, was Google's fear that its brand would be tarnished by any accidents involving humans (Malhotra 2017b). The company only disclosed the matter in 2010 (See Figure 2) when work on a

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prototype was completed. (Waymo. 2017). (Heslop et.al2001) cited in The Open University 2016 suggests that there are four questions that entrepreneurs should ask to determine the state of readiness before adopting or investing in a new product or technology: 1. How novel is the technology? 2. How large is the market now and in the future? Is it ready for commercialisation and 4. What is the inventors' profile.

As of 2017, it is estimated that the number of engineers and others associated with the self-driving car project is 170 persons. (Smith, 2016). In part 2 of my EMA submission, I will critique Google's innovative technology transfer strategy. Touching on its appropriability regime and other aspects of intellectual property management that the project would have needed to deal with.



**Figure 2**  
Google's Self-Driving Car Project's technology road map

## Analysis of Systems map and technology road map

Firstly, the system map showed me how the project benefited from being embedded within the Google system. Because the early innovators of the project did not have the capital needed to bring the invention to market, by allowing Google to buy off 510 Systems and Anthony's Robots, the idea could now be developed successfully for the commercial market.

The system map, also shows us the factors bearing on the project in its external environment. As you can see from the technology road map, that along the way Google had to apply for various licences from state authorities to test the project on real motorways, and not just within Google's testing grounds.

The technology road map tells me that this project was able to gain momentum quickly because of the lead time that they had in developing a prototype, as well as maintaining a level of secrecy, they were able to forge ahead year-by-year on perfecting the prototype.

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The milestones are clear, and the process of validating each stage of the project's development most likely was built on Cooper's linear-rational approach as cited in The Open University (2016)

## Part 2

### A critique of Google's Self-Driving Car project's innovative technology transfer strategy

#### Introduction

In Part 2, I will be critically evaluating to what extent the innovative technology transfer strategy of Google's self-driving car project compares with concepts and ideas expressed in T848 Block 3. Google's Self-Driving Car Project was spun out as a company in 2016 and is now called Waymo. Even so, the on-going litigation with Uber, a rival in the self-driving car market, proves that Google has had a difficult task in controlling the movement of key players with their tacit knowledge. As well as their access to trade secrets of the business.

To begin, I will attempt to review how and why the intellectual property was transferred as part of the take over of 510 Systems and Anthony's Robots in 2011 by Google Inc. I will also discuss the ongoing legal case between Waymo and Uber involving the alleged theft of intellectual property relating to the designs of key components of the self-driving technology by a former employees of Google to show how, Google was experiencing lack of control of its human resource management of key players during, and even after the project was spun out as a company, and intend to analyse what may be the reasons for this.

To do this, I will compare and contrast selected concepts of the management of technological innovation as taught in the Open University module: T848- Managing technological innovation: Block 3. I will critique how effective was its appropriability regime in acquiring the patents and how Google manages its Intellectual Property portfolio in general.

As well as references from T848, I will be using a mixture of academic papers and technology blogs and media stories found on the Internet.

I will conclude with a summary of my findings and a set recommendations appropriate for the successful management of intellectual property by a technology company or project such as the project under review- Google's Self-Driving Car project.

#### Technological transfer strategy-What happened?

According to (The Open University 2016) one of the key aims of a technology transfer is to add value to an existing technology. In the case of Google's Self-Driving Car project, the technology was invented by a start-up company, 510 Systems founded by graduates of Berkley University,

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Anthony Levandowski, Andrew Schultz, Pierre-Yves Droz, Levandowski , and Sebastian Thrun, who was the mind behind Google's Street View technology. (Malhotra, S. 2017b)

In 2007 and 2008 Thurn and Levandowski joined Google, and were responsible for initial work on Google's prototype Pribot- five autonomous Toyota Priuses before Google purchased both 510 systems and Anthony's Robots a company founded by Levandowski and, I presume all associated intellectual property in 2011. (Malhotra 2017c). At the heart of the transfer was a guidance system, a smart camera that could generate coded positional data from GPS units and sensors. As well as a mobile 3D laser-map-making technology using Lidar, (Light sensitive radar) (Malhotra 2017d)

## **Recommended best practices.**

The question that could be asked up front, is, who benefited most from the technology transfer over the lifetime of the project. Google purchased 510 Systems and Anthony's Robots for an undisclosed amount. But because the tacit knowledge of the technology was embedded in its founder, Levandowski, Google seems powerless to prevent him deploying the technology outside of the Google project to which he had sold off the rights. T848-Block 3 suggests that during a transfer of technology between an inventor and a receiver, that negotiations would include such instruments as an explicit contractual agreement that outlines the intellectual property involved, and who owns what percent of the technology. (The Open University 2016c)

Further, such agreement would define whether the take over of 510 Systems self-driving car technology was exclusive or non-exclusive. Because the take over of 510 systems was kept secret, there is not much documentation in the public domain about the process of the transfer, but one could presume, that Google must have been assured that by its secrecy and lead-time to market, that it could establish a dominant design ahead of any imitators/competitors. It would do this adding its reputable brand name and a 'bundle' of complementary technologies and embedded the self-driving car project within its business model, according to T848-Block 3.

## **What is an Appropriability regime?**

To deal effectively with a technological transfer, T848 Block 3 suggests the imposition of an appropriability regime. According to (Teece, D.J. 1986), cited in The Open University 2016, the formal appropriability measures that prove ownership and protect a company's intellectual property are the use of Patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets as well as non-disclosure agreements. Deployment of these strategies, are some of the ways that The Google project must have used to protect its proprietary technology from competitors. Google would have made legally binding contracts with its engineers and staff to protect both its codified knowledge pertaining to the technology-know-how, and its tacit knowledge embedded in the skills-sets of

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key employees.

(The Open University 2016) cites the control of tacit knowledge is important if a company is to prevent its trade secrets from being leaked to competitors for example, It suggests that non-competition clauses and contracts; sanctions of resignations and other ‘collective labour agreements embedded in labour legislation adds another layer of protection of a company’s intellectual property through such appropriability regimes

(Baughn et al 1997 p. 112) cited in The Open University 2016, says that maintaining a tight control of your company’s personnel resource is the foremost means of protecting intellectual property in a firm. Even if all of the above are institutionalised in the company, according to The Open University, there will always be ‘head-hunters’ who will try to lure skilled talent away from the company. However, according to The Open University 2016, share-options and other psychological incentives are sometimes also used to keep workers happy to remain with the company.

Review of Google Self-Driving Car Project’s appropriability regime.

In 2009 when Google acquired 510 Systems and Anthony’s Robots, two companies founded by Robotic engineer, Anthony Levandowski, who joined Google in 2007, the self-driving car technology that Levandowski was developing, from that time now became known as a Google’s Self-Driving Car Project. (Malhotra, 2017) Since much of this early transfer of ownership is obscure because of secrecy surrounding the deal, I cannot say what the terms of the agreement was. However, when Levandowski left the Google project in January 2016 without notice, he set up his own company—Otto which was a technology company retrofitting haulage trucks with self-driving technology (En.wikipedia.org. 2017). Otto was subsequently purchased that same year by Uber for US\$680 million.

This year, Waymo (formerly Google Self-Driving Car Project) filed a lawsuit against Uber suing and seeking damages from Otto and its owner, Uber, “for allegedly stealing trade secrets, unfair competition and patent infringement.” Waymo claims that former Google engineer, Lavanwoski, downloaded to an external hard drive 14,000 sensitive files and designs of the circuit board of Google’s Lidar circuit board and emailed to other Google engineers suspected of working for Uber. In addition, Waymo says that a forensic investigation has also revealed that, “supplier lists, manufacturing details and statements of work with highly technical information” were also stolen (Recode 2017).

So this raises questions of whether the self-driving technology has indeed been stolen by Uber. What were the terms under which Goggle acquired the 510 systems and Anthony’s Roberts? Can Uber prove that that their technology is not an imitation of Google trade secrets?

One of the tools I think Google has used as an appropriability measure, is to give generous bonuses and compensations expecting loyalty and secrecy in return. What is apparent,

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

however, is that engineers and other key staff were of the view that they were now rich enough to pursue other ventures (Barr, M. et al 2017)

Could we say that the technology transfer between 510 systems and Google was successful? Not really, as the present legal feud between Waymo and Uber indicate. This story is likely to be in the news for some time until the lawsuit has been resolved in the future.

## Technology readiness and commercialisation

The final point considered in a successful technology transfer process, is the company's criteria in judging whether a technology is ready for commercialisation. For this segment of the EMA, I will review briefly Google's decision to spin off the Self-Driving Car Project into a separate entity- a company called Waymo in 2016. Waymo is stands for a 'new way forward in mobility'. Central to that decision according to (The Open University 2016) is a perception by the project owner that their Self-Driving Car Project had reached a level of maturity that it could be commercially exploited without fear that its patent would be contested and that its technology could not be replicated by competitors.

In December 2016, CEO of Waymo, John Krafcik announced in a press conference in San Francisco that Google's self-Driving Car project had become Waymo. (Etherington 2016). Not only had Waymo come into existence that year, but a handful of the former top engineers also left the project in 2016, including Chris Urmson and two other engineers long associated with the project. This was a major blow to the company seeing that Sebastian Thrun and Anthony Levandowski, had quit in 2013 and 2014 respectively (Lawrence et al 2016)

Interesting to note too that, (Muoio 2016) is of the opinion that Waymo has lost it's way when it comes to marketing the product, although the first to begin research and experiments with Robotic cars. Nevertheless, according to Muoio, Krafcik announced in the December 2016 press conference, a set of key indicators that its self-driving technology was ready for the next phase of development towards a commercial product in collaboration with other strategic partners in the auto industry.

Among those announcements were: that Waymo is manufacturing both the hardware and software of it driver-less car technology. Also that the company was aiming for a SAE- level 4 autonomy certification. Moreover, Krafcik announced that Waymo had developed a new vision system and new short and long LiDAR system. According to (Muoio 2016) Waymo's has slashed the cost of building the LiDAR systems by 90%. which makes it more cost-effective to grow into new markets.

## Conclusion

In this EMA, I have sought to analyse how Google managed its intellectual property acquisitions in light of its Self-Driving Project. Technology transfer in a project such as this, proved to be a very lucrative but risky undertaking. Based on what I have researched mainly from secondary resources, I can deduce that Google although sought to keep its early experimentation of self-

# Welcome to my blog

driving cars a secret, it did not achieve totally secrecy, as some of the main players were not sufficiently managed. For this reason, at the point in the project where it should have seen a stable transformation of its processes and human resource.

In my research, I have found that Google's compensation scheme of may have worked against them, delivering an unstable environment and brain drain, and high turn over of leading engineers at crucial times.

I found that the interaction between a start up—510 systems and a multinational technology company—Google Inc would have been better, if the two entities had worked in partnership, and that 510 systems had licensed the technology to Google.

The fact that Levandowski is the centre of a litigation case is proof, that the inventor could not disassociate himself from this inventorship and thus his right to the basic components of the technology.

Additionally, while Google's quest to take ownership of the technology and to keep it secret, to gain a possible lead-time, it is possible that leaks of 'sensitive information' germane to autonomous driving vehicles may have been going on for sometime, hence the rise of auto makers declaring that they too will soon mass produce driverless cars.

It appears, that although Google was an early adopter of the technology, that it may lose out out in being first to market.

## The End

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change (Part 1) | October 22, 2017

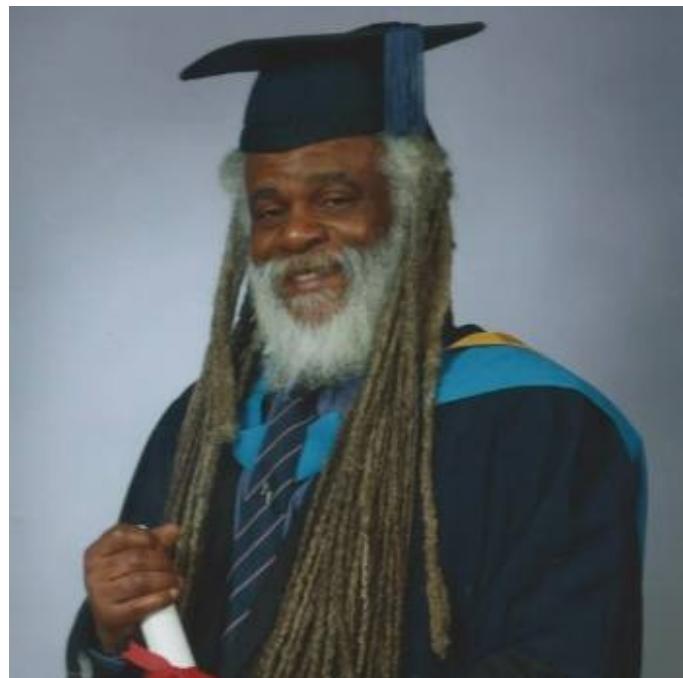
### Introduction

My academic journey with the [Open University](#) (OU) began in October 2010. I was first introduced to the OU while I was a union, and health and safety representative for the [Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers](#) (USDAW) which is the trade union representing the workers at Tesco Extra where I work. Besides attending numerous workshops for new reps, I completed a series of home-study courses produced by USDAW on topics such as pensions, collective bargaining, democracy. At the end of the course, I was posted a leaflet introducing me to the Open University if I was interested in further opportunities for self-improvement. I enrolled on the BSc (Hons) Computing and IT because of my fascination with digital technology and information communication that had begun to gain momentum in all spheres of human activity since the era of web 2.0.

In December 2016, I completed my undergraduate studies, and attended my graduation ceremony at the Barbican in March 2017. But for sometime leading up to the end of my undergraduate studies, I had been considering continuing with a master's degree to specialise in a particular field. My choice was a MSc in Technology Management.

In November 2017, I began my postgraduate journey towards a MSc Technology Management with the Open University program starting with T848- Managing Technological Innovation. I have since followed this, T849- Strategic capabilities for technological innovation. These two modules constitute the compulsory component of the requirements of the postgraduate certificate in Technology Management.

My trajectory into understanding systemic change  
TU812-Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction, is the first of two optional modules needed to earn a postgraduate diploma in technology management. I formally begin the module on November



# Welcome to my blog

1st, but the distant-learning materials and student home website have been available since October 5 when my books were delivered by royal mail. By this time, it had been 15 days since Hurricane Maria, a category 5 storm had devastated Dominica-my homeland.

The learning objectives of Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction are to develop your Knowledge and understanding of the traditions of systems thinking with a view to developing vital cognitive skills for use in practical and/or professional situations such as:

- inspiring innovation and/or creativity
- providing leadership
- positions where you have to work across boundaries (internal or external)
- having to engage others in what you are doing (i.e. building stakeholding) either within or external to your organisation or project
- developing new policies that will affect a wide range of people
- managing change of some form or another
- project or programme development and/or delivery
- participating in or managing multi, inter or transdisciplinary research
- interdepartmental working parties, groups, committees
- policy development or implementation
- working more effectively with your colleagues and communities in developing your practice.

Extracted from the Open University 2017

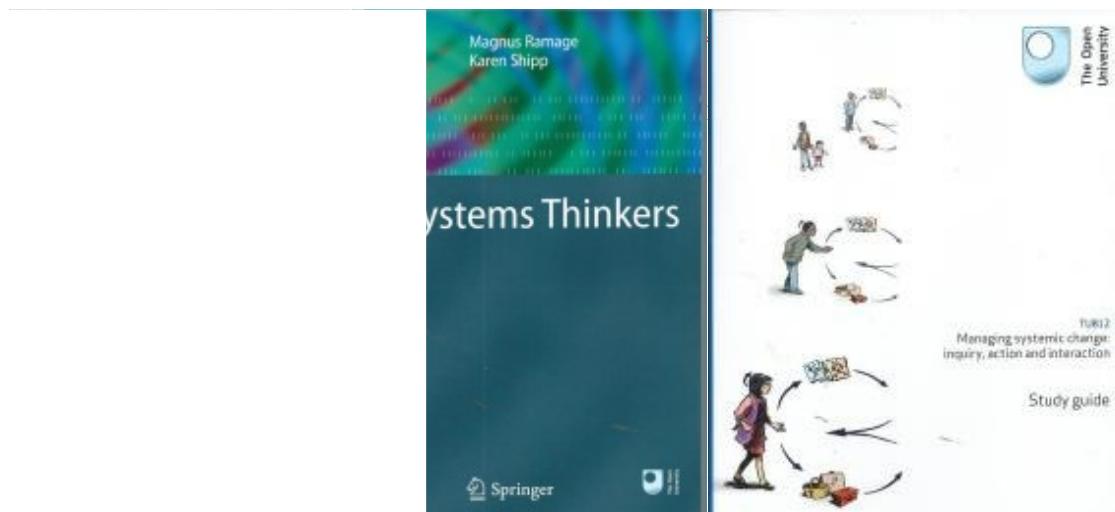
## Blogging my way through TU812

One of the required activities for this module is to use some form of blogging tool to capture your learning on the subject by the use of a blog or journal. The entries you provide are to analyse module concepts, post initial reaction and to challenge your thinking as the module progresses and according to the Open University, "to [Prepare] a learning contract based on systemic changes you wish to manage"

To this end, I have decided to use my blog here on [wordpress](#), as the principal entry point for my thoughts and reflections, then distribute them by sharing with my [Open University blog](#), TU812 forum and other social media such as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## Systems Practice: How to act

In situations of uncertainty and complexity in a climate-change world



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

and module website thus far, has given me great insight, and an appreciation of the need, for professionals with specialised skills, not only in innovation and technology in general, but also with knowledge of systems-thinking that can think through complex problems and guide towards an appropriate response.

One of the biggest challenges facing mankind today, is the threat of mankind-induced climate change that is having an adverse effect on the world's climate , and is being blamed for catastrophic natural events such as the ongoing North Atlantic hurricane season which has seen large-scale devastation of many islands in the Caribbean this year, including Dominica.

## Next time

In my next blog, I will be looking more deeply into module concepts. For a start, Ray Ison and Chris Blackmore, two of the authors of the textbooks, used in the course are also responsible for writing the study guide and themselves are deeply associated with The Open university for many years.

In addition, I will also go deeper into what it is that I, first will get out from the course, and 2, what it is I hope to do with my newly-found knowledge.

According to the requirements, this journal is to be updated periodically. So until next time, please read, like and share as you join me in my quest to get to grips with managing systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction.

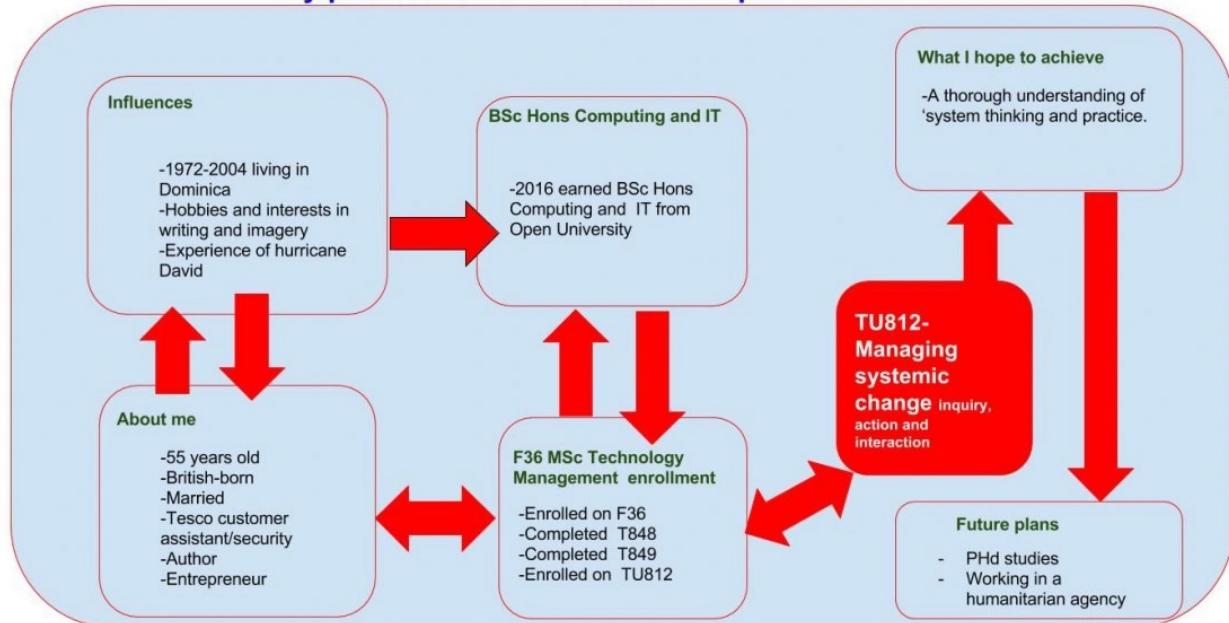
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# Welcome to my blog

## An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change (Part 2) | November 5, 2017

### My point of arrival in TU812 as a practitioner.



### Introduction

Hello again reader. Here is an update on my latest academic quest with the Open University (OU). Today, I present my findings, reflections and musings concerning my studies thus far on my journey of discovery of this fascinating discipline of Systems thinking and practice. This is the second installment of my series of blogs entitled, An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change which I began on October 22, 2017.

Prior to the commencement of my reading of the TU812- Managing systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction module material, all I knew about systems mapping was that it was a way of illustrating how various components of a 'system,' for instance, general practitioners within the National Health Service (NHS) related to the overall whole. I had been introduced to the concept in one or two previous module I have studied with the OU. Particularly, in T848- Managing Technological innovation of which technology road maps and system maps were a feature of managing technology within an innovative environment.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## Specialised terminology

The field of systemic inquiry is loaded with a host of ‘systemic qualifiers’ of which underscores the seriousness with which ‘systemic practitioners’ are embedded, and with which such terminology aptly defines their understanding of this highly specialised way of thinking. Indeed, Ray Ison, who I mentioned in my blog of October 23, who is one of the authors of the module’s study guide and author of the textbook, *Systems Practice: How to act in situations of uncertainty and complexity in a climate-change world* has introduced me to a new way of looking at the world, and how the interconnectedness of things, people and places is the foundation on which this academic discipline rests.

Assuming that you, like me, had no prior knowledge of systemic thinking, the title of the course mentions, ‘systemic change’ and hints at ‘systemic enquiry’. Academics who are involved with systemic enquiry, are said to be conducting ‘systemic practice’, or as mentioned above, are considered to be ‘systemic practitioners.’ When there is an obvious aberration from a desirable outcome, it is said to have been a ‘systemic failure’. The course team make a distinction between ‘systemic’ and ‘systematic’.

Other terms that I found that are unique to this way of thinking, and that are introduced in part one of the study guide are: terms like ‘social learning systems’ and ‘systems of interest’ and so on. Terms and phrases like ‘praxis-based approach’, trajectory diagrams and ‘learning contracts’, are also new to me.

It is the expectation of the course team, that my understanding of these concepts will grow as the module progresses. No doubt, in 9 months time, when I revisit these blogs I should realise a growth in my understanding and appreciation of ‘system thinking philosophy’.

## Home-study/ distance learning module

TU812, is a long-distance, postgraduate module. It is an optional choice for a number of masters degrees. A feature of studying for a qualification with the OU module is the requirement to submit several tutor module assessments (TMA) and End-of-module Assessments (EMA) which are submitted electronically using the OU ‘system’s’ ‘Online TMA/EMA Service.

Besides reading the module materials and submitting the assessments, there are usually Self Assessment Questions (SAQ) and a number of activities included for the student to check your learning against the module learning objectives. Activities such as Activity 1.8 below.

# Welcome to my blog

## My point of arrival in TU812 as a practitioner.

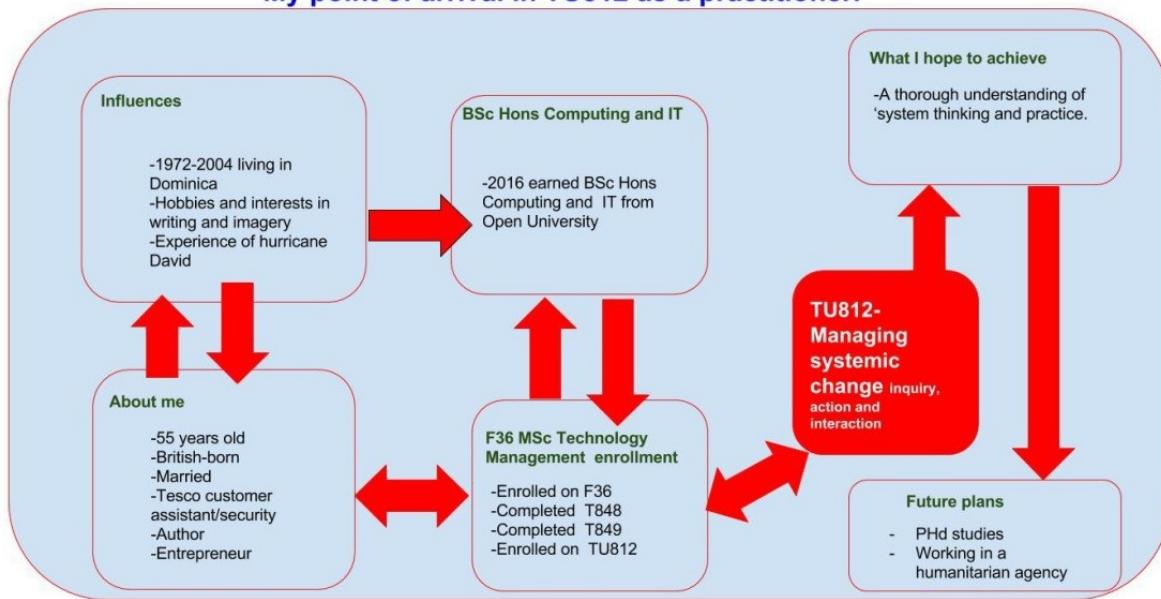


Figure 1.0 My trajectory into TU812

The diagram in figure 1.0 above seeks to show the developmental changes that affected my decision to enroll on this module, since this module is concerned with managing systemic change. The diagram also is used as a visual aid to assist me (the student) to be aware of the influences on that decision, as well as what it is that I am hoping to achieve having studied the module.

## Next time

In my next blog, I will delve more deeply into systemic thinking and the mindset of the systemic practitioner. In addition, I will explore how I can adapt my newly found learning towards addressing my concerns for disaster recovery in the islands in the Caribbean devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria this year. Islands that are seeking to address the ill-effects of human induced climate change, and how to manage systemic change to their way of life to mitigate future impacts

## References

The Open University. (2017). *TU812 – Managing systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction – Open University Course*. [online] Available at: <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/modules/tu812> [Accessed 5 Nov. 2017].

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change (Part 3) | December 10, 2017



### Introduction

Hello again reader. It is time for another update on my quest to become a systems thinker. This is the third installment of my blog, An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change. today, I review my studies of part one of the study guide. As you may have read in my previous blogs, this module is concerned with equipping the aspiring systems thinker with the transformative tools and concepts which will give him/her the capabilities to participate effectively in 'situations of interest', especially in those circumstances that involve systemic disruption.

### Change is inevitable

As a society and an individual, there will always be events that evolve around us for better or for worse. Changes that may impact us at the domestic level—a change of circumstances, for example, being made redundant. Conversely, you may be caught up in as an immigrant in the shifting borders of the European Union, or even recently experienced a natural disaster such as a major hurricane. Again, whether the transformation is seen as systemically desirable' or 'culturally feasible' will depend on whose perspective the 'wicked problem' is been seen from. The decisions that informs an employee who has to face being unemployed will be different in scope, compared to the board of directors of a large company that has hit rock-bottom and is being liquidated.

# Welcome to my blog

## Be a Reflexive system practitioner

In ‘systems language’ through training, our ‘practice’ visualises challenges as opportunities to learn from, as in a ‘learning system and’ an opportunity to conduct a ‘systematic inquiry’ as a way of managing the change, as well as a form of ‘social learning’ such an exercise will include listening to, and collaborating with all stakeholders. It will require the setting of boundaries around a ‘situation of interest’ which is fundamental to the understanding systemically a complex issue.

Another conceptual tool I have learned from Part One of the Study Guide for this module thus far, is to appreciate ‘systemic practice as a ‘relational dynamic’. This is heuristically demonstrated by the P, F,S, M model

P- Practitioner

F- Framework

M- Method

S- Situation

Finally another tool that is taught in TU812, is the use of a ‘learning contract. A table that identifies and grades in terms of priority, those skills and capabilities that one wants to develop on the way to transformation to a systems thinker.

## Refining my Systemic inquiry

As an update to my journey so far of the TU812-Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction, I have successfully submitted and passed, the first of three tutor-marked-assessments(TMAs). The first TMA was based on my understanding of Part one of the study guide, titled, ‘Creating the starting conditions for your study,’ which according to my tutor for TU812, Question 1 was concerned with the historical and social settings with which I as a systems practitioner comes to a situation of interest. Q2 sought to test my understanding of the Frameworks as taught in TU812 and Question 3 was to learn what Methods I deployed to put these frameworks into effect in a situation of my choosing.

Part two of the study guide is called, ‘A systemic inquiry into systems practice’. Among the learning points are: to teach important ‘key systems concepts used to manage systemic change; learn the various approaches towards systemic practice, as well as how to engage in designing a systemic inquiry and the ethics and critical learning that goes into creating a learning system.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Ray Ison, the author of Part two of the Study Guide in Activity 2.4 asked students to write our reflections and comments in our blogs and/or module forum any issues, concepts and claims made by him in Chapter 10 of his book, *Systems Practice: how to act in a situations of uncertainty and complexity in a climate-change world.*

The main take away thought for me in Chapter 10 is that it is important to note that the (Ison 2017) claims that systemic inquiry is social technology primarily concerned with coming to terms with uncertainty. He states that when the inquiry involves a number of persons, this is regarded as a systemic co-inquiry. He adds that one of the main benefits of a systemic inquiry is that it provides a mechanism or framework that enables the practitioner to place the situation of interest within a definite frame of reference.

One of the hallmarks of being a systemic thinker is the ability to not only place within a frame or a boundary, but to be reflective about the entire process of engaging with systemic change. (Ison 2017) describes this as 'reflective learning' or as he explains, 'it is the thinking about thinking, doubting about doubting learning about learning and (hopefully) knowing about knowing'

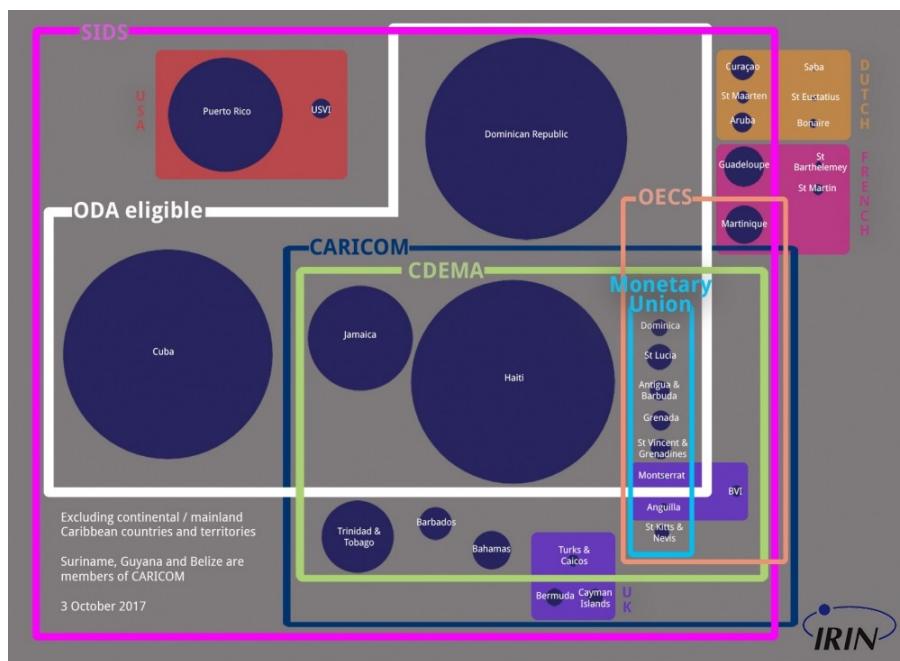
In section 10.2 Ison delves into 'The Opportunity for systemic inquiry.' As I mentioned above, systemic inquiry is a way of managing systemic change characterised by complexity and uncertainty. This type of systemic inquiry he says is different from other forms of inquiry that as he compared to, such as 'appreciative inquiry', 'action inquiry' 'first, second and third person inquiry', 'networked systemic inquiry'

### References

- Ison R., (2017). [online] Available at: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Systems-Practice-How-Climate-Change-World/dp/1849961247> [Accessed 4 Dec. 2017].

# Welcome to my blog

## An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change (Part 4) |January 30, 2018



Invitation to investigate the link between Social Learning Systems and Communities of practice and disaster risk reduction and recovery.

Greetings all,

Let me take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a happy new year.

### Introduction

With part two of *TU812- Managing systemic change: Inquiry, action and interaction*, under the bridge, and a heavily thumbed and lined *Systems Practice: How to act in situations of uncertainty and complexity in a climate change world*. We turn our attention to the wider involvement of the systems thinker in the inquiry into *Social learning systems* and *Communities of practice*.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Although I know that the submission date for TMA 03 is a few weeks away: March 22, 2018, Question 1 (b) asks us to reference sources, and provide evidence that a situation of interest that you have identified as in need of social learning has /is being discuss(ed) The question suggests that third-party perspectives could be obtained from one-one discussions, with family or friends, or in forums such as the module forum or among your peers in the workplace.

## What we want to do

In light of this assignment, I am inviting fellow students who have previous experience of being a victim of a disaster, directly or indirectly; or who has been a volunteer in the aftermath or been involved with the management of resources to respond to a disaster. Alternatively, this post is for anyone who has a deep interest in environmental matters, particularly in discussing the issues around social learning systems and Communities of practice as it relates to disaster risk reduction and recovery.

To begin, here is a graphical representation of the complex relationships between islands of the Caribbean, who share a common boundary of the Caribbean sea and the atlantic Ocean geographically. However, the social history and development of each island or subsets of islands, within the Caribbean archipelago, could not be more varied on the question of international relations, and colonial and post-colonial regulatory frameworks that governed how the British, French, Dutch and American governments responded during and in the wake the 2017 North Atlantic Hurricane season. In this scenario, we have many actors, including the survivors and the Caribbean diaspora. As well as a host of humanitarian organisations and world bodies and agencies.

## Background

[The Commonwealth of Dominica](#) was struck by Hurricane Maria on the 18-19th of September, 2017 which was perhaps the worst North Atlantic hurricane season on record. I was born in the UK, and lived in Dominica between 1972 and 2004 during which time I survived Hurricane David in 1979.

Two major hurricanes ripped through the Caribbean with two weeks last year: Hurricane Irma on September 6 which killed over 134 persons and caused catastrophic damage in Barbuda, Saint Barthelemy, Sint Martin, Anguilla. the British Virgin Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Cuba and Florida. Two weeks later, Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane almost totally obliterated Dominica leaving over 96 persons dead or missing.

## Questions

1 What lessons have been learned from this hurricane season?

# Welcome to my blog

2.What are your views on climate-change?

3. Is there a case for the intervention of Social learning Systems in the Caribbean?

## Final thoughts

Below is graphical representation taken from an IRIN News article entitled *Hurricane response: Caribbean disaster agency comes of age*.

I decided to share this because it somewhat focuses the mind on what we are discussing. I sincerely hope that this thread will generate some discussion of the subject stated above in the days and weeks to come prior to our tutorial on February 12 where I am looking forward to more guidance on getting to grips with the contribution of Sir Geoffrey Vickers, Donald Schön and others with this very illuminating aspect of managing systemic change.

Regards

Albert

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- IRIN. (2017). *Hurricane response: Caribbean disaster agency comes of age*. [online] Available at: <https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/09/28/hurricane-response-caribbean-disaster-agency-comes-age> [Accessed 30 Jan. 2018].
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- Euan McKirdy, C. (2018). *Dominica PM: Hurricane Maria 'devastates' island*. [online] CNN. Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/18/americas/atlantic-storms-maria-jose-lee/index.html> [Accessed 30 Jan. 2018].
- IN. 2017)

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change (Part 5) | March 17, 2018



Greetings friends,

This installment of my blog: An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change will take the form of an invitation to join me in designing an initial inquiry into designing a Critical Learning System for the Caribbean islands devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria last year using Dominica as a pilot.

### **An invitation**

#### **A Critical Learning System for the Commonwealth of Dominica, in respect of land, water and development**

#### **Background**

The Commonwealth of Dominica was struck by Hurricane Maria between the 18-19th of September, 2017 which was perhaps the worst North Atlantic hurricane season on record.

Two major hurricanes ripped through the Caribbean within two weeks last year: Hurricane Irma on September 6 which killed over 134 persons and caused catastrophic damage on, Saint Barthelemy, Sint Martin, Anguilla, St Kitts, Turks and Caicos Islands, the British Virgin Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Cuba, Florida and Barbuda that was totally devastated and ALL residents had to be evacuated, leaving the island uninhabited for the first time in 300 years. Two weeks later, Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane almost totally obliterated Dominica leaving over 96 persons dead or missing, then went on to devastate Puerto Rico.

# Welcome to my blog

## **ARTICULATED VISION**

Dominica is no stranger to natural disasters. Hurricane David struck the island on August 29, 1979. On August 27, 2015, Tropical Storm (TS) Erika hit Dominica killing 13 people. Extremely violent weather caused numerous landslides and flooding destroying whole villages and swollen rivers washed away roads and bridges.

In our quest to join in Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit's vision to create the first climate-resistant country in the world, it behoves us to utilise and adapt every capability, human or technological innovation to build not only the infrastructure, but the human capital, that is both the participant and the beneficiary of such a noble enterprise. Our quest is to drive this vision to fulfillment, and make it sustainable for future generations.

## **What are Critical Learning Systems?**

Metaphorically, a learning system already exists in Dominica. The government through its agencies and departments working in concert with third-party entities, such as Non-government agencies (NGOs) and friendly governments provides a basis for the exchange of goods and services and feed-back and feed-forward exchanges that inform the conduct of business in this situation of interest.

Briefly, how this network of organisations and governments differs from a 'Critical Learning system', is that the participants are aware that they are working purposefully within a domain or boundary towards the solving a problem through understanding:

- how they are learning about a particular experience
- what they are learning about a particular experience

and

- how they are using the results: insights and findings generated by this introspection to address the present concern. In short, we are creating 'new knowledge.'

## **Land, water and development**

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

The invitation to join this discussion is partly due to (1) a requirement of TU812: Managing systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction's third tutor-marked assessment (TMA) in which I have been asked to seek third-party comments on my selected topic: Land, water and development. And (2) my own ongoing inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change

Even without formal training in systems thinking, I am sure that anyone who has followed the media accounts of the destruction wrought by the hurricanes in the Caribbean last year can make the connections with the topic of land, water and development. The issues faced by the islands are numerous as they are ubiquitous:

- they are all small islands surrounded by water.
- they depend on tourism and agriculture for their living.
- they are frequently buffeted by hurricanes.
- damage to vegetation and housing stock is widespread.
- Cleaning up and disposal of debris: fallen trees, household appliances, destroyed cars and boats, concrete and galvanise is an ongoing problem.
- The future is uncertain and complex.

Nevertheless, the mood is hopeful and up-beat. Dominica's Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit is leading the charge against climate-change vowing to rebuild his island as the first climate-resistant country in the world. Initiatives such as the Clinton Foundation's *Action Network on Post-Disaster Recovery* and entrepreneur, Richard Branson has set in motion a team to develop a Marshall plan for the islands. Humanitarian organisations and former colonial powers and world bodies have all pledged, in cash or kind to come to the aid of the struggling islands.

### Have your say

With this brief introduction to the background of my invitation, I invite you to discuss what you think are some of the concerns that you may identify in regards to land, water and development. For instance:

- The need for relocation of homes and business.
- The dredging of silted rivers to prevent future flooding.
- What of the future of the private sector

# Welcome to my blog

- what of the the idea of a climate resistant country. What will this look like?

I am sure that you can see how nurturing a Critical learning system comprising of government officials, managers and middle managers in the private sector, as one set, and law enforcement and essential services in another. While we might even consider a residents and/or student's subset could be other choices.

Your comments and ideas maybe reproduced in my submission or appear in the TU812 module discussion forum.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read and respond accordingly

Photo credit CDEMA : Before hitting Puerto Rico, Hurricane Maria struck Dominica, causing utter devastation.

**RSVP**

## **For further reading**

**Cape Cod Chronicle. (2017). *Maria, Irma Bring Long-distance Heartbreak, Helplessness: Locals Send Prayers, Aid To Loved Ones In Hurricanes' Path.* [online]** Available at: <http://www.capecodchronicle.com/en/5239/chatham/2145/Maria-Irma-Bring-Long-distance-Heartbreak-Helplessness-Locals-Send-Prayers-Aid-To-Loved-Ones-In-Hurricanes'-Path-Storms.htm> [Accessed 7 Mar. 2018].

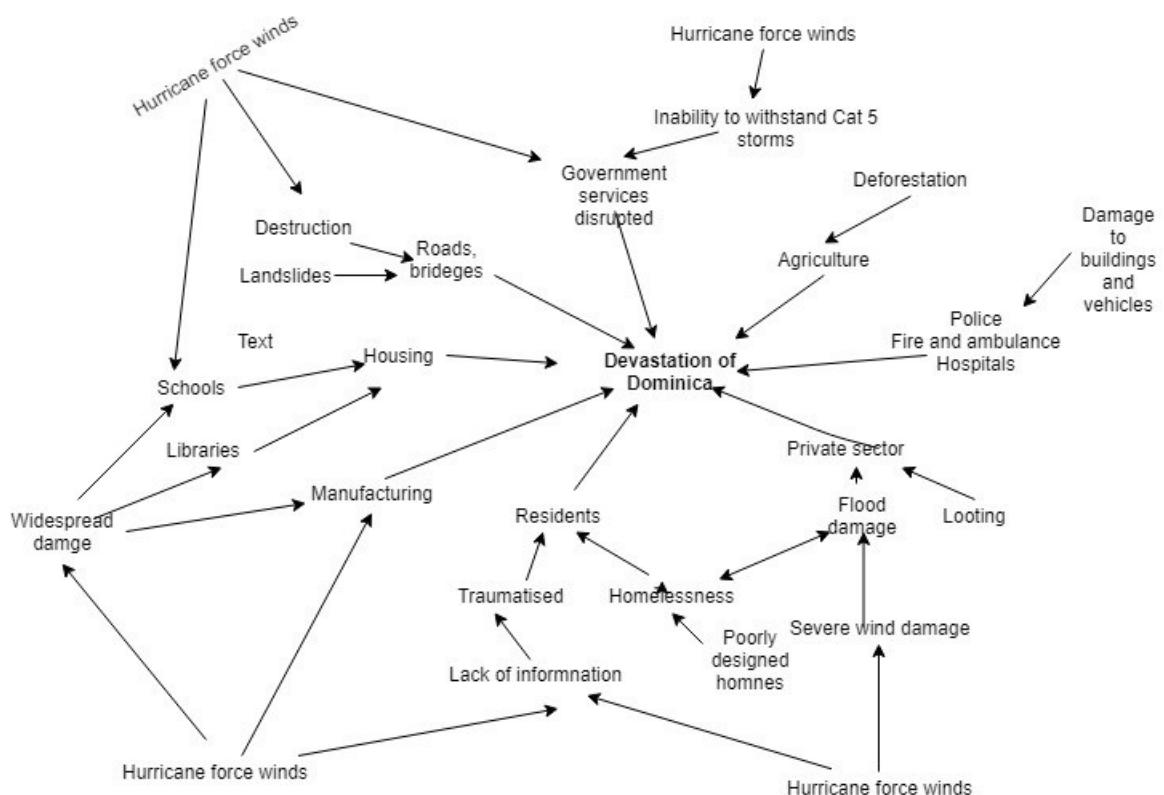
# ALBERT WILLIAMS

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# Welcome to my blog

## An inquiry into my systems practice for managing systemic change (Part 6) | May 14, 2018

A multiple cause diagram exploring causes of systemic failure resulting from the devastation of hurricane Maria



An introduction to

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## Critical Social Learning Systems:

A briefing paper for the Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ambassador Edward Lambert

April 19, 2018

(2541words)

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## Introduction

This briefing paper is written for the attention of Ambassador Edward Lambert, who is the senior advisor to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Hon Dr Roosevelt Skerrit (Dominica, G. (2016). Ambassador Lambert is Dominica's non-resident ambassador to the Holy See (Dominica News Online. 2015). He also sits on the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica's (CREAD) transitional committee launched on March 12th, 2018 to oversee the reconstruction efforts (Dominica, G. 2018).

My aim in this work, is to introduce the concept of Critical Social Learning Systems to you Ambassador Lambert as a tool the organisation may utilize to assist the country to 'build back better' and to share the principles of managing systemic change through action, interaction and systemic inquiry, and how these can improve the capabilities of all concerned. And perhaps more importantly, write these principles into the underlying meta-narrative of the country's crusade to build back more resiliently.

# Welcome to my blog

As you know, Dominica is one of the Caribbean islands that were devastated by Hurricane Irma on September 6, 2017, and Hurricane Maria, September 18, 2017.

In Dominica's case, the island sustained catastrophic damage to its landscape and infrastructure. The economy has been left with damages and loss estimated to be of 226% of its gross domestic product (GDP) (Resilientcaribbean.caricom.org. 2018). According to a journalist, Luca Renda, writing in a recent article, "Thirty-one people died, thirty-three more remain missing. Roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and over 40 percent of homes were destroyed or severely damaged" (Ipsnews.net. 2018.) However, emerging from this chaos, the Dominican government has since embarked on a plan to rebuild the island as *the world's first climate resilient country in the world* prompting António Guterres, General Secretary of the United Nations following a visit to Dominica weeks after the disaster to say "the UN has an important role in guiding Dominica on its journey to become the world's first climate-resistant nation, with good analysis on how to achieve and monitor national climate resilience," (United Nations Sustainable Development 2017)

Hence, references to building Dominica as '*the world's first climate resilient country in the world*'. 'has become a rallying cry for government officials and humanitarian agency representatives alike in their press briefings and announcements.

Equally, this briefing paper, also forms part of the inquiry into my own systems practice for managing my response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria on Dominica as a non-resident Dominican. I am having been born in the United Kingdom and I am a Dominican by descent. However, I lived in Dominica between 1972 and 2004. In 1979, I experienced Hurricane David, which devastated Dominica. Therefore, the sentimental attachment to this situation of interest is profound. Consequently, I periodically publish my feelings, discoveries and reflections on the module materials in my Open University blog, (Learn1.open.ac.uk. 2018). TU812 studies, therefore, has given me a foundation by which I can continue to refine my practice with the concepts and frameworks taught, and gives me an opportunity to contribute to the island's recovery and reconstruction.

## Aims and objectives

The focus of my briefing paper, therefore, is to provide an overview of the use of Critical Social Learning Systems as a tool for managing 'messy and wicked' problems like the aftermath of 'hurricane Maria'. I introduce aspects of systemic thinking illustrated with references from TU812 study guide and accompanying texts.

In this briefing paper I discuss a selection of concepts, frameworks and methodologies used in systemic thinking. I discuss how each can be used to manage systemic change such as has been

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visited on Dominica and other Caribbean islands. No doubt you will agree with me, that the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria on September 18, 2017, has ushered in a new way of governance. We must aspire to respond in different ways to the daily problems of providing the infrastructure, goods and services to the residents and citizens of the Commonwealth of Dominica. I too have caught the compelling vision of Prime Minister Skerrit, that Dominica should emerge from the debris of the hurricane to be reborn as the *first climate resilient country in the world.*

Consequently, my objectives in this document are:

- To awaken in my readers a sense of systems practice and the integration of theory with practice in praxis.
- Evaluate case studies where systems thinking has been used.
- To initiate a systemic inquiry into establishing a critical social learning system to underpin all processes and methods through which CREAD conducts its day to day affairs of the state.
- To identify how we learn about learning, and we can use our learning to learn our way through this period of economic and social upheaval created by the onslaught of the hurricane.
- To highlight possible downsides of systemic thinking.

It is my hope that you will find the explanations, anecdotes and reflections shared below, a useful learning resource to be assimilated among the groups of the transition committee of the CREAD. As well as in future meetings of the executive, and wider discussions and analysis among all stakeholders.

## Critical Social Learning Systems (CSLS)

So, what are Critical Social learning systems? According to (Schön, D.A.1973) cited in (Blackmore, C. (ed.) 2010 p6 ), CSLSs are linked to the type of frameworks that a government, for example, might deploy as a manner of public learning in which the government learns on behalf of its citizens and residents, because there is a dire need to 'learn its way through' a particularly, complex and messy situation. And to which an inquiry into the cause of the situation, and how to affect a favourable outcome or transformation from a situation (a) to situation (b). It does this by adopting a mind-set of introspection. By determining if traditional mechanisms for old problems are fit for purpose or should new and more innovative solutions be introduced.

# Welcome to my blog

Moreover, (Blackmore, C. (ed.) 2010 p35) wrote that CSLSs found their beginnings in the critical thinking tradition produced by the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in the 1970s in a response to drastic measures needed to address such issues in rural Australia as the management of:

- Water catchment
- Land degradation.
- Desertification
- Natural resources
- Flooding
- Drought
- Bushfires

Another interpretation of the nature of CSLSs is provided by (Woodhill, J. 2010) cited in (Blackmore, C. (ed.) 2010 p62-63). Woodhill says that CSLSs replace the out-dated understanding that all governance should be centrally controlled. Rather, to respond effectively and sustainably to ‘messy issues’ like the likely increase of the impact of human-induced climate change and severe hurricane seasons, dialogue among multi-faceted groups and actors working towards a mutual response to a problematic issue is desirable. (Woodhill J, 2010) defines social learning as the adaptation of traditional institutions to manage modern-day complex situations such as social and climate change with the view of protecting the environment for future generations.

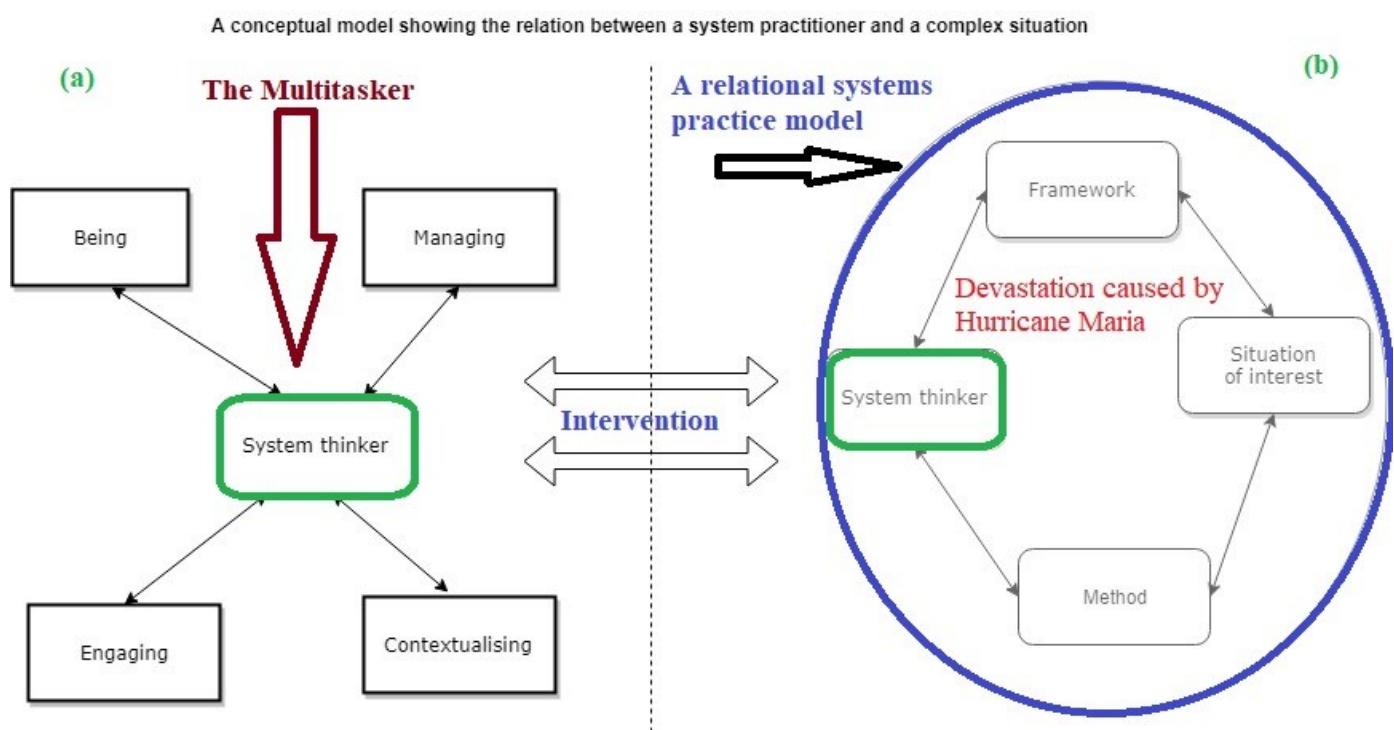
## Systems thinking and practice

To understand how CSLSs work in practice, it is important to have a degree of systems literacy, or a working understanding of key terms used in this report, as well as an overview of systemic thinking in general. We also need to see how the systemic thinking individual plays his/her part in the broader collective that is a critical social learning system as I am proposing for the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD).

To do that we will be using a hybrid adaptation of two conceptual models from the TU812 module depicted in figure 1 below. The left half (a) is a representation of what (Ison, R. 2018 pp 59) calls the juggler and the right half, (b) is what he calls a relational dynamic (Ison, R. 2018 pp 50). For the purposes of this briefing, I will replace the ‘juggler’ isophor with that of ‘the multitasker’. Moreover, I will explore systemically, the ‘situation of interest’ (devastation of Dominica) through the lens of Prime Minister Skerrit who in this scenario is the ‘systems thinker.’

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Following the passage of the main danger of the hurricane, Prime Minister Skerrit assessed the situation as “mind-boggling”. He said, “I am honestly not preoccupied with physical damage at this time, because it is devastating...indeed, mind boggling. My focus now is in rescuing the trapped and securing medical assistance for the injured.” (PEOPLE.com. 2018). In systems thinking terminology, Prime Minister Skerrit began the process of initiating a ‘systemic inquiry’. (The Open University 2018 p15) defines a systemic inquiry as an innovative type of project management practice that is intent on ‘fixing’ a complex and uncertain problem with a solution that can mitigate future systemic failure. We could say that Dominica experienced systemic failure in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria because of the widespread damage to the island in every sector. Systemic inquiry, says (The Open University 2018, p15) that a systemic inquiry also comprises of ‘action and interaction’. What action the system thinker takes, and how he interacts with other stakeholders—cabinet colleagues, first responders, the police, the injured, the media etc.



**Fig 1 A conceptual model showing the relation between a system practitioner and a complex situation (above)**

## Systems Practice as Juggling

# Welcome to my blog

With the boundary of our ‘situation of interest’ determined, and I have briefly discussed what is systemic practice, I now delve deeper into the mind-set of a systems thinker. Recall, we are exploring systemic practice though, as it were, the eyes of Prime Minister Skerrit as the systems thinker. Professor Ray Ison, is the author of the book, *Systems Practice: How to Act in Situations of Uncertainty and Complexity in a Climate-Change World*. He is also co-author of the Open University’s postgraduate module: TU812-Managing systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction. In his book, (Ison R 2018) explains systems practice as a type of ‘Juggling act’. The aim of a systems practitioner he says, is to have the ability to keep four balls in motion to be an accomplished systems thinker.

In this briefing, as I have mentioned above, I have responded to (Ison R 2018’s) original idea by replacing the ‘Juggler’ isophor or metaphor, with that of ‘The Multitasker’ as depicted in diagram (a) in figure 1 above. According to (Ison R 2018), there are four main tasks, corresponding to the four balls, the systems thinker needs to perform simultaneously. These are:

## **Being or the B Ball**

Returning to our analogy of Prime Minister Skerrit as the Systems thinker, The Juggler or the Multitasker, (Ison R 2018 p 59) says the B Ball represents Being. In other words, the experiences and world-views and skills one brings to the situation. Your own personal journey. Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit met hurricane Maria with what Ison calls a rich’ tradition of understanding’. Not only is he serving as Prime Minister of Dominica since 2004, he has chaired both the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in 2016. (Opm.gov.dm. 2018). In 2010, under his watch as Chairman of CARICOM he oversaw the response of that regional organisation to the devastation of Haiti by a ‘7.0 magnitude earthquake’ Dominica News Online. (2010) and again in 2016 following the devastation by Hurricane Matthew (Today.caricom.org. 2016). Dominica itself suffered catastrophic damage from tropical storm Erika in 2015(the Guardian. 2015), and then Hurricane Maria in 2017(UN News. 2017a). In 2016 he was conferred with the honorary Doctor of Literature by the Lovely Professional University in India, “in recognition of his dynamism, far-sightedness and the innovative leadership” (Service, T. 2016).

## **Engaging or The E Ball**

(Ison R 2018) explains that the choices one makes at the point of intervention could be the difference between success or failure, and in the case of Prime Minister Skerrit: life and death, as hurricane Maria did not spare even the prime minister’s residence from its destructive winds. Three days in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Skerrit was addressing the 72nd General

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Assembly of the United Nations, warning the world, again of the threat of climate change and small island vulnerabilities. (UN News. 2017b). Over the last 6 months, Prime Minister Skerrit and his government have interacted with many agencies and governments, and the establishment of the CREAD is only one of his interventions.

## Contextualizing or the C Ball

Contextualizing is the third task that Ison says a systems thinker or practitioner needs to keep in his awareness. (Ison R 2018) says that the art of contextualizing is the art of utilizing an appropriate systems approach or method in a context with the view of bringing forth an improvement. Roosevelt Skerrit, not only accepted that Dominica had been devastated by Maria, but he placed the entire 2017 hurricane season within the context of global warming and the impact on small island states in his speech to the United Nations (UN News. 2017b).

## Managing or the M Ball

The final task or ball to be juggled, according to Ison is the act of Managing– ‘a special form of engagement’ (Ison R. 2018). In figure 1, we see how the systems thinker in diagram (a) while being cognisant of his four responsibilities or tasks, then must engage with the problematic situation. In diagram (b) I have identified a system based on a conceptual model developed by Ison which comprises the use of systems frameworks and methods by which the systems thinker can bring to bear then move forward to an acceptable solution.

## Conclusion

It is my hope that the ideas expressed above will be found useful. More information on critical social learning systems can be found at the Open University.

I make no claims that systems thinking will work in every situation. From an ethical perspective, (Bowden, R. 2010 p 89) explains that success of the implementation of a design turn in the thinking of CREAD could be hampered by individual world views, levels of academic achievement and religious and political views by stakeholders of what is required responding to a disaster. Nevertheless, it is in understanding these limitations that would have been considered during designing an inquiry into the implementation of a critical social learning system into the everyday workings of CREAD.

It is also worth mentioning that the response to Hurricane Maria falls within the context of the wider Caribbean affected by Hurricane Irma and the general debate of the effect of the warming on the seas triggering more frequent and powerful tropical cyclones (Oceanexplorer.noaa.gov. 2018).

# Welcome to my blog

To avoid systemic failure in Dominica. It is critical therefore that CREAD regards learning as an essential tool for transformation from a state of chaos to one that is cultural feasible.

## The end

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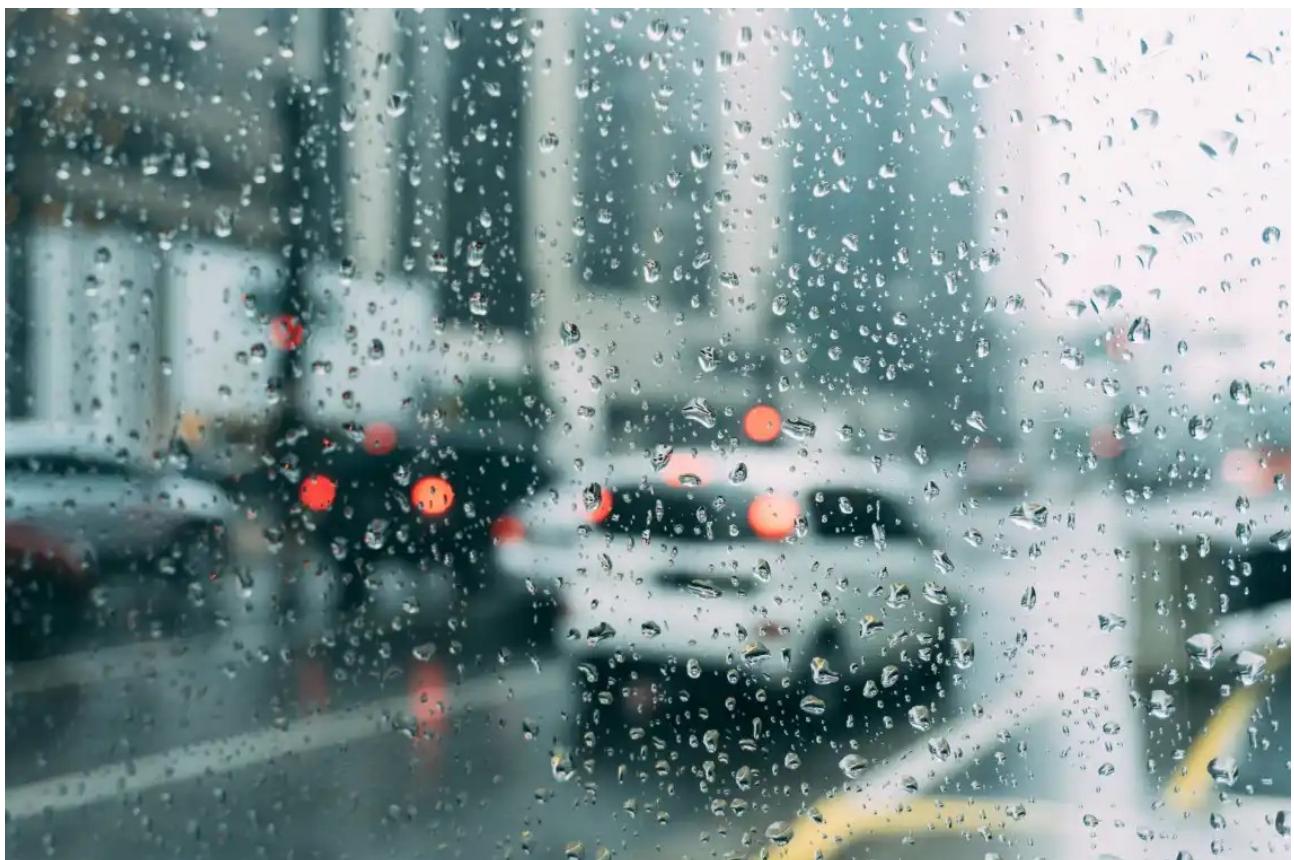
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ALBERT WILLIAMS

# TOWARDS CHARTING A NEW PATH IN CARIBBEAN DISASTER MANAGEMENT |

December 12, 2018



Does the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CEDEMA) as the executive body to manage disasters in the region, have any protocols that come into effect before a hurricane?

For example, does CEDEMA have a central command that issues information in a systematic way throughout the territory?

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As I see it, with so many individual Caribbean islands issuing updates as a situation develops, a digital command center would help in keeping track of data generated by disaster management organisations of the individual islands.

At a time like now, a 24-hour live feed with inputs from ‘reporters’ around the region would simplify the process of keeping track of developments before and after a storm.

With very few having islands running state-of-the art weather forecasting studios, one has to turn to international media for graphics, analysis and in-depth trajectories of current storms.

A rotating panel of ‘experts’ could offer perspectives on past storms, answer questions from viewers and feature periodically, official government notices in real-time.

Such a set-up needn’t be ultra-expensive. We in the Caribbean are known for our improvisation and adaptability, let us therefore extend what is culturally possible into the digital space.

You may have noticed how our international friends utilized Facebook Live as a source of engaging with their audiences. This makes for easy integration of radio and television thereby keeping persons who have a stake in what happens in the Caribbean informed.

In our quest to build – back – better, we should not fall in to the trap of mediocrity and rest on our laurels. Yes the Caribbean may have come into its own since last year’s catastrophic events, but there is always room for improvement.

I hope that perhaps this post will not go unnoticed or ignored, and that a dialogue can be started to start to address this need to strengthen our competencies in this sector.

In closing, my wife, Tempie Williams and I pray that all residents of the region remain safe during the passage of Isaac, and that loss of life and damage to our islands is minimal.

Even as many islands are still recovering from last year’s record-breaking unprecedented, widespread devastation of so many Caribbean jurisdictions.

May God be with us.

Caribbean strong

ALBERT WILLIAMS

**A systemic inquiry to understand the background of, and to design a system to, improve Climate Change Reporting at DBS Radio in Dominica | October 8, 2018**

# Welcome to my blog



This project report proposes a comprehensive strategy to intervene in what, Dr. Ulric Trotz, Deputy Director, and Science Advisor at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) have identified as, the need for Caribbean governments to “disseminate information on climate change initiatives” (Jamaica-gleaner.com. 2018) He made these remarks as a speaker at the Caribbean Broadcasting Union’s (CBU) 49th Annual General Assembly held in Jamaica in August 2018.

In my report, using systemic approaches introduced in TU811-Thinking strategically: systems tools for managing change, I will look at the reasons why he had to issue such a statement, and what effect is the lack of such communication is having on the region.

I will look more specifically at how DBS Radio, the national broadcaster in the Commonwealth of Dominica, one of several Caribbean nations that suffered devastation from two hurricanes that ripped through the region last September leaving a trail of devastation, can equip its Newsroom and on-air personnel with the requisite skills and mindset, to interpret and communicate all aspects of reporting on Climate Change issues.

I will conclude my report with a summary of my findings, and suggestions on how this state of affairs may be improved with the view of forwarding my concerns to relevant stakeholders.

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Area of Practice

At the time of writing, September 29, 2018, Tropical Storm kirk, the 11th named storm of the Atlantic Hurricane season, prompted the Hurricane Centre to issue hurricane warnings and watches for the windward islands on Wednesday and Thursday (Nhc.noaa.gov 2018). Kirk caused major flooding in Barbados (Telesurtv.net. 2018). Meanwhile, on Friday, September 28th, two earthquakes were felt in several Caribbean islands. According to (Dominicanewsonline.com. 2018), the UWI Seismic Research Centre, announced that a magnitude 5.6 and a 4.2 were felt 8:32 and 9:32, an hour apart, even as Tropical Storm Kirk was passing over the lesser Antilles into the Caribbean sea.

For the purposes of this End-of-module submission, My Area of practice (AoP) is *Disaster Management*. (Ifrc.org 2018) defines disaster management as the practice of a designating an organisation to prepare, respond and recover from disasters, while managing the resources, and other humanitarian responses to carry out that mandate.

#### 1.1.2. Situation of interest

As hinted in my abstract, Dr Ulric Trotz, Deputy Director and Science Adviser, at the CCCC, has identified a need for a more robust approach from Caribbean governments and regional media organisations to raise the awareness of Climate-related issues in the public domain. According to (Public Media Alliance. 2018), climate change is “one of the most important issues of our time.” adding, “However, much media attention reverts to other stories, relegating environmental news to sporadic and disjointed corners of their coverage. In other words, other stories are given priority.

#### 1.1.3. System of interest

To address this Situation of Interest, I have chosen to design a system of interest which is a strategy to improve my learning of the situation. It is entitled: *A systemic inquiry to understand the background of, and to design a system to, improve Climate Change Reporting at DBS Radio in Dominica.*

This is important to me because of my family ties to Dominica and the Caribbean region. Although I was born in the United Kingdom, I migrated to Dominica in 1972. I returned 32 years later to the UK in 2004. It goes without saying, that I have since maintained relationships with family and friends in Dominica, and keep up-to-date with developments there and in the rest of the Caribbean via social media and other traditional media.

# Welcome to my blog

## 1.2 Hurricane season 2017

Last year, was a particularly bad hurricane season for the Caribbean. With two major hurricanes sweeping through the region leaving a trail of destruction and death. According to (En.wikipedia.org 2018) the season was ‘hyperactive’ and featured‘ multiple Category 5 hurricanes.’ On September 6, Hurricane Irma devastated multiple Caribbean nations including, Barbuda, Sint Martin, the Bahamas, St Barthelemy, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos Islands and Cuba (Nhc.noaa.gov 2018).

Two weeks later, September 17, 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Dominica (Holmes and Van Heerden, 2018) This was very painful for me, because in 1979, I survived Hurricane Davidas a teenager while living in Dominica bringing back painful memories of the scenes of the aftermath and devastation (Editors, H. 2018)

## 1.3 Methodology – reason for systems approaches used.

In this report I have selected two of systems approaches taught in the TU811 module, namely, the Soft Systems Methodology (SSM) and the Critical Systems Heuristic (CSH). Of SSM, (Reynolds and Holwell 2010a pg 191 ) says, that SSM is suitable for taking an action-oriented approach to dealing with a problematic situation because of its slant towards users learning more about the situation using purposeful modelling that clarifies world-view which is helpful to analyse what may be done to help to improve the situation.

Meanwhile, (Reynolds and Holwell 2010b pg 243 ) regards CSH as a ‘framework for reflective practice’ According to the editors, CSH is aimed at providing tools for the critiquing of system boundaries, especially as it relates to stake holding and provides a framework of ‘boundary questions’ which I will use to analyse the professional and ethical implications in regard to my situation of interest.

My choice of situation of interest, in my opinion is sufficiently messy and problematic, because it involves various stakeholders who share different perspectives on the importance and relevance of climate change reporting and all its various modes, such as how governments mobilise citizens before, during and after a disaster. Such as, what role does the media have to play independent and in concert with governmental and other environmental agencies, to continue to raise awareness of climate change and other environmental issues such as natural disasters.

## 1.4 Future plans and career goals

These two approaches, as well as appropriate diagrams, rich pictures, illustrations and activity models, followed by my findings recommendations and reflections on how my TU811 studies

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

fits within my immediate and future career plans and academic goals will be the main contents of the core my report.

## 2.0 A systemic intervention needed

Dominica and the world in general is at risk of disasters, both man-made and natural, last weekend, Tropical Storm Kirk, of winds of 50 mph passed through the Eastern Caribbean. Barbados and St Lucia bore the brunt of this event, with roofs being blown off in St Lucia, and severe flooding in Barbados. Days after, two earthquakes shook the sub-region measuring magnitudes 4.2 and 5.6 on The Richter Scale.

The Director of National Emergency Organisation (NEMO), Velda Joseph in St Lucia was the only regional executive body to issue a statement on the all clear after the storm passed (YouTube 2018a). following tropical Storm Kirk, appearing on YouTube. With another statement on the earthquakes(Youtube 2018b). I waited for a statement from the UWI Seismic Centre, but to date that has not been forthcoming.

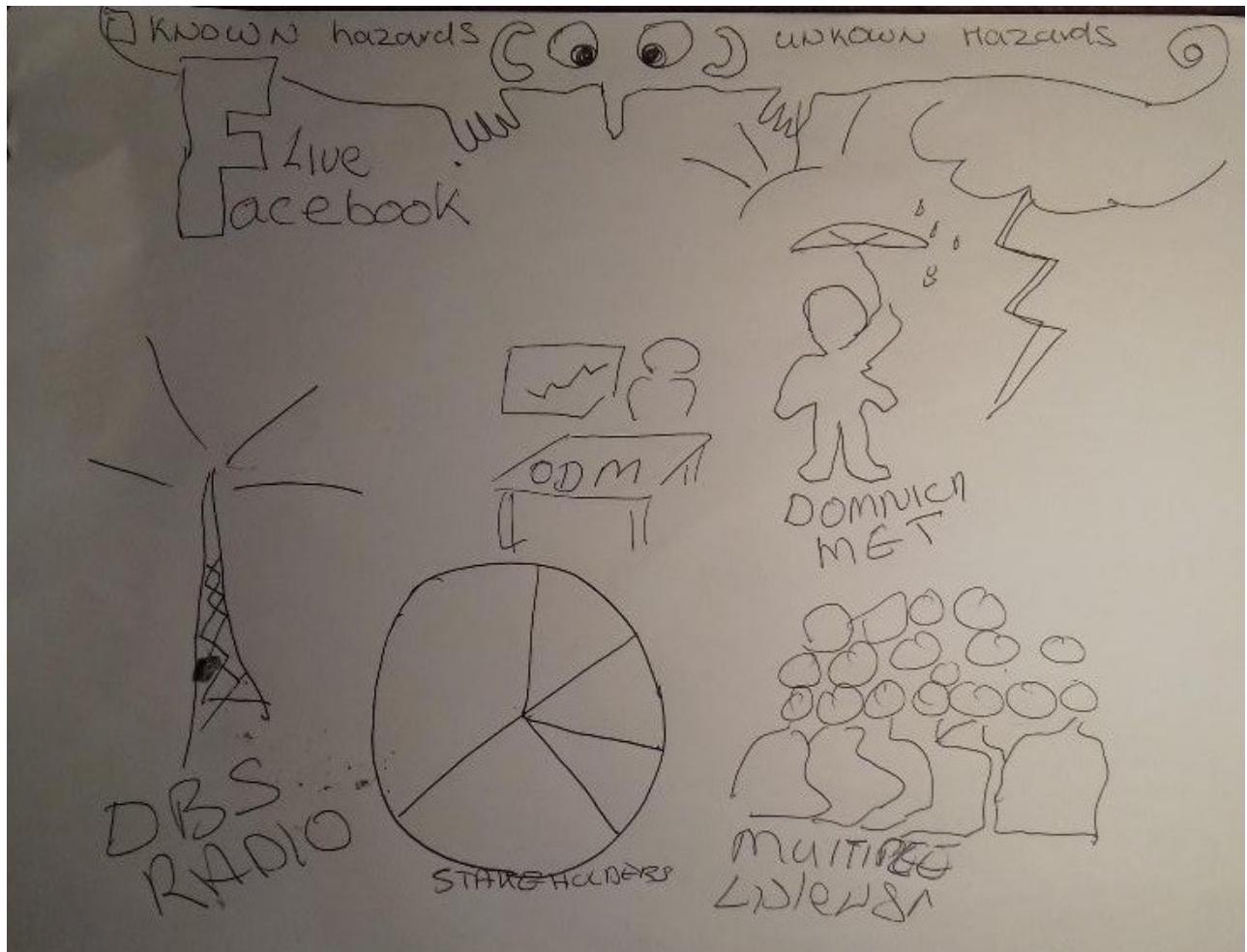
I raise these points in opening because it describes where perspectives of multiple stakeholders are open for scrutiny, and gives an indication of where strategic invention might be needed, at both a regional level and local level. Moreover, since I will be using DBS Radio as my reference system to explore where the radio station could improve its internal culture and to show how its view of its environment could be tweaked to enhance its performance.

Reference systems, according to (Learn2.open.ac.uk. 2018 p250) are a product of a systemic intervention using the CSH's boundary questions as an aid to unclothing the idiosyncrasies and world-views that impact and constrain an organisation's growth and ability to become a hub for climate change news.

We will delve deeper into CSH later in this report, but for now, we will begin our investigation with a look at the possible application of some frameworks from the Soft Systems Methodology approach.

## 3.0 A Soft Systems Methodology Approach

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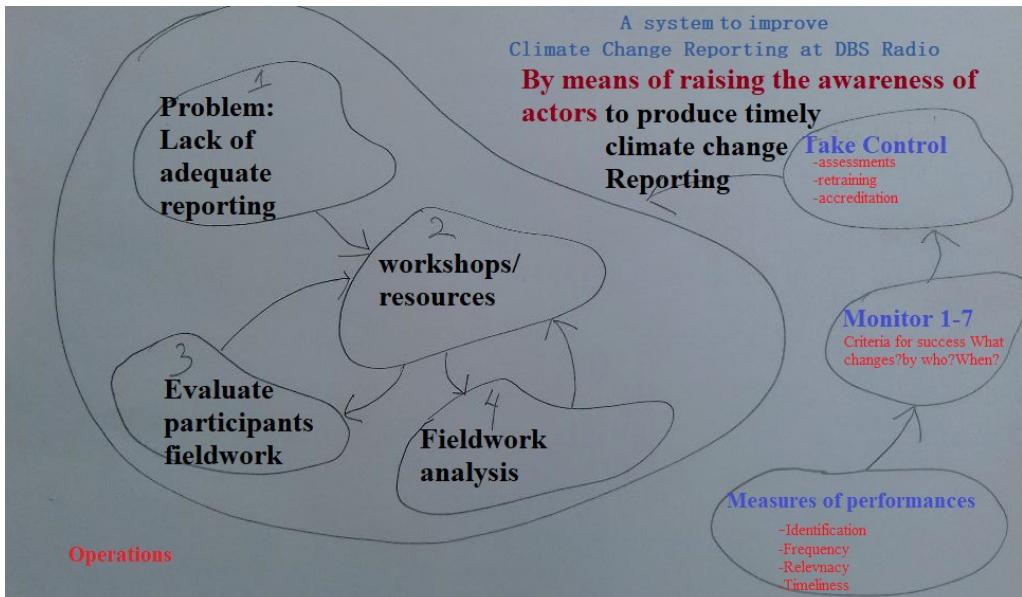
**Fig 1 A Rich Picture depicting the system of interest**

One of the first steps in my intervention was the creation of a *Rich Picture* of my situation of interest depicting its main stakeholders and actors. From this I was able to draw out the main factors to take into consideration that will be involved in the improved transformation of the situation.

In this picture, it shows how DBS Radio fits in to a network of comprising the Office of Disaster management (ODM) the Dominica Met Office, it multiple listeners and stakeholders. I have also included Facebook Life as an outlet and also depicted as looming overhead, the evils of known and unknown hazards.

## 3.1 Activity models CATWOE and the Root definition

# ALBERT WILLIAMS



**Fig 2 A purposeful activity model**

To do this I have borrowed a conceptual ideas from SSM, namely The SSM Learning Cycle. Checkland and Poulter cited in (Reynolds and Holwell 2010 pg 218) explain that the SSM learning cycle is a purposeful activity that can be used by a systemic investigator to initiate and sustain self-learning among the stakeholders involved in the inquiry, by taking a design turn to ask questions that otherwise would not have been asked.

In fig 2 above I have begun the investigation of the problem by defining a root definition.

In order to define the root definition (RD) I will make use of the PQR formula which (Reynolds and Holwell 2010) say is used to help systems thinkers to answer the (P) *What-* to do what (Q) *How-* By what means and (R) *Why-*In or to achieve what of that definition.

Next, let us further investigate this by through a series of question statements referred to by (Reynolds and Holwell 2010) as the mnemonic CATWOE.

## 3.2 Getting to grips with world-view using CATWOE

Our conceptual activity model would not be complete if we did not go further with our investigation of our system of interest if we did not ask ourselves who are the most important stakeholders, and beneficiaries? Or who is/are the problem owners? We also need to know how the criteria to judge our success? And also identify what falls into the domain of the environment?

CATWOE can help us to do that!

# Welcome to my blog

In this situation the CATWOE mnemonic is defined as:

- Customers-The audience of DBSRadio and visitors to its on-line products
- Actors – Presenters, program directors, minister of telecommunications
- (T) Transformation – Increased frequency of climate change and environmental stories

W World-view (weltanschauung) – a greater appreciation by all DBS employees of the need to understand their role in climate change reporting .

(O) Owner -The manager of DBS Radio

(E) Environment – The government framework, regional media associations

## 4.0 Analysis 1 – 3

Our final tool that we shall use from SSM in order to improve insight into the multiple perspective and interrelationship in the situation I am investigating, will be the use of the Analysis 1, Analysis 2 and Analysis 3 conceptual frameworks as introduced by Peter Checkland and John Poulter and cited by (Reynolds and Holwell 2010 pp 211 -218)

For the sake of brevity, I present my findings below, namely as:

### 4.1 Analysis 1 – The Intervention

**1Client:** Dr Ulric Trotz, Deputy Director and Science Adviser at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

**2Practitioner:** Albert Williams MBCS

**3Issue Owner:** DBS Radio subscribers, Government of Dominica, regional populations and organisations, academic researchers and international humanitarian agencies and others

### 4.2 Analysis 2 – Social

**1Roles:** The Manager at DBS Radio, Dominica Broadcasting Corporation, general public.

**2Norms:** To present top-quality coverage of climate change and other environmental issues

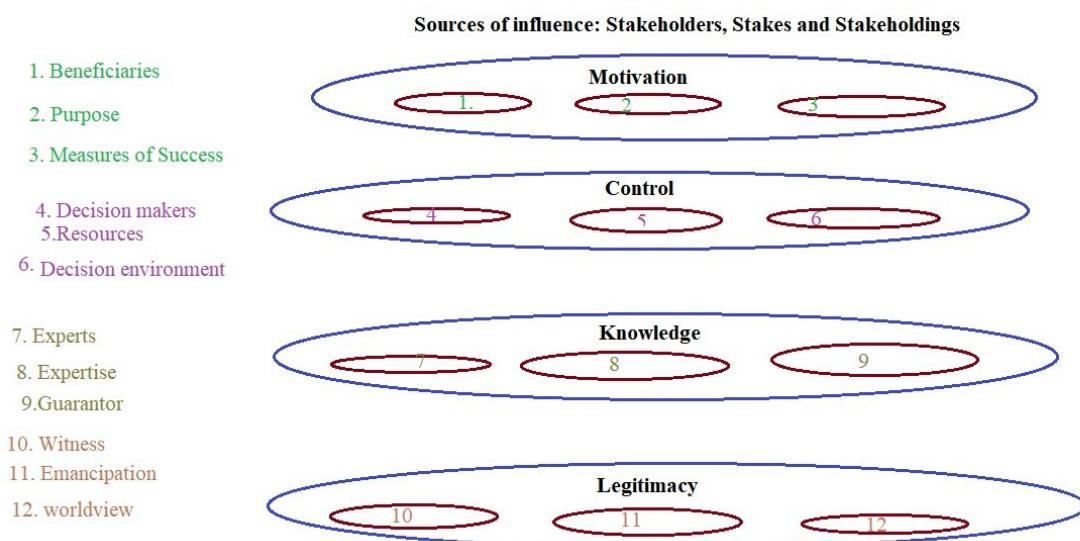
**3Values:** Judging by performance against similar international radio stations and other media outlets

### 4.3 Analysis 3 – Political

The power ‘obtained, used, defended, passed on and relinquished’ by DBS Radio is enshrined in the Dominica Broadcasting Corporation Act Chapter 45:06 , Act 33 of 1975 Amended by 32 of 1978 (Dominica.gov.dm. 2018)

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## 5.0 Applying boundary critique



**Fig 3 The 12 CSH boundary questions adapted from (The Open University 2010p 152)**

Critical Systems Heuristics is a systems approach developed by Werner Ulrich and Martin Reynolds and is extremely useful for ‘reflective’ in regards to understanding how the complex and messy nature of a system of interest interacts with its environment through its boundary. (Reynold and Holwell 2010 p243). The main framework within this approach is the use of 12 boundary questions which seek to answer and questions the underlying assumptions inherent in matters of stake-holding, especially as it relates to matters of getting to grips with the political and ethical concerns on two fronts: boundary reflection, which is the view of the boundary as it( is), and boundary discourse- a view of the boundary as it (ought) to be (Reynold and Holwell 2010 p131)

# Welcome to my blog

Consequently, we will now use this 12-question framework, that isolates the main sources of influences as represented in fig 3 above, as an ‘intervention tool’ to discuss our system of interest in order to create a boundary critique of the reference system with which to complement our findings from our use of Soft Systems Methodology earlier. Additionally, also as an aid in our inquiry making full use of the range of multiple perspectives and interrelationships bearing on this situation.

We will simplify our discussion by populating the table (below) with our responses to the questions of these sources of influences generate.

<b>Boundary judgements informing a system to improve Climate Change Reporting at DBS Radio in Dominica.</b>				
<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>SOURCES OF INFLUENCE</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDER</b>	<b>Descriptive(Is)</b>	<b>Normative (Ought)</b>
	<b>Sources of motivation</b>			
1	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Listening audiences and visitors to its website and social media	Climate change stories are intermittent. Social media update intermittent	Need for regular productions highlighting climate change matters. More engagement on website and social media profiles
2	<b>Purpose</b>	As defined in the Broadcasting Act: government of Dominica; the general public.	Climate change reporting heightened during the passage of a storm	Need to produce more informative programs outside of the hurricane season,
3	<b>Measure of success</b>	Do the listeners engage with the station.	No apparent mechanism to measure success.	Regular post-mortem discussions on the impact of its environment-

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				related productions.
	<b>Sources of control</b>			
4	<b>Decision maker</b>	The board of the Dominica Broadcasting Corporation. The manager, Program Director and on-air presenters at DBS	Little purposive productions aimed at discussing and analysing trends and climatic events	The need to create a position for a station-based meteorologist. Also a need for specialised reporter to focus on climate-related stories.
5	<b>Resources</b>	Government of Dominica funding, revenue generated from advertising etc	Minimum funding leading to mediocre output	A greater injection of funds to improve training, hiring staff and putting resources into research and documentation
6	<b>Decision environment</b>	Government of Dominica; Board of directors. Manager, program director.	Priorities may be set by station manager	Station may need to create a focus group to assist the research and development of suitable stories
	<b>Sources of knowledge</b>			
7	<b>Expert</b>	Newsroom reporters and program director	Unsatisfactory generation of interesting on-air programs	A need exists for media experts to restructure programming around climate news
8	<b>Expertise</b>	DBS Radio	Unsatisfactory generation of interesting on-air programs	Upgrade of the competencies of the research department and on-air staff to create engaging

# Welcome to my blog

				stories
9	<b>Guarantor</b>	DBS Radio, listeners, other stakeholders	The station may be trapped in complacency	Station needs to question its worldview
	<b>Sources of Legitimacy</b>			
10	<b>Witness</b>	Audience	A semi-informed audience	A highly intelligent listening audience
11	<b>Emancipation</b>	DBS Radio stakeholders	Not much lobbying and investigative journalism	Reporters at the station highly motivated to question other stakeholders in the region.
12	<b>World view</b>	DBS Radio	Mediocre acceptance of its responsibility to its audience. Focused more on cultural and current affairs programming.	A total commitment to producing the highest possible level Climate and environmental programming.

**Table 1: An early boundary critique investigation to improve climate change reporting at DBS Radio**

## 6.0 Outcomes and recommendations

In closing, I have found that DBS Radio's approach to climate change reporting to be outdated, and that this is leading to a lack of credible, localised, discussion of climate related issues, that are systemically desirable and culturally feasible for the greater percentage of its stakeholders and problem owners.

Therefore, I want to end my report with these recommendations for DBS Radio

1To establish a climate change unit

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- 2Incorporate investigative training for newsroom staff.
- 3Train a station-based meteorologist.
- 4Create appropriate programs, jingles and other documentaries to highlight the importance of the environment.
- 5Under-study international media to understand how a revamped on-air program could work.
- 6Lobby for the acquisition of equipment and software to produce appropriate programming
- 7Network with other local, regional and international television, print and radio media houses and meteorologist agencies to form partnerships and networks.
- 8Hire or nominate a web master to monitor and create content to update the social media pages and websites
- 9Create a focus group to work alongside the station to develop and review programming
- 10Secure the services of mass communication experts to assist where possible.

## 7.0 Reflections

- 7.1 Difficulties** As I draw to the close of this end-of-module report, and to the final moments of my study of TU811-[Thinking strategically: systems tools for managing change](#), I must underscore that the report represents my personal world-view of the situation of interest, and my systemic intervention is a product of my own analysis. Ideally, in a real-world scenario, the report would have benefited from the input from the various stakeholders via workshops and questionnaires.
- 7.2 Future practice** Nevertheless, I have found the knowledge gained from TU811 to be extremely enlightening. I see further study of systems thinking to be an integral component of my tool box as I prepare for my final module, T809-The Research Project in my F36- MSc Technology pathway, which commences in February 2019.

Moreover, I will carry study habits and academic writing skills that I have learned from this module into my future academic career and any work environment I find myself in the future.

**THE END**

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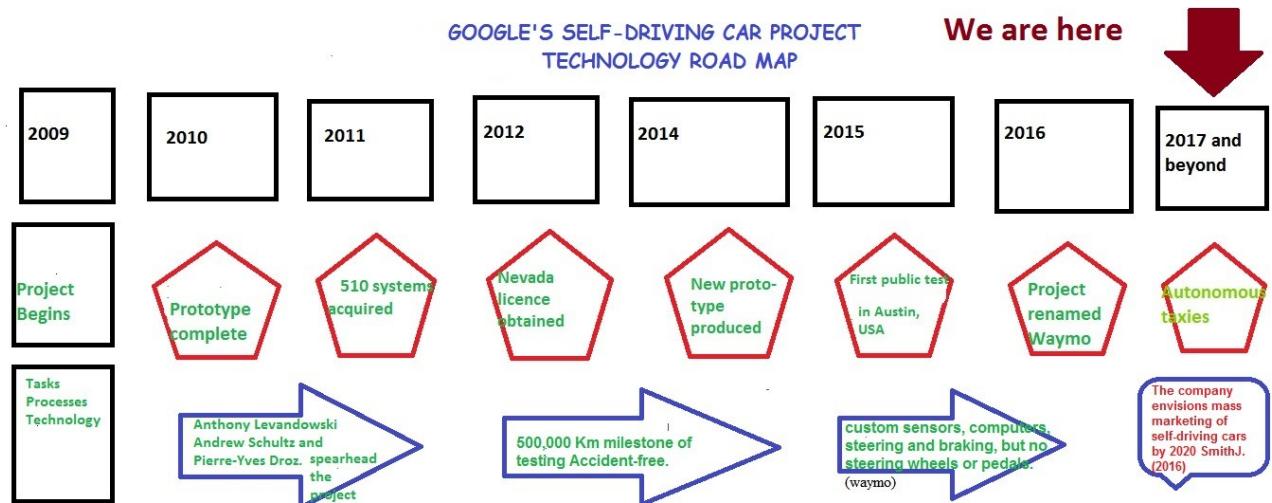
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# Welcome to my blog

## My Dissertation Research Diary: The Preamble | November 23, 2018



### Inside this edition

I introduce the requirements for the MSc Technology Management from the Open University. I also explain the rationale for keeping a research diary and reflect on the postgraduate modules that will inform my research

### The research project

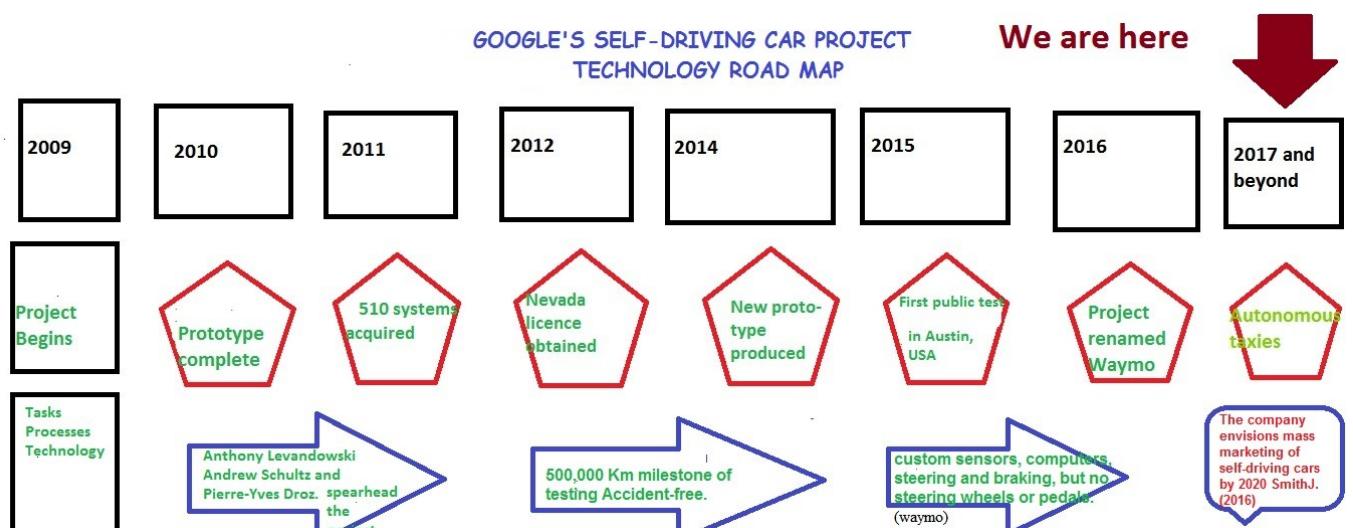
One would have thought, that after 6 years of being a mature, long distance, undergraduate of the Open University (OU), which culminated with a BSc (Hons) Computing and IT in 2016, that at my age, 50+ that I would have had enough of spending my hard-earned earnings, studying books, contributing to online forums and writing up exams. To the contrary, after spending some quality time in deep reflection, I came to the conclusion, that a postgraduate qualification would be in my interest.

Here in the UK, I was also eligible to secure a postgraduate student loan to help with the costs, so discussing all with my wife, I decided to take the plunge. The Bible says, that an double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1: 8-10). Fast-forward to 2018, I have already completed 4 of the requisite modules along the MSc Technology Management pathway, and here I am at the final hurdle: [T802- The Research Project](#). T802 basically is a 60-point module, which is the longest duration of a module that I have read since beginning my academic journey with the OU.

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The course runs from February 2019, all the way to April 2020. There are 4 tutor-module-assessments (TMAs), which is customary with the OU, but unlike all other modules that ended with a substantial piece of work, called a project of between 2,500-300 words, T802, culminates with a dissertation of no less than 10,000 words and no more than 15,000.

If you have been following my previous blogs here, you are perhaps familiar with the story of my journey at OU. I decided to launch this particular blog to celebrate my graduation in 2016, to continue to write my reflections on issues and concerns to me in the computing and information and technology genre. You can have a look at past pieces published in the archive. Some are rewrites of projects that I have submitted for past modules throughout the years. While others are my musings on issues that I am concerned about. Below, is taken from a project I completed for T848, Google's Self Driving Car Project: A Critique of its innovative technology transfer strategy.



## Google's Self-Driving Car Project's technology road map

However, writing project logs, keeping copious notes, and contributing to wikis has always been a part of OU academic life, but blogging really came into its own with studying TU812-Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction. Which was an excellent introduction to systems thinking. Writing a blog, was an integral part of studying this module.

### The research diary

The module team for T802, have again encouraged postgraduates to keep a 'Research Diary'. Hence, the launching of this new series of subjects: *My dissertation Research Diary*. The choice of what form our diary should take was left entirely up to the student. So being a blogger, a published author, former journalist, a seasoned OU student and generally someone who enjoys

# Welcome to my blog

a good writing challenge, I decided to use my wordpress space as somewhere, where I could discuss my thoughts and findings about my preparation for the dissertation.

In addition to all the other avenues available to me to bounce off ideas with other students in the forums or discuss issues with my supervisor, I consider this is a valuable tool to revisit my past postgraduate modules, namely:

- T848 – Managing technological innovation.
- T849 – Strategic capabilities for technological innovation.
- TU812 – Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction.
- TU811 – Thinking strategically: Capabilities for technological innovation.

These subject fields are important because, the topic of the dissertation is to be based on the core modules studied for this qualification. In my case, the compulsory modules for the MSc-Technology Management were, T848 and T849. TU811 and TU812 comprising of my postgraduate diploma.

## Next edition

In closing, suffice to say, the task of preparing for this capstone module began many months ago. I am looking forward to bringing my experience of my undergraduate work, and my postgraduate thus far, to this research project.

In my next entry in my diary, I will be exploring the context of my chosen research idea. Consequently, you are invited to join me in this challenging, but exciting journey. Feel free to join in the discussion. Ask questions, write comments. One of the aims of a dissertation according to The Open University is that your findings must be of relevance to the wider scientific community, and be of interest to other stakeholders in your chosen sector.

Have a great day!

Hon Natty Dread

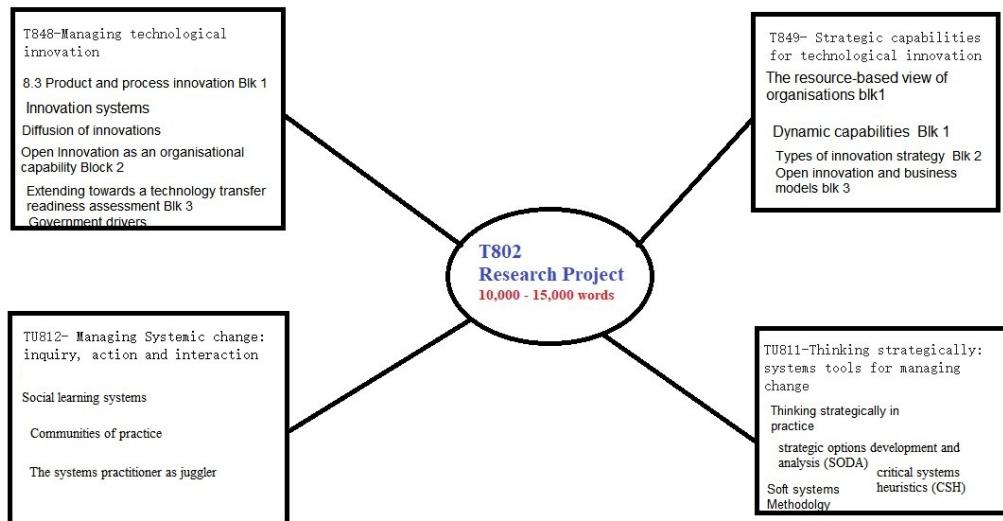
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## **My Dissertation Research Diary: Proposal synopsis | November 26, 2028**

# Welcome to my blog



A spray diagram indicating potential topics to be included in the T802 Research project

## Introduction

Perhaps one of the most fundamental stages of working towards the MSc Technology Management is deciding on a subject area for investigation. At every stage of my academic career with the Open University, I have been exposed to many facets of the behind-the-scenes-working of the computing and IT sector, as well as the frontline services and technologies that are familiar at the user end of the production.

Whether it is, for example, the behind-the-scenes-working of standards agencies that govern the worldwide web, such as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority ([IANA](#)) or the Internet Engineering Task Force ([IETF](#)) which are both international bodies responsible for assigning the protocols that govern internet address and other protocols such as developing the architecture that makes the whole internet run as smoothly as it does crossing many international boundaries and various operating systems. Or learning the intricacies networking as taught in Cisco's [CCNA](#) or delving into the depths in intellectual property and privacy.

In my postgraduate studies, I continued to increase in my understanding of the management of technology innovation, and systems thinking, which are specialised areas of management, ideally suited to better able to survive in the evolving technological environment that businesses and governments alike have to deal with. An example of how this can affect an online enterprise would be the introduction of the new data laws under the General Data Protection Regulation ([GDPR](#)) enforced by the European Union (EU) which at times prevents me from accessing some Caribbean websites.

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Nevertheless, I am excited to have reached as far as I have, and in this diary entry, I will be looking at the context of the working title for my proposal synopsis. So read on.

## Area of Practice (AOP)

One of the postures that I picked up from my study of TU811- Thinking strategically: systems tools for managing change, is to identify what is your chosen area of practice. This could mean, in what category is your profession, or what area of practice interests you. I see myself as a consultant with particular interest in disaster management and recovery. Like so many world leaders and humanitarian and research organisations have caught the vision of the commonwealth of Dominica's Prime Minister, Hon Dr [Roosevelt Skerrit](#), to rebuild his country after the ravages of Hurricane Maria last year, as the world's first climate resilient nation. Dr Skerrit, has received two honorary doctorates for his advocacy against the effects of climate change, and persistently calls on the developed world to pay their dues towards small island states who stand to suffer the most as the world's ocean warm and the hurricanes become more frequent and ferocious.

As a hurricane survivor myself, as a youth, I experienced hurricane David on August 29th, 1979, I am woefully cognisant what my fellow Dominicans have had to endure this past year, as the country continues to rebuild, and rehabilitate. The quest is to build back better, and the government has created the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica ([CREAD](#)) to spearhead this effort.

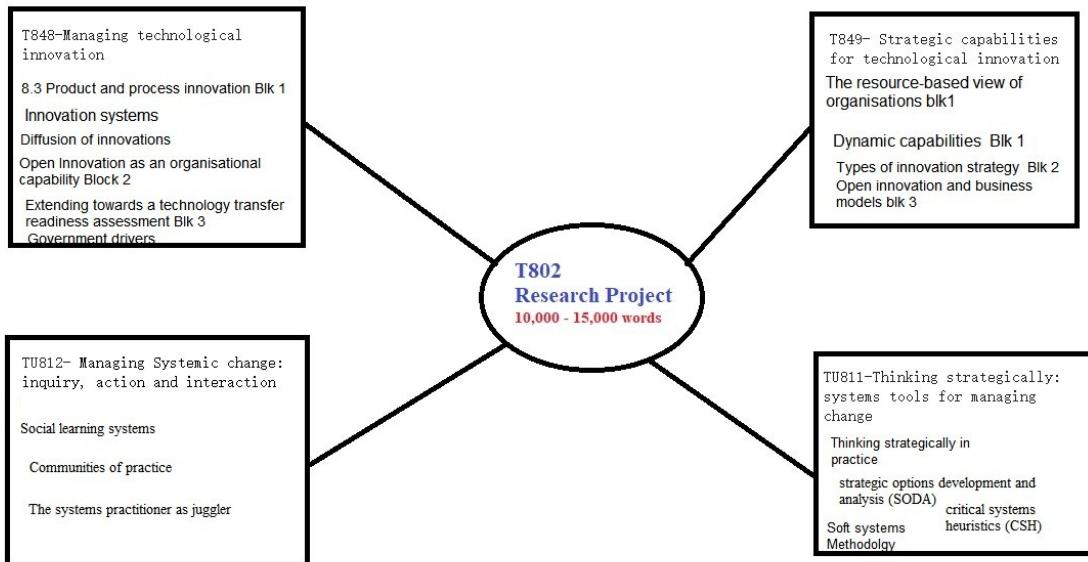
I am of the opinion that based on my current studies, that I can lend some useful insights towards this effort. Consequently, my working title, of which I am awaiting feedback when my supervisor is appointed early next year is;

DIMINISHING UNCERTAINTY TO ACCELERATE THE EXECUTION OF CLIMATE-CHANGE ADAPTATION TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH A SYSTEMIC INTERVENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE INNOVATION STRATEGY, OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE EXECUTION AGENCY OF DOMINICA (CREAD).

## Setting the pace; Setting the goal

As you are already aware, this Dissertation Research Diary, is analogous to workshop where I can pound the raw data and rough ideas into shape before submitting them officially as part of any assignment due on the course. In a sense, this is an opportunity to give my initially thoughts flesh and breath into them a life of their own as blogs in their own right.

# Welcome to my blog



A spray diagram indicating potential topics to be included in the T802 Research project

In figure 1 above, I began the process of identifying subject areas from the postgraduate modules studies. This gives me a good idea of some the ground I will cover as seek to explore my chosen topic.

This dissertation will research the history of climate change adaptation in the Caribbean region, with emphasis on Dominica, and how CREAD will effect the technology transfer of the technologies and processes that will transform Dominica's infrastructure and landscape to achieve sustainability, and also give the island the resources to withstand severe natural disasters, which are common in this region, and to rebound quickly from their effects.

The methodology I propose to use to gather data for this project, will comprise of primary research utilizing telephone interviews, email and social media questionnaires in conjunction with secondary research which will comprise of collecting books, published academic papers and other dissertations on key words searches such as 'Dominica and climate change' and 'Caribbean and climate change adaptation.'

My preliminary findings suggest that there is a gap in academic research on Dominica's vulnerability and climate change adaptation efforts in the past, and more recently after Tropical Storm Erica did so much damage to the Eastern part of the island in 2015, that whole villages had to be evacuated and relocated. Some of the rehabilitation work on the rebuilding of homes survived Hurricane Maria, but 90% of other structures did not.

I will seek to explain how technology management and systems thinking can work together to inform the work of the CREAD to assess and implement measures to protect sectors, that are vulnerable to shock and or failure from natural and man-made disasters, such as Housing,

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Agriculture, tourism, education, health, transportation, telecommunications, air and seaport and utilities.

As part of my Primary research, I will not only target the key players in Dominica and the region in regard to disaster management and recovery, but also of the key organizations here in the UK and Europe, as well as Canada and elsewhere that have played a major part in Dominica's ongoing recovery, and pledged support of making CREAD a success.

## **T802 research idea synopsis – Working title**

DIMINISHING UNCERTAINTY TO ACCELERATE THE EXECUTION OF CLIMATE-CHANGE ADAPTATION TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH A SYSTEMIC INTERVENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE INNOVATION STRATEGY, OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE EXECUTION AGENCY OF DOMINICA (CREAD).

### **Origins of this idea**

This idea is built on a staff proposed topic, 'Managing uncertainty' I chose this theme because it is able to integrate with my Area of Practice: Disaster Management.

As hinted in my research idea's, working title, Dominica's quest to use innovative concepts, processes and technologies to adapt to climate change, is in an effort to increase the country's chances of being able to withstand severe weather events, like category 5 hurricanes. On September 18, 2017, Dominica was one of several Caribbean islands that suffered direct hits from either Hurricanes Irma or Maria.

Although I was born in the UK, I lived in the Caribbean, Dominica, from 1972 to 2004. On August 29th, 1979, Hurricane David devastated the island. I was 16 years old. Consequently, as a Hurricane David survivor, my stake in this project is as much personal as it is academic.

### **General description**

This research idea proposal will produce a set of recommendations, based on current best practices in technology management as described in T848 and T849. In addition, it will recommend systemic approaches as taught in TU912 and TU811. It will seek to ascertain the present business model of the CREAD.

# Welcome to my blog

CREAD was launched in Dominica earlier this year to be the agency to oversee the recovery of Dominica following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, September 18, 2017.

On September 23rd, 2017, Dominica's Prime Minister, Hon Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit delivered a seminal, address to the 72 General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, USA in which he reminded the assembly of the catastrophic consequences of climate change on small island states. He announced that Dominica would build back better and vowed to rebuild Dominica as the first climate resilient country in the world.

This dissertation will research the history of climate change adaptation in the Caribbean region, with emphasis on Dominica, and how CREAD will effect the technology transfer of the technologies and processes that will transform Dominica's infrastructure and landscape to achieve sustainability, and also give the island the resources to withstand severe natural disasters, which are common in this region, and to rebound quickly from their effects.

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I will seek to explain how technology management and systems thinking can work together to inform the work of the CREAD to assess and implement measures to protect sectors, that are vulnerable to shock and or failure from natural and man-made disasters, such as Housing, Agriculture, tourism, education, health, transportation, telecommunications, air and seaport and utilities.

## **MSc qualification being studied taught modules you have completed**

MSc in Technology Management (F36)

- T848-Managing technological innovation Passed
- T849- Strategic capabilities for technological innovation Passed
- TU812- Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction Merit
- TU811-Thinking strategically: systems tools for managing change Pending

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Modules T848 and T849 are the principle modules for my research, however, TU812 and TU811 will inform my research in regards to managing the technological intervention in a systemic manner.

**Equipment, skills or resources needed.**

## Equipment

- Home/ office space
- Computers, laptops, tablets
- Internet access(broadband)
- Telephone (landline)
- Smartphone
- Storage devices (electronic)
- Vehicle

## Skills

- Academic writing and referencing
- Time management
- Speed-reading
- Diagramming
- Listening
- Note-taking
- Comprehension
- typing

- News articles
- Government proceedings
- Social media posting
- Individuals (Government ministers, journalists, historians)
- Humanitarian organisations (Smart Response, UNDP)
- Regional organisations (CEDEMA)
- World bodies (World Bank, DIFID)
- Harvard Business Review, Nov/Dec, pp. 67–79 entitled ‘Strategy under uncertainty’
- Books

## Other Resources

### Academic papers

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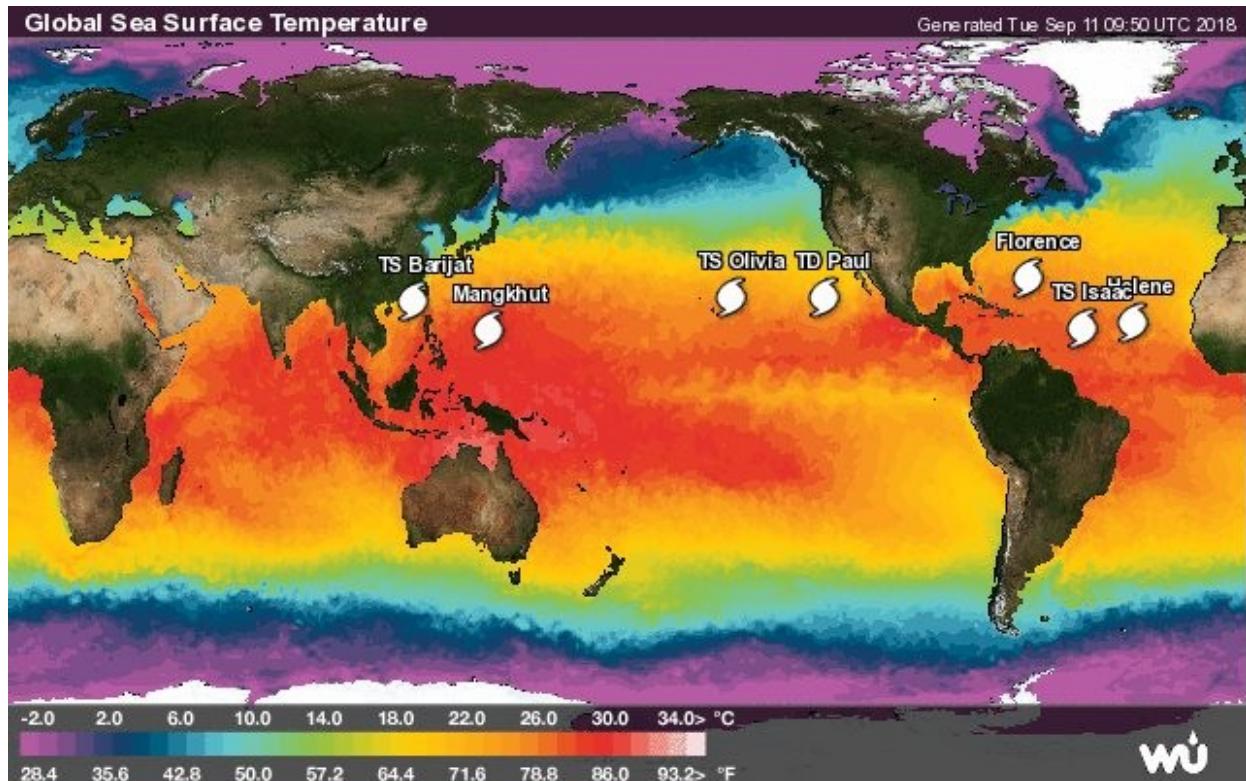
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**My Dissertation Research Diary: 2018  
Hurricane season ends | December 2, 2018**

# Welcome to my blog



Welcome again to another installment in my series of blogs: *My Dissertation Research Diary*.

In this installment, I introduce the context for my Area of Practice (AOP), Disaster Management, dealing specifically with hurricanes which is the theme of my dissertation for the Open University's, MSc Technology Management.

I will also review my progress on deciding on a topic of my dissertation, due in 2020. I will look at the core problem that I want to explore with a view to defining it more sharply, and have a look at my research aim and objectives.

## Hurricane Season

The 2018 Hurricane seasons in the [Atlantic](#) and the [Pacific](#) came to an end on Friday

According to Wikipedia, the [Eastern Pacific season](#) begins May 15th, while the Central Pacific season begins June 1st. The online encyclopedia went on to say that this season saw the highest number of storms in the East since 1992, and saw three category 5 storms, an occurrence recorded in 1994 and 2002.

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The [Atlantic Hurricane season](#) runs from June 1st to November 30th. Ever since Hurricane Irma and Maria left a trail of devastation in the Caribbean last September, my interest in the environment peaked. I found that the subjects that I was studying in my postgraduate certificate and diploma were not only timely, but provided me with a large array of concepts and frameworks through which I could analyse the world around me with a deeper appreciation.

Meanwhile, 2018 Atlantic Hurricane season saw the US hit hard by hurricanes and typhoons this year. From the [Marianas](#) in the Pacific Ocean, to the [Florida Panhandle](#) and to the [Carolinas](#). In the Pacific, besides the Marianas, Hawaii suffered substantial rain damage from Hurricane Lane. Hurricanes Florence and Michael also did catastrophic damage to communities in the Florida Panhandle, Georgia and Carolina.

In the Caribbean, Hurricanes [Beryl](#), [Kirk](#) and [Isaac](#) caused considerable concern for the Windward islands. Although none of the hurricanes made landfall in the region, reports of landslides and the compromising of bailey bridges in Dominica, In November [Portsmouth](#) suffered severe flooding, and roofs being blown away in [St Lucia](#) during tropical storm Kirk's passage across the lesser Antilles [Trinidad and Tobago](#) would be inundated with catastrophic flooding on an apocalyptic scale caused by an active Inter tropical convergence zone (ITCZ).

## Research justification

While it will not be until January 2019 I will know who my supervisor is and whether my research synopsis is accepted, this is good time and place to look at my research question and identify a problem to explore in greater detail.

To do this, that is why the literature research on my topic will reveal what is already written on the subject and one is able to identify areas that could inform my own research and contribution to knowledge.

Already in my preparation for the official start of T802, my topic has gone through several iterations:

“An investigation into the best practices regarding the transfer of technological processes and methods towards the rehabilitation of a small island in the wake of a direct hit by catastrophic category 5 hurricane.”

and

**DIMINISHING UNCERTAINTY TO ACCELERATE THE EXECUTION OF CLIMATE-  
CHANGE ADAPTATION TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH A SYSTEMIC INTERVENTION TO  
STRENGTHEN THE INNOVATION STRATEGY, OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE EXECUTION  
AGENCY OF DOMINICA (CREAD).**

# Welcome to my blog

Ultimately, in my research I want to examine the issue of uncertainty in countries like Dominica which are prone to disasters, and which is now 439 days into its recovery from the devastation left from Hurricane Maria on September 18, 2017.

It is clear from media reports that as the country rebuilds, hazards are a continual challenge. From troughs, thunderstorms and even future hurricanes or other disasters like earthquakes could undo the work being carried out.

Using theories offered from my postgraduate studies, I want to suggest that organisations need to move from simply management and administration to a mind-set of being an organisation involved with technological innovation, and therefore needs a business model that reflects the innovative nature of dealing with disasters.

Consequently, I recommend business model innovation that is mindful of the sectoral approach. A business model that seeks add value to its products and services through being not only later adopters of disaster management technologies, but innovators themselves using local knowledge, analysis and product development.

In my research, I will highlight the drivers of eco-innovation and what are the barriers towards Dominica achieving its goal of becoming the first climate resilient nation in the world.

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Photo: Weather Underground. (2018).

ALBERT WILLIAMS

# My Dissertation Research Diary: the role of telecommunication/ICTs for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction for Caribbean islands | December 9, 2018



Dominica's Director of Telecommunications, Bennett Thomas, (Above) at the Opening Ceremony of the [Multi-stakeholder](#) forum on the role of telecommunication/ICTs for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction for Caribbean islands this week.(Photo credit: GIS Dominica)

## Introduction

This week a multi-stakeholder forum on the role of telecommunication/ICTs for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction for Caribbean islands was hosted at the St Alphonsus Parish Hall, Pottersville, Dominica from December, 4th – 6th, 2018.

The telecoms forum workshop was an initiative of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Caribbean

# Welcome to my blog

Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in collaboration with the Government of Dominica. Below is a Youtube recording of the Opening Ceremony and proceedings from the Government Information Service- Dominica (YouTube 2018).

According to (Itu.int. 2018) among the the objectives of the exercise were:

□To stimulate awareness in paving the way for enhancing the use of ICTs for disaster management in the region.

To address key questions related to the best use of ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management.

□To serve as a platform to exchange new experiences and best practices in the use of modern technologies for monitoring and early warning.

and

To provide an opportunity for policy makers and other participants to debate and adopt concrete strategies on how information and communication technologies support disaster risk reduction and management activities, contributing this way to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

According to Dominica's, Director of Telecommunications, Bennett Thomas, speaking to DBS Radio News, one of the main decisions taken at the multi-stakeholder meeting was to prepare and present to regional governments, a framework for 'Emergency Telecommunication and Disaster Management for the Caribbean' to be known as the Parish Hall Declaration. (Listen.dbcradio.net 2018).

In this instalment, I will be reviewing some of the many issues raised by some of the speakers, and evaluating their contributions in light of the working title of my dissertation. and other related matters.

Emerging technologies can be used to save lives.

This high-level meeting saw presentations from heads of telecommunication regulatory authorities, executive directors of private sector entities, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other high-level participants from humanitarian organizations, regional disaster management organizations, academic institutions and media. According to the organisers, "the experts presented 'state-of-the- art ICT solutions that will show how emerging technologies can be used to save lives."

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The taking place of this gathering of technological experts in Dominica, in my mind, makes Dominica one of the most exciting countries in light of the stated goal of Prime Minister, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit to make his country, the first Climate Resilient country in the world following the utter devastation caused by Hurricane Maria on September 18th -19th, 2017. A sentiment that has since been widely adopted by the Caribbean as a whole and even internationally, forming a community of practice.

It is evident that there is a lot of research done in the area of disaster management in the Caribbean, but issues of finance, competencies and data storage and dissemination continues to plaque their efforts not to mention the added threats of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and eruptions that could occur at anytime and disrupt and destroy equipment such as monitors and gauges, and whole buildings housing studios and other laboratories and offices.

Even as I await the official acceptance of my synopsis of my research proposal:

**“DIMINISHING UNCERTAINTY TO ACCELERATE THE EXECUTION OF CLIMATE-CHANGE ADAPTATION TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH A SYSTEMIC INTERVENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE INNOVATION STRATEGY, OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE EXECUTION AGENCY OF DOMINICA (CREAD)”**

I can clearly see that there is a need for further research into the problems of adoption of climate change adaptation and maintenance of technologies such as telecommunication/ICTs for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction that were discussed in the just concluded telecoms forum, and the role that Caribbean for the governments and residents have to play in order to make this a reality.

### Opening ceremony

The proceedings commenced with a rendition of Dominica's, National Anthem, Isle of Beauty, performed on piano and sung by Akim Ismael. This was followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, led by Rev. Father Cuffy, who read a passage from the Holy Bible starting from Ecclesiastes Chapter 1, verse 13. He ended the devotion with a prayer for blessing for the success of the seminar.

Permanent Secretary in The Ministry of Information, Science, Telecommunications and Technology, Mr Lucian Blackmore, gave the Opening remarks. He said, “in spite of the fact that Dominica may have been seriously devastated by Maria in terms of our worldly possessions and our natural environment, however, our spirit still remains very resolute.” He went on to draw an analogy to a line in the National Anthem, ‘We must prosper, sound the call’, saying ‘Our National Anthem epitomizes the spirit of the Dominican people,’ He said.

## Welcome to my blog

Mr. Blackmore revealed that following the passage of Hurricane Maria, September 18, last year, Dominica sustained damages of US1.3 Billion Dollars or 226 percent of Dominica's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which he said was the collective, productive, capacity of a country. He added that Dominica is very much committed to realising the objectives of the workshop. " I hope over the next few days that the experience that we can bring to bear will really help to shape the policies, better strategies, better networks, better engagement of the emerging technologies in really turning around the adversities with which we have to bear. "

Meanwhile, Mr. Sylvester Cadette, Program Officer, Regional Office of ITU based in Barbados said, "When disasters strike they have devastating effects on people's lives and the economy, " adding, "When we look at the latest statistics for just 2016/17, Not counting Irma, Harvey and Maria, we had 300 million people affected by disasters worldwide. "

**"Let us engage in such a way that  
after all is said and done this week,  
more will always be done  
than said- Sylvester Cadette"**

Mr Cadette recounted anecdotes from his experience being in Dominica days after the hurricane struck, trekking from Roseau to Marigot over landslides and the importance of telecommunications equipment. "In all this, this is where ITU comes in," he said, "ITU plays an important role in using ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management through the design of national emergency telecommunications plans, the setting up of early warning and monitoring systems, and the provision of emergency telecommunications equipment when disaster strikes."

Cadette went on to explain that the ITU aims to bring emergency telecommunication equipment to a major disaster zone within 48 hours. He thanked Programme Officer, Maritza Delgado from the ITU Head Office in Switzerland for her speedy support in getting emergency telecommunication equipment to Dominica following Hurricane Maria's landing and devastation. "ITU is forging partnerships with the private sector to finance activities related to disaster mitigation with the aim of saving lives," he said.

Minister of Information, Science, Telecommunications and Technology, Kelvar Darroux in his remarks thanked the ITU for the opportunity to host the forum. He said , " your deliberations I am sure will encourage the acquisition of new knowledge, a heightened awareness of the role of ICTs in disaster risk reduction management and the strengthen of approaches to using ICTs for disaster management." The minister added, that governments and people of the Caribbean should take note that, "The themes to be discussed over the next few days are aimed at helping us to holistically look at disaster management and how it can be improved through the capabilities of ICTs."

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Darroux went on to confirm that the government of Dominica had learned lessons from Tropical Erica in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017, “This has prompted the need for better preparation, to reduce the impact on properties and lives. The government of Dominica has recognised,” he said, “a key component of disaster management and prevention, is having a telecommunication network and information system that is well designed to be able to deal with any situation during and after a emergency or disaster.” The minister made reference to the hard work of local telecommunication providers in Dominica to rebuild their networks with greater resilience.

Minister Darroux told the forum that the Government of Dominica has out laid a plan and a vision articulated by Prime Minister Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit to make Dominica the first climate resilient country in the world.” To this end,” he said, “Dominica has since established the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD) which has the mandate to make the vision a reality. This is the level of seriousness that is being placed on disaster management and preparation in Dominica.”

### Featured speaker

The featured speaker at the opening ceremony was Senator, Hon. Robert Tonge, the Minister for Tourism and Culture in Dominica. He said, “While Dominica has committed itself to becoming the first climate resilient country of the world, other similar endeavours are at work with the launching of the [Climate Smart Accelerator](#) programme in August 2018, in Jamaica.” He added, “This partnership consists of twenty-six (26) countries and over 40 public and private sector partners with the objective to support the Caribbean’s ambition of becoming the world’s first climate-smart zone,” he said.

The minister went on to say that, “The objective is to implement climate solutions for resilience, renewable energy, development of sustainable cities, oceans and transportation,” he said adding, “This initiative will not only protect the region, but create sustainable jobs and a new economy in the climate-smart infrastructure. I therefore place a challenge before you this morning to provide us with the Parish Hall Declaration which will clearly articulate at least five (5) practical solutions which can be implemented soonest using ICT rated technologies and services to minimise damages and loss to small developing island states,” he said. (Marpin News. 2018)

# Welcome to my blog

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## My Dissertation Research Diary: Caribbean rocked by succession of minor earthquakes | December 12, 2018



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A magnitude 4.0 earthquake event was recorded at Latitude: 12.78 North and Longitude: 60.39 West. ([Facebook.com. 2018](#))

## Magnitude 4.0 earthquake

Here is the latest information from the Trinidad-based, Seismic Research Centre (SRC) of the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies regarding the succession of minor earthquakes affecting the Caribbean region.

According to the SRC, at 03:05 am (Local Time) 07:05 (UTC) 2018-12-12, a magnitude 4.0 earthquake event was recorded, at a depth of 10 km, at Latitude: 12.78 North and Longitude: 60.39 West or 94 km (58.4 miles) Southwest of Bridgetown, Barbados or 102 km (63.4 miles) Southeast of Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines or 153 km (95 miles) Southeast of Castries, Saint Lucia ([Facebook.com. 2018](#)).

This follows an announcement that at 9:17 pm (Local Time) or 01:17 (UTC) a magnitude 3.7 earthquake had occurred at a depth of 5 km 11 km (6.8 miles) Northeast of Roseau, Dominica, 89 km (55.3 miles) North-northwest of Fort-de-France, Martinique and 100 km (62.1 miles) South-Southeast of Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe.

The government of Dominica will today debate legislation to formalize the establishment of its [Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica \(CREAD\)](#). The agency's aim is to address the recovery of the island from severe climatic events. However, these latest occurrences of minor earthquakes is a cause for alarm, and a sober reminder that the disaster-prone region is also prone to geologic, hydrologic hazards. As well as possible marine and man-made disasters.

Earthquake magnitude: 3.7 Location: Latitude: 15.37N  
Longitude: 61.32W Depth: 5 km ([Seismic Research Centre](#))

Social media accounts from Dominica confirmed that shakings were felt in the capital and elsewhere.

Incidentally, last week, [CEDEMA](#) and the [ITU](#) held an [Emergency ICT forum](#) where multi-stakeholders representing top level telecommunications providers, regulators, Information technology companies, metrological bodies and government officials from around the region including Guyana were present to discuss the state of preparedness of each other's' territories

# Welcome to my blog

and learn of the work of the ITU. One of the objectives of the 3-day event was to produce the ‘Parish Hall declaration.’

54 earthquakes in 21 hours

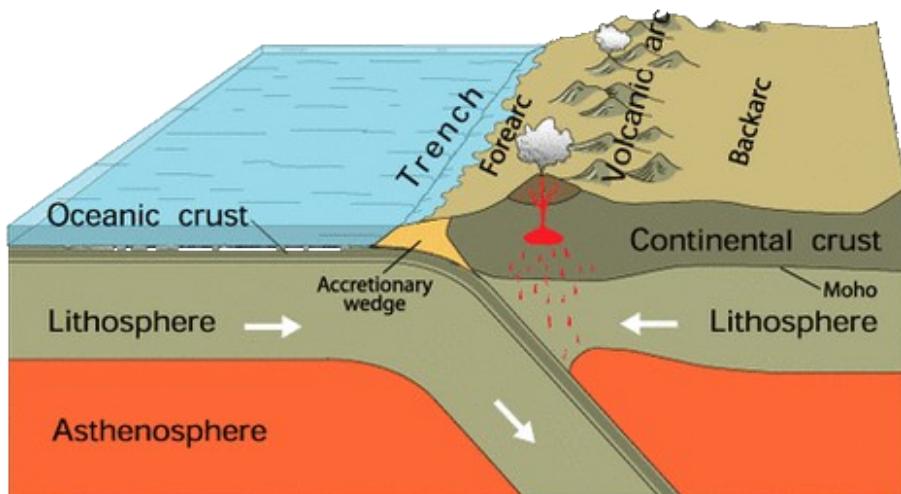
**“a big one is coming and it is better to be prepared,”**

**– Dr. Joan Lutchman**

Meanwhile, “a burst of 54 earthquakes” occurred north of St. Kitts during a 21-hour period last weekend. The quakes ranged from magnitude 1.2 to 4.1, and occurred between 4:28 p.m. (local time) on Friday to 9:50 a.m. (local time) on Saturday, according to (SRC) (Barbados Today 2018). Reports of the earthquakes according to SRC came from several Caribbean islands including Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Sint Maarten, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Puerto Rico.

The head seismologist of the SRC, Dr. Joan Lutchman has since issued a warning to Caribbean governments, “a big one is coming and it is better to be prepared,” she said. (Caribbeannewsservice.com. 2018).

caribbean plates



*“The Caribbean region has a plethora of convergent plate boundaries, some of which have resulted in a significant presence of accretionary wedges.”* ([Caribbean Tectonics. 2018](#))

The seismology website, Caribbean Tectonics, says that “due to the Caribbean’s extensive and interesting tectonic environment, the Caribbean region is rife with natural hazards. From earthquakes and tsunamis to volcanoes and landslides, the potential for disaster in this region is remarkable,” adding, “Seismicity in the Caribbean region is focused along

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the Antilles Arc, where the Caribbean plate overrides the North American plate (Shedlocke, 1999). In this region, shallow intraplate earthquakes dominate at plate boundaries (Shedlocke, 1999). (Caribbean Tectonics 2018).

## Richter Scale

### Understanding the Richter Scale:

Richter Magnitude	Feels like KG of TNT	Extra Information
<b>0-1</b>	0.6-20 kilograms of dynamite	We can not feel these
<b>2</b>	600 kilograms of dynamite	Smallest Quake people can normally feel
<b>3</b>	20,000 kilograms of dynamite	People near the epicenter feel this quake
<b>4</b>	60,000 kilograms of dynamite	This will cause damage around the epicenter. It is the same as a small fission bomb
<b>5</b>	20,000,000 kilograms of dynamite	Damage done to weak buildings in the area of the epicenter
<b>6</b>	60,000,000 kilograms of dynamite	Can cause great damage around the epicenter
<b>7</b>	20 billion kilograms of dynamite	Creates enough energy to heat New York city for one year. Can be detected all over the world. Causes serious damage
<b>8</b>	60 billion kilograms of dynamite	Causes death and major destruction. Destroyed San Francisco in 1906
<b>9</b>	20 trillion kilograms of dynamite	Rare, but would cause unbelievable damage!

The Richter scale is a base-10 logarithmic scale, meaning that each order of magnitude is 10 times more intensive than the last one. ([Sms-tsunami-warning.com](http://Sms-tsunami-warning.com). 2018)

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ALBERT WILLIAMS

# My Dissertation Research Diary: CREAD legislation enacted | December 22, 2018



Dominica's Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Francine Baron (Above) presenting the Climate Resilience Act 2018 for debate before parliament at the House of Assembly last Wednesday. ([YouTube 2018](#)).

Last week we saw the passage of the historic, Climate Resilient Act 2018 in Dominica. An act to formally establish the Climate Resilient Execution Agency of Dominica (CREAD). I'll be taking a look at the CREAD, and reflect on my progress with the T802-The Research Project.

# Welcome to my blog

why a research diary

**December 2018**

**13 Thursday** Week 50 - 347-018

7.00 I received a reply from Senator Robert Tonge in regard to my blog on the seismic earthquakes.

11.30 I also received my copy of the 2018 Oslo Manual.

1.00 Trump Tax

2.00 Write African climate policy from Nestlé remarks of ICT workshop.

6.00 - Write article on CREAD from French Beras speech at House of Assembly

9.00 - Begin work on dissertation proposal

**January 2018** **February** **March** **April** **May** **June**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30							28	29	30	31			

**2018 December**

**Week 50 - 348-017** Friday

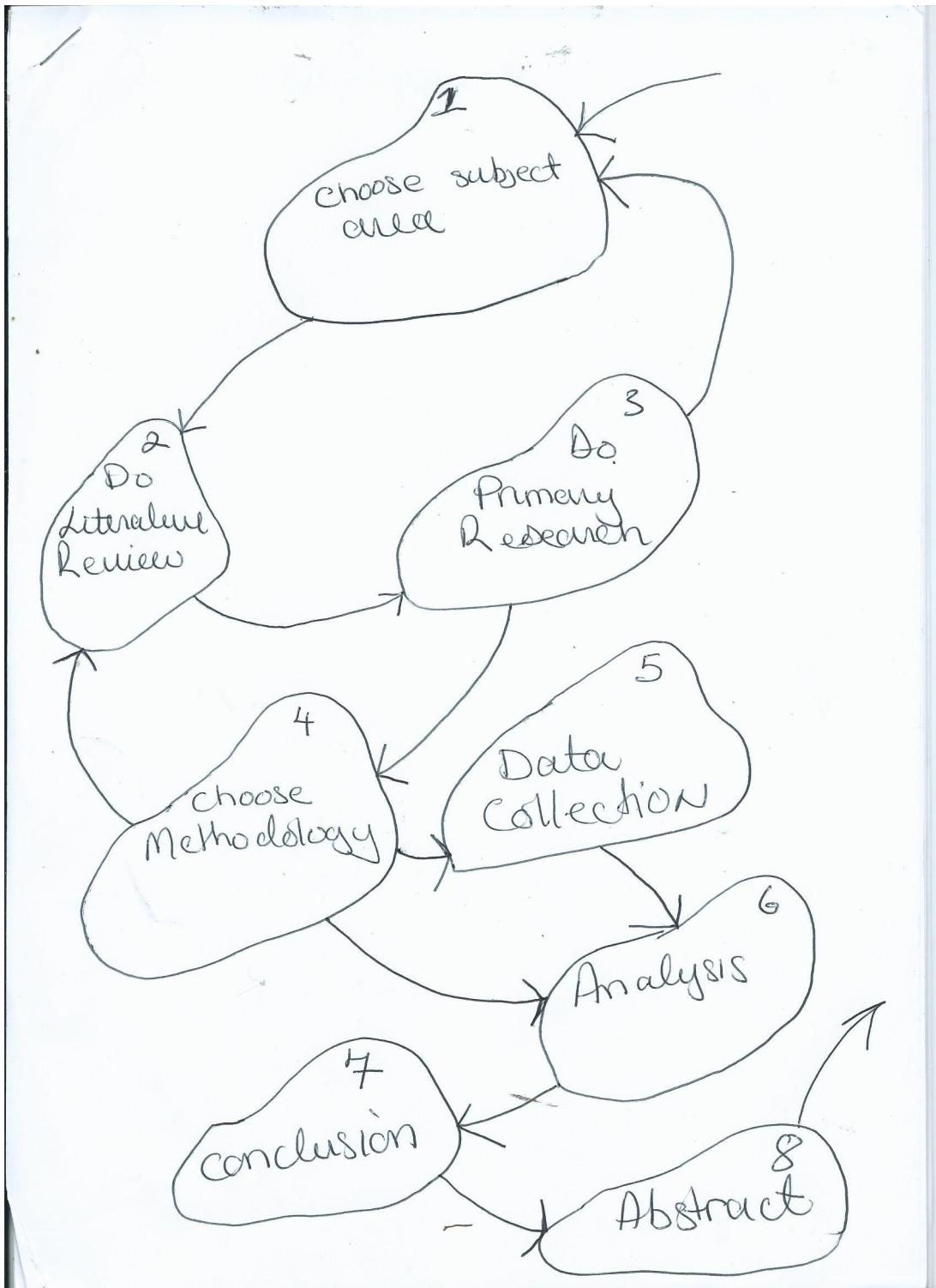
I met Ramesh Ranganayagam, British Council Lost Light Next steps and why we do they play - what is Climate Change - Cread Act - Oslo Manual - ICT Forum - Earthquake and Tsunami APP - TSO2 - Activity Model - Great chat - Could it be comes on fire - What are such diary

July	August	September	October	November	December
1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	28
30	31				

Another name we could have substituted for diary could have been a journal or project log. Whatever methods you use to keep track of your thinking around a certain activity is recommended by The Open University. As you may be aware, my current theme on my blog, UniversityLite is a series of blogs called, [My Dissertation Research Diary](#). As I explained, sharing my insights publicly in a blog, serves many purposes:

- 1 It provides an alternative space to save those great moments of insights
- 2 It helps to create and formulate expressions that you may use later in your dissertation
- 3 It acts as a showcase to potential resources who may want further information on my project.
- 4 It keeps the grey matter ticking over and warms it up to take on the greater challenging of producing editing and finally submitting the 15,000 – word dissertation.

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Arrows indicate the relationship between loops before moving on to the next step

I will return to this model in later instalments of [My Dissertation Research Diary](#)

# Welcome to my blog

CLIMATE RESILIENCE Act 2018 successfully passed in parliament



Dominica's Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Francine Baron (Above) presenting the Climate Resilience Act 2018 for debate before parliament at the House of Assembly last Wednesday.

## background

2017 was a bad year for hurricane damage in the Caribbean. 2 powerful and life-threatening hurricanes swept through the Caribbean islands leaving billions of dollars in damages and losses.

According to ([En.wikipedia.org. 2018](#)) “Hurricane Irma was the first [Category 5 hurricane](#) to strike the [Leeward Islands](#) on record, followed by [Maria](#) two weeks later, and is the second-costliest Caribbean hurricane on record, after Maria.”

## Islands affected by Hurricane Irma:

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[Cape Verde](#),  
[The Leeward Islands –Barbuda](#), [Saint Barthelemy](#), [Anguilla](#),  
[Saint Martin](#)  
The [Virgin Islands](#)),  
[Greater Antilles \(Cuba and Puerto Rico\)](#),  
[Turks and Caicos Islands](#),  
[The Bahamas](#),  
[Eastern United States \(Florida\)](#)  
Source: ([En.wikipedia.org. 2018](#))

Wikipedia added that at least 134 deaths had been attributed to the destructive winds of Hurricane Irma.

On September 18, 2017, Dominica became the first victim of the Hurricane Maria, a category-5 storm that carried with it sustained winds of 165 mph and devastated the country. 2 days later. Maria would go on to hit Puerto Rico on September 20th, as a category-4 hurricane leaving that island reeling from widespread devastation as well.

Below, I have created an infographic based on a news item featured on September 18th, 2018 on Marpin 2k4's Channel 5 News to observe the first anniversary of the Hurricane Maria.

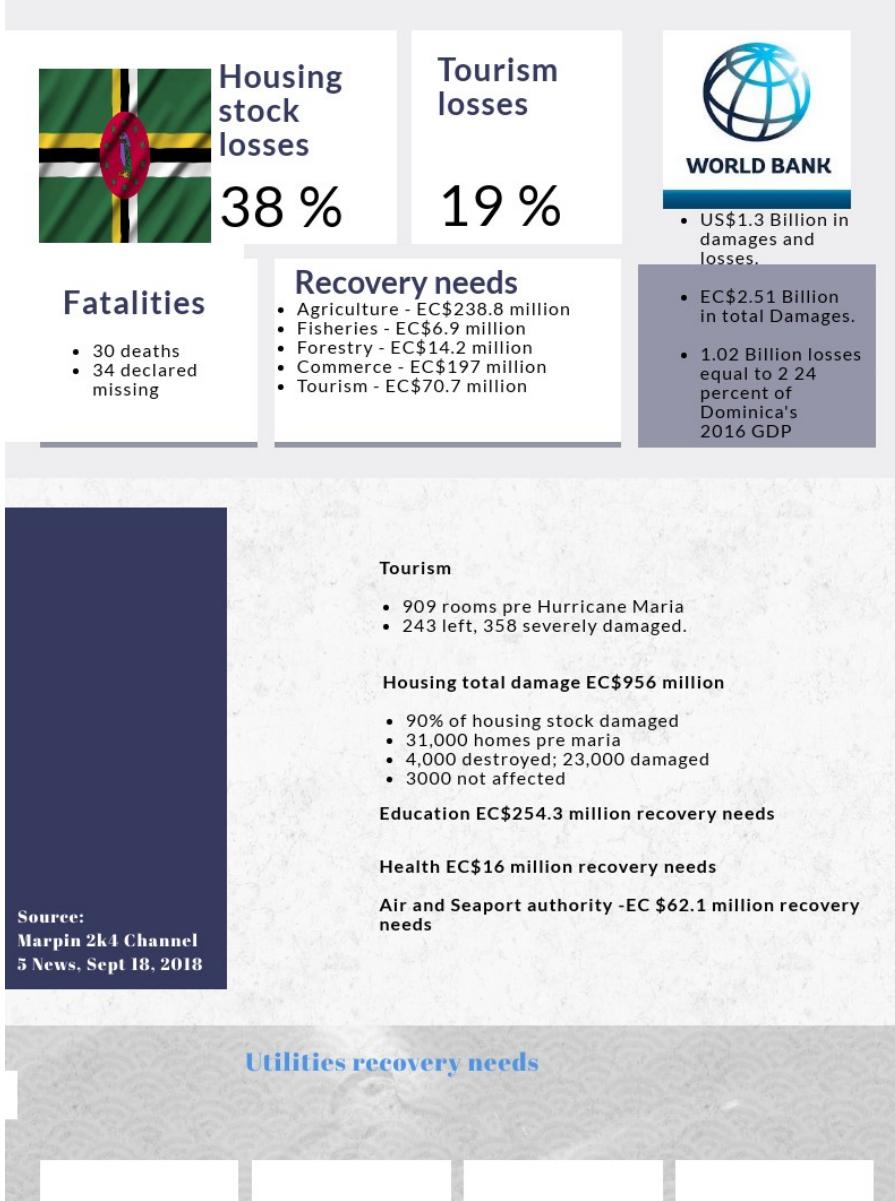
In that report, News Presenter, Julian Morris, shared extracts from a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) compiled by the World Bank in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the European Union (EU).

According to the report, the main objective of the PDNA was to present to the government of Dominica “a reliable estimate of the disaster effects and impacts of Hurricane Maria, and define a strategy to recover.” ([DOMINICA EX SUM webFF. 2018](#))

# Welcome to my blog



Prime Minister, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit vows to rebuild his country as "the first climate resilient Country in the world."



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[Dominica Recovery-infographic by author](#)

CARICOM High-level conference

*“The scale and frequency of the damages and losses means there is no commercial premium we could pay that would insure us against the magnitude of these injuries,” – Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit*

At the CARICOM High-level conference for the reconstruction and Resilience of CARICOM Countries Affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria held in New York, November 21st, 2017, Dominica's Prime Minister outlined his vision for a resilient Dominica saying, “The scale and frequency of the damages and losses means there is no commercial premium we could pay that would insure us against the magnitude of these injuries,” he explained to the meeting adding, “Ultimately, the only route available to us is to build a nation resilient to climate change rather than to insure against damages and losses caused to one that is not,” he told his audience. He also said, “That is why we are committed to creating the first climate resilient nation. It is not an ill-considered promise; it is essential to our existence. We are prepared to be the game changer.” The Dominican leader said.

On Friday 9 March 2018, CREAD was officially launched with a Transition Committee announced for the Climate Resilient Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD).

In April this year, a wide cross-section of stakeholders were invited to the State House Conference Center to presented their own comments and suggestions as to the way forward to tackle Dominica's response to the devastation caused by hurricane Maria at a National Consultation on Development Prospects for Dominica.

On November 28, 2018 the Government of Dominica hosted a consultation on the Climate Resilience Executing Agency of Dominica (CREAD) Bill 2018. And Wednesday December 12th, 2018, the Climate Resilience Ct 2018 was passed in the House of Assembly formally laying the legislative framework for the full operation of the CREAD

CREAD debated in the house

[YouTube. 2018\)](#)

*“The adversity caused by Hurricane Maria and climate change will not cause Dominica to break. Instead we will use it to cause Dominica to set a new record, and that record will be, to become the first climate resilient country in the world.” – Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator, Francine Baron*

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Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator Francine Baron, who presented the bill on behalf of Prime Minister Skerrit, in her opening remarks said, “Under the astute leadership of Prime Minister Skerrit, this government came out from that frightening and humble experience with a singular resolve that we had to do things differently. We could not return to a business-as-usual scenario. We know that what we are setting out to do will be difficult. At times it may even appear impossible. It will challenge us in a way very few things in the past. To raise our standards and change the way in which we operate., but we are confident we will rise to the challenge. and what better time than to hit that reset button to take on this task, than this the 40th year of our independence.” , she said, adding “The adversity caused by Hurricane Maria and climate change will not cause Dominica to break. Instead we will use it to cause Dominica to set a new record, and that record will be, to become the first climate resilient country in the world.”

## To be continued

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ALBERT WILLIAMS

# My Dissertation Research Diary: Discussion of the CREAD and other matters | January 6, 2019



(Above) On Friday, December 7th, 2018, the keys to 38 newly-built, residential units were presented to Petite Savanne residents displaced by Tropical Storm Erica in 2015. ([GIS Dominica](#))

## Overview

Happy new year everyone

If you are a regular reader of my blog you would know that my current theme is, my dissertation research diary. A public project log, so-to-speak, that is used as a writer's studio where I can gather ideas; expand on concepts and even receive feedback on matters of interest to me in my preparation of my dissertation in pursuit of a MSc Technology Management from The Open University by 2020.

2018 has come and gone, and within the last year, indeed, within the last first days of 2019, in my chosen Area of Practice (AoP), Disaster Management, a lot of environmental events, that

# Welcome to my blog

have a direct impact on my research have left in their wake new data to add to a growing body of scientific research into climate change and the need to raise the awareness of governments and populations of climate adaptability.

## Area of Practice

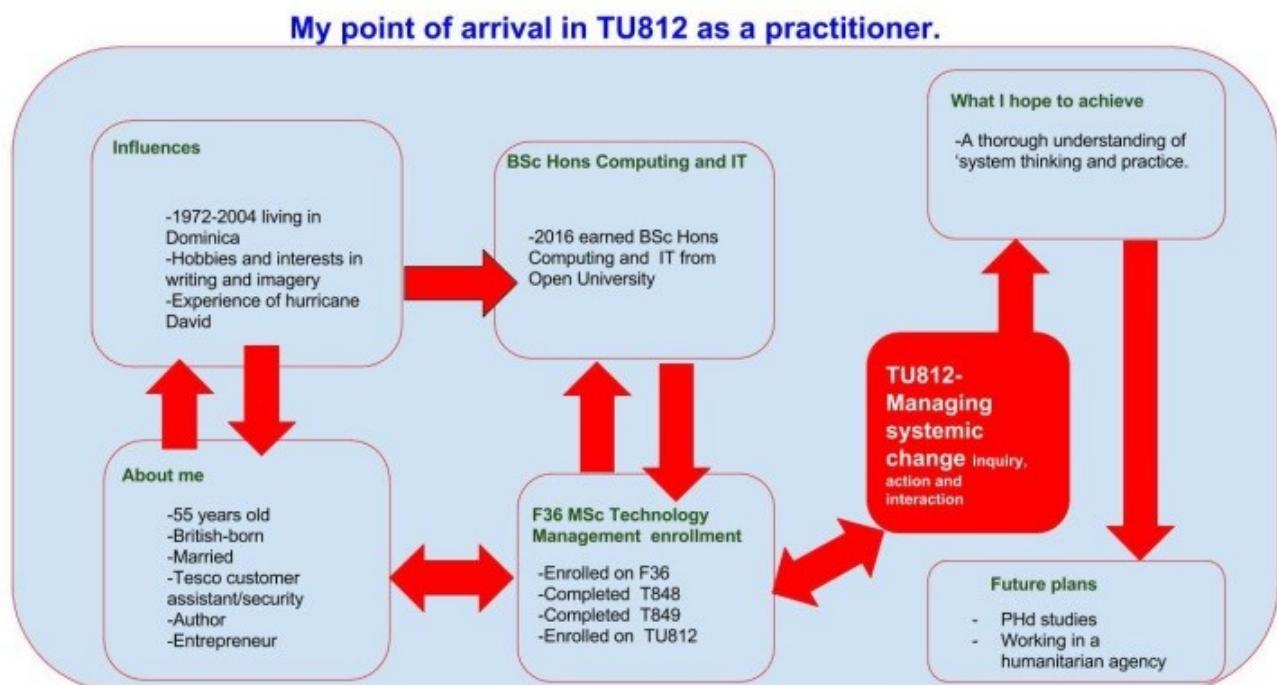
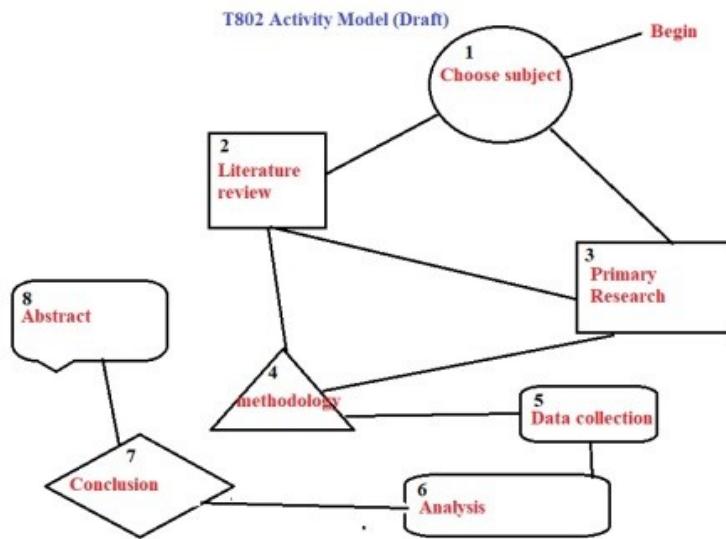


Fig 1. A diagram illustrating my journey towards becoming a systems thinker

The critical use of my blog to address matters of disaster management and risk reduction really gained new traction with my introduction of systems thinking in 2017 (See fig 1 above). The Open University's, TU812 – Managing systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction and TU811 – Thinking strategically: systems tools for managing change, were the perfect postgraduate diploma choices, to complement my earlier studies of: T849- Strategic capabilities for technological innovation and T848- Managing Technological Innovation.

Now here we are at the start of 2019, T802- The Research Project, officially begins in February, but the website was opened in November last year, although with limited functionality, for the preparatory submission of a synopsis of my intended research proposal. After which a supervisor will be allocated and the full resources of the T802 website will be available.

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(Fig 2. Activity model showing the main areas for development of the dissertation)

You may recall, that the working title for my synopsis for my research proposal is:

## **DIMINISHING UNCERTAINTY TO ACCELERATE THE EXECUTION OF CLIMATE-CHANGE ADAPTATION TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH A SYSTEMIC INTERVENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE INNOVATION STRATEGY, OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE EXECUTION AGENCY OF DOMINICA (CREAD).**

Legislation providing the legal framework for the operation of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica ([CREAD](#)) in Dominica was passed in parliament on December 12th. Compliments Dominica's Tourism Minister, Senator Robert Tonge, I was able to locate a copy of the bill on the Government of Dominica's [web portal](#). By having the actual text of the CREAD legislation made quite a difference in having the ability to follow the arguments by the various members of the House of Assembly.

### An innovative approach

My contribution to the public discussion of the CREAD, however, is to produce a synthesis of guidelines for measuring innovation and to provide a platform for future discourse of the innovative approach by the Government of Dominica under the leadership of Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit to establish the CREAD. I will seek to evaluate these approaches against the best practices that have evolved over the last two decades in regards to innovation as a specialised academic discipline.

# Welcome to my blog

In addition, I will define what types of innovation are evident in the proposed business model of the CREAD and suggest ways in which the technological underpinnings can be further enhanced using these specialized concepts and frameworks. To do this I will be drawing from a number of sources, including public pronouncements from the main actors of the CREAD, the recent emergency Telecoms forum held in Dominica in December, as well as draw from the Oslo Manual 2018 which is in its fourth edition.

Finally, I will complete my piece by suggesting how systemic approaches may further enhance the technological outlook of the organisation as a whole , and how having a systemic understanding can bridge the gap between Dominica and the wider world, and the many interrelated organisations and treaties and agreements within which Dominica must compete, collaborate and become a leader in climate change advocacy.

## Defining the hazard vulnerability landscape

As far as one knows, the concept of CREAD was a direct response to the devastation caused first by Tropical Storm Erica in 2015, and further exacerbated by the devastation wrought on the island by Hurricane Maria two years later on September 18, 2017. Meanwhile, while the CREAD does acknowledge that Dominica is vulnerable to other natural hazards, besides climatic. In recent times, the phrase climate change has been widely discussed and debated. Scientist have warned governments that as the earth's atmosphere warms, hurricanes and typhoons will be more frequent and ferocious.

To some extent, there is a six -month warning period between one hurricane season and another. The Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 3, however there are other natural hazards that have a much shorter warning period , and can be equally devastating.

The threat of a volcanic crisis, however, is ever-present in the Caribbean, and the consequences of such an event can be sudden and catastrophic. That is why a similar organisation to the CREAD could be established to manage for the preparation of an eventual eruption in Dominica, and the post-consequences.

The Caribbean islands are geologically at the center of a very active and seismic region. Evidence of this seismicity in recent times are evident throughout the island chain. The eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano in Montserrat in 1995, to the underwater volcano- Kick em Jenny off the coast of Grenada

Dominica itself is replete with manifestations of volcanic activity. These events have become our tourist attractions-The Valley of Desolation, the Boiling Lake, as well as numerous sulphur springs and underwater fumaroles. Indeed, Dominica is said to be host to 9 of the 16 active/dormant volcanoes in the Caribbean region. Another hazard is the matter of tsunamis that may be triggered from geologic activity both within the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

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## Mitigation and disaster reduction

From a technological point of view, preparation and early warning systems might be one of the means of saving lives. Equally so, is the dissemination of information. As well as the listening to multiple opinions. The Roosevelt Skerrit has introduced an innovative approach to including the views of multiple stakeholders through sharing updates and receiving feedbacks from its many open consultations.

## A major challenge

*“in cities like Roseau, Castries and Port-of-Spain etc etc, were really built in vulnerable locations.”*

*Lloyd Lynch, UWI Seismic Research Centre*

You don't have to be disaster management expert to realise that mandate of CREAD is a humongous. I suggest that the main areas that need urgent attention are: warnings systems, robust infrastructure, quick recovery, and preservation of life.

The clue to the mandate of the CREAD is in the name: Climate Resilience execution Agency of Dominica. I suggest that a similar organisation with a mandate to oversee the main areas I identified above: warnings systems, robust infrastructure, quick recovery, and preservation of life. be established to monitor and provide leadership in regard to volcanic events, tsunamis. It is very easy to forget the ever-present threat of a volcanic eruption or a major earthquake. Which unlike the hurricane season has a marked calendar period when severe storms can be expected, seismic events can happen at any time, with little or no warning.

This brings to mind the need for an investment in technological solutions to not only be prepared for climatic hazards, but also geologic disasters as well.

At the recently-held, Multi-stakeholder [Forum](#) on the Role of Telecommunication/ICTs for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction for the Caribbean Islands in Dominica, from 4th – 6th December, 2018, Research fellow, [Lloyd Lynch](#) of the UWI Seismic Research Centre in St Augustine in Trinidad, said that his organisation has been in operation for the past six decades and noted that geophysical monitoring has not received the attention it deserves compared to meteorological and hydrological hazards. He said many of the Caribbean islands' capitals were built in highly, vulnerable zones.

“in cities like Roseau, Castries and Port-of-Spain etc etc, were really built in vulnerable locations. Roseau for example,” he said, “is on a pyroclastic flow/fan, It's on a river delta. Port-of-Spain, is on the edge of sedimentary basin,” he said adding that town and country planning until recently were not drafted with disaster mitigation in mind.

# Welcome to my blog

## Oslo Manual

The Oslo [Manual](#) 2018 defines innovation as any new or improved product or process, or combination of both, that differs significantly from the previous product or process deployed by or within a specified setting or organisation.

To be continued...

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ALBERT WILLIAMS

# My Dissertation Research Diary: Discussion of the CREAD and other matters continues...|

## January 13, 2019



Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit speaking at a Year in Review' television and social media event on Tuesday, 8th, 2019. ([Government of Dominica](#))

### Inside this edition

Welcome again. In today's diary entries, I lead with my discussion of the cover story: Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit's Year in Review broadcast. I continue to analyse Dominica's newly-launched, Climate Resilience execution Agency (CREAD) against the backdrop of other recent events taking place on that island. and I'll also reflect on how my preparations for the official commencement of T802 are progressing.

# Welcome to my blog

## Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit reflects on 2018

Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit speaking at a Year in Review' television and social media event on Tuesday, 8th, 2019. ([Government of Dominica](#))

2018 an exceptional year in Dominica's history

It can be easy for some, particularly those of us who live in the diaspora, not to attach the significance that the year 2018 deserves. Especially, those of you whose only acquaintance with the region is through the images that the world's media houses published in the wake of the catastrophic, widespread destruction wrought by two category-5 Hurricanes– Irma and Maria ([BBC News 2017](#)) ([Euan McKirdy, C 2017](#)) 2018 was an exceptional year for Dominica.

Speaking on a Year-in-Review, programme last Tuesday, Dominica's Prime Minister, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit ruminated over the year gone by. He also has another reason to be pleased, Because 2019 sees him , not only being bestowed with another doctorate, but also achieving another milestone in his stellar political career. That of surpassing Dame Mary Eugenia Charles as the longest, serving prime minister of Dominica. Charles who led the Freedom party to electoral victory in 1980, served from 21 July 1980 to 14 June 1995, amassing a total of 14 years and 328 days. Meanwhile, Skerrit, who took the oath of office on January 8, 2004, following the demise of his predecessor, Charles Pierre, who served for 3 years and 97 days, holds the record at present for 15 years and 7 days to-date serving as the nation's leader.

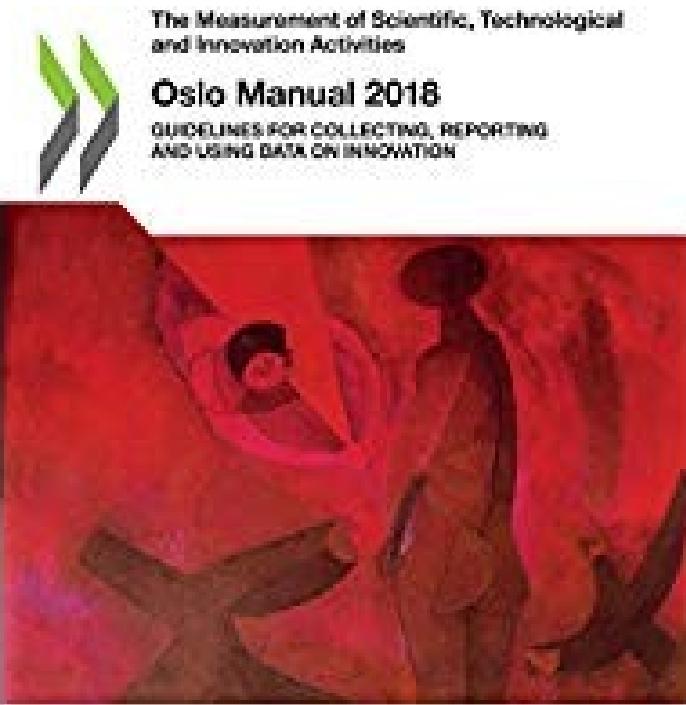
(to be continued)

Oslo Manual: Guidelines for Collecting and Interpreting Innovation Data (OECD, 2018)  
In the last edition of my [blog](#) I ended with a reference to the *Oslo Manual: Guidelines for Collecting and Interpreting Innovation Data* (OECD, 2018).

The Oslo [Manual](#) briefly defines innovation as any new or improved product or process, or combination of both, that differs significantly from the previous product or process deployed by or within a specified setting or organisation. I was introduced to the Oslo Manual during my 2016- 2017 studies of T848- Managing Technological Innovation (Learn2.open.ac.uk. (2019)

The manual was launched in 1991 in the City of Oslo, Norway, and signaled the inaugural formal agreement reached by technologists, policymakers and practitioners in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators which became the internationally agreed standard and guidelines used by European countries to measure business innovation.

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(Amazon.co.uk 2019)

The manual is now in its fourth edition and takes into consideration what it says are “major trends, such as the pervasive role of global value chains, the emergence of new information technologies and how they influence new business models” ([OECD iLibrary 2019 p3](#)). According to the authors, it became recognisable that the importance knowledge-based capital and the realisation that understanding innovation processes and their impacts on countries development were in keeping with its goals of Going Digital initiative which also seeks to promote the process of digital transformation of the business environment ([OECD iLibrary 2019 p3](#)).

The OECD says further that since 1991 and the initial testing of the manual’s guidelines in the EU and the OECD, innovation surveys utilizing its recommendations, 80 countries have attested to its value. Additionally, the instrument, has been further validated through the inputs of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank who are also desirous of seeing the development of an ‘evidence-based approach towards the support of investments in innovation’ ([OECD iLibrary 2019 p3](#))

Meanwhile The Open University, in introducing the scope of the 2005 edition of the Oslo Manual in the T848 module cited four main types of innovation (OECD, 2005):

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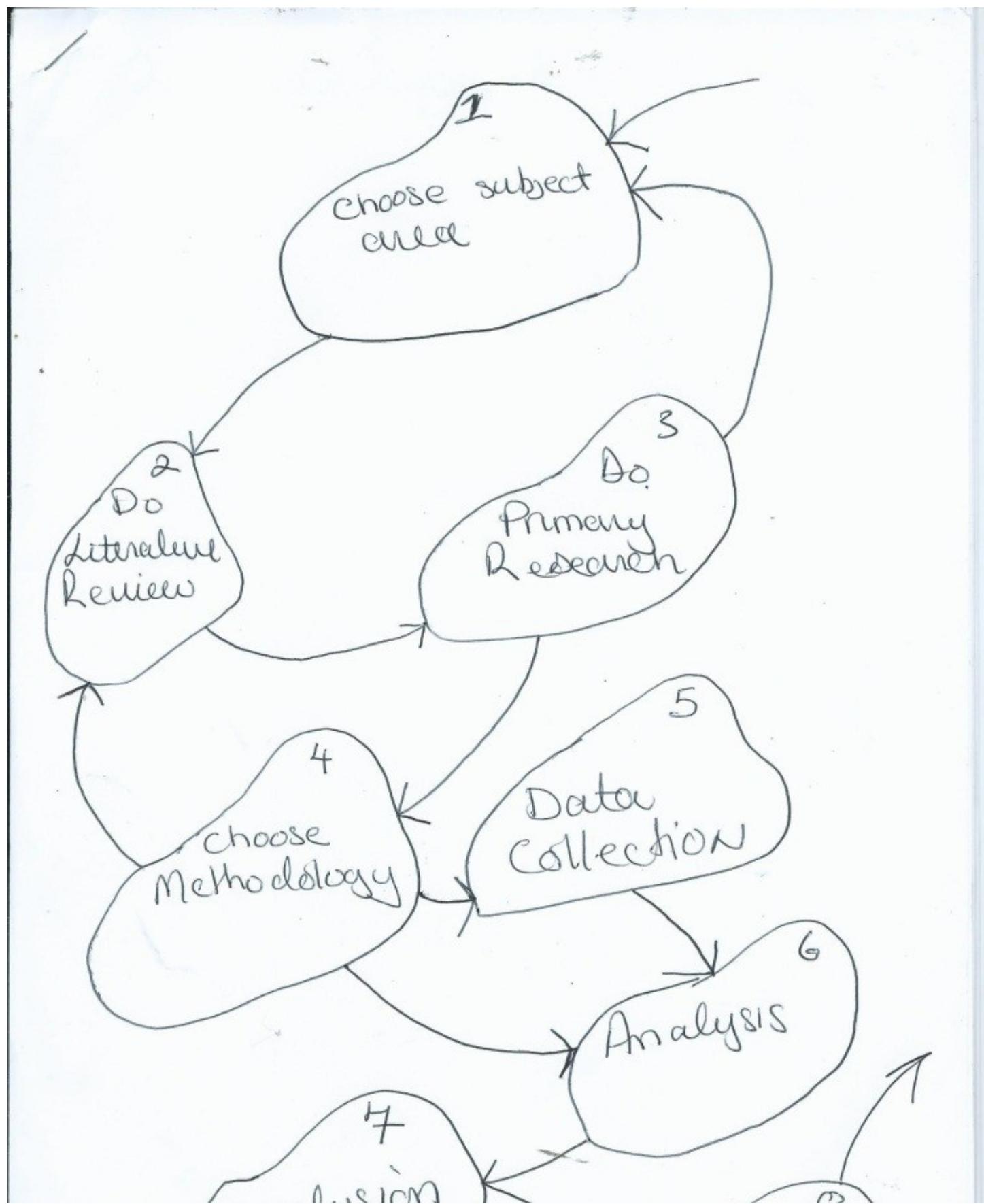
- **Product innovation** – a good or service that is new or significantly improved. For example ‘smartphones and tablet computers.
- **Process innovation** – a new or significantly improved production or delivery method. For example, the shift in many retail sectors such as clothing, books and groceries to online sales and associated distribution.
- **Marketing innovation** – a new marketing method involving significant changes in product design or packaging, product placement, product promotion or pricing.
- **Organisational innovation** – a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations.

(Adapted from Learn2.open.ac.uk 2019)

# **ALBERT WILLIAMS**

T802 deliverables and milestones

# Welcome to my blog



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T802- The Research Project is the Open University's capstone project for a number of postgraduate qualifications including the MSC Technology Management that I am aiming to achieve by 2020.

My dissertation research topic is based on my chosen Area of Practice (AoP) Disaster management. There has been an emergence of interest from the academic community of the vulnerabilities of small Island states, like Dominica since two category 5 hurricanes devastated 30 percent of the Caribbean islands two weeks apart in September of 2017.

Moreover, the world has been intrigued by the declaration of Dominica's Prime Minister Hon Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit, three days after Hurricane Maria destroyed his country, to rebuild his country as the 'first climate resilient country in the world.'

## System of interest (SoI)

Consequently, pending further recommendations from my supervisor when the module officially opens February 1, my working title of my system of interest within my AoP that I am exploring, investigating and analysing is:

## DIMINISHING UNCERTAINTY TO ACCELERATE THE EXECUTION OF CLIMATE-CHANGE ADAPTATION TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH A SYSTEMIC INTERVENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE INNOVATION STRATEGY, OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE EXECUTION AGENCY OF DOMINICA (CREAD)

There is the potential that my focus may change slightly to meet the objectives of the module. This will be determined by my methodology to gather the data I may need, and to establish memorandum of engagement with some of the stakeholders in Dominica and the region and beyond. This particularly so since, Prime Minister skerrit has announced that a number of international parties have pledged support for the CREAD.

## Objectives

In the meantime, here are a few ideas I am working on to act as the core reasons for carrying out this research.

- To ascertain the technology readiness of the CREAD.
- To explore concepts and frameworks associated with the management of technology.
- To propose an adoption of a Community of Practice (CoP) to promote the CREAD as a self-learning institution in partnership with regional and international disaster management agencies.

# Welcome to my blog

- To suggest a business model based on technology-centric, driven organisation.

## Justification for research

I am of the opinion that my research is both timely and necessary. Further, I think that my findings will benefit the wider disaster management community, in the Caribbean region and beyond. Because this area of study is so dynamic and always changing, evidence-based documentation is not taking place with an equal momentum. It is the duty of academics like myself, therefore, to identify shortcomings and gaps in the published literature, especially in academia.

In my dissertation, despite the fluid nature of the disaster management landscape, I will investigate the findings of researchers as far back as possible up to the present time of writing on the topic of climate change and disaster risk reduction and the like in the Dominica and the Caribbean.

## Next time

I'll stop my musing on the task-at-hand for the moment. in my next installment, I will continue to explore more scenarios appropriate for my research and some immediate next steps to take just as the course starts.

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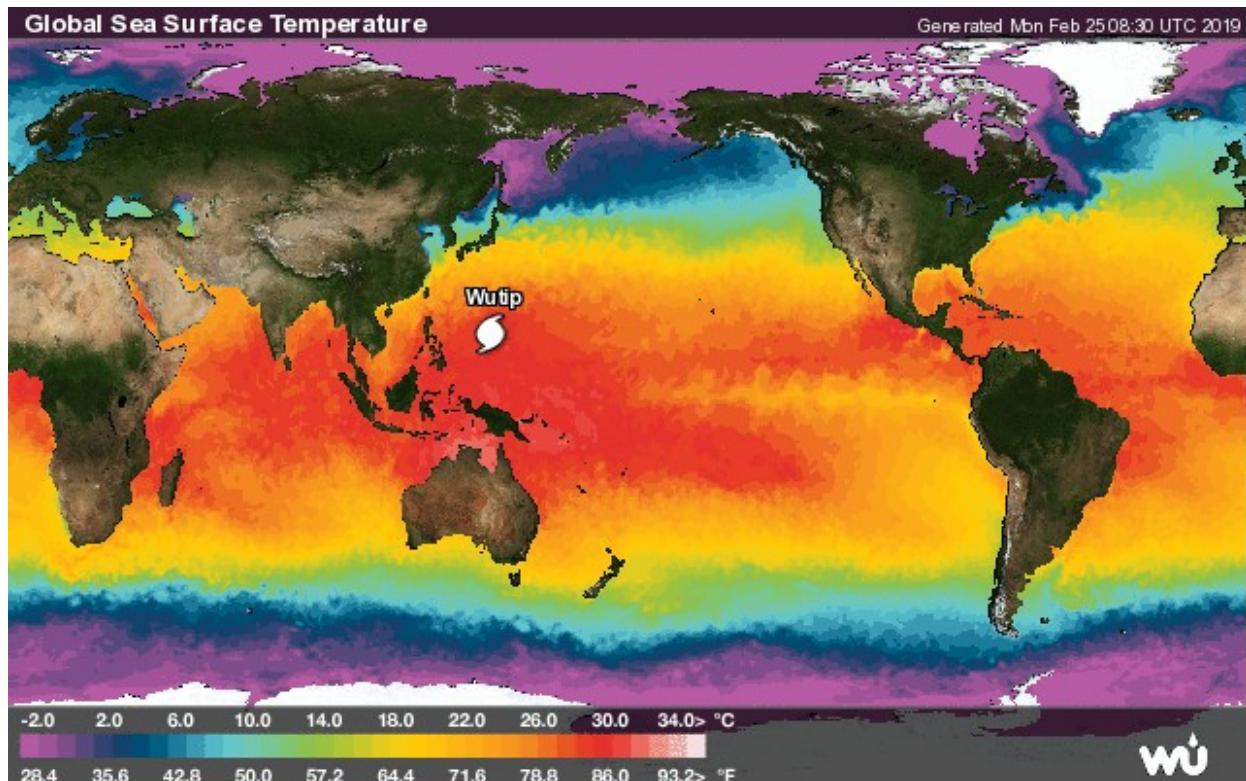
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# Welcome to my blog

My Dissertation Research Diary: Extreme weather starts 2019 | February 25, 2019



Last Updated: 25/02/2019, 06:00:00 ([Weather Underground 2019](#)).

## Inside this edition

With 2019 well on the way, a number of environmental stories have made headlines in the news from both sides of the equator in my Area of Practice (AoP): Disaster Management. In this installment of my Dissertation Research Diary, I comment on the extremely cold weather landing on the USA, we also look at the collapse of the dam in Brazil and the freak tornado that left 4 people dead in Cuba, and threats of cyclones and typhoons in the [Pacific](#) and [Oceania](#),

## Community of Practice (CoP)

One of the benefits of keeping abreast with stories of natural and man-made disasters in other countries is that, it continues to build on our stock of experiences, even if it is experienced second-hand through the media. Even as I admit, I am neophyte to disaster management and response, I have found that the applications of systems thinking with technology management studied at the Open University has enabled me to have a much more enhanced interpretation of the issues before me.

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Two of the concepts taught in systems thinking, are the concepts of Communities of practice and social learning. Community of Practice refers to the collective experience of actors within a particularly domain. In this case-Disaster Management. Social learning on the other hand, deals with the deliberate codifying of those collective experiences so that the capabilities of the actors may be strengthened through the assimilation of emerging, new trends in thinking about disasters and news generated therefrom.

Mud splurge, Frostbite, heat waves, tornados and meteorites

“Super typhoon Wutip was the strongest February typhoon in our region in recorded history,” – Meteorologist, Chip Guard ([Post, K 2019](#))

When one follows such stories as the collapse of the Brazil dam, unprecedented, record-breaking, freezing weather in the North America occasioned by a polar vortex , while down under, Australia also sees record-breaking heat temperatures in the on-going heatwave.

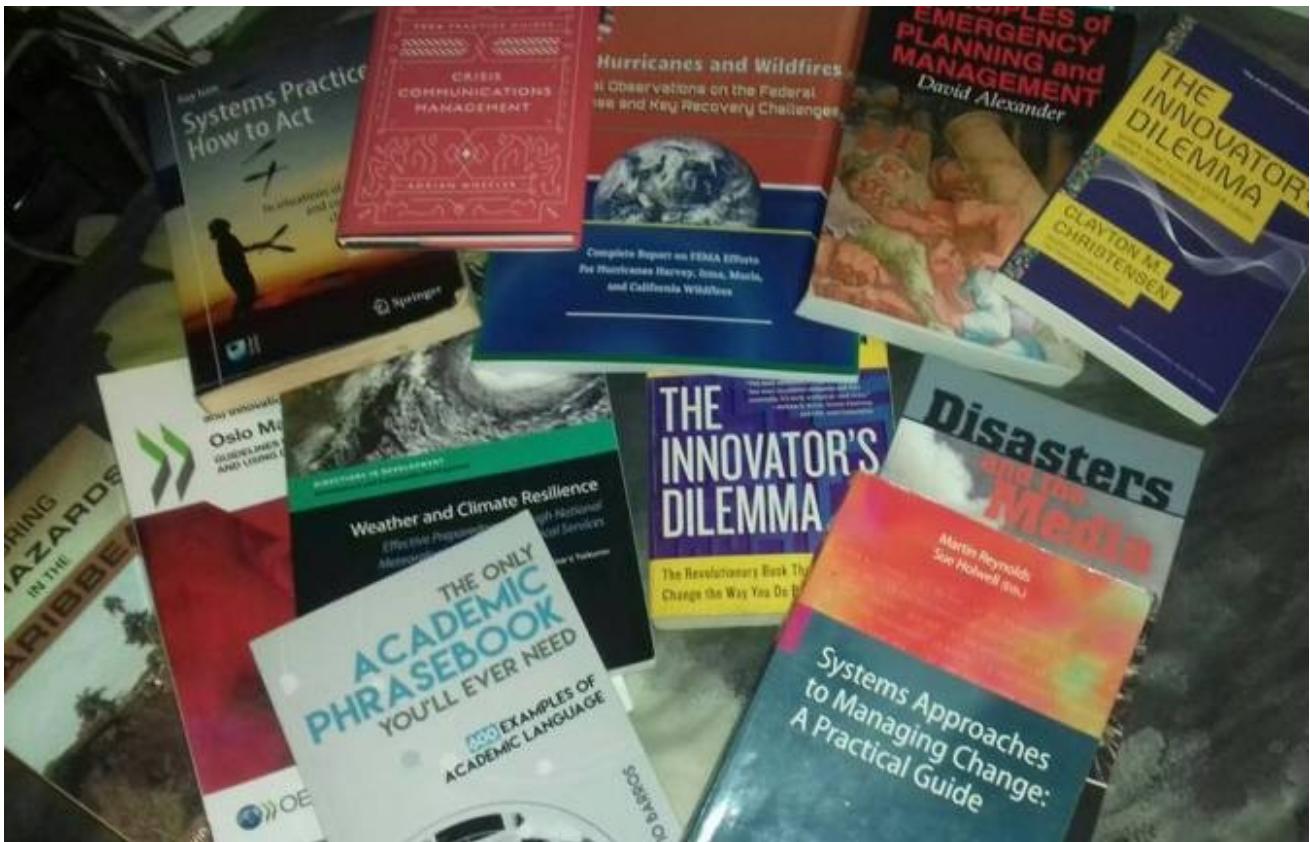
Meanwhile without warning, Havana, Cuba is torn asunder by a freak tornado, to be followed by a meteorite exploding over the western cuba spewing meteorite rocks in neighborhoods.

If you have been a follower of my blog, or a follower of my Facebook page, you would have realised that my perspectives on the environment, recovery and resilience have been from a Caribbean perspective. Especially in Dominica, if there is an emergency there. I keep an eye on what is happening in the region, as well in the international arena.

I have found that from following these stories, one gains great insights as well as being introduced to the main actors in those jurisdictions. It opens doors with meteorologists and journalists and non-government organisations who frequently cover environment stories and I follow their Facebook pages.

# Welcome to my blog

## Literature review



This week, I officially started the writing of my literature review of publications, research and conference papers as well as articles and news reports of disasters, manmade and natural, that will form part of my secondary research for my dissertation.

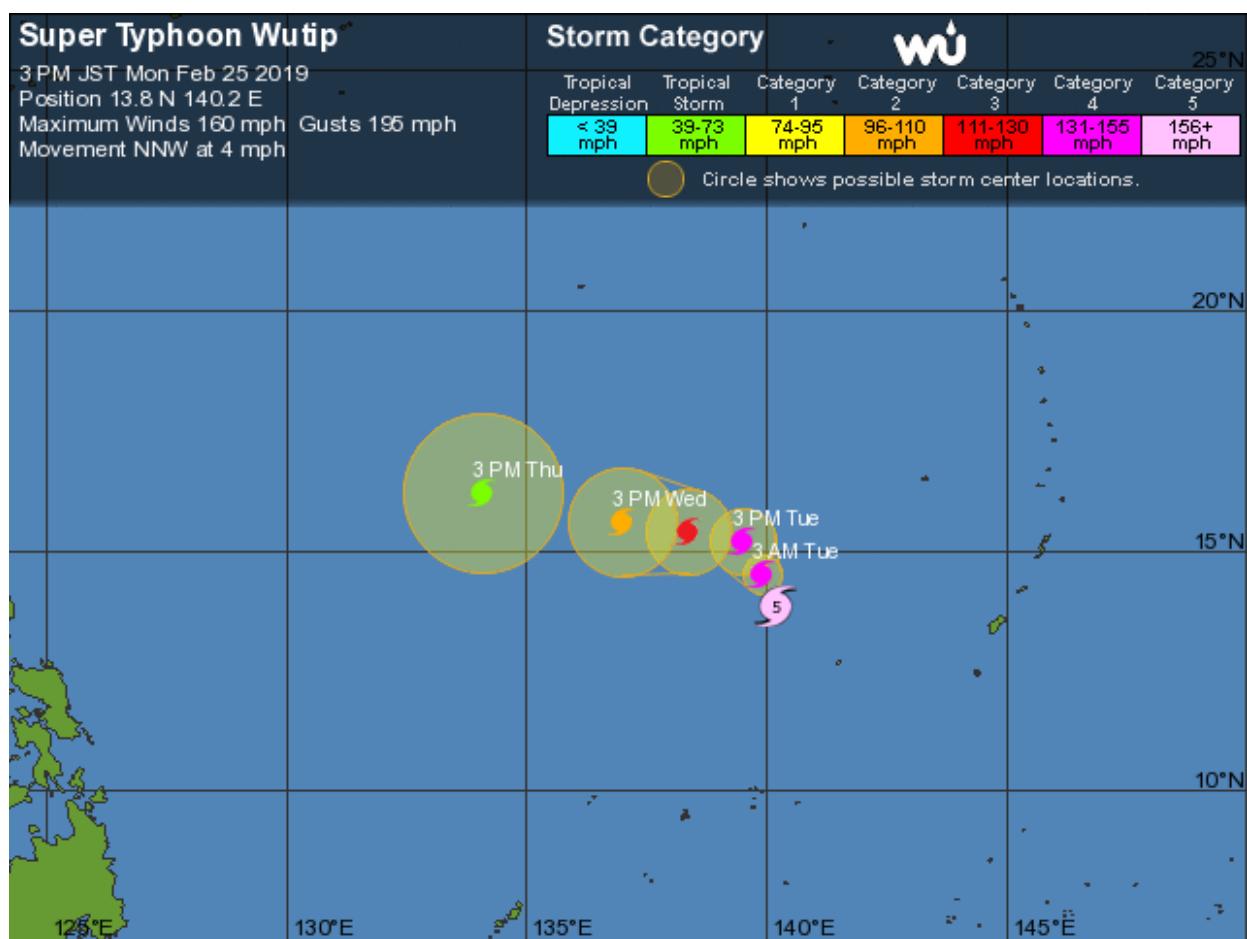
I can see why someone, who is concerned about the environment would choose the disaster management sector as a career option. As for me, I instantly recognised where my postgraduate studies fitted in with what was happening during the 2017 hurricane season, followed by the 2018 hurricane season that saw Hurricane Michael devastate large parts of Florida's Panhandle ([Eu.tallahassee.com 2019](#)) while Hurricane Florence was responsible for catastrophic flooding in Georgia ([WSBTV 2018](#)) Typhoon Yutu a Category 5 typhoon was the “worst storm to hit any part of U.S. since 1935” left swathes of Saipan and Tinian in the Northern Marianas devastated last October.

### Record-breaking 8 weeks

With only 56 days into 2019, we have seen record-breaking, temperature lows in the USA, England and Europe, which has seen Las Vegas and Hawaii seeing snow for the first time. Australia this year, has also been on the receiving end of some extreme weather, in quick succession. First, mid-January, the country saw temperatures rise beating a 20-year- record of 40.C (140 F). The heat wave has been blamed for the deaths of thousands of livestock and wildlife ([The Scientist Magazine 2019](#)). Meanwhile in February, Townsville, Queensland saw

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

catastrophic flooding, forcing authorities to open the flood gates of the Ross River Dam. authorities say, 300, 000 heads of cattle perished ([Smee, B.2019](#)). Then came Tropical Cyclone Oma. According to broadcaster, was the first time in 30 years that a cyclone had come this close to Australia ([ABC News 2019](#))



[Last Updated: 2/25/2019, 6:00:00 AM \(Greenwich Mean Time\)](#)

Meanwhile, Super Typhoon Wutip, as we speak, is heading towards the Philippines Area of Responsibility (AoR) after narrowly missing the US territories of Guam and Northern Marianas, prompting meteorologist, Chip Guard of the National Weather Service warning coordination, that “Super typhoon Wutip was the strongest, February, typhoon in our region in recorded history,” ([Post, K 2019](#))

# Welcome to my blog

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

**My Dissertation Research Diary: stage 3 | July 22, 2019**

Albert Williams [pictured] at the London Metropolitan University attending a CISCO CCNA

tutorial in  
2015



Inside  
this  
edition

■ Progress  
update on  
T802 –  
The  
Research  
project

# Welcome to my blog

## **F36 MSc Technology Management update**

If you have been a follower of my previous posts on my blog, you will be aware that this author is aggressively working on the final leg of (F36) Masters in Technology Management with The Open University (OU) to be completed by February 2020. Beginning in February 2019, I commenced the final module in the Open University's T802- The Research Project. This postgraduate qualification comes on the heels of graduating with an undergraduate, degree: (B62) BSc (Hons) Computing and Information Technology from the OU which I earned in 2016.

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Modules that I have successfully completed up to this point are;

# Welcome to my blog

- [T848](#) – Managing technological innovation.
- [T849](#) – Strategic capabilities for technological innovation.
- [TU812](#) – Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction.
- [TU811](#) – Thinking strategically: Capabilities for technological innovation.

A range of subject choices that have armed this researcher with the knowledge and a range of skills and capabilities to make an informed decision about the use of technology, and how to incorporate innovation as part of, not only in the corporate and governmental organisations, but also in the pursuit of my own hobbies and interests. Moreover, this masters programme is an added boost to the modules studies during my undergraduate studies.

## Disaster management and Open University studies

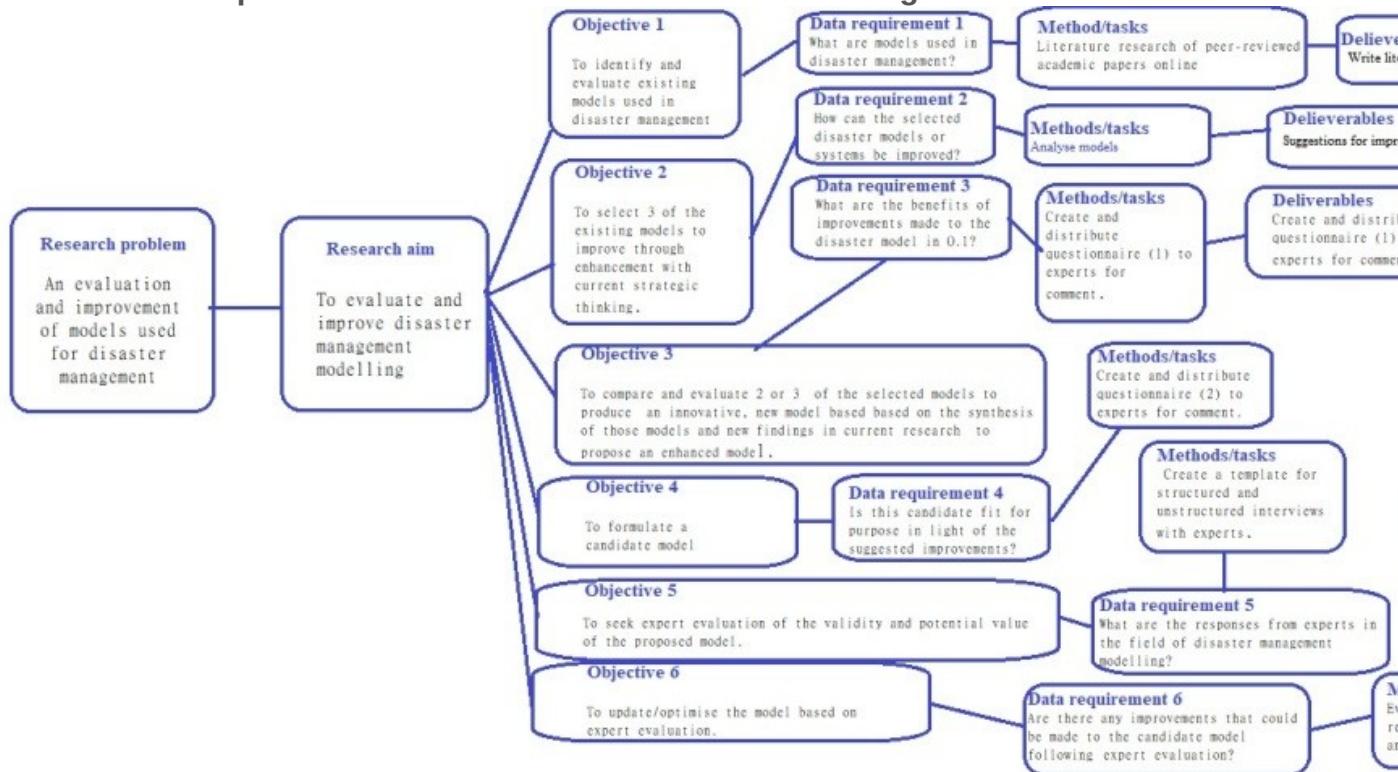
Although I live over 4, 103 miles away from the Caribbean, as providence would have it, the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season would be a turning point in the focus of my OU studies. 2017 was a most brutal year for the Caribbean with two category 5 storms devastating multiple islands and jurisdictions in the Caribbean.

Two major hurricanes ripped through the Caribbean within two weeks apart that year: Hurricane Irma on September 6 which killed over 134 persons and caused catastrophic damage in Barbuda, Saint Barthelemy, Sint Martin, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Cuba and Florida. Two weeks later, September 18, Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane devastated Dominica leaving over 96 persons missing or dead.

TU812 – Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction had begun in October of that year and my determination was now on making some sort of academic contribution to the discussion that followed such widespread devastation in the Caribbean. Although, I was born in the UK, I lived in Dominica between 1972 and 2004 during which time I survived Hurricane David in 1979, so the emotions were very raw. I have a son, and relatives and friends in Dominica, and my early character was formed back then there growing up in the literary circles and later joined the Chronicle as a senior reporter.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## Evaluation of computer-based models used for disaster management



Graphic [ above] depicting the Aim, objectives, methods, tasks and deliverables

After several iterations resulting from discussions with my supervisor, the theme or topic for my dissertation, has been decided that it will be an evaluation and improvement of computer-based, models used for disaster management.

Computer-based models used in disaster management are desktop software simulations of disaster scenarios run on super computers. Government agencies and weather forecasters depend on the output of these simulations to inform clients with data to inform their mitigation and response procedures before and in the aftermath of disasters, and for long-term planning.

The subject of designing models for disaster management is an academic discipline that continues to receive much attention from scholars over the last five years. Media reports suggest that severe weather occurrences are on the increase. Indeed, within the first two months of 2019, several weather-related records have been broken causing loss of life, damage to infrastructure and disruption to the lives of millions of people in every continent. Disasters are a threat to any populated area and could range from hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons, to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis to floods, droughts, landslides and avalanches. Some disasters are seasonal and can be anticipated, such as the annual hurricane or monsoon season.

# Welcome to my blog

Hazards are costly to the economic progress of countries across the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines a natural disaster as a catastrophic act of nature that significantly disrupts the day-to-day pattern of their lives. WHO says that natural disasters also render victims ‘helpless and suffering’ and in need of humanitarian assistance to provide basic necessities: food, clothing and shelter and medical supplies, and in need of ‘protection from unfavourable factors and conditions (World Health Organisation 2019)

Within the last few years, the study of disaster management and the recovery from disasters has continued to intensify. According to a recent UNISDR report, cited in (World Meteorological Organization. 2018), between 1998-2017, “the greatest economic losses from disasters have been the USA, US\$ 944.8 billion; China, US\$492.2 billion; Japan, US\$376.3 billion; India, US\$ 79.5 billion; and Puerto Rico, US\$ 71.7 billion” (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction 2019).

Researchers cited in the literature review of this dissertation, all agree that disaster modelling is necessary if governments are to be able to cope with the preparation and aftermath of the onslaught of natural disasters. The focus of this dissertation, therefore, is to evaluate existing models formulated in recent years with the view of finding any weak areas or gaps that can be evaluated, and suggestions made for their improvements.

**“Models used in disaster management are an effective method of anticipating and taking action when a region is faced with a natural disaster and coping with the aftermath ” – Nojavan.**

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A polite request for your contribution towards the primary research for a dissertation

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Consequently, here I am at stage 3 of the process of producing my dissertation. Both primary and secondary research are crucial components of the research. Below is a sample of the correspondence that I have been circulating soliciting contributions from experts and enterprise users in the field.

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Albert Williams, and I am pursuing a [Masters of Technology](#) with the Open University by 2020. I intend to engage stakeholders like yourself, non-governmental organizations, the media, and regional and international agencies to help me gather data for my chosen area of interest.

Your contact details were obtained from the academic paper, and contact details harvested from the relevant organizations' websites

I am analyzing models used in disaster management with the view of investigating how they can be made more innovative.

Stage 1 of my research, will be led by online survey and email questionnaires.

Stage 2 will be led by submitting a revised candidate model to participants from whom I will solicit feedback which may include field visits, one-to-one telephone interviews or structured and semi-structured questionnaires.

Finally, in stage three, the revised candidate model will be reviewed by you to receive your final recommendations for inclusion in the dissertation.

I would be eternally grateful if you would accept to be a participant in this project

The information data set that I am seeking to build includes a request for information on issues such as:

What is the role played by modeling in disaster management?

What is the nature of disaster models.

The mechanisms for implementation and deployment of Computer-based models.

What is the availability of computer systems to deploy such models?

How significant is the modeling to the overall management of a disaster?

# Welcome to my blog

How much could be gained from improving models?

What is the background of computer-based modeling in disaster management?

Examples of how computer-based modeling is currently used?

What role has modeling played in the past?

What contributions might modeling make to disaster management in the future?

How might improved modeling affect disaster management funding?

How successful has it been?

What weaknesses have been identified?

What improvements are needed?

How might these improvements come about?

All data collected will be stored to the highest ethical standards. As well as acknowledgments and credits will be given for any contribution to the project. Or as you wish, you may remain anonymous.

You may learn more about my project from my [blog](#) or [Facebook](#)

Looking forward to your favorable response.

Regards.

Albert Williams

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

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DAY 91 – 2019 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON – The Dorian effect | August 13, 2019

# Welcome to my blog

We  
are  
now  
in  
the  
peak  
of  
the



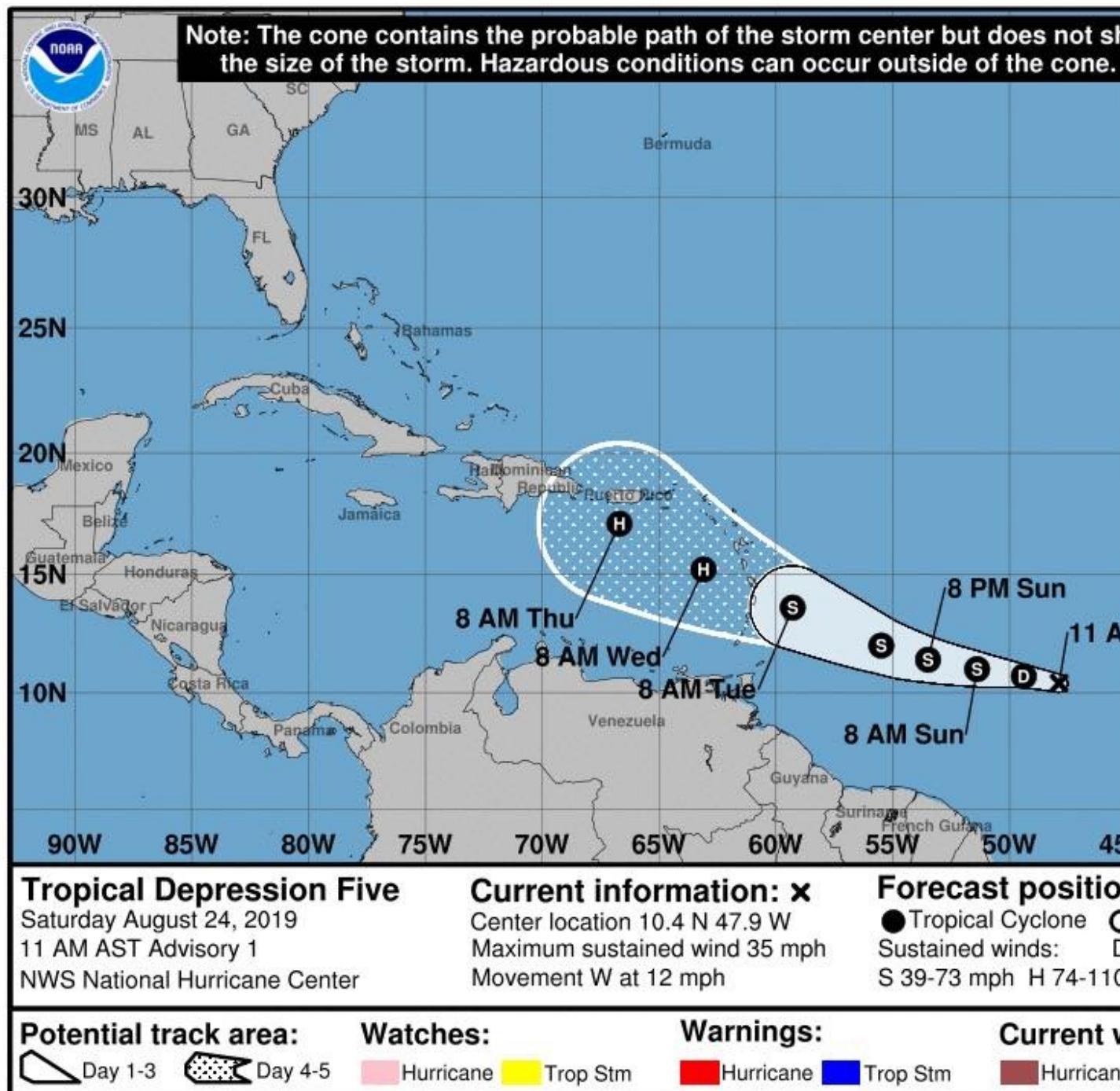
hurricane season

Dorian is now a Category 3 hurricane a major hurricane and is predicted to impact the northern Bahamas where the prime minister has ordered evacuations.

**Yesterday, Dorian impacted the BVI and USVI as a Category 1 hurricane. Earlier on Tuesday, as Dorian crossed over the Lesser Antilles, the then Tropical Storm Dorian, with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph, impacted Barbados, St Lucia and Dominica as well as Martinique and Dutch west Indies.**

Dorian began life as tropical depression 5 on Saturday March 24.

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## Welcome to my blog

**“...EXTREMELY DANGEROUS HURRICANE DORIAN HEADING FOR THE  
NORTHWESTERN BAHAMAS... ...HURRICANE WARNING ISSUED FOR THE  
NORTHWESTERN BAHAMAS...“**

*NWS National Hurricane Center*

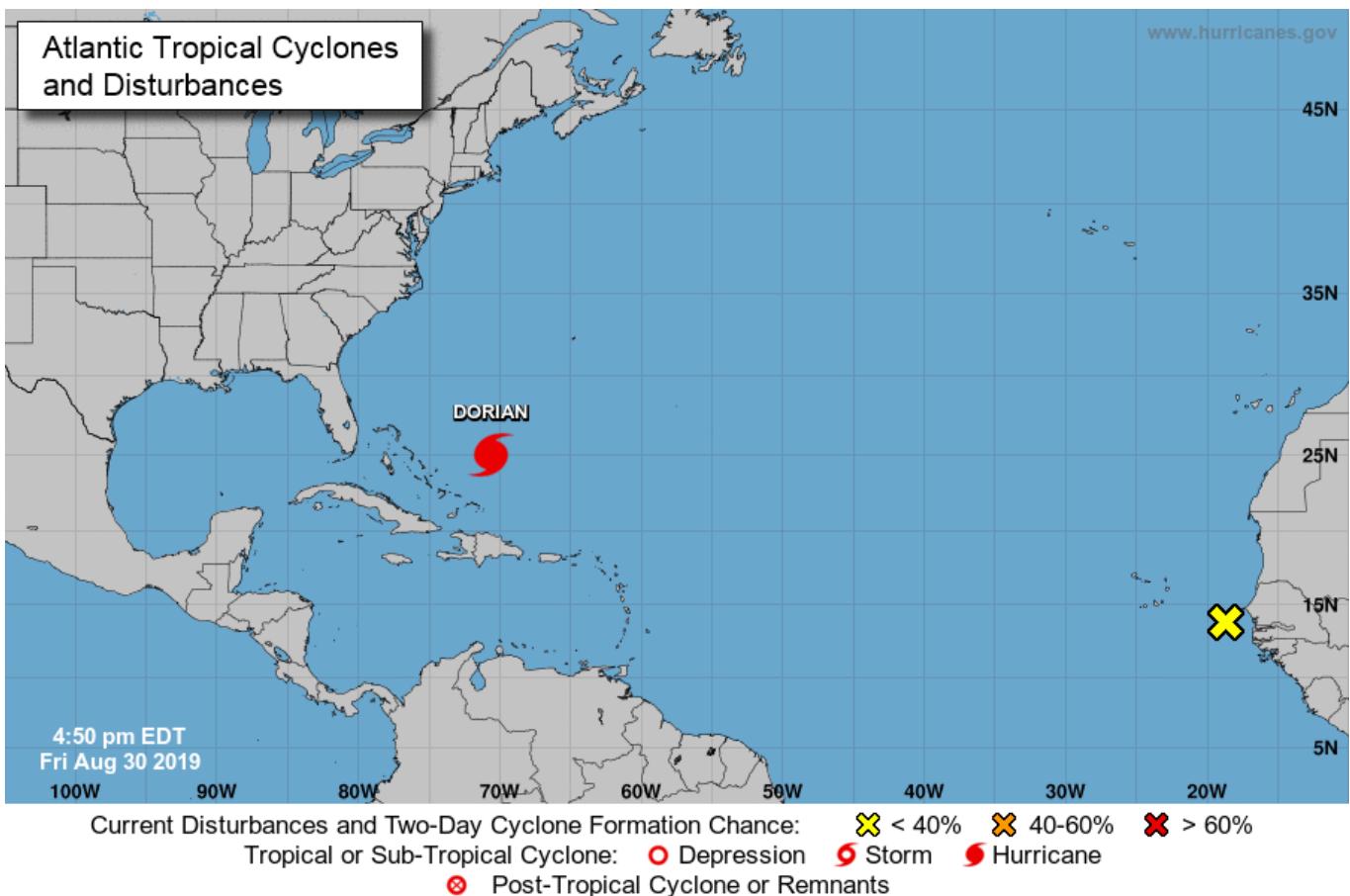
The hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. With late August to early September 10th is considered to be the hurricane season's peak.

So far Dorian is the 4th named-storm of the season. The next name on the list is Fernand.

TO FLORIDA AND THE NORTHWESTERN BAHAMAS...  
...HURRICANE HUNTER PLANE FINDS DORIAN IS NOW A MAJOR HURRICANE...

Meanwhile, according to Forecaster Roberts of the NWS National Hurricane Center, a tropical wave is located about 300 miles east-southeast of the Cabo Verde Islands.

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"Some development of this system is possible early next week over the eastern and central tropical Atlantic as it moves west northwestward at 10 to 15 mph.

1. \*Formation chance through 48 hours...low...near 0 percent.

\*Formation chance through 5 days...low...30 percent."

# Welcome to my blog

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## Day 92-Dorian creeps towards the Northern Bahamas | September 1, 2019



Coastal Watches/Warnings and Forecast Cone for Storm Center (Nhc.noaa.gov. 2019).

Hey! heads up First Responders,  
This is day 92 of the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

Just over a week ago everyone was remarking how quite the season has been so far. And then the media began talking about that we are nearing the peak of the season. Actually, September 10th.

# Welcome to my blog

*“that would allow members of the protective services and employees of utility companies and the ports of entry to immediately resume work following the passage of Tropical Storm Dorian. Barbados Prime Minister, Mia Amor Mottley*

” Then things changed when the National Hurricane Center announced on Saturday, August 24th that tropical depression 5 had formed in the Atlantic. by Tuesday, August 27, Tropical Storm Dorian was baptized, and the Lesser Antilles were put on alert. Particularly, Barbados and St Lucia. Barbados went into lockdown. Dominica initially, declared that no shut down was necessary, did a U-turn when the vulnerability of the country was tested with heavy rain. Barbados PM Mia Mottley, in a post-storm press conference, remarked that this was a dry run for her nation.

## FIRST TROPICAL STORM FOR LESSER ANTILLES

Dorian passed through leaving the windward islands properly soaked and according to the 5-day forecasts was heading for Puerto Rico. Meteorologist remarked how small he was and how he was compact’ blowing 50 mph winds.

The Government of Barbados has just approved “operational clearance”

Then he shifted his course. I suspect this hurricane is dancer, and we can expect more turns and twists, here what one SURVIVOR said on YOUTUBE, on Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

“Initially Tropical Storm Dorian was forecasted to be well south of the Virgin Islands. Instead, overnight it took a dramatic northerly turn and hit St. Thomas directly at 2pm.”

Actually, the eye of Hurricane Dorian now a category 1 sat on top of the USVI island of St Thomas. State of emergencies were declared by both the governors of the BVI and the USVI and social media evidenced that that part of the Caribbean region was impacted by torrential rain.

Today August 31, The Northern Bahamas are under a Hurricane Warning. Yes, but most likely all interests in that part of the region will no doubt face hours of both hurricane and tropical force weather and very disturbed further afield.

## Looking Ahead

Hurricane Dorian now a Category 4 monster, and a major headache for the authorities in Florida and the Carolinas Models suggest that ‘Dorian’ continues to strengthen and are expecting landfall somewhere along the south USA between Florida and Carolina late Monday early Tuesday.

That little pussy cat is now a raging tiger. I call it –

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‘THE DORIAN EFFECT’

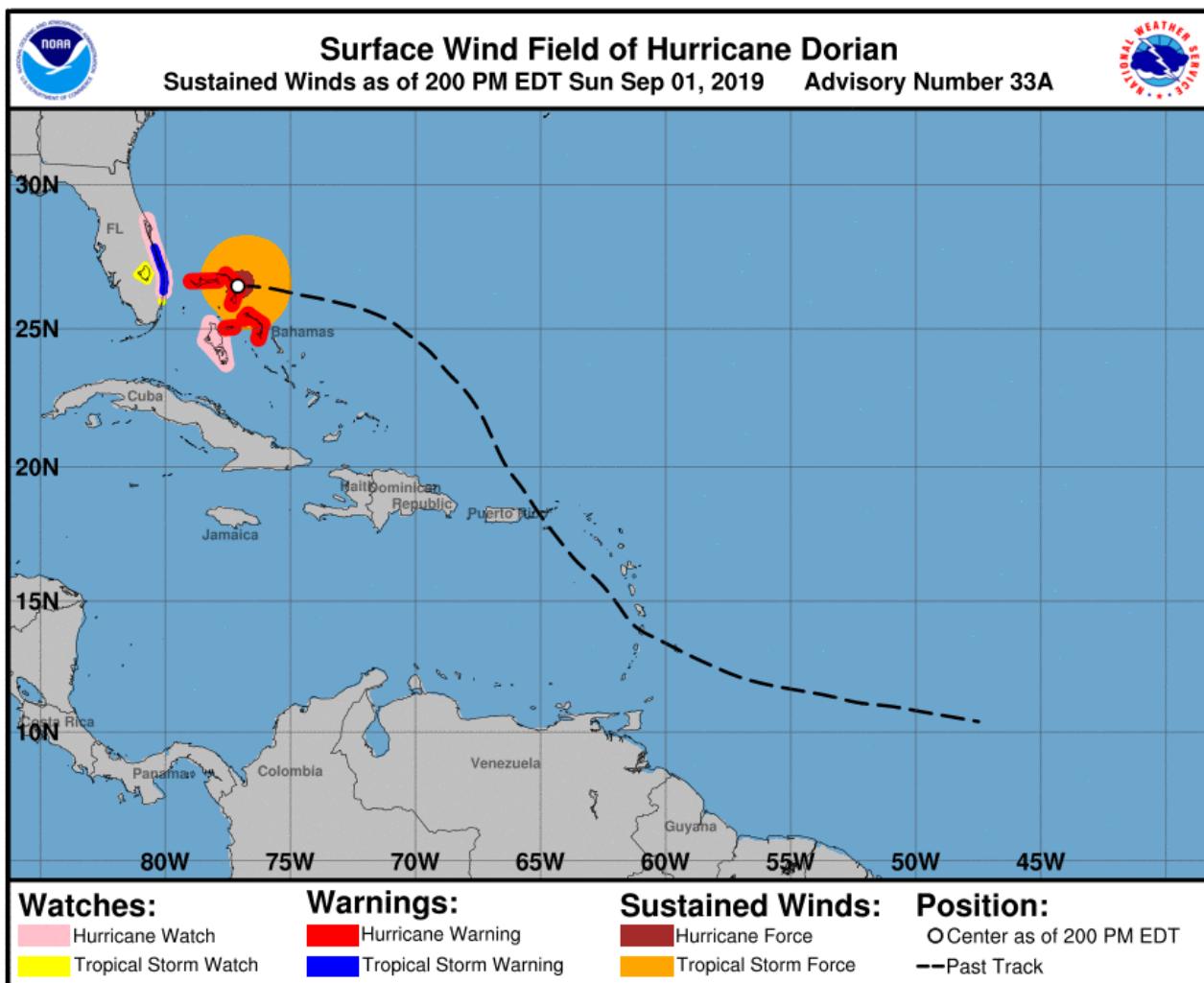
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# CATASTROPHIC DORIAN HAS LANDED ON CENTRAL ABACO WITH DEVASTATING 185 MPH MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS |

September 1, 2019



This graphic shows the areas potentially being affected by the sustained winds of tropical storm force (in orange) and hurricane force (in red). Dorian, Cat 5 storm | maximum sustain winds of 185mph | Higher gusts of 229 mph ([National Hurricane Center](#))

Hurricane Dorian is the first major hurricane of the present Atlantic hurricane season. As 2019 continues to be a phenomenal year with weather records being broken. It's day 93 of the 2019

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Atlantic Hurricane Season, and today sees, Hurricane Dorian, making landfall on Central Abaco in Northern Bahamas.

In it's 2pm *Hurricane Dorian Intermediate Advisory*, the National Hurricane Center NHC says that the " eye of catastrophic Hurricane Dorian is over the Abacos Islands in the Bahamas and is heading for Grand Bahama.

According to the release, 'Dorian' is packing maximum sustained winds of 185 mph (298 km/h). Hurricane-force winds extend from the center for 45 miles (75km) and tropical -storm-force winds extend a further 140 miles (220km)

## EVACUATION ORDERS

As 'Dorian' approached the Bahamas, the prime minister of the Commonwealth of Bahamas, Dr Hubert Minnis made several passionate appeals for residents and citizens living in low-lying areas in the North Bahamas to evacuate the area to protect life.

## HISTORIC and CATASTROPHIC

The Washington Post of 'Dorian' 'says, that it is the 2nd-strongest on record in the Atlantic. 'Dorian' it said is in the league of the likes of Hurricane Allen of 1990.

Dorian on its present movement is expected to dwindle some 48 hours over the Bahamas. Besides catastrophic winds, the system is expected to dump some 12 to 24 inches of rain in Northwestern Bahamas and 15 inches in Central Bahamas. Life-threatening surge of 18 – 23 feet above normal tide levels and higher destructive waves will cause EXTREME DESTRUCTION IN THE AFFECTED AREAS according to the NHC.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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Welcome to my blog

## António Guterres renews calls for increased access to concessionary finance for middle-income countries | September 16, 2019



United Nations, Secretary-General, António Guterres surveys the devastation left by Hurricane Dorian during a two-day visit to the Bahamas last week (CREDIT: Patrick Hanna/BIS)

United Nations, Secretary-General, António Guterres has renewed calls for middle-income countries to be given access to grants and concessionary loans for reconstruction and for the capacity to increase the resilience of those countries to future disasters.

He was at the time speaking at a joint-press briefing held at the Office of the Prime minister in Nassau, New Providence, in The Bahamas last Friday ahead of his tour of devastated areas as part of his two-day visit. Two weeks ago, from September 1 – 3, Catastrophic, Hurricane Dorian unleashed unrelenting cyclonic winds of 185 mph and life threatening, sea surge in the northwestern parts of the Bahamas, with the islands of the Abacos and Grand Bahama suffering the brunt of the hurricane's fury. The county's disaster agency, NEMA-Bahamas that is leading

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

the search/rescue and recovery efforts with partnering international and regional agencies say that at least 50 persons were killed with 1300 declared missing.

“In relation to islands of the Caribbean, one thing is clear— climate-change is already here...it is happening with devastating impacts. And so it is absolutely essential to have a very relevant investment in resilience and adaptation”

***United Nations, Secretary-General, António Guterres***

The UN Chief, expressed the solidarity of the international body and the international community with the government and people of The Bahamas, and sympathized with all those victims that either lost their lives or property as a result of the catastrophic Hurricane Dorian, “I bring our deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones. And our sympathies to many of those that have lost their homes and communities,” he said in his opening remarks.

He praised the government and people of the Bahamas for their bravery during the unrelenting hurricane ” the courage and commitment of Bahamians during very difficult times is inspiring,” he said, “adding, “I want to express my very deep appreciation for the very quick and effective response that the government was able to mobilize and coordinate, and for the impressive support from so many entities in the international community expressing their solidarity with the people of the Bahamas, and in particular from other Caribbean islands, namely other islands that they themselves have been victims of similar situations in the past.”

### New era of climate crisis

Guterres used the opportunity to paint the picture in regard to the changing weather patterns impacting, most of all, the least developed countries. He said, ” In our new era of climate crisis, hurricanes and storms are turbo-charged. They happen with greater intensity and frequency a direct result of warmer oceans,” he summarized, adding ” I recently visited Mozambique where I saw the horrendous devastation caused by Cyclone Idai. Science is telling us this is just the start. Without urgent action climate disruption is only going to get worse.” He referenced that July had been the hottest month ever and that the period 2015 to 2019 is ‘on track’ to be the hottest five years since climate records began to be recorded and stated that every week somewhere in the world there is news of disruption and devastation caused by climate change.

### Middle-income countries

“There is still an idea that many in the international community that middle-income countries should not have access to concessionary finance to grants or concessionary loans,” UN Chief remarked, ” adding, ” The truth is that even if you are a middle-income country, if you have external shocks with an impact as dramatic as the ones I’ve seen in Dominica just two years ago

## Welcome to my blog

or today in meaningful parts of the Bahamas, the fact that you are a middle-income country does doesn't allow you to sort the problem alone, " he said.

Guterres told his audience that it is “When you have external shocks of this dimension it is absolutely essential to create an international consensus that concessionary financing need to be put at the disposal of countries for the reconstruction and for the capacity through that reconstruction increasing their resilience of the society, of the communities of the countries to future disaster which inevitably will come.”

### Reference

Facebook.com. (2019). *Log in or sign up to view*. [online] Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/znsnewsofficial/videos/545712969302753/UzpfSTEwMDAxMDA4NTU1ODkyMzo5ODA4NjMyNDg5MjY1MTg/> [Accessed 16 Sep. 2019].

ALBERT WILLIAMS

## Day 7: Where do we go from here? FLIGHT or FIGHT | September 25, 2019



Scene of devastation in Roseau, September 19, 2017 (Credit: Unknown)

Originally published as a [Facebook note](#) on September 25, 2017

As we contemplate the future post-HURRICANE MARIA, if we are to step into the future with confidence, we should learn the LESSONS from the past. In some respects, traumatic experiences such as weathering a natural disaster on the scale of which Dominican nationals and residents have experienced can leave you feeling hopeless and uncertain of the future few of my insights into how we can benefit and learn from this unwelcome event that has turned the lives of all and sundry upside down, and caused great emotional pain to loved ones, at home and abroad. Hurricane Maria was the 13th named hurricane in the Atlantic tropical and subtropical region for the 2017 season. (Old Farmer's Almanac. 2017) The hurricane season runs roughly from June 1st to November 30 each year (En.wikipedia.org 2017). Beginning early Monday evening, of September 18th , Dominica, also known as The Nature Isle, endured the brutal onslaught of Hurricane Maria, that carried winds in excess of 160-miles-per-hour, with higher gusts. Tropical force winds extended 230 miles from the diameter, in every direction. Moreover, a spiral band of 'heavy thunderstorms' with a diameter of 40 miles extended from the hurricane's eye. The eye was estimated to be about 9 miles in diameter. (Weather Underground. 2017)Because the storm made landfall at night, and did not leave the island until later the following day, one could say that the storm affected the island over two calendar days.

" I call upon those with substantial military capacities to lend us the rescue and rebuilding equipment that may be standing idle waiting for a war; Let Dominica today be that war. ....because currently, our landscape reflects a zone of war."

# Welcome to my blog

Prime Minister Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM HURRICANE DAVID

In 1979 when Hurricane David devastated the island, I was only 16 years old. When the tempestuous storm passed and I emerged from what was left of our home on Kennedy Avenue, Roseau, my first thoughts were that Dominica would never be the same again. I won't go into the graphic details of what a category 5 hurricane can do. Because, YOU are veteran. a hurricane survivor. One who lived to tell the story! 38 years later, after getting over that overwhelming shock, and sorrow of hearing the plight of our relatives and loved ones back home. It suddenly dawned on me how the days following the disaster, turned into weeks. Weeks turned in to months. Months into years and finally decades. Until the mountains were dressed in their resplendent finery, the tropical environment was tidy, and the memory of that experience truly became history. All that remained to remind us of David was a school bus lying crushed under a huge African Bao Boa (Adansonia digitata) tree in the Botanic Gardens.

## POLITICAL ELECTIONS

Incidentally, when David struck in 1979, Dominica was barely one year as an independent nation. The country severed ties with the United Kingdom to become the world's newest nation on November 3rd, 1978 under the premiership of Patrick John. However, political unrest, led to mass demonstrations and the eventual ousting of the John government in a popular uprising on May 29th that year. (Biography.jrank.org. 2017) Oliver Seraphin , who was a member of the Committee for National Salvation, was 'invited to lead an interim government to prepare the way for full elections in 6 months. (The Commonwealth 2017) Then hurricane David struck! Despite the hurricane, and all the devastation it caused, Dominicans were exercising their democratic right, and overwhelmingly voted The Freedom Party, led by Dominica's first female Prime Minister,Dame Mary Eugenia Charles on July 1980, less than one year after the hurricane. (Biography.jrank.org. 2017) In 2003, while I was a reporter with the Chronicle, Seraphin would tell me that I was the only journalist that had interviewed him about his experience of the passage of Hurricane David and the aftermath under his watch.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season has been particularly brutal this year. There are 25 nations in the Caribbean archipelago (TravelRepublic Blog. 2016) Of which nearly half of them have been devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Others fared better suffering only mild damage by inclement weather this hurricane season. The cost of damages to infrastructure and livelihoods, of all islands north of Dominica is huge. Experts estimate that the cost of destruction by Hurricane Irma by itself, is a staggering £7.6billion (US\$10 billion) (BBC News. 2017) Prime Minister Skerrit, Went to the United Nations last Friday. There he presented a

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

moving and eye-opening speech at the 72nd Session of General Assembly highlighting the avoidable plight of victims of severe hurricanes attributed to climate change on developing nations like ours. “ I come to you straight from the front line of the war on climate change, “ he charged in his opening salvo. The Prime Minister used the analogy throughout his speech of Dominica being a battered and war-weary nation. Determined to fight against the enemy. He said, “ With physical and emotional difficulty I have left my bleeding nation to be with you here today because these are the moments for which the United Nations exists! “Dr Skerrit took the opportunity to offer his condolences on behalf of the Dominican people to sister islanders who had suffered recent ravages by hurricane Irma less than two weeks prior to Dominica,” To our brothers and sisters in Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Cuba, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos islands, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic and also to those who have suffered losses in our host country, the United States – in Texas and Florida,” He remarked. More importantly, he pointed out that these natural disasters were the result of global warming that is causing the seas and oceans to warm. “Mr. President, he warned, “ to deny climate change is to procrastinate while the earth sinks; it is to deny a truth we have just lived!” he said, adding, “ I call upon those with substantial military capacities to lend us the rescue and rebuilding equipment that may be standing idle waiting for a war; Let Dominica today be that war. ....because currently, our landscape reflects a zone of war.

(“Facebook.com. 2017)

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

This morning in a 9am *Security Update for Dominica* press briefing at the Press Room at the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr Skerrit urged his countrymen for patience and understanding as the government puts in place the necessary mechanisms and procedures to bring much-needed humanitarian relief to the people. He concluded his message with the hopeful clarion call to his audience.“ I just want all of us to understand to be united in purpose, “ he urged, adding, “Do what you can in the circumstances, and the authorities will get to you at the appropriate time. So when we get to you you will already be mobilised doing things for yourself and the rest of us.”

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Hurricane David's impact on Dominica.A description of activities related to Hurricane David and the extent of its impact on Dominica and its residents between Tuesday, August 28, and Sunday September 2, given below:

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Welcome to my blog

# Exploring our Caribbean hurricane folklore |

## October 8, 2019



[Pictured] Category – 5, Hurricane Dorian makes landfall on the Commonwealth of The Bahamas- September 1, 2019  
(Credits: National Hurricane Center)

The Caribbean is known for its diverse and colorful culture and breathtaking landscapes and its myths, tales and lived experiences of its hurricane folklore. The impacts of deadly hurricanes have recently come into sharp focus with an ever-increasingly violent hurricane season from 2017 to 2019. But the Caribbean is no stranger to hurricanes. Hurricanes, in the Caribbean, can be expected to form anywhere in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of West Africa, the Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico between June 1 and November 30 during what is called the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

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The Caribbean's familiarity with severe tropical storms, is a phenomenon that is shared by many island states and continents that border on either the Atlantic or the Pacific ocean.

"The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th, and the Eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15th to November 30th. The Atlantic basin includes the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. The Eastern Pacific basin extends to 140°W."

*Nhc.noaa.gov. (2019)*

In May of this year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center released its outlook forecast for the 2019 Atlantic hurricane Season. a near-normal season was predicted citing a 40 percent chance of near-normal season, a 30 percent of an above-normal season and a 30 percent of a below-normal hurricane season

The prediction Center further suggested that an average of 9 – 16 named storms was possible, of which 4- 8 could be come hurricane with 2 – 4 of those becoming major hurricanes.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is the measurement used to determine estimated potential property damage. The scale's rating runs from 1 – 5 as shown in the table below with corresponding wind speeds and damage expected at landfall.

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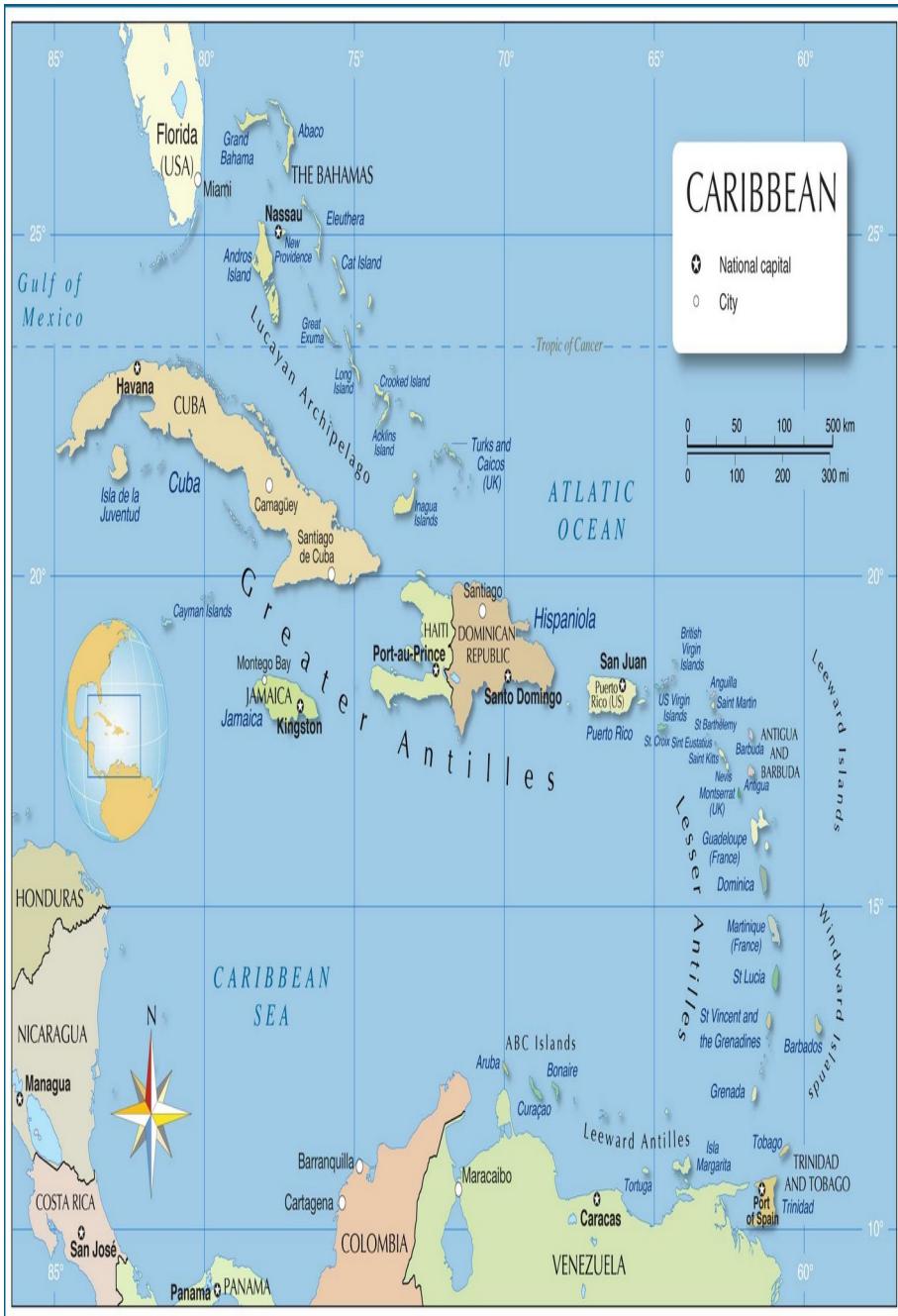
Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Damage at Landfall
1	74-95	Minimal
2	96-110	Extensive
3	111-129	Devastating
4	130-156	Catastrophic
5	157+	Catastrophic

Myescambia.com. (2019)

### The hurricane islands

Before I go any further in my musings over the Caribbean folklore, let us be clear that tropical storms are known as Cyclones when they are formed over the waters of the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, while they are known as typhoons over the NorthWest Pacific Ocean and **Hurricanes** form over the North Atlantic Ocean and Northeast Pacific. for the purposes of this post, we are looking the growing body of history, myth and legend as occasioned by the yearly visits by these dangerous, severe and in many cases causes of catastrophic natural disaster.

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## Political Map of the Caribbean.

nationsonline.org, k. (2019)

Look at the the political map of the [Caribbean](#) above, including the [United states](#) coast line of which only South Florida is shown here and [Central and South American](#) countries of Venezuela , Columbia, costa Rica and Honduras. Particularly in the Caribbean, each country or island will have either its official records dating back to the plantation and european conquest era, or what has been retained by word- of-mouth by way of oral tradition. For us in the Caribbean, we don't have to rely on the historical record or word-of-mouth. In the last three (3) years alone this region has had a rude awakening of the hazards of hurricanes and the

# Welcome to my blog

potential impact they may have on any country that they make landfall. Here I am referring to the 2017, 2018, 2019 hurricane seasons, that have left large swaths of the Caribbean facing years rebuilding after being decimated by the Atlantic storms.

- **2017 – Hurricanes Irma and Maria**
- **2018 – Hurricane Michael**
- **2019 – Hurricane Dorian**

Tropical Weather Outlook

To wind up this instalment, I will share an extract from the Tropical Weather Discussion from the NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL at 7:14 AM EDT. Tue Oct 8 2019.

**An eastern Caribbean tropical wave extends its axis along 66W from 21N southward, moving W at 15-20 kt. Scattered moderate convection prevails from 10N-18N between 61W-72W, including over the Windward Islands**

CARIBBEAN SEA...

See section above for details on two tropical waves over the Caribbean Sea.

An elongated surface trough extends from Cancun Mexico to Ft. Myers Florida. Scattered showers and isolated tstorms are seen over the Yucatan Channel. Upper-level diffluence is enhancing scattered moderate to strong convection over the western Gulf of Honduras from 16N-18N between 86W-89W. Isolated moderate convection is from eastern and central Cuba to the Cayman Islands to NE Honduras. The ASCAT pass from late Monday evening shows fresh trades across the eastern and central Caribbean from 11.5N-18N between 60W-77W.

The tropical wave along 77W will reach Central America on Wed. The tropical wave along 66W will move south of the Greater Antilles Wed and Thu. Winds over the S central Caribbean will be locally

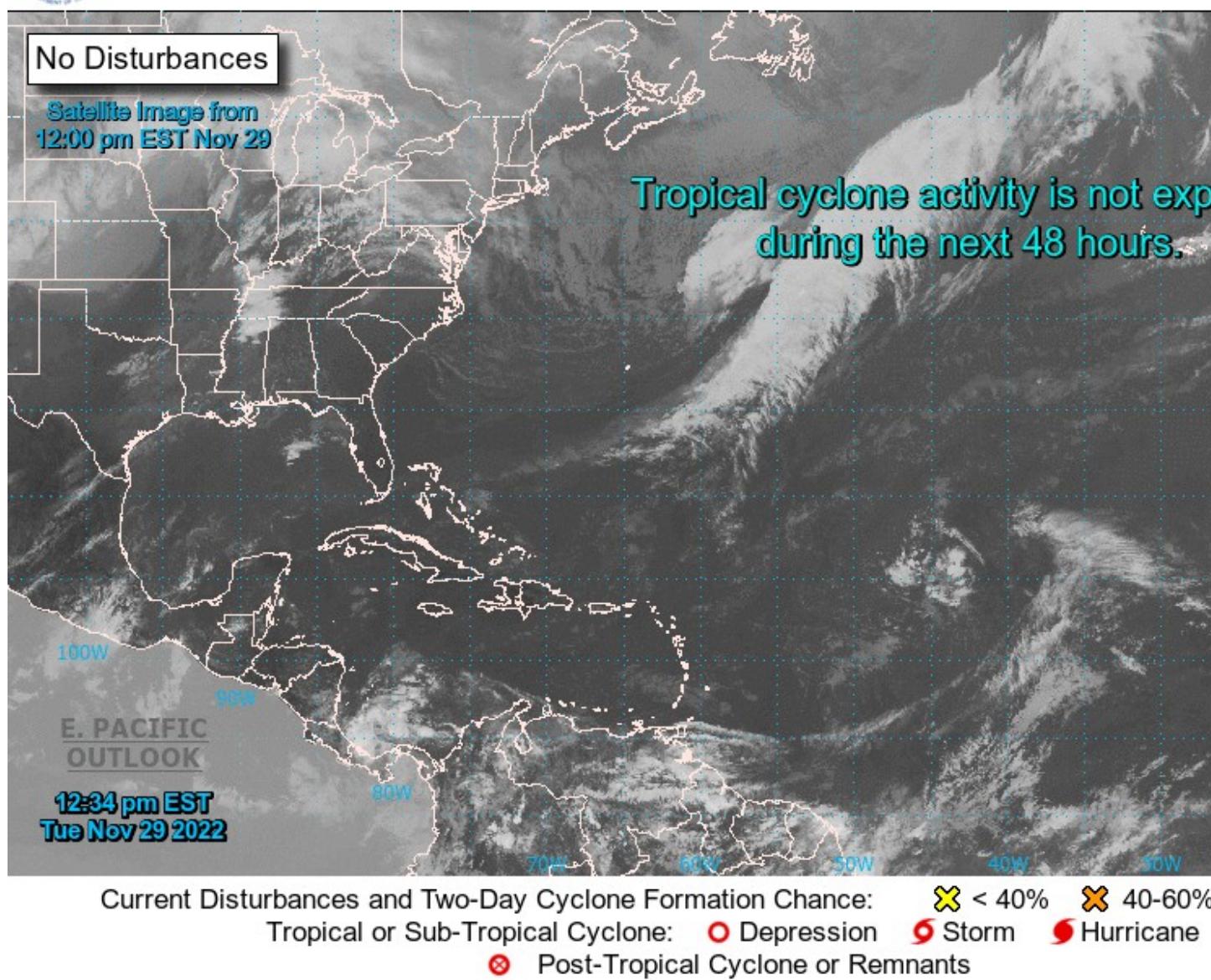
# ALBERT WILLIAMS

strong through Wed. Otherwise, moderate to fresh trades will generally prevail across much of the region for the next several days. Large N swell will prevail east of the Lesser Antilles today and tonight before gradually subsiding for the latter half of the week.



## Two-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



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## DLP DECLARES ITS POLITICAL MANIFESTO

### TONIGHT | November 14, 2019



PM Skerrit addressing the [DLP Southern Zonal Meeting](#) last night.

The Dominican electorate will this evening have an opportunity to learn about the official policies and plans that the incumbent, Dominica Labour Party (DLP) is offering to the voters should the party be returned to office following the outcome of the up-coming, historic, [General Elections](#), scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2019.

A huge turn out from party members, well-wishers, supporters and undecided voters are expected to converge on the Mahaut constituency to hear from the DLP Political Leader and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Hon. Dr [Roosevelt Skerrit](#) (47) and his team of candidates in a political rally to be held at the Mahaut Playing Field tonight, Thursday, from 7pm.

In October, Dr Skerrit announced that political elections would be held in Dominica within 100 days. On November 5, during his address at a DLP event dubbed, '[LABOUR GOT TALENT](#)', the Prime Minister, wearing the now famous 'pink shoes' ended days of speculation when he announced that General Elections WILL be held in Dominica on Friday, December 6, 2019.

# Welcome to my blog

*“The year 2020,” he said, “must be the year in which Dominicans resolve to keep Dominica at the fore of their thoughts and actions. We must be guided first and foremost by what is best for the nature Isle. Even though the cards are stacked against the progress and success of small island developing states, such as ours, Dominica has been succeeding under Labour. And with Labour, Dominica will continue to succeed,”* he told his followers.

## Dominica Labour Party resurgence

We must kick off the new year as a focused and united county, committed to carving out our place in history: Intent on making our mark on the world; Determined to create a niche for ourselves in the fiercely, competitive Global environment.

Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit

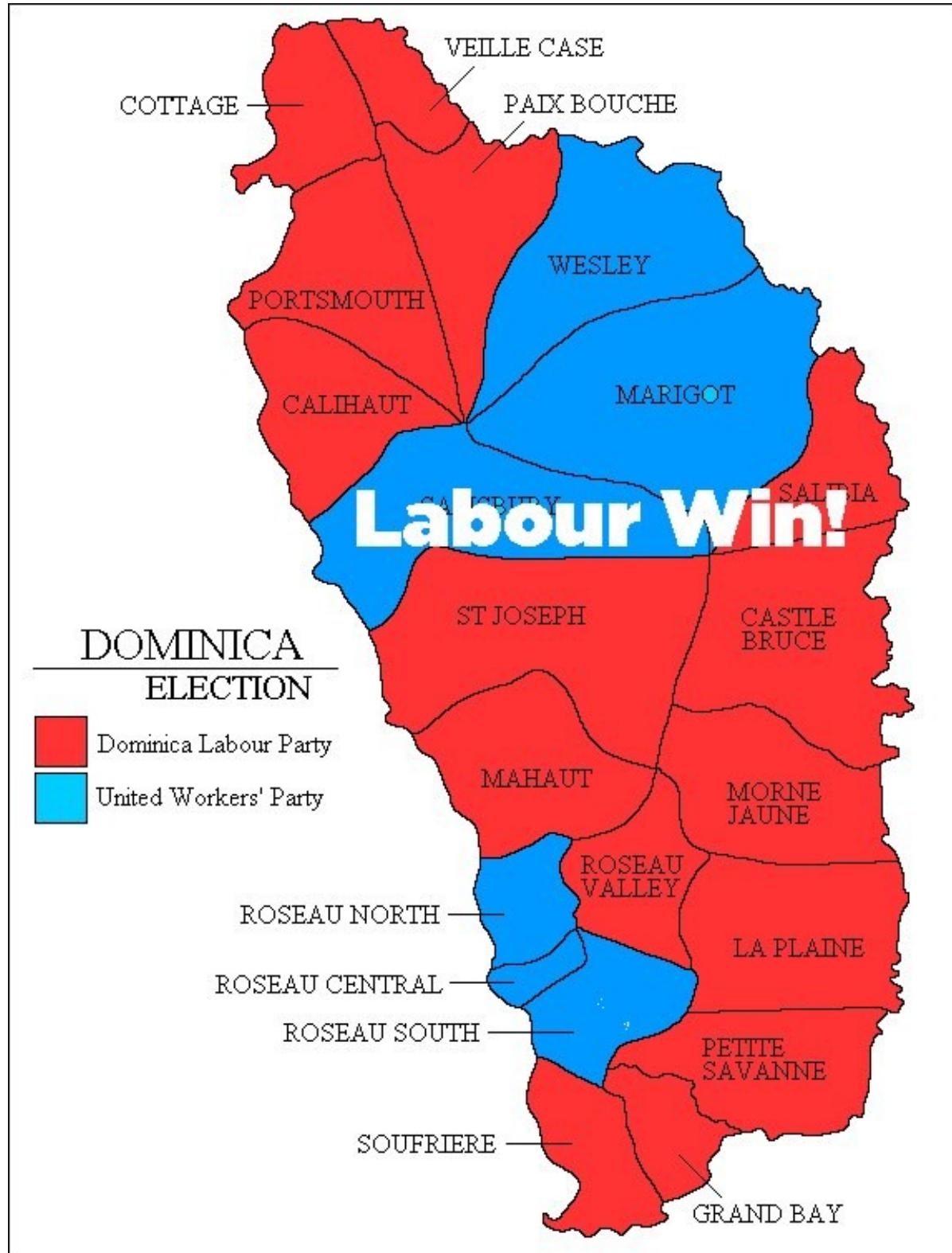
Prime Minister Skerrit, accepted the mantle of leadership in 2004 at age of 31, becoming the youngest national leader in the Southern hemisphere following the death of his predecessor, the late Pierre Charles. The Dominica Labour Party was founded in 1955, and was responsible for taking the country into full political independence on November 3rd, 1978, under the premiership of Patrick John, ending its 11-year, associated statehood status, which was proceeded by almost 200 years of British colonial rule.

However, social unrest and political disturbances ended with Patrick John being forced out of office in a culmination of events on May 29, 1979. The DLP would remain in Opposition through 1980 to 1995 during the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) led by Mary Eugenia Charles, who lost to the United Workers Party (UWP) in 1995.

In 2000, the DLP, led by former black activist, Roosie Douglas entered into a coalition with the DFP snatching 10 of the 21 seats. Together with the 2 seats of the DFP the coalition, the first of its kind in recent Dominican politics, edged out the UWP who gained a total of 9 seats.

Since Prime Minister Skerrit assumed office in 2004, he has led the DLP to victory at the polls on three successive elections viz. 2005, 2009 and 2014.

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[2014 General Election results](#)

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIES

# Welcome to my blog

The Dominica Labour Party officially launched its electoral campaign back in February at a Special Delegates Conference at Londonderry in Marigot where the political leader announced that 13 newcomers would join his team of candidates.

1. Political Leader – [Roosevelt Skerrit](#) in Vieille Case
2. Deputy Leader – [Reginald Austrie](#) in Cottage
3. [Ian Douglas](#) – Portsmouth
4. [Roselyn Paul](#) – Paix Bouche
5. [Catherine Daniel](#) – Colihaut
6. [Shanks Espirit](#) – Salisbury
7. [Rayburn Blackmoore](#) – Mahaut
8. [Denise Charles](#) – Soufriere
9. [Joseph Isaac](#) – Roseau North
10. [Edward Registe](#) – Grand Bay
11. [Greta Roberts](#) – Grandfond
12. Anicka Charles – Marigot
13. [Cozier Frederick](#) – Salybia
14. [Octavia Alfred](#) – Castle Bruce
15. [Kent Edwards](#) – Laplaine
16. Marva Williams – Petite Savanne
17. [Chekira Lockhart Hypolite](#) – Roseau South
18. [Adis King](#) – St Joseph
19. [Melissa Ponponne Skerrit](#) – Roseau Central
20. Dr [Irving McIntyre](#) – Roseau Valley
21. [Fidel Grant](#) – Wesley

## [Roosevelt Skerrit](#)

However, Anicka Charles withdrew her interest the following day. The story was picked up by St. Lucia News Online that quoted the prime minister as saying, “Charles withdrew based on a “salacious, vicious and downright nasty campaign”. Recently, Gregory “Karessah” Riviere has been launched as the DLP’s contender for the Marigot constituency. In addition, Health Minister, and Member of Parliament for the Petite Savanne Constituency, Dr Kenneth Darroux would also subsequently return to replace Marva Williams amid reports that she came under pressure to forego her candidacy in favour of Dr. Darroux who has served as member of parliament for that constituency since 2014 during which time tropical storm [Erika](#) devastated the village of Petite Savanne under his watch. another new comer to the line up is former MP for Roseau Central, Joseph Isaac who won the seat in the 2014 election

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

but resigned from the UWP in April and consequently accepted to work with the DLP as Minister of the Environment, Climate Resilience, Disaster Management and Urban Renewal.

## Nomination Day – November 19

Nomination Day is November 19, and the DLP campaign machinery is working in high gear. All 21 candidates have been launched of which 8 are female. The party has been criss-crossing The State holding candidate town hall meetings and endorsements. Prime Minister Skerrit and his campaign team have also visited Dominican diaspora in several Caribbean neighbours and beyond.

November 2 the government officially opened the newly-constructed 5-star, [Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski Dominica](#) launching Dominica into the stratosphere as 5-star luxury holiday destination. On Saturday, November 9, the DLP launched what it called the ‘Campaign Lift Off & Launch of Mrs. Melissa Skerrit’ as the party’s contender for the Roseau Central seat. Mrs Skerrit, the wife of the sitting prime minister, is expected to win the Roseau Central seat. The government has also been holding several Presentations of Housing Initiatives meetings with residents around the country where citizens are brought up to date on the government’s house revolution project that aims to build 5000 climate resilient home in 5 years. The project which is funded by the Citizen By Investment (CBI) programme in collaboration with Montreal Management Consultants a Government Authorized Agent of the government for the CBI programme a thousand of which would have been built by the end of this year. Scores of Dominicans have also received the keys to these new homes and former villagers of Petite Sanne have also since moved in to their new homes.

Last night PM Skerrit addressed several Zonal Meetings. Tonight’s manifesto launching is expected to draw huge national interest as the party appeals to the electorate to get on board with its vision to transform Dominica, post-hurricane [Maria](#), into the first climate Resilient country in the world in its bid to secure a 5th consecutive term.

Elections in Dominica have been taking place since 1832.

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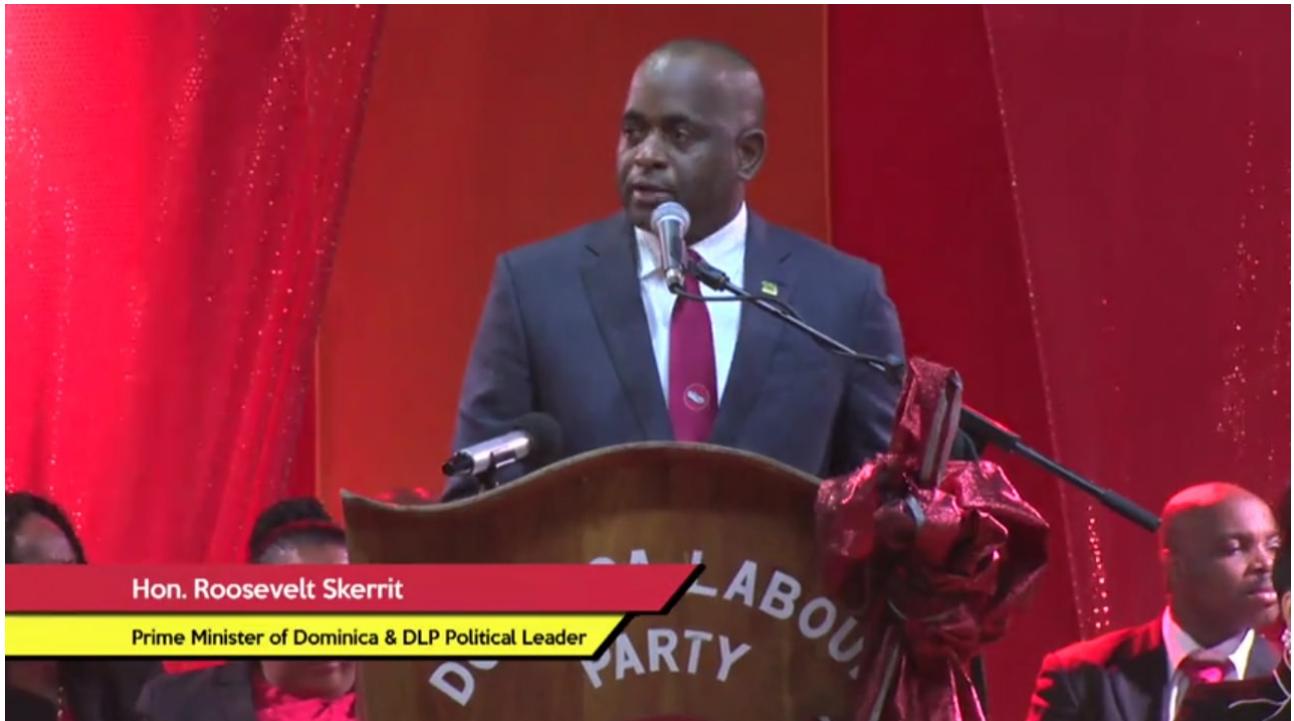
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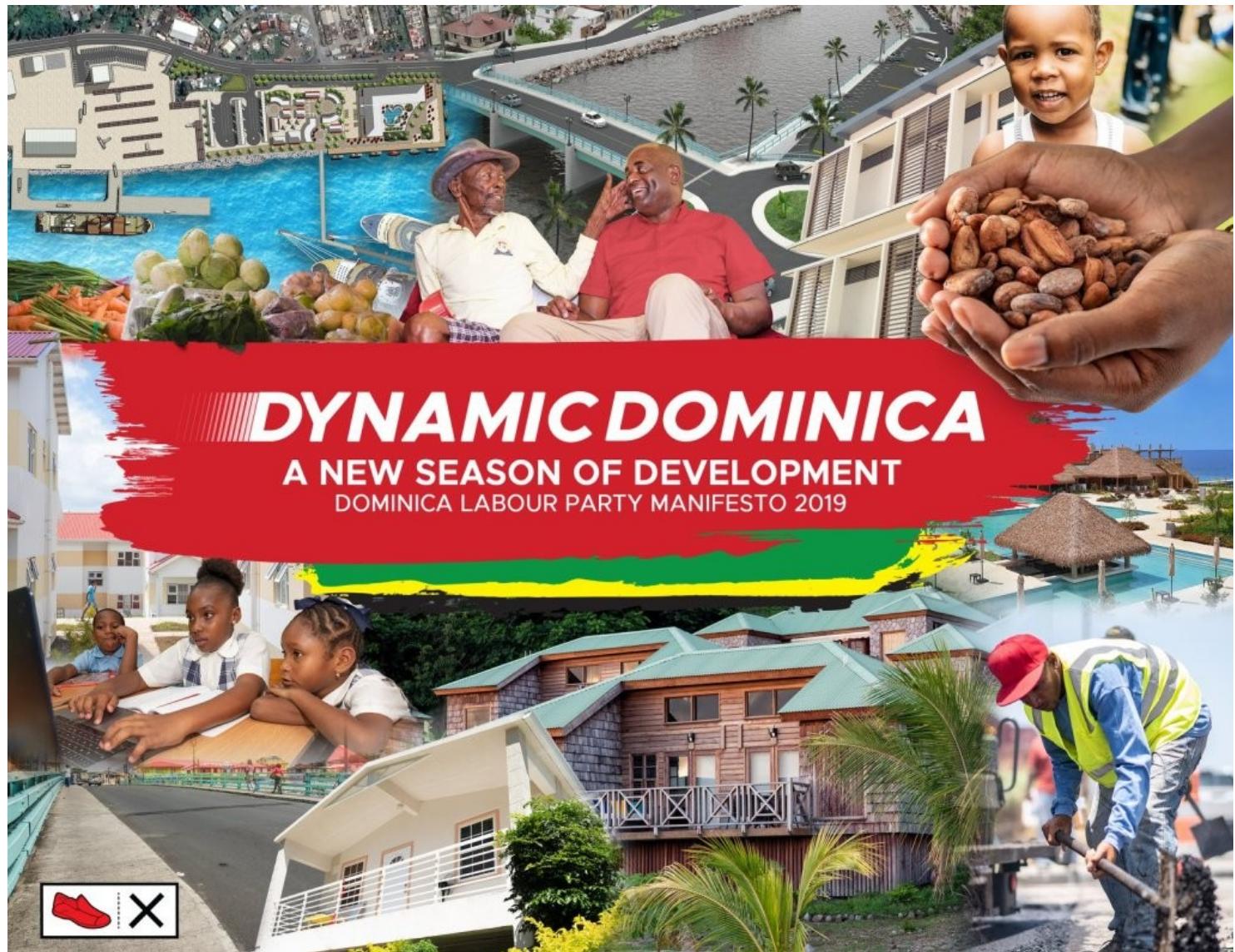
## DLP LAUNCHES DYNAMIC DOMINICA MANIFESTO | November 15, 2019



With the December 6 date, for the holding of General Elections in Dominica less than three weeks away, the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) has offered a manifesto that promises a DYNAMIC DOMINICA.

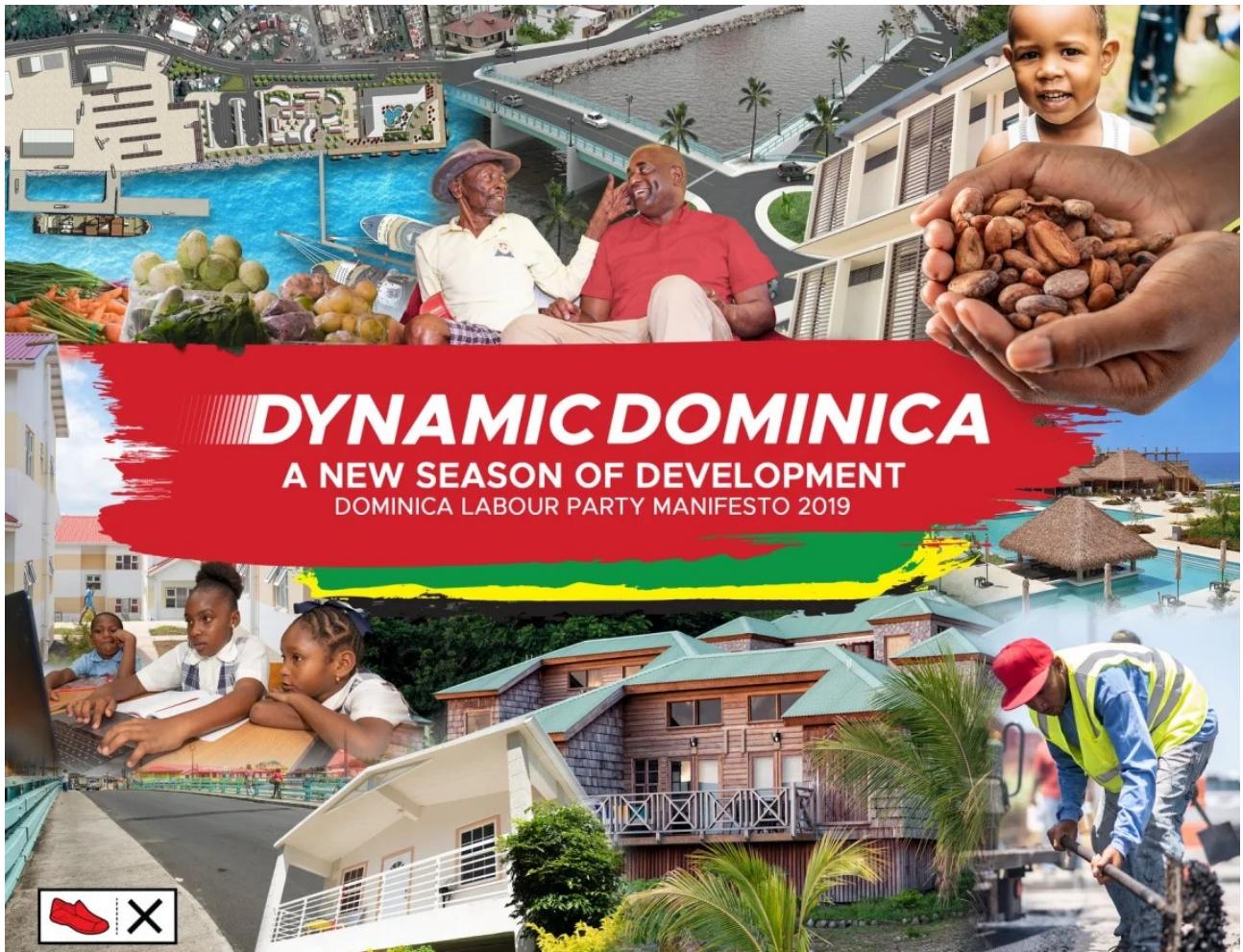
"The new dynamic Dominica is coming," the DLP Political Leader, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit told a massive crowd as Dominica's oldest political party launched its 2019 manifesto at Mahaut last night.

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## DLP CAMPAIGN TRAIN GOES TO BATACA AND PORTSMOUTH SUNDAY | November 17, 2019



Following on the heels of another successful political event last night, the lead contender for the 2019 General Elections carded for December 6, the oldest and most experienced, Dominica Labour Party (DLP) will split its campaign train in to two directions today.

## Welcome to my blog

The announcement was made last night by Master -of-Ceremony, Edward Registe, at the DLP National Youth Rally at the Bath Estate Playing Field last night. The theme of the event was the ‘Launching of DLP Youth Agenda’. and was used as a platform for the DLP electoral team to explain what the party proposes in its recently, launched Dynamic Dominica, 2019 manifesto at Mahaut on Friday.

Registe who is also the Dominica Labour Party’s choice to run for the Grand Bay seat, told the SEA OF RED that the Labour tsunami would from the South, gather supporters from the south and south East and head for Bataca to re-endorse Cozier Frederick as the winning candidate for the Salybia Constituency.

Meanwhile, communities north of Roseau will head for Portsmouth collecting labourites from the Eastern communities to re-endorse long-serving, parliamentarian, Ian Douglas as its choice contest the Portsmouth constituency.

### **DYNAMIC DOMINICA – A NEW SEASON OF DEVELOPMENT**

The Dominica Labour Party (DLP), founded in 1955, will be running for all 21 seats in the December 6 polls in search for an unprecedented 5th consecutive term in office. The DLP is putting to the Dominican voters its record of achievements over the past 20 years in office. In particular its disaster mitigation and hurricane recovery programs post hurricane Maria. Furthermore, in addition, the party has released its 2019 manifesto: [Dynamic Dominica](#) – a new season of development.

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**THE POWER OF THE 4TH ESTATE -General  
Elections | November 28, 2019**



DLP Political Leader, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit (left) UWP Political Leader, Lennox Linton

**One of the issues emerging in this election cycle is the lack of information coming out of Dominica on the progress of the election campaign.**

As a non- domicile Dominican myself, I rely on whatever news is available from local media as it appears on their on-line platforms. For me, this includes print media: The Chronicle and the Sun; Radio: DBS Radio, Kairi FM, and Q95 FM; Television; Marpin 2K4 and Government Information Service of Dominica, as well as online magazines: Dominica Vibes, Dominica News Online and Emonews.

Social media – the 5th estate

Social media networks such as Facebook and YouTube are also an outlet for numerous ad hoc interest groups, political figures, political parties; advocacy groups, commentators and

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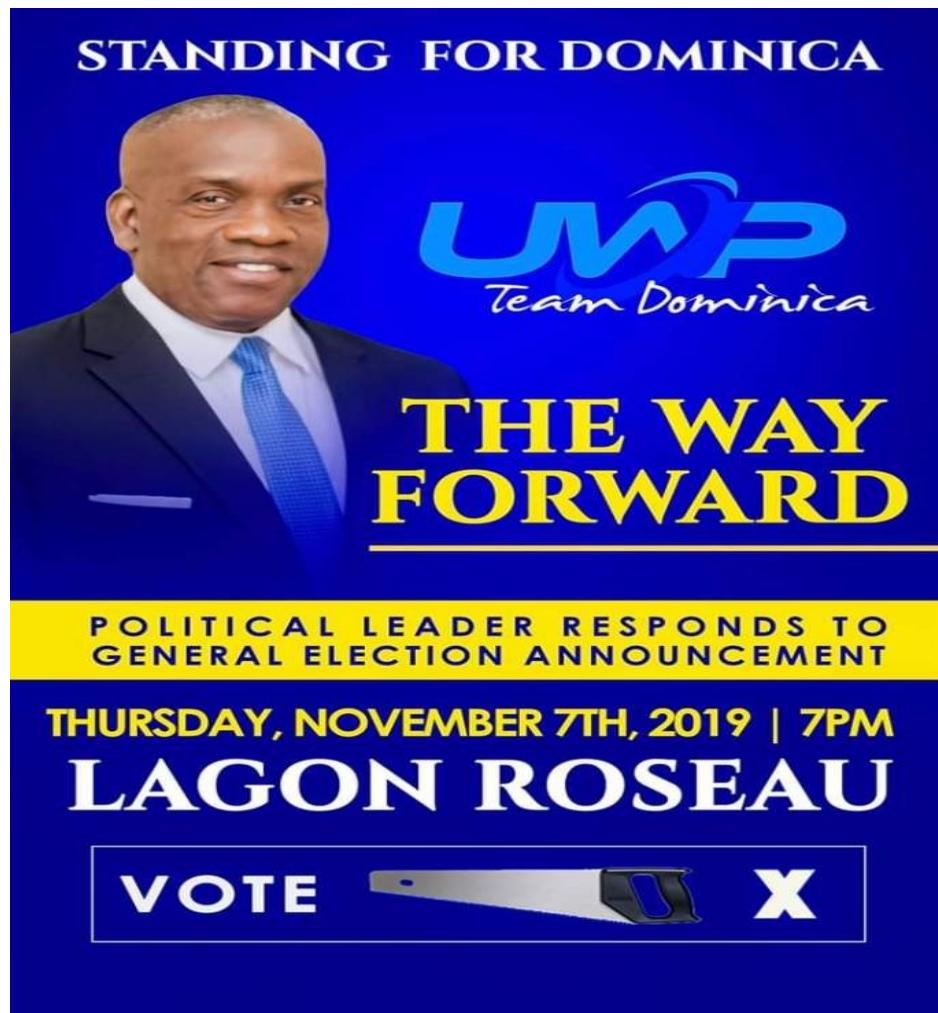
individuals. Additionally, social media is also a platform where regional and international media agencies publish their content.

Social media is also a great opportunity for individuals of any persuasion to air their views and respond to issues and news in general.

Seeing I am not on the ground, there may be other outlets or periodicals that do not have an online footprint.

His Excellency Charles Savarin met media practitioners yesterday. Marpin 2K4's Channel 5 News, reported that among other suggestions, he admonished journalists to take a "measured" approach to reporting during this General Election season so as not to inflame political passions. Savarin, also asked the media representatives to condemn political violence.

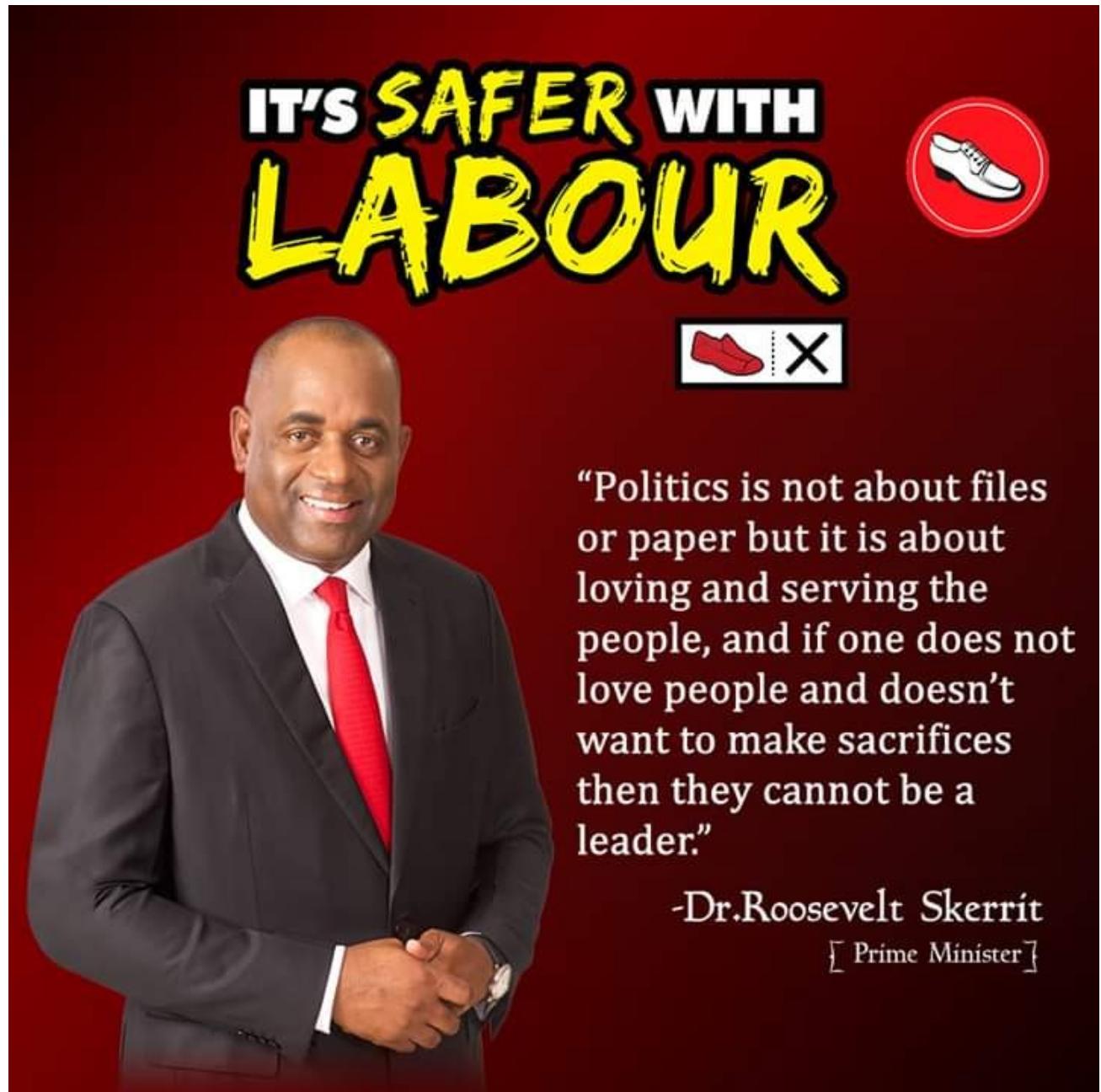
### Media Engagement



## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Having said all of this, I am unaware of any non-partisan talk shows or commentary forums that discuss the prevailing political landscape, or offers any electoral information.

I know that in the past that there has been calls for a US-styled political Leader debates. But what is missing is a lot more general information. Such as analysis of the past 3 elections and voter percentages. Similarly, an introduction of the candidates from both sides of the current political divide as television and radio guests, or the subject of news paper columns would be informative and helpful.



# Welcome to my blog

Media hosts could design programs that feature party hopefuls; Vox pocs that interview the man in the street; in-depth interviews with outstanding members of the community. Another area that could be highlighted is the actual voting process. Why not invite representatives from the electoral commission to explain the process for first-time and long-time voters alike. Explain the dos and don'ts of what is expected of the electorate in the run-up to Polling Day, December 6th. A repeat of the location and returning officers of the polling stations would also be welcome, I think.

Journalists should also not shy away from investigating the many issues that have surfaced and dogged the campaign thus far. For instance, is there, or was there, an application for an injunction to halt electoral reform? What about getting behind the allegations contained in the 'Immunity for sale: Diplomatic passport trade' documentary released yesterday by Al Jazeera? what about diaspora voting and Dominica's Foreign and CARICOM Minister's position in regard to the OAS intervention?

I know traditionally, nobody likes to work unconventional hours, but how about hitching a ride to cover any of the many political rallies. Can you prepare piece on a daily or weekly basis so as meet audience expectations?

There is really no end of subjects and topics that can be discussed. The Chief of Police, yesterday announced that he would not be granting permission for any political, campaign motorcades. Interview him, seek reactions from political leaders or candidates and the public as the police chief said, they are also road users. Compare previous election campaigns of 2004, 2009 and 2014. What is new? What are the party's campaign issues? Why has one party not yet released its manifesto? Where are the pundits? Senior citizens with many decades of living in Dominica through the changing political landscape? And so on.

## The popular vote

Here's hoping that the Day Of Decision will be a peaceful experience. That Dominicans will be able to exercise their civic duty in peace and safety, and that the results will be accepted by all as free and fair, as well as, free from fear, and that when the curtains come down on this historic election cycle that the adversarial antics and sentiments be put aside so that the country can heal and learn from this period and that together we can continue to build Dominica in the image and likeness of the choosing of the Dominican electorate.

*Dominicans go to the polls Friday December 6. Two parties: the incumbent, Dominica Labour Party (DLP) whose symbol is the Shoe and party colour red, and the United Workers Party (UWP) whose symbol is the saw and party colour is blue, are both contesting all 21 seats. The Dominica Freedom Party announced that it has pulled out from the race. Meanwhile, People's Party of Dominica (P-POD) was a no-show at the November 19 nominations. There are also no independent candidates in this election.*

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The 42 candidates contesting the twenty-one constituencies  
**Roseau Central** – Melissa Skerrit (DLP) , Glenroy “SoSo” Cuffy (UWP)

**Roseau North** – Danny Lugay (UWP) , Joseph Isaac (DLP)

**Roseau South** – Chekirah Lockhart (DLP), Joshua Francis (UWP)

**Roseau Valley** – Ronald Charles (UWP), Irving McIntyre (DLP)

**Grand Bay** – Edward Registe (DLP), Nept Pacquette (UWP)

**Scotshead** – Samuel Christian (UWP), Denise Charles (DLP)

**Petite Savanne** – Kenneth Darroux (DLP), Rosana Emmanuel (UWP)

**Mahaut** – Felix Thomas (UWP), Rayburn Blackmoore(DLP)

**St. Joseph** – Monell Williams (UWP), Adis King (DLP)

**Colihaut** – Catherine Daniel (DLP), Nicholas George (UWP)

**Salisbury** – Hector John (UWP), Nicholson Esprit (DLP)

**Portsmouth** – Ian Douglas (DLP), Jefferson James (UWP)

**Vielle Case** – Clement Marcellin (UWP), Roosevelt Skerrit (DLP)

**Paix Bouche** – Rosalind Paul (DLP), Davis George (UWP)

**Cottage** – Marcus Romain (UWP), Reginald Austrie (DLP)

**Wesley** – Fidel Grant (DLP), Ezekiel Bazil (UWP)

**Marigot** – Lennox Linton (UWP), Gregory Riviere (DLP)

**Kalinago** – Cozier Frederick (DLP), Anette Sanford (UWP)

**Castle Bruce** – Ernie Jno-Finn (UWP), Octavia Alfred (DLP)

**Grand Fond** – Greta Roberts (DLP), Pharo Cuffy (UWP)

**Laplaine** – Francisca Joseph (UWP), Kent Edwards (DLP)

# Welcome to my blog

## Further reading

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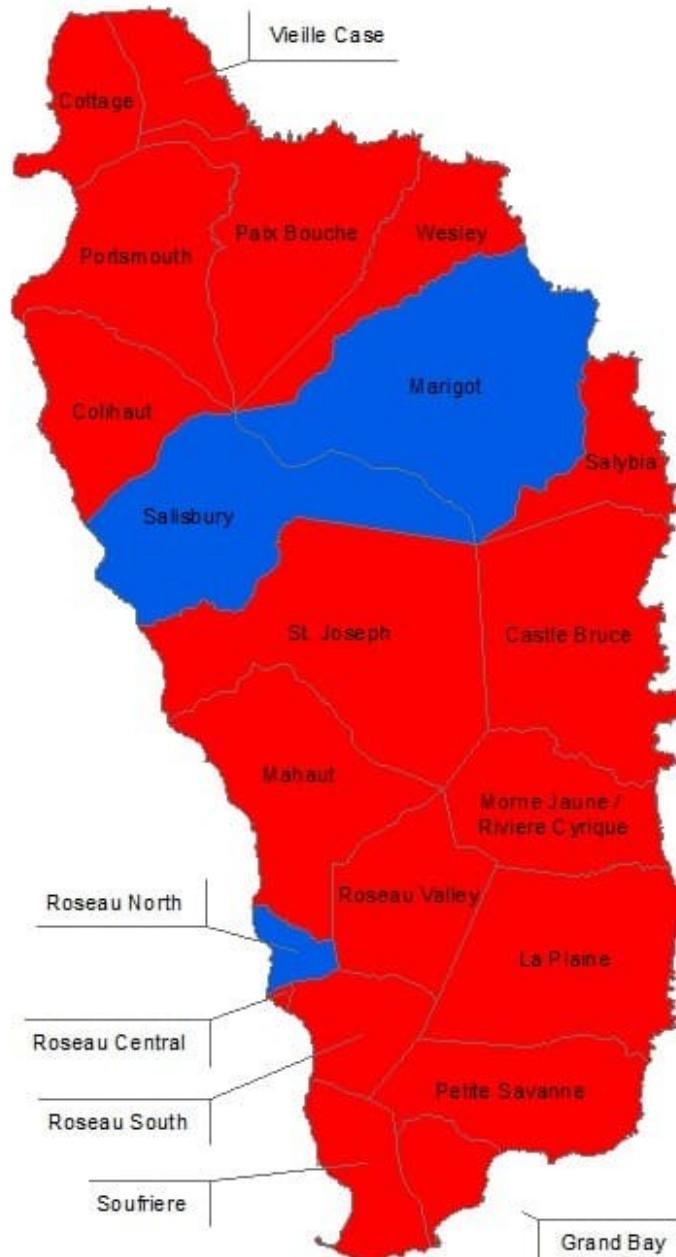
**ALBERT WILLIAMS**  
**DYNAMIC DOMINICANS HAVE DECIDED |**  
**December 9, 2019**



H. E. CHARLES SAVARIN ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE, ALLEGIANCE AND SECRECY ON PRIME MINISTER, HON. DR. ROOSEVELT SKERRIT, ON DECEMBER 7

**The Dominica Labour Party (DLP) has been given the green light to usher in a new season of development in the Commonwealth of Dominica under its stewardship.** Incumbent Prime Minister and Political Leader of the DLP, Hon. Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit (47) lead his team of 21 candidates to a landslide victory in the December 6 polls yesterday. The DLP and the United Workers Party both fielded a full slate of candidates to contest all 21 constituencies. At the end of the preliminary count last night, the Dominica Electoral Office announced that the DLP had secured 18 of the 21 seats.

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The DLP is setting a record as the first political party in Dominica to serve for a 5th consecutive term. Additionally, Dr. Skerrit has led the party to victory 4 times, 2005, 2009, 2014 and 2019 since assuming office in 2004 at the age of 31 when he became the youngest prime minister in the world.

The campaign officially kicked off on November 5, when Dr. Skerrit announced that the day for general elections in Dominica would be December 6, and Nomination Day would be November 19.

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On Saturday 7, in the presence of colleagues, family and friends, Dr. Skerrit was sworn in as Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica at the State House, where he was administered the Oath of office, the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Secrecy by His Excellency Charles Savin D.A.H., The President of Dominica.

“I am one of the luckiest persons on earth,” he said noting that his mother and other close female, family members who were present to witness the ceremony. “I want to thank God for the extraordinary privilege and honour to lead this country for another five years as its prime minister.” He thanked the voters in constituency of Vielle Case, of which he has been parliamentary representative since 2000 for re electing him for another 5-year term. The newly-appointed Prime Minister also congratulated fellow Labour candidates and his campaign team.

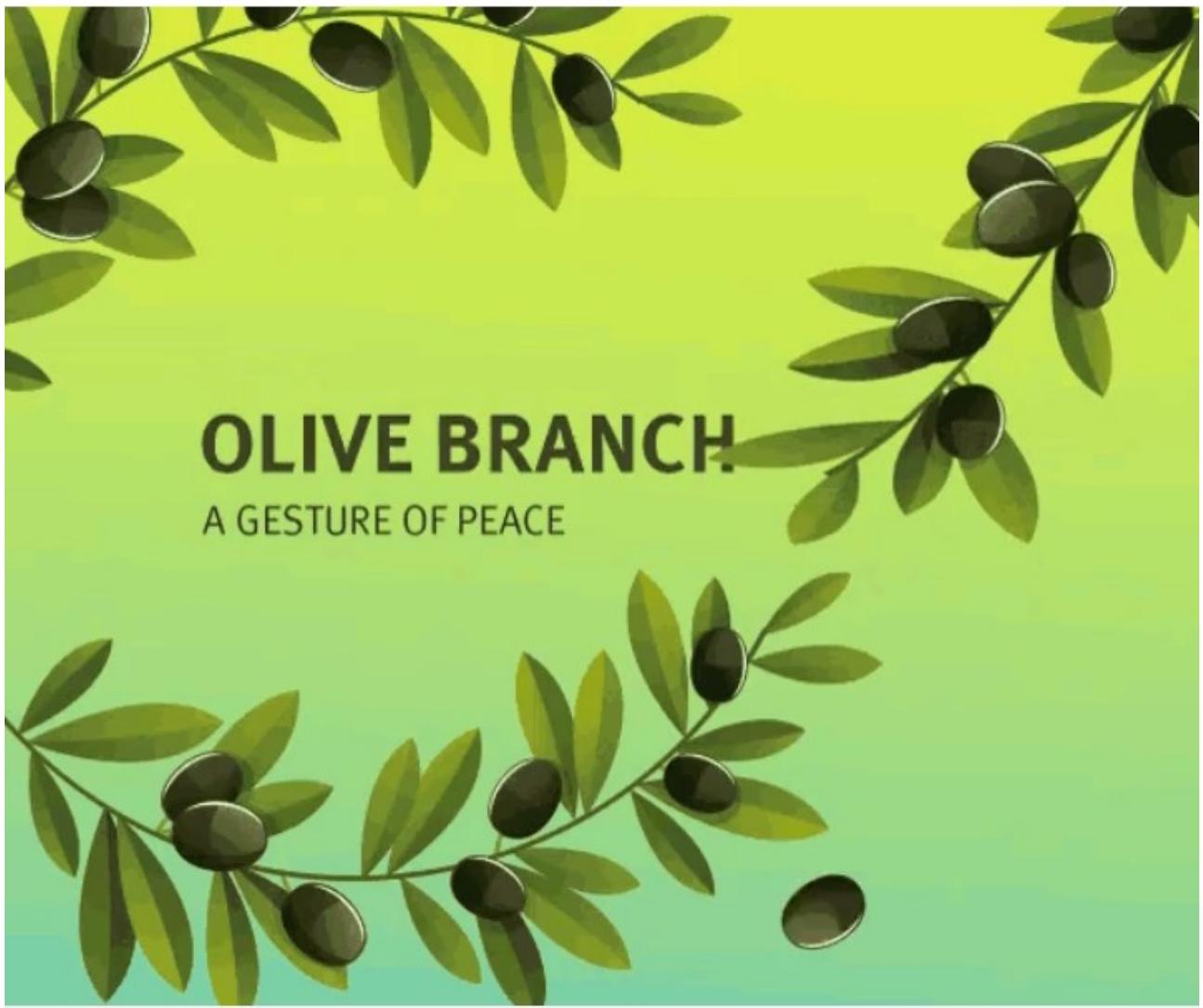
Prime Minister Dr. Skerrit highlighted the importance of the one man, one vote principle when he thanked the people of Dominica. “I always tell to people I only have one vote,” he said, ” and it’s by votes people win, and by majority votes you form the government. And the people exercise that constitutional right.”

The new cabinet will be sworn in December 17

Welcome to my blog

## **PRIME MINISTER DR. SKERRIT EXTENDS OLIVE BRANCH TO OPPOSITION | December 11, 2019**

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



With the 2019 general elections successfully executed, amid protests and riots inspired by the United Workers Party (UWP), campaign observers have declared that the elections in Dominica were free and fair. The Dominica Labour Party (DLP) grabbed 18 of the 21 seats leaving the UWP with three.

However, I am appalled that the opposition can say that the elections were rigged but his constituencies that he won were legal. And to add insult to injury, he is calling for fresh elections.

Let us look again at what that Leader of the Opposition (LoO) is saying. He is accusing the government or more specifically the DLP of stealing the elections. By extension, he is accusing the international observers of lying that the elections were free and fair.

To boot, the elections may have been free and fair, but far from, free from fear.

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The campaign of terror conducted by the UWP for some time now intensified in the days leading up to the elections including protests in the streets, legal attempts to postpone elections, intimidation of public officials and right up to the day before election day were holding law-abiding citizens in Marigot and Salisbury under siege. Persons even lit fires to use smoke to prevent aeroplanes from using the airport. Consequently, this caused American and Canadian authorities to issue travel advisories to Dominica. Moreover, this caused many in the tourism industry including the list of revenue to the state.

And the man has the balls to call for fresh elections?

His party and the citizens group and others should be the subject of a commission of inquiry into the troubles in Roseau and the defamation of the prime minister and the bringing of the name of the country into repute.

Remember one said that if it can be proven that the elections were stolen what they would do.

Having said this, I support whatever action the Prime Minister decides. He does not want his legacy to be sullied any more than it is. So he is walking a tight rope. He is a consummate politician. A smooth operator. And history will vindicate him.

## **Opposition invitation**

Conversely, Prime Minister Dr. Skerrit, announced in his victory speech on DBS Radio on Friday night, when the results of the General Elections indicated that the DLP had won 18 of the 21 constituency seats and that he would form the next government, he disclosed that he would invite the Leader of the opposition for talks on the way forward for Dominica's development. He has also gone on record as saying, during his swearing-in ceremony on Saturday at the state house, that he will create a commission of partners in the hemisphere to help us address the question of electoral reform.

Dominica held General Elections last Friday, December 6, and in a landslide result, the incumbent, Dominica Labour Party led by Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit was returned to office for the 5th consecutive term.

## **Past elections**

The Dominica Labour Party entered into a coalition with the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) in January 31st General Elections in 2000 when the DLP won 10 seats and the DFP 2, ousting the UWP who won 9 seats. Under Roosevelt Skerrit, the DLP has enjoyed electoral success at the polls winning the 2005, 2009, 2014 and now, the 2019 elections.

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Prime Minister Skerrit will announce the structure of his new cabinet Next Tuesday December 17th.

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# Welcome to my blog

## The spirit moves again | January 12, 2020



The Spirit moves  
In  
Mysterious ways.  
Rekindling, reevaluating.

Reusing this tired vessel.  
Pouring

Its life force into my pores.

It radiates round about I head.

A galaxy of ideas: rich and  
Great.

Forcing my heart to beat  
In  
Surrender.

To its guidance.  
Its limits

My soul is alive to its self.

The spirit moves  
And

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Speaks  
In dark sayings.

In parables

In testimonies

Of others.

In societies clashing  
In war and in peace.

The Spirit moves.....again.

Unafraid.

Unashamed.

Undaunted.

Life begets life.

Iron sharpeneth iron.

The Spirit hovers in the distance.

Arms out-stretched.  
One foot on the mountain.

The other

On the sea.

Welcome to my blog

## EARTHQUAKE ROCKS SOUTH OF DOMINICA THIS MORNING | January 13, 2020



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A Magnitude 3.2 earthquake was recorded in the South of Dominica 8:45 am this morning January 13.

According to the Public Seismic Network Inc., Dominica, a registered non-profit, non-governmental organization that monitors volcanic activity on the island, the tremor was felt in the Southern quadrant of the island.

Social media users in the capital Roseau have reported feeling the event which epicenter was Latitude 15.417N and

Longitude 61.323W. The release said that the event occurred at a depth of 4.1km

This felt-event comes almost a week after a 5.2 magnitude earthquake rocked the Southeast of Dominica at 10:01 am last Wednesday, January 8.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rico continues to be shaken by aftershocks.

On Sunday night at 10:57 p.m. and 11:08 p.m, two aftershocks — 4.5 and 4.6 respectively — rattled the southern portion of the US territory, and Monday morning at 6:06, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake struck again.

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## The United States Geological Survey (USGS) | January 14, 2020



- \* 99% chance of having 3.0 earthquakes
- \* 55% chance of having 5.0 earthquakes
- \* 8% chance of having an earthquake of 6 ...

[See More](#)

The United States Geological Service (Usgs) updates its forecast on seismic frequency in Puerto Rico, these are the results:

- \* 99% chance of having earthquakes of 3.0
- \* 55% chance of having earthquakes of 5.0
- \* 8% chance of having an earthquake of 6
- \* 1% chance of having an earthquake of 7 or more.

(forecast updated today, January 13, 2020)

(This forecast was issued: 2020-01-13 06:44:38 (UTC))

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## SEARCH FOR MISSING PLANE ENDED TUESDAY | UPDATE | January 21, 2020



F-OGKO | Copyright by DELCROIX Thierry | TFFR | Airport-Data.com

Photograph of missing aircraft Photographer: Romain Roux Shot Date: 2017-02-20 Airport: Pointe-à-Pitre Airport, [Airport-Data.Com](#)

**Search For The Single-Engine, Piper PA-28, France-Registered-F-OGKO With Four French Nationals On Board Called Off Tuesday Afternoon**

### BACKGROUND

Shortly after 7 pm on Sunday, February 16, a local journalist, Emerline Anslem reported that unconfirmed reports reaching Emonews had stated that a small aircraft may have gone down in the sea near Marigot in Dominica.

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8:49 p.m. a French media agency, Guadeloupe la 1ère posted on its website that a small passenger plane, a Piper F-OGKO, with 4 people, 2 pilots and 2 passengers on board reportedly [had] crashed in Dominica

According to the website, a Center Régional Opérationnel de Sauvetageaux Antilles et en Guyane (CROS AG) rescue operation is currently underway.

local fisherfolk from Marigot join the coast guard in the search and rescue operation and head out into the dark sea to look for the missing plane

10:24 am, Monday, February 17, Martinique la 1ère posted, that two helicopters had joined the search with CROS AG.

## **SPEAKING ON THE NATION'S BROADCASTER DBS RADIO**

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Dominica Air and Seaport Authority (DASPA), Benoit Bardouille said “French-registered aircraft was given clearance to take off from Douglas-Charles Airport destined for Le Raizet Airport in Guadeloupe.” “He said the aircraft was airborne at about 6:43 pm and was instructed by the air traffic controller to report when he passed 1500ft in the climb.” “minutes later, the air traffic controller attempted to contact the aircraft for a frequency change to Raizet control, but was unable to make contact with the aircraft.”

SEVERAL ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO CONTACT THE AIRCRAFT “He made several attempts but received no response. The air traffic controller took a look at the radar viewing that we have at the airport and could not identify the aircraft...”,

“the Raizet Airport was immediately contacted and they informed Douglas-Charles Control that they had no information on the aircraft.”

“At that point in time the aircraft, not being in contact with the air traffic control in Dominica and not being in contact with Guadeloupe was considered to be a missing aircraft,” Bardouille said

Later on Monday landing gear and personal effects are found at sea

Four French citizens, including a 16-year-old, have been reported missing A 40-year-old man, a 55-year-old couple and their 15-year-old son were aboard the aircraft

The rescue teams included the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority, the Dominica coast guard and fisherfolk in Marigot. Civil security helicopters from Martinique, Dragon 972,

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and Alouette 3 from the French Navy, a patrol boat from the Dominican police, the SNSM star from Point-à-Pitre and local fisherfolk from Marigot are among first responders searching for the missing aircraft and its occupants

Early Monday morning, the search was suspended and resumed later that day

Search was hampered by choppy seas and inclement weather



At 8 am on Tuesday, February 18, the oceanographic ship L'Atalante de l' IFREMER responded to the distress message of the Cross AG. Préfecture de Guadeloupe

**“After over 40 hours of search in difficult weather conditions, there is unfortunately no more hope to find survivors”**

*The Perfecture of Guadeloupe*

“Despite substantial measures, the search team have only found some of the passengers' personal belongings and parts of a plane”,

“The search conditions are made difficult with strong winds and rough seas causing poor visibility due to frequent squalls,”

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SEARCH FOR PIPER PA-28, France-Registered-F-OGKO CALLED OFF

On Tuesday, afternoon, February 18, CROSS AG, in coordination with the air navigation services Antilles Guyane and the prefect of Guadeloupe, decided to stop the searches .

Guadeloupe la 1ère

NO FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PILOTS OR THE OTHER TWO PASSENGERS ARE KNOWN

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Produced by Albert Williams (C) Albert Williams 2020

Original footage by EmoNews (C) Emerline Anslem 2020

Additional thanks to:

Euronews

Dominica News Online

[Airport-Data.Com](#)

Guadeloupe la 1ère

Martinique la 1ère

Romain Roux

Perfecture of Guadeloupe

Albert Williams

reporting Always follow official source

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Lebanon and Israel report cases of COVID-19  
| February 23, 2020



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WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation report – 33 (adapted) Data as reported by 22 February 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

Two new countries (Lebanon and Israel) reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

- The role of environmental contamination in the transmission of COVID-19 is not yet clear. On 18 February, a new protocol entitled “Surface sampling of coronavirus disease (COVID-19): A practical “how to” protocol for health care and public health professionals” was published. This protocol was designed to determine viable virus presence and persistence on fomites in various locations where a COVID-19 patient is receiving care or isolated, and to understand how fomites may play a role in the transmission of the virus.
- The WHO Director-General briefed the emergency ministerial meeting on COVID-19 organised by the African Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

77 794 confirmed

(599 new)

**China**

76 392 confirmed

(397 new)

2348 deaths

(109 new)

**Outside of China**

1402 confirmed

(202 new)

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28 countries

(2 new)

11 deaths

(3 new)

## The WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S RISK ASSESSMENT

China – Very High

Regional Level – High

Global Level – High

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<https://www.who.int/>

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## Further reading

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

Welcome to my blog

## **BREAKING NEWS | JAYDEE IS THE 2020 CALYPSO MONARCH | February 23, 2020**



Jude Delauney "Jaydee", Dominica's new Calypso King being crowned by Miss Dominica 2020, Savahnn James on Saturday night. [Credits: Dominica News Online 2020]

The newly-crowned, calypso monarch, Jaydee, emerged from a field of ten finalists, including the nine-times winner, Dice, to lift the trophy last night.

The Windsor Park Sports stadium was the venue for the competition hosted by the Dominica Calypso Association. Former Calypso Monarch, Tasha 'Tasha P' Peltier, was placed the first runner up, while De Web placed third, and Fitzroy 'Bingo' Leon fourth.

Other finalist included: Karessah, Bobb, De Hunter, De Healer, Observer and nine-times monarch, King Dice who all failed to place in the top three.

King Jaydee will join Miss Dominica 2020, Savahnn James, the Carnival Queen, who won the Miss Dominica 2020 pageant on Friday, in the Carnival Winners Parade on Carnival Tuesday.

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According to Dominica News online, the judging panel included Chief Judge, Marlon Marie, Al Monelle, Nadine Riviere, Rena Stephens, Evelina Baptiste, Reginald Lafleur, Roland Royer, and Daniel Seraphine.

### Calypso Song Scoring

Calypso songs are scored by a panel of Judges based on **four** key factors:

- **Lyrics** – 35 Points
- **Melody** – 35 Points
- **Rendition** – 10 Points
- **Presentation** – 20 Points

### The official theme for Mas Domnik 2020

### Play de Riddim, Play Mas

The Dominica Festivals Committee has revealed the official theme for Mas Domnik 2020. Mas Domnik 2020 will be celebrated under the theme **Play de Riddim, Play Mas** from the official opening parade on January 18, 2020 until the Carnival street parades on February 24 – 25, 2020.

<https://dominicafestivals.com/>

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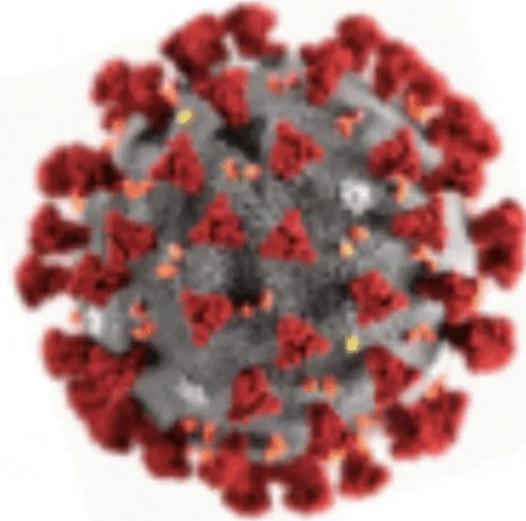
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## SITUATION REPORT 41: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19) | March 2, 2020



**SITUATION REPORT**

**41**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION**

**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19)**

**Situation Report – 41 (adapted)**

Data as reported by 10AM CET 01 MARCH 2020

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Five new Member States

(Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Ireland, Monaco and Qatar)  
reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

Working with clinicians is crucial to understanding the clinical presentation, natural history and treatment interventions for COVID-19.

WHO has published  
interim clinical guidance, clinical training materials

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and has launched a global clinical data platform to gather data and improve care for COVID-19 patients.

This information is critical to inform the public health response. More information can be found in the Subject in Focus.

The number of confirmed cases in Hubei province, China, has increased for two successive days after a period of decline.

WHO is monitoring the situation and working to understand its possible significance.

WHO has published updated recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak.

**Up next:**

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

### SITUATION REPORT 41

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total and new cases in last 24 hours

**Globally**

87, 137 confirmed (1,739 new)

**China**

79, 968 confirmed (579 new)

2,873 deaths (35 new)

**Outside of China**

7169 confirmed (1,160 new)

58 countries (5 new)

104 deaths (18 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

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## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

**China Very High**

**Regional Level Very High**

**Global Level Very High**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<http://www.who.int>

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Reporting

“I always follow official sources”

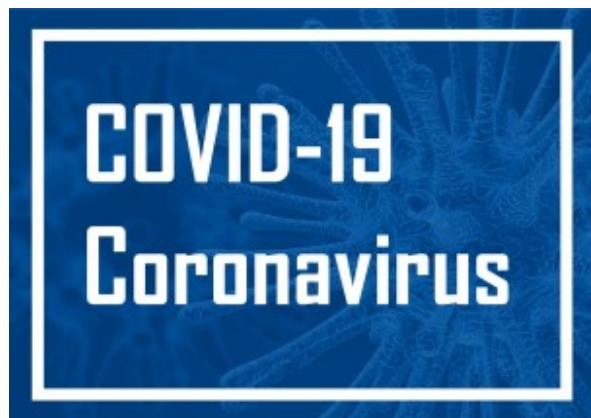
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# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Situation Report –42 | March 2, 2020



Data as reported by 10AM CET 02 March 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Six new Member States (Armenia, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Luxembourg, Iceland, and Indonesia) reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- A team of WHO experts has arrived in Tehran, Iran to support the COVID-19 response. The objectives are to identify transmission dynamics and at-risk populations, and provide technical guidance. Further information can be found [here](#).
- Containment remains the top priority for all countries. Management for COVID-19 globally, however, is not a one-size-fits-all approach and must be tailored to the transmission scenario a country faces. Early robust measures are key to saving lives and halting transmission, notes the WHO Director-General. More information can be found [here](#).
- WHO's Operations Supply and Logistics team are working across numerous areas to support the COVID-19 response. Activities include working to establish a Supply Chain Coordination Cell and providing a technical briefing for G20

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members on the personal protective equipment (PPE) market situation. More information can be found in the Subject in Focus.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

88 948 confirmed (1804 new)

China

80 174 confirmed (206 new)

2915 deaths (42 new)

Outside of China

8774 confirmed (1598 new)

64 countries (6 new)

128 deaths (24 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

## REFERENCE

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

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**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
Situation Report – 43 | March 4, 2020**



Data as reported by national authorities by 10AM CET 03 March 2020

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 43

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## SITUATION IN NUMBERS



total and new cases in last 24

hours

Globally

90 870 confirmed (1922 new)

### **China**

80 304 confirmed (130 new)

2946 deaths (31 new)

### **Outside of China**

10 566 confirmed (1792 new)

72 countries (8 new)

166 deaths (38 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

## HIGHLIGHTS

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- Eight new Member States (Andorra, Jordan, Latvia, Morocco, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and Tunisia) reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- The increase of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region is of great concern. The WHO Regional Director of the Eastern Mediterranean region reiterated the need to enhance surveillance and response activities, and share critical information, as being essential to containing the outbreak and strengthening health systems. More information can be found [here](#).
- The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is implementing a comprehensive plan to support country preparedness and containment efforts for COVID-19. Barbados was one of the first Caribbean countries to acquire test kits and reagents for COVID-19 detection, and receive training on how to use them. More information can be found [here](#).
- Real-time training is critical for effective preparedness and response. WHO has several COVID-19 online resources for health professionals, decision-makers and the public in multiple languages. Please see the COVID-19 courses on OpenWHO [here](#).

## REFERENCE

<https://www.who.int/>

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## Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 45 | March 6, 2020

Data as reported by national authorities by 10AM CET 05 March 2020

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

95 333 confirmed (2241 new)

China

80 565 confirmed (143 new)

3015 deaths (31 new)

Outside of China

14 768 confirmed (2098 new)

85 Countries/territories/  
areas (5 new)

267 deaths (53 new)

### WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Five new countries/territories/areas (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gibraltar, Hungary, Slovenia, and occupied Palestinian territory) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- In anticipation for an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, the SouthEast Asia Region is preparing to roll out rapid response activities by engaging with communities, procuring personal protective equipment (PPE), and ensuring laboratories have the capacity to test for COVID-19 or ship samples to global referral laboratories. More information can be found [here](#).
- The WHO Director-General emphasized the importance of implementing a comprehensive approach to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Educating the population, expanding surveillance, caring for patients, and strengthening preparedness systems are key to interrupting transmission. The WHO

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Director-General's remarks can be found here.

- WHO's initiative called the WHO Network for Information in Epidemics (EPIWIN) leverages all communications platforms to amplify evidence-based information. EPI-WIN has identified trusted sources and engaged with these

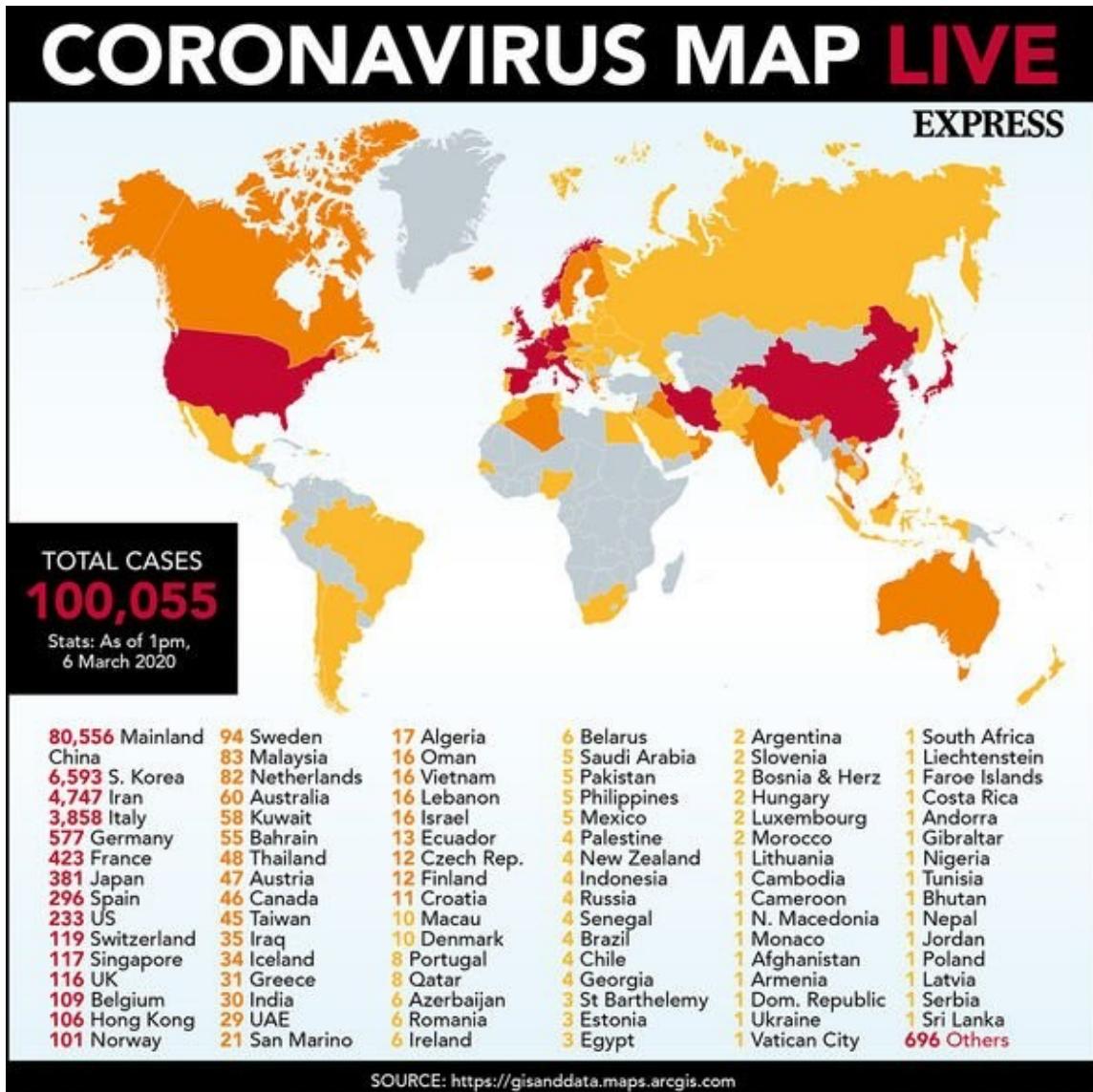
## Reference

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200305-sitrep-45-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=ed2ba78b\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200305-sitrep-45-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=ed2ba78b_2)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 46 | March 7, 2020



Welcome to my blog



Coronavirus cure: Groundbreaking nanoparticles could wipe out COVID-19 infections – claim.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24

hours

Globally

98 192 confirmed (2873 new)

China

80 711 confirmed (146 new)

3045 deaths (30 new)

Outside of China

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

17 481 confirmed (2727 new)

335 deaths (69 new)

88 Countries/territories/  
areas (4 new)

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

## REFERENCES

Who.int. (2020). *Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation reports*. [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/> [Accessed 7 Mar. 2020].

Kettley, S. (2020). *Coronavirus cure: Groundbreaking nanoparticles could wipe out COVID-19 infections – claim*. [online] Express.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1251430/Coronavirus-cure-nanoparticles-wipe-out-COVID19-infection-latest-coronavirus-news> [Accessed 7 Mar. 2020].

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# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 [adapted] | Data as reported by national authorities by 10AM CET 07 March 2020 | March 8, 2020



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 new countries/territories/areas (Colombia, Holy See, Peru, Serbia, and Togo) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

The global number of reported cases of COVID-19 has surpassed 100,000.

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OpenWHO has reached 161, 000 learners in COVID-19 courses. The introductory course on COVID-19 has been partially or fully translated into 17 national languages. For more information, and to enroll in these free courses, please visit OpenWHO's COVID-19 [channel](#).

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS total and new cases in last 24 hours

### Globally

101 927 confirmed (3735 new)

### China

80 813 confirmed (102 new)

3073 deaths (28 new)

### Outside of China

21 110 confirmed (3633 new)

413 deaths (78 new)

93 Countries/territories/  
areas (5 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China – Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

For more information

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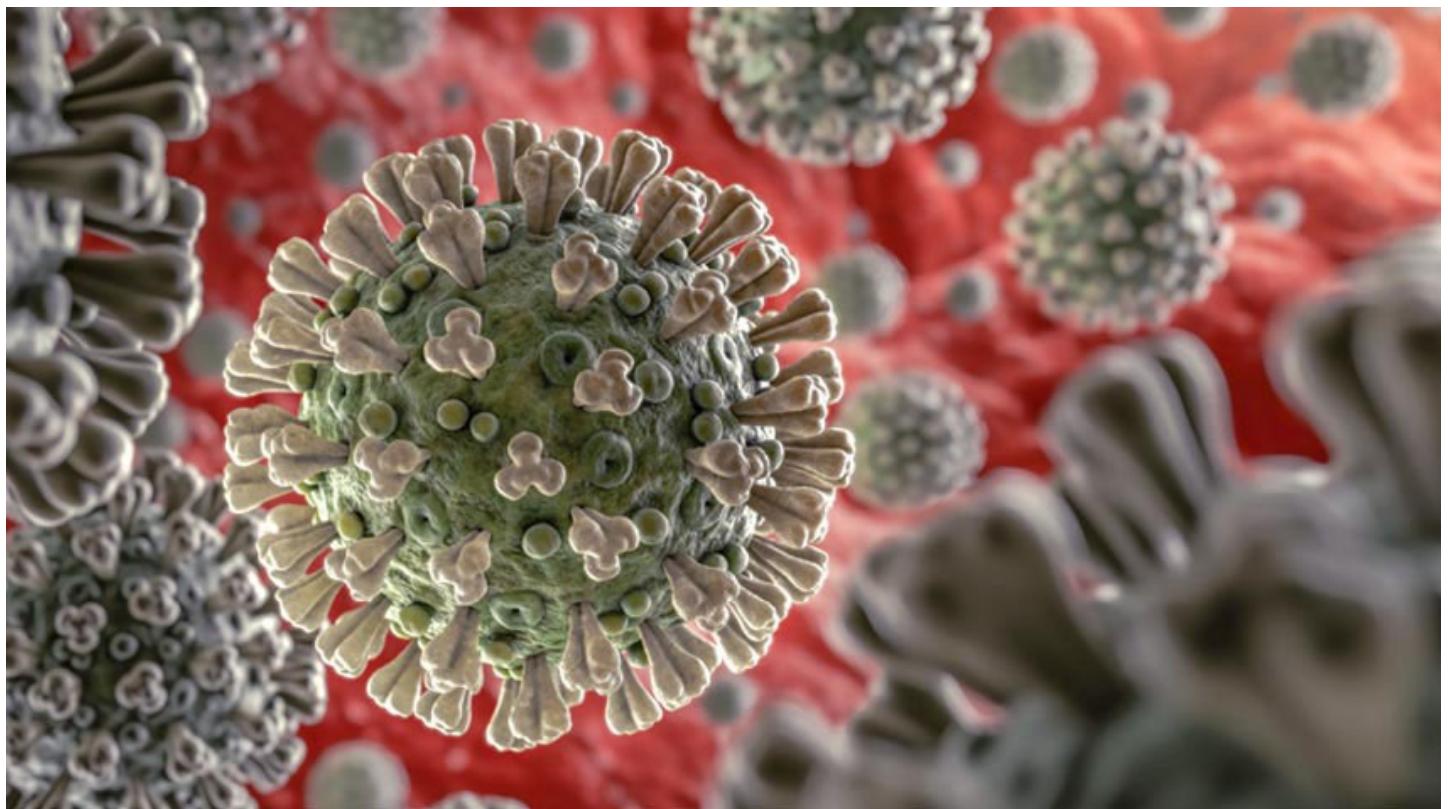


#### REFERENCE

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION Coronavirus  
disease 2019 | March 9, 2020**



# Welcome to my blog



**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

105 586 confirmed (3656 new)

China

80 859 confirmed (46 new)

3100 deaths (27 new)

Outside of China

24 727 confirmed (3610 new)

484 deaths (71 new)

101 Countries/territories/  
areas (8 new)

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**WHO RISK ASSESSMENT**  
**China Very High**  
**Regional Level Very High**  
**Global Level Very High**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 new countries/territories/areas (**Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Faroe Islands, French Guiana, Maldives, Malta, Martinique, and Republic of Moldova**) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- Over 100 countries have now reported laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID19.
- WHO has issued a consolidated package of existing preparedness and response guidance for countries to enable them to slow and stop COVID-19 transmission and save lives. WHO is urging all countries to prepare for the potential arrival of COVID-19 by readying emergency response systems; increasing capacity to detect and care for patients; ensuring hospitals have the space, supplies and necessary personnel; and developing life-saving medical interventions.

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## Reference

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

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# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Situation Report – 49 [adapted] as of AM CET

### 09 March 2020 | March 10



#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

109 577 confirmed (3993 new)

3809 deaths (225 new)

China

80 904 confirmed (45 new)

3123 deaths (23 new)

Outside of China

28 673 confirmed (3948 new)

686 deaths (202 new)

104 countries/territories/  
areas (3 new)

#### WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 new countries/territories/areas (Bangladesh, Albania and Paraguay) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- WHO continues to support Samoa and Tokelau with preparations for COVID19. More information can be found [here](#).
- WHO Operations Supply and Logistics (OSL) continues to support COVID-19

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emergency operations where global demand for critical items continues to outpace global supply availability. Since the beginning of the outbreak, OSL have shipped more than 584,000 surgical masks, 47,000 N95 masks, 620,000 gloves, 72,000 gowns and 11,000 goggles to 57 countries.

Figure 1. Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, 09 March 2020

Erratum: Total cases and new cases for Faroe Islands have been corrected.

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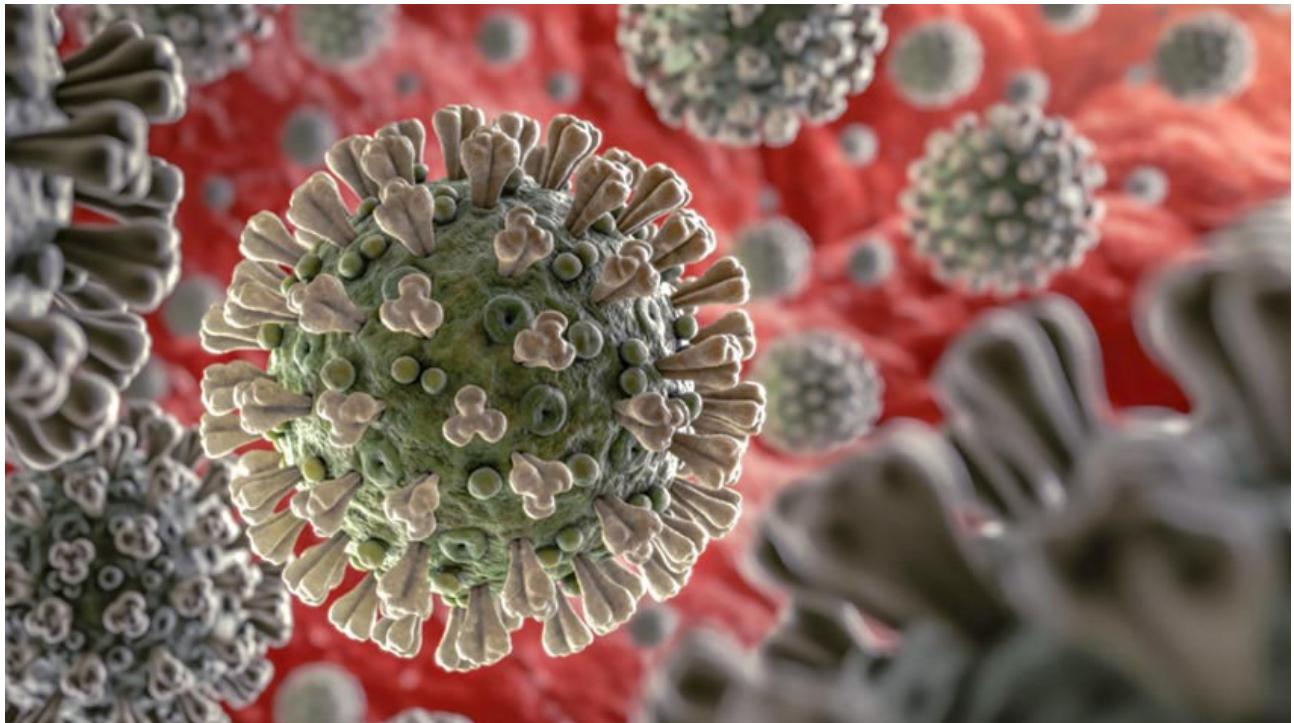
## REFERENCE

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

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# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Situation Report – 50 Data as reported by national authorities by 10 AM CET 10 March 2020 | March 11, 2020



### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally  
113 702 confirmed (4125 new)  
4012 deaths (203 new)

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## China

80 924 confirmed (20 new)

3140 deaths (17 new)

Outside of China

32 778 confirmed (4105 new)

872 deaths (186 new)

109 countries/territories/  
areas (5 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 new countries/territories/areas (Brunei Darussalam, Mongolia, Cyprus, Guernsey and Panama) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- As of 9 March 2020, a total of 45 States Parties informed WHO of additional health measures they implemented in relation to COVID-19 and provided the public health rationale for these measures. WHO reiterates that measures that restrict the movement of people during this outbreak should be proportionate to the public health risk, short in duration and reviewed regularly as more information about the virus, the disease epidemiology and clinical characteristics becomes available. For more information, please see ‘subject in focus’.
- WHO Director-General in his regular media briefing on 9 March stated that the threat of a pandemic has become very real; however, this would be the first pandemic in history that could be controlled.

## Reference

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20200310-sitrep-50-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=55e904fb\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20200310-sitrep-50-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=55e904fb_2)

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**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
Situation Report – 51 Data as reported by  
national authorities by 10 AM CET 11 March  
2020 | March 12, 2020**



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## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

118 326 confirmed (4627 new)

4292 deaths (280 new)

China

80 955 confirmed (31 new)

3162 deaths (22 new)

Outside of China

37 371 confirmed (4596 new)

1130 deaths (258 new)

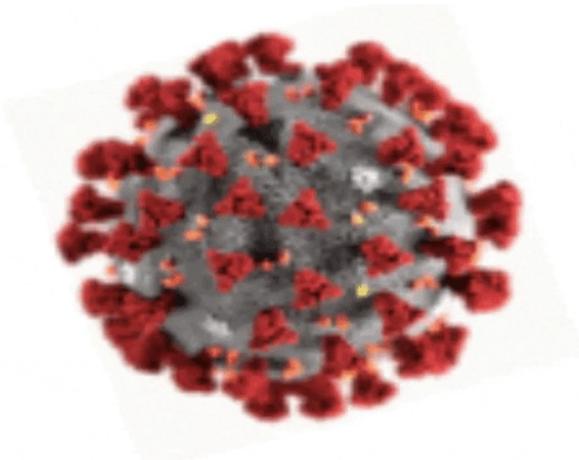
113 countries/territories/  
areas (4 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High



## HIGHLIGHTS

- WHO Director-General in his regular media briefing today stated that WHO has been assessing this outbreak around the clock and we are deeply

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction. WHO therefore have made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic. For detailed information, please see here.

- Four new countries/territories/areas (Bolivia [Plurinational State of], Jamaica, Burkina Faso and Democratic Republic of the Congo) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- The COVID-19 virus infects people of all ages. However, evidence to date suggests that two groups of people are at a higher risk of getting severe COVID-19 disease. These are older people; and those with underlying medical conditions. WHO emphasizes that all must protect themselves from COVID-19 in order to protect others. For more information, please see ‘subject in focus’.
- On 10 March, the IFRC, UNICEF and WHO issued a new guidance to help protect children and schools from transmission of the COVID-19 virus. The guidance provides critical considerations and practical checklists to keep schools safe. More information can be found here.

### Reference

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

Welcome to my blog

# Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 52 Data as reported by national authorities by 10 AM CET 12 March 2020 |March 13, 2020

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

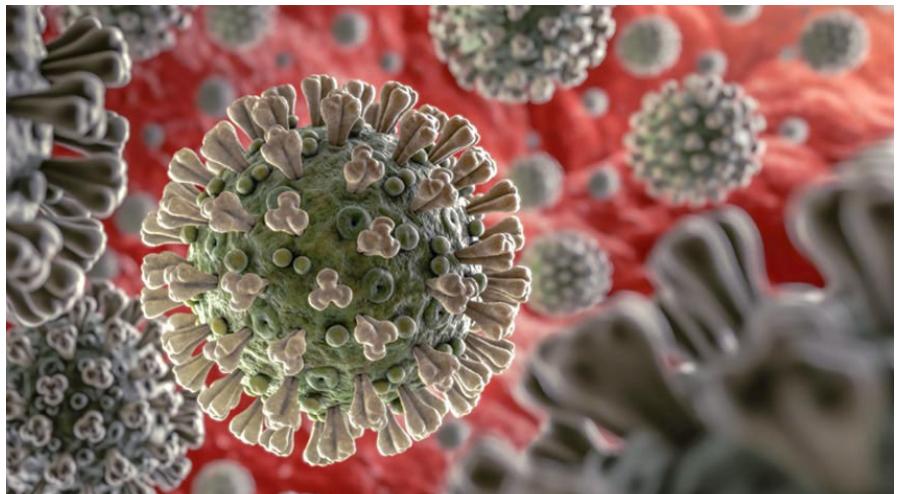
125 048 confirmed (6729 new)  
4613 deaths (321 new)

China

80 981 confirmed (26 new)  
3173 deaths (11 new)  
Outside of China  
44 067 confirmed (6703 new)  
1440 deaths (310 new)  
117 countries/territories/  
areas (4 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High  
Regional Level Very High  
Global Level Very High



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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Four new countries/territories/areas (French Polynesia, Turkey, Honduras and Côte d'Ivoire) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.
- The Clinical Unit continues to convene clinicians around the globe, twice weekly by teleconference (COVID-19 Clinical Network) to share knowledge and experiences from clinicians caring for COVID-19 patients and highlight operational challenges and technical questions. For more details, please see 'subject in focus'.
- At the Member States information session held today, WHO Director-General reiterated that countries should not give up on stopping the outbreak now that WHO has characterized it as a pandemic. A shift from containment to mitigation would be wrong and dangerous. This is a controllable pandemic. For detailed information, please see [here](#).
- On 11 March, ICAO and WHO issued a joint statement to reminding all stakeholders of the importance of existing regulations and guidance.

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# WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### Situation Report – 55 | March 16, 2020



Data as reported by national authorities by 10 AM CET 15 March 2020

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Nine new countries/territories/areas

African Region [7], European Region [1] and Region of Americas [1] have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

A WHO high-level technical mission concluded a visit to Iraq to support the Iraqi Ministry of Health in their COVID-19 prevention and containment measures. WHO is working around the clock to establish 3 negative-pressure [contagious respiratory disease isolation] rooms in Baghdad, Erbil and Basra to accommodate patients who might require more sophisticated medical treatment.

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS total and new cases in last 24 hours

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Globally

153 517 confirmed (10 982 new) 5735 deaths (343 new)

China 81 048 confirmed (27 new) 3204 deaths (10 new)

Outside of China 72 469 confirmed (10 955) 2531 deaths (333 new) 143 countries/territories/areas (09 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High Regional Level Very High Global Level Very High

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

If you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not travelled from an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not been in contact with an infected patient, your risk of infection is low. It is understandable that you may feel anxious about the outbreak. Get the facts from reliable sources to help you accurately determine your risks so that you can take reasonable precautions Seek guidance from WHO, your healthcare provider, your national public health authority or your employer for accurate information on COVID-19 and whether COVID-19 is circulating where you live. It is important to be informed of the situation and take appropriate measures to protect yourself and your family If you are in an area where there are cases of COVID-19 you need to take the risk of infection seriously. Follow the advice of WHO and guidance issued by national and local health authorities. For most people, COVID-19 infection will cause mild illness however, it can make some people very ill and, in some people, it can be fatal. Older people, and those with pre-existing medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease or diabetes) are at risk for severe disease

## FOR INFORMATION VISIT

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

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## Reference

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20200315-sitrep-55-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=33daa5cb\\_6](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20200315-sitrep-55-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=33daa5cb_6)

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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION**

**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

**Situation Report – 56, 16 March 2020 | March**

**17, 2020**



WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 56  
Data as reported by national authorities by 10 AM CET  
16 March 2020 March 2020

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Four new countries/territories/areas (African Region [2], European Region [1] and Region of the Americas [1]) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

The total number of cases and deaths outside China has overtaken the total number of cases in China.

From today, total cases from China will no longer be featured separately (former Table 1).

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The WHO COVID-19 Incident Management Team is working closely with partners across all levels

to provide support to countries, strengthen technical and operational networking and collaboration, and support operational coordination of the global response.

Two new technical guidance documents were published today: Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19 and Risk

Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

167 511 confirmed

(13 903 new)

6606 deaths (862 new)

China

81 077 confirmed (29 new)

3218 deaths (14 new)

86 434 confirmed (13 874 new)

3388 deaths (848 new)

151 countries/territories/  
areas (4 new)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

If you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not travelled from an area where COVID-19 is spreading or have not been in contact with an infected patient, your risk of infection is low.

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It is understandable that you may feel anxious about the outbreak. Get the facts from reliable sources to help you accurately determine your risks so that you can take reasonable precautions

Seek guidance from WHO, your healthcare provider, your national public health authority or your employer for accurate information on COVID-19 and whether COVID-19 is circulating where you live.

It is important to be informed of the situation and take appropriate measures to protect yourself and your family

If you are in an area where there are cases of COVID-19 you need to take the risk of infection seriously. Follow the advice of WHO and guidance issued by national and local health authorities.

For most people, COVID-19 infection will cause mild illness however, it can make some people very ill and, in some people, it can be fatal.

Older people,  
and those with pre-existing medical conditions  
(such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease or diabetes)

are at risk for severe disease

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

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Reporting “I always follow official sources”

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## HIGHLIGHTS

8 new countries/territories/areas (African Region [3], Eastern Mediterranean Region [1], Region of the Americas [3], and Western Pacific Region [1]) have reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. As the on-going COVID-19 pandemic continues to develop, WHO is committed to working together with the travel, transport and tourism sectors on emergency preparedness and response. OpenWHO is an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering free online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. COVID-19 resources are available in the official WHO languages and in additional national languages. The OpenWHO team is continuing to work with WHO Country Offices, public health institutes and educational entities who have offered voluntary translation support to help localize the response efforts. Resources in the pipeline include courses in Hindi and Macedonian. For more information, please see the Preparedness and Response section of the Situation Report.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in last 24 hours Globally 179 111 confirmed (11 525) 7426 deaths (475) Western Pacific Region 91 779 confirmed (289) 3357 deaths (23) European Region 64 188 confirmed (8506) 3108 deaths (428) South-East Asia 508 confirmed (124) 9 deaths (2) Eastern Mediterranean Region 16 786 confirmed (330) 873 deaths (3) Regions of the Americas 4910 confirmed (2234) 68 deaths (18) African Region 228 confirmed (42) 4 deaths (1)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

for more information visit <http://www.who.int>

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**UPDATES ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC data  
as reported by national authorities by 10 AM  
CET on 18 March 2020 | March 19, 2020**



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The World Health Organisation has released its 58th Situation report on the on-going, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Below is data as reported by national authorities by 10 AM CET on 18 March 2020 For the sake of brevity, the highlights of the report are reproduced here on this programme to read the full report go to <http://www.who.int>

One new country/territory/area (European Region [1]) has reported cases of COVID-19 reported cases of COVID19 in the past 24 hours. Data presented in the COVID-19 Situation Reports has changed to reflect data reported as of 00:00 CET. As this is the first Situation Report with the new reporting period, there is overlap of data between Situation Report 57 and this report, thus the number of new cases may not equal the difference between total cases in the two reports. WHO COVID-19 Situation Reports present official counts of confirmed COVID19 cases, thus differences between WHO reports and other sources of COVID19 data using different inclusion criteria and different data cutoff times are to be expected. WHO, IFRC, and UNICEF jointly released the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance for COVID-19 on 16 March. For more information, please see the Subject in Focus section in the original report.

**COMING UP...**

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total and new cases in last 24 hours

### Globally

191 127 confirmed (15 123) 7807 deaths (786)

### Western Pacific Region

91 845 confirmed (312) 3357 deaths (23)

### European Region

74 760 confirmed (10 911) 3352 deaths (604)

### South-East Asia Region

538 confirmed (63) 9 deaths (1)

### Eastern Mediterranean Region

# Welcome to my blog

18 060 confirmed (1552) 1010 deaths (140)

## Regions of the Americas

4979 confirmed (2243) 68 deaths (18)

## African Region

233 confirmed (42) 4 deaths (0)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China Very High

Regional Level Very High

Global Level Very High

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<http://www.who.int>

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Coronavirus Disease  
#COVID19



**QUARTER OF A MILLION NHS VOLUNTEERS  
SCHEME LAUNCHED | March 24, 2020**

# Welcome to my blog



Health Secretary Matt Hancock [#coronavirus](#) press conference (24 March 2020)

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, herein referred to as the Health Secretary, The Right Honourable, Matt Hancock, revealed at the United Kingdom's daily COVID-19 press briefing this afternoon that the government is seeking to recruit a quarter of a million national health service workers to bolster the capacity of the health service here in the face of rising deaths as a result of the on-going pandemic, Coronavirus disease 2019, (COVID-19)

Hancock reiterated the government's position that in order to get a grip on the COVID-19 outbreak, and to arrest its transmission throughout the United Kingdom, "the more we follow the rules," he said, "the sooner we will stop the spread. So everybody has a responsibility to follow those rules, and where possible to stay at home."

I KNOW HOW WORRIED PEOPLE ARE  
AND WHILE THIS IS A GREAT TIME OF TURBULENCE  
IT IS A MOMENT TOO, THAT  
THE COUNTRY CAN COME TOGETHER  
IN THAT NATIONAL EFFORT.

## NHS volunteer responders

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

The Health Secretary revealed that the next step in the country's effort to fight the virus, was the launching of the National Health Service (NHS) Volunteers. Hancock said that the scheme was an opportunity for the country to come together. "We are seeking quarter of a million volunteers," he said, " people in good health, to help the NHS for shopping an delivery of medicines, and to support those who are shielded to protect their own health," he said.

"The NHS volunteer responders," he said, "is a new scheme set up so that people can come and help, and to make sure that NHS, the local services that are needed, get all the support that they can." The Health Secretary also paid tribute to persons who responded to the call of Prime Minister, Boris Johnson last weekend for retired clinicians and other health practitioners to volunteer to return to serve the NHS during these troubled times in the hour of its greatest need to which he said it has been, "incredibly successful thus far."

- **11, 788 persons signed up**
- **2, 660 doctors**
- **2, 500 health professionals and pharmacists**
- **6, 147 nurses**
- **5, 500 final-year medics**
- **18, 700 final-year, student nurses**

Hancock said that this additional 35, 000 staff including thousands of final year medics and nurses " will move to the frontline to make sure we have the people we need, in our NHS, to respond to this crisis."

### NHS Nightingale hospital

The Minister also disclosed that next week extra bed capacity would also be increased through the repurposing and renaming of the of ExCeL Centre in London, as a new temporary hospital. named, NHS Nightingale Hospital

The NHS Nightingale Hospital will be able to accommodate 4,000 patients. He said, that the hospital will comprise of two wards, each able to treat 2000 patients.

"With the help of the military, and with NHS clinicians we will make sure that we have the capacity we need so that everyone can get the support they need," the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care said.

### COVID-19 UK statistics

The health secretary said that the death toll to the deadly disease in the UK rose by 87 overnight. As of 9am on 24 March 2020, a total of 90,436 people have been tested, of which 82,359 were confirmed negative and 8,077 were confirmed positive. 422 patients in the UK who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have died, according to GOV.UK

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## Further reading

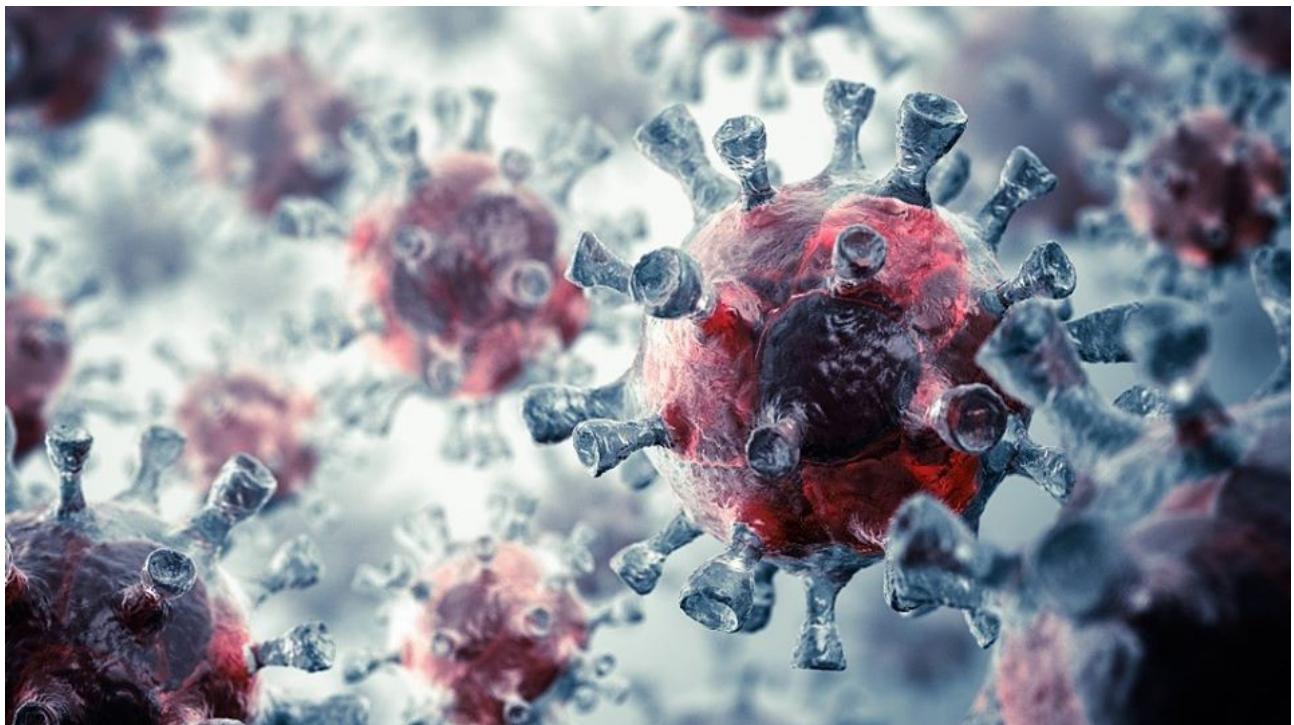
Coronavirus Press Conference, UK Prime Minister Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/10downingstreet/videos/643593196209930/> <UzpfSTEwMDAxMDA4NTU1ODkyMzoxMTQ2Njg5NDg5MDEwNTU5/> [Accessed 24 Mar. 2020].

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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION  
Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
Situation Report – 64 (highlights)Data as  
reported by national authorities by 10:00 CET  
24 March 2020 | March 24, 2020**

# ALBERT WILLIAMS



WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL,

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Four new countries/territories/areas from the South-East Asia Region [1], and Region of the Americas [3] have reported cases of COVID-19.
- WHO has delivered a new shipment of emergency medical supplies to the Islamic Republic of Iran as part of COVID-19 response measures. Details can be found on the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean here.
- The WHO WhatsApp Health Alert has now attracted 10 million users since launching Friday, and the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund has raised more

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than US\$70 million, in just 10 days. The media briefing can be found [here](#).

• WHO and FIFA launched a joint campaign to equip the football community to tackle COVID-19. This awareness campaign calls on all people around the world to follow the five key steps to stop the spread of the disease. More information can be found [here](#).

- WHO and its partners are constantly working to strengthen the chains of essential COVID-19 supplies. As global demand rises, WHO and its partners aim to ensure assistance to areas most in need. More information can be found in [Subject in Focus](#).

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

total (new) cases in last 24 hours

Globally

372 757 confirmed (39 827)

16 231 deaths (1722)

Western Pacific Region

96 580 confirmed (943)

3502 deaths (29)

European Region

195 511 confirmed (24 087)

10 189 deaths (1447)

South-East Asia Region

1990 confirmed (214)

65 deaths (7)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

27 215 confirmed (1840)

1877 deaths (136)

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Region of the Americas  
49 444 confirmed (12 428)  
565 deaths (100)

African Region  
1305 confirmed (315)  
26 deaths (3)

## WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Global Level Very High

[Source] Who.int. (2020). [online] Available at: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20200324-sitrep-64-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=703b2c40\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronavirus/situation-reports/20200324-sitrep-64-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=703b2c40_2) [Accessed 24 Mar. 2020].

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## Dominica's COVID-19 response moves to level 3 | 7 confirmed cases | March 25, 2020



Prime Minister of Dominica, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit

Prime Minister of Dominica, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit has announced that the number of COVID-19 cases in his country has risen to 7. He made the revelation at an address to the nation on Tuesday night. "Earlier today he said," I was informed by the Minister of Health, that health authorities have confirmed 5 additional positive testings associated with one of the two cases already under observation." Skerrit mentioned that since Sunday, Dominica has seen its second imported case of CVID-19 and said that the five additional cases contracted the virus from one or the other cases who are under observation. "This means," he said, "that at least 5 persons are known to have contracted the virus as a consequence of coming into contact in one way or another with one of the persons who has tested positive and who would have brought the virus from abroad."

Meanwhile, Skerrit admonished citizens to be wary of on-island transmission and warned that wider transmission could have occurred. "Fellow citizens, on island-transmission is very serious and very dangerous," he said adding, "it triggers many scenarios and possibilities. Our contact tracing continues and there is a possibility that wider transmission could have occurred." He said that health authorities, however, have 'no way of knowing' whether or not this is the case until persons have been tested and the result known.

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## Level 3 response

Prime Minister Skerrit explained that the occurrence of an on-island transmission of the virus has triggered an up-grade in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “The establish procedure on confirmation of on-island spread is for an increasing of the level of awareness and activity,” he said adding, “I told you on Sunday, the imported positive testing took us to level 2. Confirmed cases of on-island testing now takes us to level 3. This is unfortunate but it is not hopeless,” he said.

## Border controls

Prime Minister Dr Skerrit announced that from Thursday, March 26, 2020 all commercial air and sea access to non-Dominicans will be suspended in the Commonwealth of Dominica. And to all travellers including Dominican citizens and residents from Saturday, March 28, 2020.” This order relates to all commercial aircraft as well as non-essential service-oriented pleasure craft.” he said, adding, ” the same order of March 28, applies to ships, boats and yachts not visiting Dominica for the expressed purpose of bringing vitally in needed cargo and other supplies to this country. All seas and air arrivals must henceforth granted permission to enter by the office of the Chief Medical Officer,” he said.

Skerrit said that this order will remain in place until further notice. In addition, He also advised that Dominicans living overseas wishing to return home, as well as other travellers wishing to leave the island before the March 28th deadline should ‘act now’ to schedule your visit accordingly.

## Social distancing

Moreover, Prime Minister Skerrit noted that a level 3 response triggers a call for social distancing measures in addition to increased good hygiene behaviour. “The coronavirus is contagious, highly contagious. It is spread largely through person-to-person contact , as well as droplets left on surfaces and clothing.” he said adding, ” we need to minimise the spread in Dominica. Accordingly, I am today advising that with immediate effect, all non-essential gatherings in Dominica must be contained to no more than 10 individuals.” The Prime Minister went on to say that essential gatherings exempt from this regulation includes;

- Workplaces
- Supermarkets
- Public transportation
- Bus stations
- Health institutions

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● Any other permitted by the Chief Medical Officer

While prohibited non-essential gatherings includes:

● Restaurants

● Churches

● Sporting and recreational facilities

● Gyms

● Cinemas

● Night clubs

● Bars

● (Most) government Offices, including the financial Centre and the ministries of Government  
Prime Minister Skerrit issued a challenge to the private sector to devise creative ways and  
means to work within the parameters of the regulations that would not place their customers,  
and their staff at risk of contracting the virus. He said, " I wish to take this opportunity to  
appeal to Dominica entrepreneurs to be innovative and creative in their response to these  
impositions," he said.

Dominica recorded its first confirmed case on Sunday.

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# **DOMINICA IMPOSES CURFEW AS A TEAM OF 35 CUBAN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS LAND IN DOMINICA Saturday 28th March 2020 | March 29, 2020**



**Dr Irving McIntyre Minister for Health, Wellness & New Health Investment**

## **DOMINICANS ORDERED STAY INDOORS**

The extreme measures are being introduced, according to, the Minister for Health, Wellness and New Health Investments, Hon. Dr. Irving McIntyre “to protect the nation and its residents” The minister, during a televised address, also available on social media cited, ” Sadly, some of our people have not heeded the calls for cooperation and the

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**exercise of personal and collective responsibility and have been failing and/or refusing to adhere to the guidelines, protocols and pleas of the health authorities.”**

McIntyre said that the Curfew exercised under the COVID-19 Regulations “are limited to those determined to be necessary to improve the effectiveness of the State, in protecting the people of Dominica from the ravages of the pandemic.” He added that, “new Regulations in the form of the Environmental Health Services (COVID-19) Regulations 2020, will take effect from 10pm today, Saturday 28th March 2020 and the general provisions will remain in force until Saturday 18th April 2020, unless the Minister, by Order notifies otherwise.”

“However, the provision providing for a curfew will only have effect from **10 pm,Saturday 28th March 2020 until 8 am Tuesday 31st March 2020**, unless the Minister by Order published in the Gazette extends this.”

## **The following are provided for under the Regulation:**

- Isolation of person infected or suspected to be infectedwith COVID-19
- Special restrictions and requirements on persons arriving from outside Dominica
- Closure of the air and seaports •Closure of the air and seaports •Requirement for Provision of truthful information
- Requirement to notify the authorities of symptoms •Prohibition of gatherings of more than ten (10) persons
- Curfew
- Closure of schools

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of the Environmental Health Services Act and Regulations is an offence and under the provisions of the Environmental Health Services Act 1997 a person guilty of an offence under these provisions may receive a fine of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and imprisonment for twelve (12) months.

## **CUBA ANSWERS DOMINICA'S REQUEST**

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CREDIT: (Screenshot) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations

Meantime, a team of 35 Cuban, medical professionals has arrived in Dominica as per Dominica's request. Macintyre, accompanied Dominica's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business

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and Diaspora Relations, Hon. Kenneth Darroux, who were among the Dominican delegation welcoming their counterparts, at a short ceremony at the airport told them, “I know the sacrifices you have made, to leave home, to leave friends, leave family just to come over here in Dominica to assist us to help us so that we can fight, and combat this the COVID-19.”

The Health Minister said, that the team’s deployment in Dominica would help the island become more prepared to respond to COVID-19.

***“IT IS AN INTERNATIONAL PANDEMIC  
THAT WE KNOW ABOUT NO ONE IS BEING  
SPARED...ABSOLUTELY NO ONE IS BEING  
SPARED***

***Dr Irving McIntyre Minister for Health,  
Wellness & New Health Investment***

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**Dr Irving McIntyre Minister for Health, Wellness & New Health Investment**

The Cubans are in Dominica at the request of the Prime Minister, Hon Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit. The government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the Republic of Cuba established diplomatic relations in 1996.



CREDIT: Ministry of Health, Wellness and New Health Investments

SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## BORIS JOHNSON ROARS BACK TO WORK AS COVID-19 DEATH TOLL SOARS PAST 20,000 | April 27, 2020



Prime minister Boris Johnson returned to work this morning

Prime minister Boris Johnson (55) returned to work this morning two weeks after recovering from COVID-19. The Prime minister arrived at Number 10 Downing Street in London last night after convalescing at his Chequers residence.

Johnson, the first world leader to be struck by the virus, was admitted to the St. Thomas Hospital in London on Sunday, April 5 with ‘persistent symptoms including a fever as precautionary measure. Johnson first went into self-isolation on March 27 when he revealed in a video on social media that he was experiencing mild symptoms of a temperature and a persistent cough. By April 6th, Johnson was moved to the intensive ward when his condition worsened. Johnson was released on Easter Sunday and is reporting back for duty this morning with a sobering message.

In a statement this morning outside his official residence, Number 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister looking visibly recovered said, “Good morning, I am sorry that I have been away from my desk for much longer than I would have liked,” he began, ” and I want to thank everybody who has stepped up, particularly the First Secretary of State, Dominic Raab, who has

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done a terrific job. Once again, I want to thank you the people of this country for the sheer grit and guts you've shown and are continuing to show. Everyday, I know that this virus brings new sadness and mourning to house holds across the land. and it is still true that this is the biggest, single challenge this country has faced since the war," he said.

## COVID-19 Global pandemic

As the COVID-19 Global pandemic continues to spread across the world, the United Kingdom has reached a sober milestone. The UK's Secretary of State for the Home Department RT Hon Priti Patel in leading yesterday's daily Downing Street Briefing hosted by the



Government to update the population on the Government's response to the global COVI-19

Pandemic said, "As the deaths caused by this terrible virus pass another tragic milestone the entire nation is grieving." The United Kingdom recored its first COVID-19 case on February 2019, and its first COVID-19 fatality on March 5. in the space of 52 days, the UK has reached this grim milestone, and has become the 6th country in the world to have the highest cases and deaths as a result of COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a Coronavirus disease detected and reported to the World Health Organisation by China in late December 2019. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and symptoms include high fever, consistent coughing and in the most serious cases: pneumonia.

The disease was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation on March 11, 2020

## Social distancing

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Among measures that governments have instituted are enhanced personal and respiratory hygiene including frequent washing of hands with soap or sanitizer, and practicing social distancing. Social distancing is a measure that instructs persons to remain at least two meters or six feet apart when in the public in order to slow the spread of the disease by infecting others from droplets that may be suspended in the air from infected persons coughing unguarded, or from the virus resting on surfaces.

Presently, one fifth of the world's population are also under a curfew or other lockdown measures of various configurations, to also control mass gatherings. Bars, business places, salons, and other establishments and schools were ordered to close in the UK. The UK's slogan is

**STAY HOME; PROTECT THE NHS; SAVE LIVES.**



A number of nations have also instituted travel restrictions to and from hotspots.

Today, As of 9am on 26 April the death toll in the UK rose to 20,732, says the HM Government website. According to Worldometers, Coronavirus cases worldwide as of April 27, 2020 are: 3,008,196 Deaths from COVID-19 are recorded as 207,391. The website says that 884,582 persons have recovered from the disease thus far.

UK Prime minister 2020 [online] Available  
at: <https://www.facebook.com/10downingstreet/videos/229469684780915/>  
[UzpfSTEwMDAxMDA4NTU1ODkyMzoxMTczNTk4MDU2MzE5NzAy/](https://www.facebook.com/10downingstreet/videos/229469684780915/UzpfSTEwMDAxMDA4NTU1ODkyMzoxMTczNTk4MDU2MzE5NzAy/) [Accessed 27 Apr. 2020].

**THESIS JEAN RHYS Rediscovered | 41 years later  
| May 14, 2020**

## Welcome to my blog



Today marks the 41st anniversary of the death of internationally acclaimed British author of Dominican origin, [Jean Rhys](#). The celebrated author was born Ella Gwendolyn Rees Williams on August 24, 1890 in Roseau, Dominica. She passed away in a caring home in Exeter, United Kingdom on May 14, 1979 at the age of 88. She has left behind a legacy that has earned her a place in history as one of the most influential authors of the 20th century.

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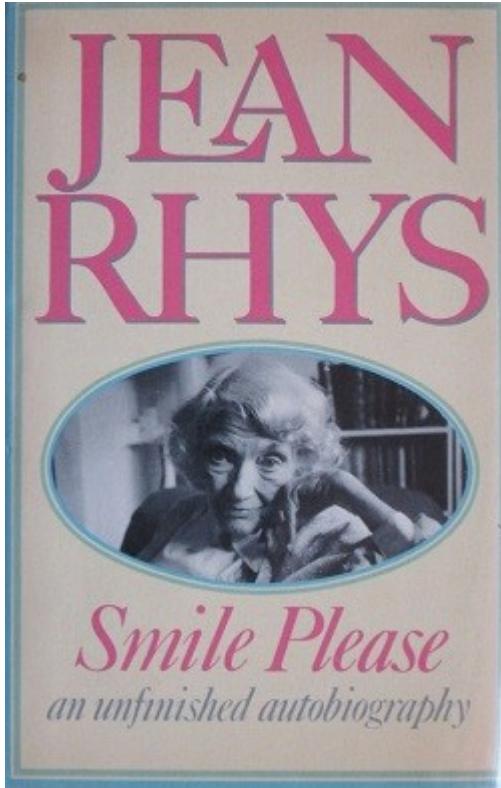


(Acclaimed British author of Dominican origin, [Jean Rhys](#) - Teresa Chilton )

Martin Chilton, writing in an intensely personal piece in the May 14 edition of the Independent titled, *How literary giant Jean Rhys became a jazz songwriter* in honour of the 40th anniversary of her death in 2019 said of Rhys, “Jean Rhys is regarded as one of the great writers of the 20th century.” among her many accolades he mentioned that *Time* magazine had selected Rhys’ *Wide Sargasso Sea* in its list of “100 best English-language novels since 1923.

A simple [search](#) of the Internet will return a copious amount of works published in her lifetime and post, Rhys’ death that dissect, analyse and laud the works of Jean Rhys. Her books are the subject of numerous theses and academic papers. During her life time, Jean Rhys wrote :[The Left Bank and Other Stories](#), 1927; [Postures](#), novel, 1928; [Quartet](#), 1929); [After Leaving Mr. Mackenzie](#), novel, 1931; [Voyage in the Dark](#), novel, 1934; [Good Morning, Midnight](#), novel, 1939; [Wide Sargasso Sea](#), novel, 1966; [Tigers Are Better-Looking: With a Selection from ‘The Left Bank’](#), stories, 1968; [Penguin Modern Stories 1](#), 1969 (with [Bernard Malamud](#), [David Plante](#) and [William Sansom](#)); [My Day: Three Pieces](#), stories, 1975 and [Sleep It Off Lady](#). The following titles were published posthumously:

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[Smile Please: An Unfinished Autobiography](#)

- [Smile Please: An Unfinished Autobiography](#), 1979
  - [Jean Rhys: Letters 1931–1966](#), 1984
  - [Early Novels](#), 1984
  - [The Complete Novels](#), 1985
  - [Tales of the Wide Caribbean](#), stories, 1985
  - [The Collected Short Stories](#), 1987
  - [Let Them Call It Jazz](#), stories, 1995
- ([En.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org) 2020)

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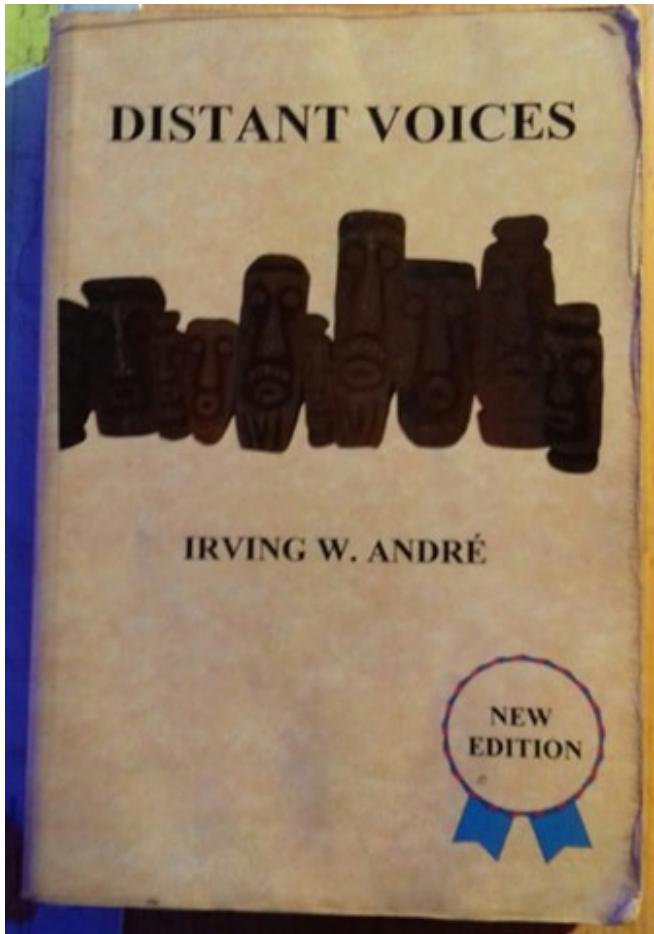
## Reintroduction to Jean Rhys



Members of the Dominica Writers Guild and [Albert Williams](#) (1990s.)

My own familiarity with the writings of this fascinating woman was in the 1980s, 1990s up to 2004 when, like Rhys I travelled to England to further my education. During those heady, heydays of performance poetry shows, publishing poetry books, and writing columns in the local papers, as well as being one of the pioneering members of the now defunct Dominica Writers Guild, and the decommissioned Frontline Cooperative bookstore, I, Gerald La Touch, Ian Jackson, Harry Sealey and Vilna Pinard hosted a literary program in the 90s for the DWG, called Review. The show's format included critiquing, reviewing and reading the works of local, regional and international authors and speaking with guests was aired on the newly-founded radio station, Kairi Fm every Tuesday and Thursday 7- 8pm, The works of Jean Rhys was a frequent feature.

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## Distance Voices by Irving Andre

I can remember, in 2002, after many years as a free-lance, I completed a journalism and short story writing Diploma with International Correspondence School, now Harcourt Learning Direct and was invited to join the editorial team as a reporter with Dominica's oldest newspaper, The Chronicle which was founded in 1909.

Irving Andre, an exceptional Dominican Author of many books on the island's culture, through his Pond Case Press imprint in 1999, in his second edition of Distance Voices, in 1999, which left out its previous subtitle, *The genesis of an indigenous Literature in Dominica*, Andre treats the Jean Rhys legacy with the seriousness it deserves. Chapter three of the book, *The Reconstruction of Social Reality from the Writings of Jean Rhys* provides a very well researched overview of the social constructs of the later 19 century-Dominica into which Rhys was born. And provides the context in which the future fiction author would find ample food for thought that would later inform her writings and fire her creative imagination.

In chapter three, Andre also includes discussions of works from active poets of the day who had written odes to Rhys memories. Poems like, *Smile Please to me* by Christabel Laronde; *The*

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*Extreme Island* by Gerald La Touche and *Broken Images* by Ian Jackson. He also included My Poet's Life by Albert Williams.

## I used to live here once



Former residence of Jean rhys before demolition - Hmdb.org 2020

For many years, in fact decades, my own writings were concentrated on promoting black consciousness. I was and still am a huge fan of the Caribbean's most recognised cultural exponent, Bob Marley who together with his band, The Wailers carved out a niche for himself as a champion of the down-pressed, the marginalised and the third-world.

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## (C)Repeating Islands 2020

Polly Pattullo, a former British journalist and author of numerous books on Caribbean topics, and co-owner of Papillote Press, in her blog, *Repeating Islands*, provides a warm but sober, requiem for the famous building, in her post, *JEAN RHYS HOUSE in Roseau Has Been Demolished* she said, “those who treasure literary heritage will mourn its passing.”

Nevertheless, perhaps the greatest influence to trigger my renewed interest in the Wide Sargasso Sea author, was not the fact that the, albeit dilapidated landmark was soon to be totally obliterated, but that a living descendent of the great lady had contacted me on Facebook messenger bemoaning the destruction of a childhood home of his great, grand aunt, **Ella Gwendolyn Rees Williams**. Enters 59-year-old, Steven Owen Williams Sr.

### The Jean Rhys Estate

Not much is known about the Jean Rhys estate. Whether she signed a last will and testament, or whether she died intestate. The Jean Rhys archive, 1920-1991 (15 Linear Feet '30 boxes, 1 oversized folder' held by the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, USA. ([Utulsa.as.atlas-sys 2020](#)). The collection of the ‘colonial writer’ says its website, comprises of manuscripts, drafts of stories, and personal letters and correspondence. The Jean Rhys archive also houses ‘sound recordings and reviews’ of her books; interviews with and articles about her.” According the university’s website,

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the copyrights of this precious resource material is owned by the University of Tulsa, McFarlin Library, Department of Special Collections.

“I would like to see  
that the last descendants  
get some recognition be it in kind  
or financially,”

***Cpl Steve Owen Williams Sr.***

Further, it says that “Unpublished manuscripts, photographs, recordings, etc. are under copyright to the original producers or their heirs”.

Steve Williams and his twin brother Steven are direct descendants of the family lineage of Ella Gwendolyn Rees Williams who became known as the eccentric Jean Rhys and the author of note of the 20th century. In fact, as a heir to the legacy of Jean Rhys through direct blood association somewhat backs up a point.

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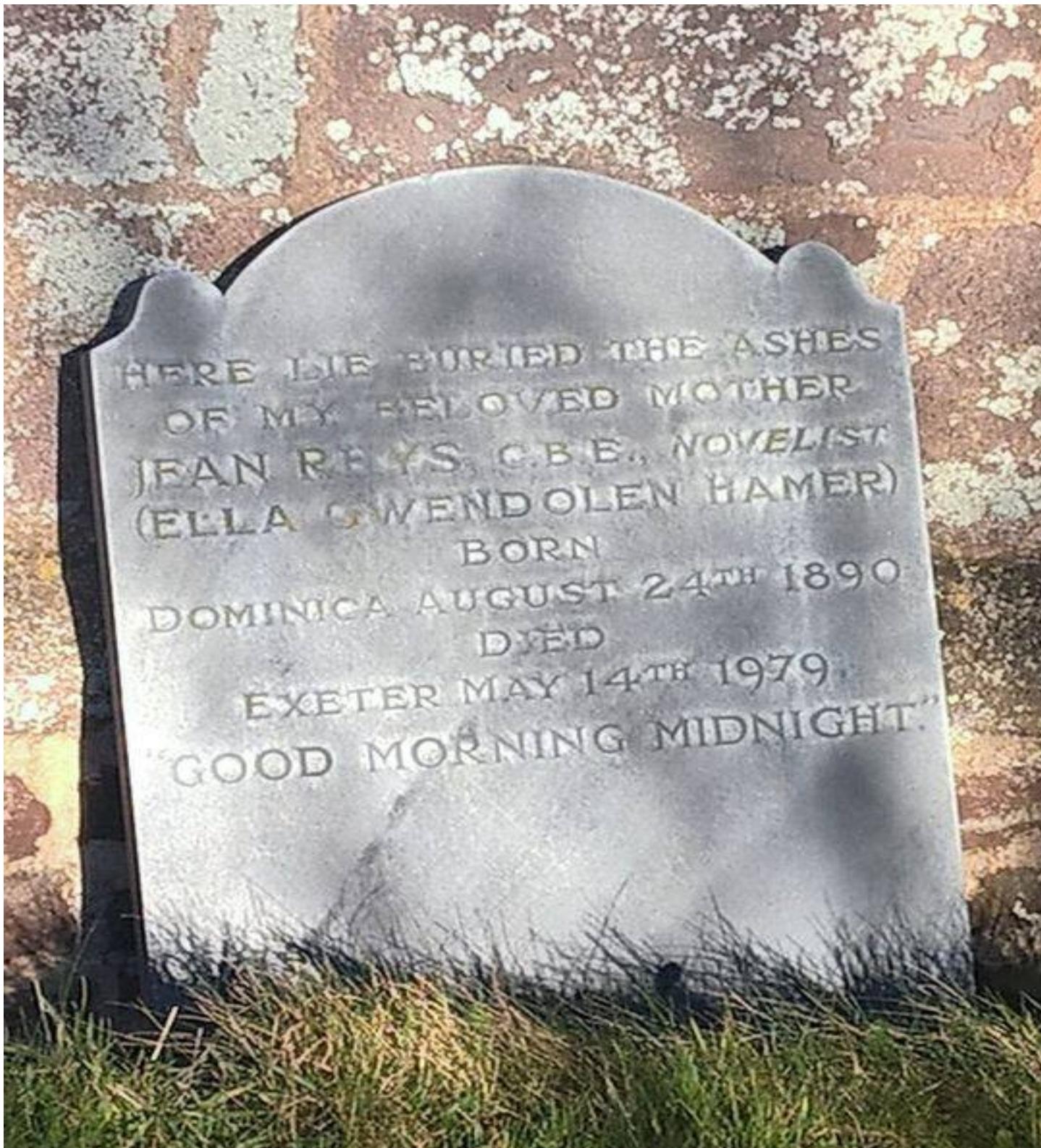
Corporal Steve Williams, who is a 39-year-veteran of the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force told this writer that it was Caribbean anthropologist scholar, and Dominican historian and author, Dr. Lennox Honychurch, who first made him, his parents and siblings aware that they are the last descendants of the internationally, acclaimed Jean Rhys. He remembers that in the early 70s while the young Honychurch, who had already published his first edition of the *Dominica Story* while pursuing further studies, Honychurch and Steve's his father, Oscar would engage in great discussions about what they knew about this famous, Dominican author. This famous creole lady of whom they are the living heirs. While Honychurch was studying he would conduct a lot research with his father he remembers. "He had everything he needed in regard to Jean Rhys. I know she was born in 1890 and died 14 May 1979 and ever since I joined the police force we were always questioned about the house on the intersection of Fields Lane, Cock street and Queen Mary Street.

According to Steve, His father Oscar was born in 1915. His father, Steven's grand father was brother to **Ella Gwendolyn Rees Williams**. "So she is my fathers grand aunt, and she became our great, grand aunt" he added.

"We grew up in 37 Cork street where our mother first lived and the house of Gwendolyn was owned by Sparrow Winston who used to live there. He lived there for quite a while, "he mused adding, "He was in charge of the house after it was sold when Rhys was taken to England. The house of Jean

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Rhys, he said is is [was] located at the intersection of Fields Lane, Queen Mary Street (Now Independence Street) and Cork Street.



[Newdevonbookfindsaway. 2017\)](#)

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“We know for a fact she later moved to Geneva Estate in Grand Bay and that is where she lived until she was taken to England at the age of 16 years,” he added.

## The novel continues: the afterlife

Despite the fact that Dominica is mentioned in the same sentence in every bibliographical text you can find of Jean Rhys, whether on radio, television, or print (or the Internet), and her books are really autobiographical in nature and draw on anecdotes and reflections on her early childhood in Dominica and her consequent life in Europe, Jean Rhys continues to dodge the limelight in Dominica. Successive governments in Dominica as far the first ministership of deceased Franklin Baron, his successor, O E Leblanc who is attributed to introducing National Day observances and competitions, and advocated of downing the tie in favour of the shirt jack and every government since, have not found it necessary or on second thoughts, cannot make Jean Rhys a household name on the island.

Steve Williams and his brother and children are hoping that as last descendants that they will see some of her inheritance passed on to them.

“I would like to see that the last descendants get some recognition be it in kind or financially,” Steve said.

Steve is married and he and his wife Decima have 5 children: Steve Owen Jr, (36) , Sherry-Ann (33,) Dexter (30) Melissa (26 ) and (Shanika 25)

In closing I asked, “Well ! what do your children say about your great, grand aunt?

He replied, ” They ask questions about her every day. Even my wife. Daddy, you have a fortune in England they say,” he chuckled. Unfortunately, Steve could not offer any photos or memorabilia due to Hurricane Maria that devastated the island September 17, 2017

“I lost everything during maria. We had a lot of books Lennox Honychurch gave us. We had a case full of documents and I had a few that brothers of my uncle that died, ” he reminisced. ” Now all gone”

## Not all tigers are better looking

So the unlikely consequence of the demolition of a famous author’s residence may be bizarre, it may be expedient. Maybe, that is how Jean Rhys wanted it. Her favorite place on earth, discreet. A place to retire away from prying journalists simply sipping a glass of wine watching the sunset. *Albert Williams Reporting*, understands that the new owners are members of another well-known Dominican heritage family. This is Steve Williams again, ” It was demolished on May 4 ,

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and there is a big hole. That big hole is right on the intersection. The mango tree was supposed to cut down , they were warned not to cut it.”

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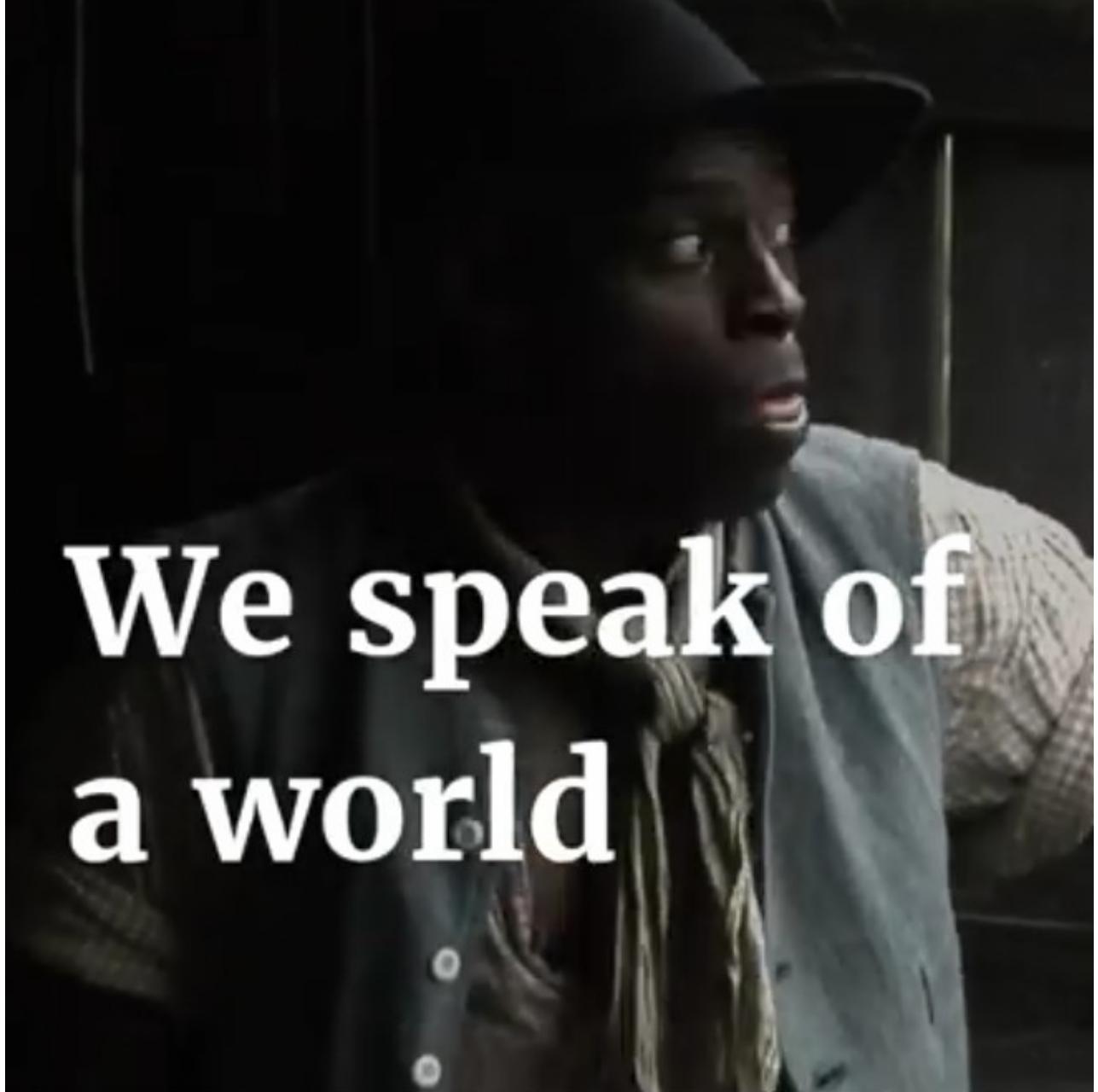
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ALBERT WILLIAMS

Why acknowledging your colonial past can lead to more discovery than you'd realise | May 22, 2020



We speak of  
a world

## Welcome to my blog

Since news broke that the childhood home of internationally, acclaimed, Dominican-born, author, the late Jean Rhys was being demolished, on Cork Street where she was born, along with a mango tree, that it is believed to have been over 150 years old, the writing bug has bitten me.

After overcoming the initial shock, I reminisced on those days back in Dominica, when I was among my contemporaries, and very active on the literary scene in Dominica.

*In reading various  
accounts of the life and the times of Jean Rhys,  
and how she interwove elements  
of the 16 years she spent in  
Dominica as a child into her novels and short  
stories...*

What was even more alarming, were the comments that I read from postings on Facebook. some were really distasteful , others were a lot more sympathetic. I reckoned that the news of the destruction of the world-famous building would resonate more with an educated elite, who though may not have read her work, may have at least heard of her fame. From the time I know myself living in Dominica, I have known of Jean Rhys. Particularly during my days with the Dominica Writers Guild, and the research I did during the production of Review- a bi-weekly, one-hour long , literary radio show hosted by the guild at Kairi FM in the 90s.

### **Local knowledge**

Over the past two weeks, I have immersed myself in the research of the background and literary career of Jean Rhys. Something I was unable to do 40 years ago when I pounded the pavements in Roseau in the 70s and 80s. Books Stores were not common. Cee Bee's and Frontline bookstores were the only place to get your hands on books that were limited, The Roseau Public library was a more favourable alternative. I spent many an hour in the

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public library up there on Victoria Street. The view of Scotts Head from the verandah overhanging the cliff is one of the most ethereal sights in the City of Roseau.

Leap forward to 2020, in the middle of a pandemic, where I have been furloughed since late March, the internet and its worldwide information superhighway, is my lifeline to the outside world. The internet opens up sources of information from anywhere and everywhere. Thanks to Google's mission to make research more open, through the digitizing of publications long out of print, and in the public domain, accessible for free research, a lot of the publications, and colonial records, such as slave registers and court records would be beyond my reach.

In reading various accounts of the life and the times of Jean Rhys, and how she interwove elements of the 16 years she spent in Dominica as a child into her novels and short stories, I have since begun to stock my library with publications related to Jean and that colonial era to begin my investigation of the life and times of Jean Rhys, and my fascination of how this daughter of a Welsh Doctor and born of Creole mother and rose to become a leading literary figure of the 20th century,

But this is not all that fascinates me. I am quite intrigued by the fact that our lives seem to be told in a kind of mirror-image of each other in terms of a timeline at least, It is as if when I am reading Jean Rhys, I am reading my own story through her eyes. She was born in Dominica travelled to England at age 16, published novels, married three times. I on the other hand, was born in England, of Dominica parentage, travelled to Dominica at the age of 10, became a writer published a few books, then returned to England., published a few books, got married earned a degree, and postgraduate diploma. This year will be 15 years since my return. When Rhys left Dominica for England it was 30 years before she visited again. I have not been able to visit Dominica yet.

Again if you look closer, to our alternative lens, we can compare what life was like in Dominica and the world back in Jean's day, in the early 1900s, compared to 1972 when I arrived in Dominica, and 32 years later when I left. As I said, quite apart from worrying who the new owners of the property might, I have been speaking with some of the last living descendants of the great Jean Rhys. This, interestingly has taken me down my colonial roots in ways that I would not have imagined 10 years ago.

In early 2006, my wife, Tempie and I, began a project to write the history of the Rastafari movement in Dominica, a project which was completed in 2010. Together, Tempie, who is also a published novelist, we also co-founded Diablotin Television and did many works on the web which is another story. Back in Dominica, I was known as a Rasta Poet, a Black Activist, so someone might be a little puzzled as to why now I am taking interest in a white colonial girl who, as one commentator on Facebook said, "just happens to be born in Dominica"

# Welcome to my blog

## DREAD, RASTAFARI AND ETHIOPIA The definitive historical report

Let us return to the spark ignition again, the demolition of the home of Jean Rhys, I know that the house has been passed down or sold, But I want to dig even further. This is where colonial records are such as useful tool. Jean Rhys herself said that most people think that she is English, but she said she is not, she said that her father was welsh and his father was Scottish. You see what I mean. Upon further investigation, I decided to see what contribution that Wales and Scotland may have had with the Atlantic Slave Trade. I have also decided to do some research on sale of estates and house lots in Dominica. To read Jean Rhys, it is useful to read Lennox Honychurch's *Dominica Story* alongside.

### **Colonial records**

Because plantation records were so meticulous, even in such a brutal age, you can find out about how your ancestors may have lived. Detailed records remain of the exploits of the european settlers and their estates. Dominica's plantation society was not straight forward, due to its alternative possession by the French and the English. This is a theme that I will be exploring in greater detail in a subsequent blog. Records of our african ancestry are a lot harder to find and to verify. And while questions abound about

- Who was it that purchased the property?
- How much was it worth and ?
- What are the architectural designs approved?
- What was the residual value of the building?
- What have they done with those relics of the building? The doorways and staircase and the louvered windows and the stones of the wall. A local theatre company could have used them to build sets for stage or films.
- Was this demolition even documented?
- And what will the architectural change to the former Jean Rhys house lot will mean for the City of Roseau?
- And do you know, that the descendants of the famous author are seeking to have the government award posthumously, the highest award possible to the memory of one of the country's most famous daughters.

The Jean Rhys legacy in Dominica is vastly understated. On the eve of her 41st anniversary of her death on May 14, 1979, her, historical, heritage home and the old, mango tree that was in the yard which were featured in her novels and mentioned in her stories was torn down by human hands. Rhys as a subject of interest, and the wider implications of the postcolonial era is going to occupy my mind for some time.

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## Further reading

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Welcome to my blog

# The Storm | A short story by Albert Williams |

## May 27, 2020



HMS Egmont, when dismasted on 11 October near the Island of St Lucia – 1780 ([Wikipedia](#))

Roddy Bane shakes his head as the weatherman announces that a hurricane watch is in effect for the islands. His wife Sheila-Anne is seated on a settee across the room; his sixteen year old daughter, as beautiful as a morning sun, is standing by the front door. Mr. Bane is

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

absentmindedly twirling a glass filled with rum.

“Can’t he find something proper to tell people?” he mutters. “Good Lord, I’ve lived all my life here and no hurricane ever...”

“Aw, won’t you hush up!” interrupts his wife who is trying to make sense out of the weatherman’s predictions.

“This is serious you know, they say this is a dangerous storm,” she adds making a gesture with her hands to silence him

“A dangerous storm...Bah” retorts Mr. Bane.

“Nothing but a little...”

“Well listen nuh,” chides Sheila-Anne, her eyes glued to the TV set as the man on the television points out the current coordinates.

“I wonder what’s it like to go through a hurricane,” says Tarah, almost to herself, flicking a handful of her dark-brown tresses over her right shoulder as she peers out into the fading light.

“Not a very nice thing,” responds her mother, who saunters towards the front door where Tarah is standing.

“I can remember my mother telling me that in 1935 a bad

## Welcome to my blog

hurricane hit Dominica and plenty people did get killed,"

she says nodding her head sagely.

"All this meteorological stuff.....Bah!" interjects Mr.

Bane. "Never heard anyone talk about a hurricane in..."

he leans back into his favourite armchair frowning.

"Papa God, make this storm pass us," utters Sheila-

Anne as she quickly makes the sign of the cross.

"All you not hearing," ejaculates Roddy. "All you and

dat TV is two of a kind, I wish dat hurricane would come

for true and let me hear you talk bout storm coming.

"Roddy!" exclaims Mrs. Bane, her teeth clenched and

eyes glowering. "How can you say dat?" she spouts

Mr. Bane doesn't reply, instead he leans forward

reaching for the centre table where the bottle of D-Special

rum, newly opened, is standing. He tops his glass with

some more of the stuff. Without much of a thought he

dumps the contents into his mouth, swirls it around, then

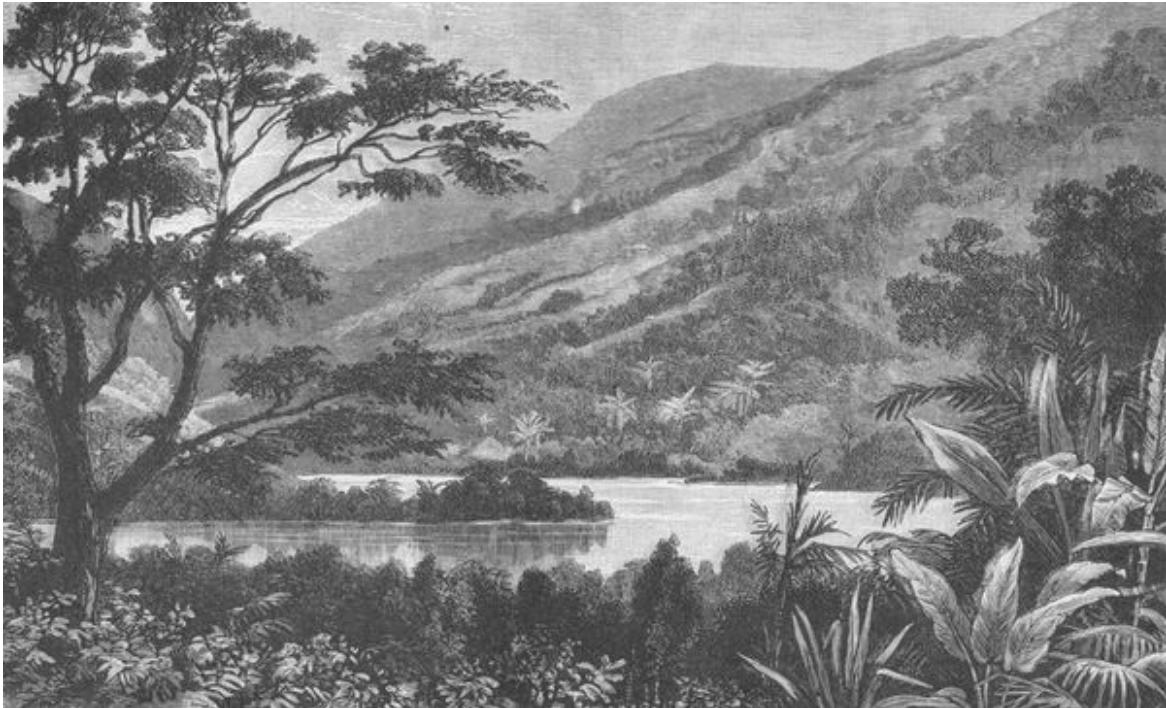
swallows with a gulp. The stinging beverage makes his

eyes twinkle with redness, as his face contorts with a

hideous grimace. He coughs.

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MO  
UNT  
AIN



CRATER, DOMINICA – JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE

Mr. Bane is a sawmill operator at a local lumber yard.

This afternoon he is home earlier than usual as the

company has let the workers off since midday, so that

they could look after their families in the anticipation of a

direct hit by the storm. He had passed by Port-of-Call for

a drink or two with a few of his colleagues, and by the

time he reaches home he was thoroughly intoxicated.

Tarah, who herself would normally have been out

with her friends about this time, has taken the

government's warning seriously. She has decided to stay

indoors, keeping periodic checks on the storm's progress

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via the radio and television for updates.

Mrs. Bane peering out of the window observes in the distance huge masses dark of clouds, she says, “Boy! The sky so ugly, I’m glad you are here with me. I’m going to check the kitchen to see if we might need anything.”

As the afternoon wears on the sky changes drastically; an otherwise red and orange sunset is obscured by the foreboding, cheerless clouds

Mr. Bane is propped up in his favourite armchair, dressed in the same blue jeans and denim long sleeved shirt that he wore to work today. His head is cocked to one side as Tarah tries to wake him pleading. “Daddy, come on, help me to nail some plywood over some of the windows,” she begs. “They say the hurricane will hit us at midnight,” she adds shaking him. Roddy’s reply is blurred and angry.

“Aw leave me alone,” he chides, “can’t you see...Can’t you see no hurricane, Bah!”

Tarah gives him a disgusted glance.

Suddenly a dazzling streak illuminates the evening sky, plunging the villa into a thick darkness, followed

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several moments later by a deafening roar overhead as

thunder pounds the already humid atmosphere.

Tarah covers her ears giggling while her father is

startled. "What the !...what was dat?" he says springing

to his feet in a daze.

At that moment Mrs. Bane returns from the kitchen

holding a long white candle, its warm flame casting

dancing shadows. "Hello dear," she says "the lightning

must have cut the light. We have a flashlight nuh?"

"Yes Mum," answers Tarah, "I'll go and get mine."

The contours on Tarah's feminine silhouette recede into

the darkness. Mrs. Bane sets the candle on a saucer,

placing it on a shelf below the portrait of Jesus Christ

then she turns, walks over to her husband who's still

sitting in his armchair. She touches him lightly on his

knee and sighs. After a pause she says, "so look at you,

Mr. Bane. You should be ashamed of yourself."

She turns and continues speaking . "Drunk like a fish

when you should be helping us get things under control."

Another clap of thunder rumbles in the heavens and

slightly rocks the house, followed by a burst of heavy

raindrops large as golf balls that now beat upon the roof.

## Welcome to my blog

Tarah returns with the torch, training its beam from window to window. She says, “I really wish we had boarded up the other windows.”

“Let’s just take it easy,” advises her mother trying to sound comforting. “Maybe...Things won’t be as bad as all that.”

Tarah complains further that she is feeling chilly since the evening temperature had dropped a few degrees as the evening thickened over the island. When she went to search for the flashlight she had donned a thick woolen sweater and a pair of slacks to keep her warm. She also brought a small transistor radio which she has on a local radio station, its soft music mingling with the feeling of apprehension in the living room.

Roddy is still clutching his empty glass, but now he’s singing a refrain of a reggae number; “When the rain falls,” he croaks, “it won’t fall on one man’s house top,” he runs his hand over his unshaven face, then points in the direction of his wife and child and adds, “Remember that.”

Time draws by slowly. The evening is uneventful.

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Tarah is sitting by the front door on a low stool. She is thinking over what her mother has said about the hurricane of 1935; then she shudders at the thought of so many people being killed.

Mr. Bane has other thoughts as he peeps between half closed eyes. He silently concludes that his wife was naïve enough to expect a hurricane of some silly tale told by her mother, perhaps to keep her quiet like a little girl, or discourage her from playing outdoors in the wind and rain. As the midnight hours arrives, Mr. Bane breaks the gloomy silence.

“As you see, midnight, no hurricane,” he laughs, a deep-belly kind of ridiculous laugh.

Mrs. Bane retorts defensively “well it’s better to be prepared than to be not ready and wind and rain come smashing up everything and you don’t know what is going on.”

“But I want to see the wind and rain, like how they does show it in the learning channel,” Tarah says with a smug smile on her face, making the dimples in her cheek stand out like two holes on either side of her mouth.

“Anyway,” replies Sheila-Anne, “you and your father

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does really get under my skin.” She begins to walk around the room checking to see if everything is in order, then she sits on the sofa and sighs, “well my dear, we might as well try to get some sleep.” She tries in vain to stifle a yawn. “Perhaps your father is right, dem weather people always predicting.” She nods in the direction of her husband who is already asleep in his armchair.

Dawn breaks under the ferocious winds, a low atmospheric pressure has created ideal conditions for the deadly vortex that has developed into a category four hurricane—a very dangerous storm. Roddy, Sheila-Anne and Tarah listen to the extremely high winds accompanied by torrential rains that are now pouring as if all the waterfalls in the world had been diverted over the Bane’s residence.

Roddy, who seems to have slept off the effects of last night’s carousing is houting above the screeching scenario. “All you,” he bellows “get buckets, bath tub...anything to put where dat leaking,” he advises. “This really looking bad,” says his wife. Roddy nods in agreement, his mind now sober, but rather confused not

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knowing what to do in the present circumstances. Roddy has never experienced anything like this before. He turns his head abruptly to what sounds like someone trying to yank off the entire roof. Roddy Bane is a well built man, having gotten plenty of exercise from handling loads of lumber at his work place. He considers himself fearless, afraid of no one; but at the moment he feels a painful ache in his chest at the mounting concern for his dear family.

Up to eight inches of muddy rain water flows freely on the floor. An earthy odor permeates the air. Outdoors the gale continues to blow from every direction. Suddenly, Mrs. Bane screams, "Oh my God." Through the open front door she recognizes Tarah's girlish figure crouching against the weather as she attempts to record the scene on her camcorder. "Tarah!" shouts Mrs. Bane with tears welling in her eyes, "get back inside."

Her order passes in vain. Tarah's fascination with the phenomenon has her trapped within its magical grasp.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bane himself is at the entrance in a trice. He too shouts to his daughter. "Tarah!" he yells, cupping his thick hands around his mouth, "what do you think you are doing?" "Come inside," he commands her.

## Welcome to my blog

At that frightening moment, to his horror, he sees his daughter being lifted clean from her feet and being hauled several metres along a slippery lawn before she is lodged in a low-cut hedge that acts as a fence along the perimeter of the front lawn where she nows hold on to prevent herself from being blown further, as well as for the fear of the loss of her life, her camcorder now carried aloft by the powerful currents tumbling and smashing before her eyes. Roddy is almost dumbstruck, he gapes unbelievably as Tarh is obscured from sight by the screen of leaves, dirt and other debris hurled between them.

“What!” exclaims Sheila Anne, “do something” she shrieks, tears now streaming down her face.  
“God helps me utters Roddy, as he bites hard into his lips, “I’m going to get her,” he adds, his hands trembling.

“Hurry Roddy!” screams his wife again, the strong wind blowing her hair into her face. They gaze for moments as Tarah wedged among the branches of the shrub some forty feet away, stares back at them with a look of utter surprise and terror in her beautiful brown eyes.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

# Welcome to my blog



## ALBERT WILLIAMS

(Previous page ) World Of The Great White Heron! [Stevereads](#)

Roddy crawls on all fours, gripping the earth as one  
would grip a blanket, inching his bulk forward, pushing  
against what seems like the strength of twenty men. He  
curses under his breath, wishing he could say the word  
and all at once still the storm, but Roddy realizes there is  
no way out. He now fears for both of their lives. As he  
closes in to Tarah he calls out to her, “don’t move—  
Daddy is coming to get you.” A few more feet and he has  
reached the bushy branches of the schrub.  
  
He orders Tarah to hold on to him while he firmly  
grips the young lady around her waist.  
  
Tarah instantly obeys her father. She feels more secure  
as Mr. Bane’s towering form acts as a human shield, and  
together they retrace their tracks back along the lawn,  
pausing at times on all fours as the cruel winds wipes  
around them. All the time Tarah is thinking about the  
power of the wind as she witnessed first hand a number  
of fruit trees completely uprooted. She also saw portions  
of the neighbour’s home flying in the  
storm like kites. At last they reach the house where Tarah  
sees her mother waiting anxiously, her hand holding her

Welcome to my blog  
jaws like one who has a terrible toothache.

It's all right," purrs Mrs. Bane looking over her rescued daughter.

"Mother," Tarah says. "I never know wind could be so strong." She gazes fearfully over her shoulder at the dramatic view of a hurricane in full force.

"I never knew," says her mother, glaring at Tarah, "that you could be so irresponsible to try something like that."

"All I wanted was to record some action," confesses Tarah, "so we could watch it later." Meanwhile the storm is unrelenting like a monstrous octopus, its tentacles lashing the villa with a barrage of powerful gusts.

Hardly a minute has passed since the child's return to safety, when Mr. Bane realizes the roof of the house will not hold. "All you," he says "lets go under there," pointing to an open space beneath the counter in the kitchen, as the gusts outside seem to intensify.

"Quick!" he shouts. Sheila-Anne and Tarah huddle beneath it clutching each other, followed by Mr. Bane as what sounds like a huge wave envelopes the area spewing large chunks of the stonewall, almost enclosing

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the three of them in a dark tomb.

For the next few hours the family is utterly quiet. Only the horrifying screech of the wind can be heard, that echoes in their very bones. Finally the wind subsides and the sun shines with a brilliance as if nothing disastrous had taken place. It's brilliant midday rays revealing total devastation.

Roddy Bane, meanwhile is pushing against a slab of the stone wall that has enclosed him and his family under the counter where they had weathered the storm.

Finally succeeding, he climbs out, then helps Tarah, then Sheila-Anne. "Well," he sighs, "I'll never doubt another weatherman again. They knew what they were talking about this time." Roddy took his wife in his arms, kissing her gently on the cheek.

"Hey, you two," says Tarah, "I want to experience another. This is fun but just a little rough, don't you think," she added rubbing her chin.

"You and your adventurous mind," teased Mr. Bane. "one of these days you will understand the real adventure."

"You mean I'll be on television reporting live from

# Welcome to my blog

Dominica for CBS!"

Amid the ruins of their home they all break out in tears  
of joy to be saved from the worst of the storm.

"I'm not sure about that," replies Mr. Bane, "but you  
nearly became a missing actor in a revised "Gone with  
the Wind".

"I guess that's what they call riding the storm," says  
Sheila-Anne as she draws Roddy and Tarah towards her,  
pressing them to her breast.

The end

Extract from Haunted Heritage and Other Stories – (c) Albert Williams (2005) ISBN-  
[10: 142410680X](#) – ISBN-[13: 978-1424106806](#) Publisher: PublishAmerica (21 Nov. 2005)  
Paperback: 132 pages

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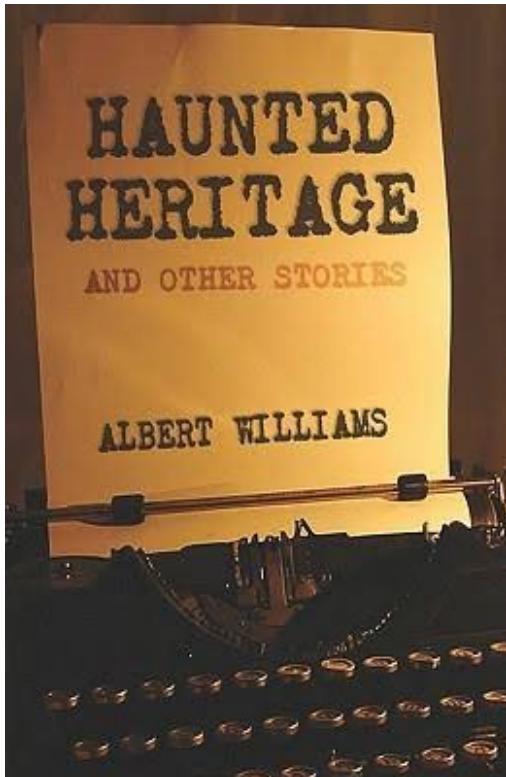


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Welcome to my blog

# The Caribbean prepares for active 2020 Atlantic hurricane season May 29, 2020



The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins Monday, June 1st. The season will run for approximately 6 months until the end of November. (Graphic [Kin Insurance](#))

## Season predictions

Forecasters at the National Oceanic and atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Climate Prediction Center, have predicted a ‘above-normal activity’ for this 2020 Atlantic Hurricane season. According to the scientists, in a recent article, ‘*Busy Atlantic hurricane for 2020*’ “The outlook predicts a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season and only a 10% chance of a below-normal season.”

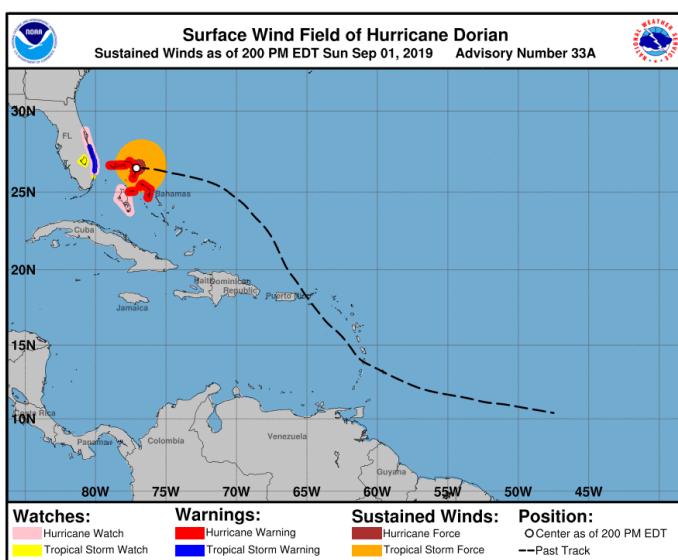
Above, is an infographic published by NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center which shows that there is a probability that 13 to 19 named storms, recording winds of 39 mph or higher, could form in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico this year. The scientists back their predictions with a 70% certainty that at least 6 to 10 of them could evolve into hurricanes’. A storm is said to be a category 1 when its wind speeds reach 74 mph or higher. According to NOAA’s 2020 season outlook, at least ‘3 to 6 major hurricanes, ranging from

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

categories 3 to 5, or wind speeds in excess of 111 mph or higher, are expected to be a feature this year. An average hurricane season can expect to see 12 named storms, half of each could evolve into which into fully-formed hurricanes, and three becoming major hurricanes. The peak of the hurricane season is said to be between the months of mid-August to late October.

Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Damage at Landfall
1	74-95	Minimal
2	96-110	Extensive
3	111-129	Devastating
4	130-156	Catastrophic
5	157+	Catastrophic

The [Saffir-Simpson](#) Hurricane Wind Scale



(National Hurricane Center)

Last year, September 1st, the Bahamas were the latest Caribbean territory to suffer the damaging effects of a category 5 hurricane. Hurricane Dorian, packing maximum sustained winds of 185 mph (298 km/h), and with hurricane-force winds extending from the center for 45 miles (75km) and tropical -storm-force winds extend a further 140 miles (220km), devastated Abaco and Grand Bahama, two of the territory's most productive islands.

# Welcome to my blog

Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 storm, sat on Grand Bahama for 27 hours. Only the remains of 55 victims were recovered. Thousands were missing and now feared dead as the storm surge generated by the hurricane raged inland submerging whole communities.

## A Perennial existential threat



This [image](#) released by World Press Photo, Thursday April 16, 2020, by Ramon Espinosa, The Associated Press, which won third prize in the Spot News Singles category, Volunteers wade along a flooded road in Freeport, Grand Bahama, on 3 September 2019, after Hurricane Dorian hit the island. (Ramon Espinosa, The Associated Press, World Press Photo via AP)

Hurricanes, tropical storms and other weather related phenomena, are a perennial existential threat to small-island, Caribbean states. So too are geological events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides. The Caribbean is also prone to hydrological hazards like floods and tsunamis, and biological threats such as the on-going Covid 19 Pandemic.

Historical records state that the terror of hurricanes has been well documented as far back, as the 16th century. Author of *Hurricanes and Society in the Greater Caribbean 1624 - 1783*, Matthew Mulcahy writes that the early colonists had not experienced such ferocious, and deadly winds until experienced in the West Indies. Likewise the slaves, who the majority came from West Africa had not either.

When Irma and Maria ravaged multiple islands in 2017, the world's jaw dropped in horror as the extent and the scale of the widespread destruction become known. But this is not without parallel in the ancient past of the West Indies.

Mulchay relates, "Most colonial officials recognised that a single storm often damaged multiple colonies" that hurricanes caused utter destruction and economic loss to multiple islands in the British Greater Caribbean in a single event has been repeated over and over again throughout antiquity. Particularly during the colonial period in the West Indies. Indeed, he wrote that one hurricane could strike not only multiple islands, but multiple colonies owned by the different competing European powers. He referenced a storm of 1707 which he said

"levelled the English Leewards islands, the Dutch islands of Saba and St. Eustatius, and the French

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

island of Guadeloupe."

Meanwhile, author of *Sea of Storms – A History of Hurricanes in the Greater Caribbean from Columbus to Katrina*, Stuart B Schwartz, recounts the story of the Great Hurricane of October 10 -16, 1780. A year in which at least 8 major storms made landfall in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

With the American Revolution in the background, the author notes that Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo were impacted by a rare June, hurricane, and followed in August by two hurricanes that affected Louisiana on the United stets mainland and St Christopher (St. Kitts).

A major hurricane killed 3,000 people in Savanna La Ma and Montego Bay in Jamaica crossing over into Cuba on October 1-6. A tropical depression formed in the Gulf of Mexico that would develop into a hurricane of ‘tremendous strength’ British fleets fighting near Florida and Virginia were sunk. A Spanish fleet of over 60 ships and 4,000 troops was struck by the hurricane of which 2000 are said to have perished.

However, it is the Great Storm in October 10 -16 that would claim between 22,000 and 30,000 lives in the Caribbean. The first Colony to be affected was Barbados where 4,500 colonists and enslaved people died in the devastation. “The storm swung northward,” continues the author, “moving up the chain of the Lesser Antilles.” Schwartz, records that the Cape verde storm which by today’s standards would be equal to a cat 5, passed northward of St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Martinique its cyclonic winds bringing destruction throughout the region.<sup>19</sup> Dutch vessels were sunk off the coast of Grenada; two French frigates were either smashed or cast in shore in Guadeloupe. Schwartz adds that in Kingston St. Vincent only 16 of 600 houses were left standing in the ton, and in St. Lucia 6,000 individuals also dies there.

The account makes grim reading adding that some 4,000 seafarers lost their lives when their ships sank. 9,000 people died as a result of the Great Storm in Martinique; 6,000 ‘enslaved and free people’ were killed in Bass Terre, Guadeloupe. “Gales and high seas were experienced elsewhere in the island chain,” according to Schwartz. The Storm would hit Western Puerto Rico and eastern Santo Domingo before curving northward into the the North Atlanti, “missing Bermuda but, damaging shipping in the area.”

The decade of 1780s, in summary, according to Schwartz, was a year of continuous destruction as a consequence of hurricanes. Jamaica, he noted, that had not suffered a hit for a lengthy period prior to 1780, was struck in 1781, 1784, 1785 and 1786. St Croix, ,Guadeloupe, Barbados, Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico were struck by hurricanes in 1785. 1786 proved to be a repeat performance with hurricanes making landfall on the Leeward islands and Honduras, In 1787, according to the author, “little Dominica was struck by three separate storms.”

# Welcome to my blog

## The satellite era



The Cray XC40 supercomputing system

Early colonists had no early-warning systems as obtains today. They learned of the seasonal nature of these dangerous storms from experience or reports circulating in colonial newspapers and pamphlets such as accounts of Spanish missionary, Ramon Pane with Carib Indians, and stories from sailors who survived to tell the story at sea.

Fortunately for 21st Century Caribbean, residents in the region are much better prepared for hurricanes. Developments in technology has led to weather satellites and radars. It was only until 1830s that the British Military engineer, William Reid and American scientist, William Redfield came to the conclusion that hurricanes were in fact ‘rotating winds circling a distinct center (Schwartz 2015, p190)

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



Television

Infrared Observation Satellite) I, launched in April 1960, was the world's first weather satellite.

The first successful meteorological satellite was launched on April 1, 1960. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Television Infrared Observation Satellite (TIROS-1)

According to a NASA report, TIROS-1 Weighed “approximately 270 pounds and carrying two television cameras and two video recorders, the satellite provided weather forecasters their first-ever view of cloud formations as they developed around the globe.”

Weather surveillance radar (WSR) which had its genesis in the military, was originally used as a surveillance tool to identify hostile aircrafts and it was discovered that it was able to detect ‘motion of rain droplets’ and the ‘intensity of the precipitation’.

Modern meteorology also benefits from the power of atmospheric modelling to forecast storms intensity to produce weather forecasts. The Met Office in the UK ‘one of the most powerful supercomputing systems in the world dedicated to weather and climate.’ According to the Met

# Welcome to my blog

Office, “This power allows the Met Office to take in 215 billion weather observations from all over the world every day,” the data used as a starting point for running an atmospheric models”containing more than a million lines of code.

The arrival of the internet and the information superhighway and worldwide web, has also enabled that information to be delivered to users in real time right in the palm of their hands. Innovation in this area of investigation continues to evolve.

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ALBERT WILLIAMS

GEORGE FLOYD'S MURDER UNMASKS AMERICA'S  
SLAVE HISTORY | Will his death kill America's  
blatant racial biases? | June 1, 2020

**GEORGE FLOYD SHOULD BE  
ALIVE TODAY, PERIOD.**



**HIS LIFE MATTERS TO ME.  
I HOPE IT MATTERS TO YOU, TOO.**

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

Art by Andres Guzman

# Welcome to my blog



June 1st, the 7th day of nationwide peaceful and violent protests following the brutal death of an unarmed, and shackled, African – American man, George Floyd, outside a business establishment on a street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA on May 25th.

**“AMERICA HAS LOOTED BLACK PEOPLE.**

**AMERICA LOOTED THE NATIVE**

**AMERICANS WHEN THEY FIRST CAME HERE, LOOTING IS  
WHAT YOU DO. WE LEARNED IT FROM YOU. WE LEARNED**

**VIOLENCE FROM YOU. IF YOU**

**WANT US TO DO BETTER, THEN**

**DAMNIT, YOU DO BETTER.”**

**—TAMIKA MALLORY**

The shocking incident was captured on a stand-byer's smartphone. The 9-minute video shared widely on social media, shows 3 white police officers pinning a black man to the ground near

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

the right-side, back wheel arch of a police cruiser, and another watching on passively. One officer, now former police officer Derek Chauvin, is seen with his left knee jammed on the neck of the man and the man is heard pleading with officers that he can't breath. Minutes later the man stops talking and moving.

### FLOYD INDEPENDENT AUTOPSY FINDINGS

Meanwhile, within the last hour, the results of a family-requested, independent autopsy have just been released.

"An independent autopsy into the death of [George Floyd](#) found that his death was a homicide and the unarmed black man died of "asphyxiation from sustained pressure." The autopsy says compression to Floyd's neck and back led to a lack of blood flow to his brain."

Read the full [CNN report](#) here:

(To be continued)

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Welcome to my blog

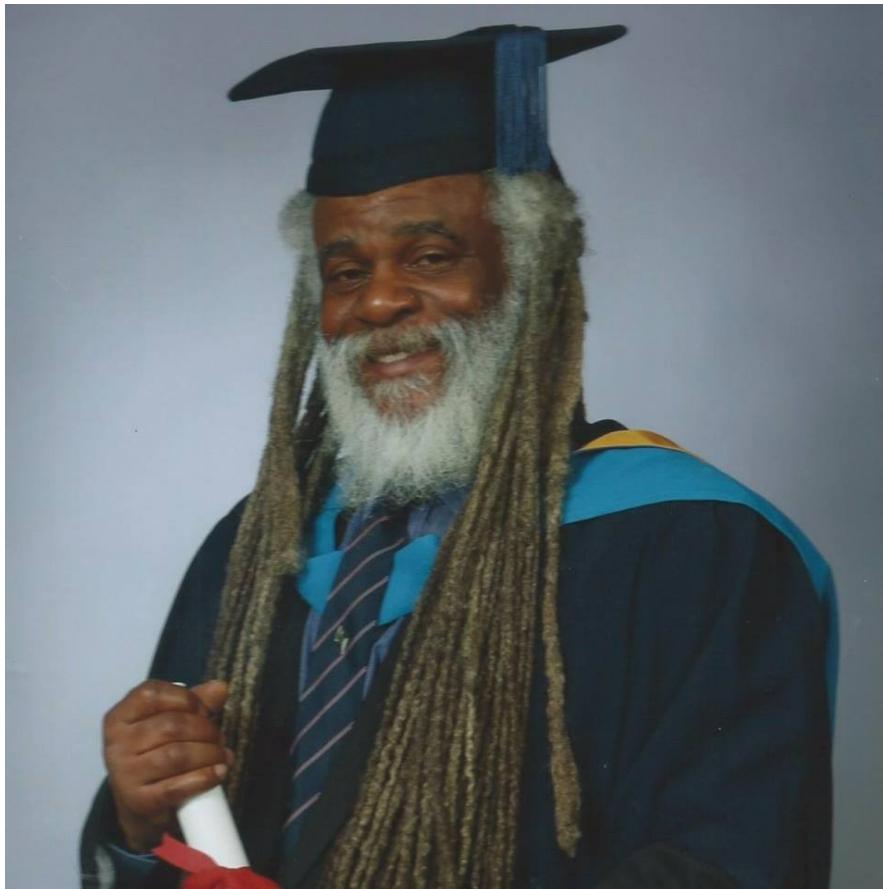
# REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH A CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN CRAWLEY | July 1, 2020



Albert Williams (58), author, poet, musician, and researcher, has worked as a Security guard at a local supermarket for the past 14 years. In the post-COVID-19/BlackLives Matter era, he is now working towards a career change

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN



Be it resolved that this email concerns a request for your intervention in a matter of great social importance for Crawley.

## BACKGROUND

My name is Albert Williams, I have been living in Crawley since 2004, upon my return to the UK after living for 32 years in the West Indies.

I am a former, journalist and published author of three books of poetry, a book of short stories, and a non-fiction book. For the past 14 years, I have been employed as a security guard at Tesco Extra in Hazelwick Avenue. However, during this time, I have earned a BSc. Hons Computing and IT a Postgraduate Diploma in Technology Management. The Postgraduate studies were funded by a student loan which I intend to pay back. I am married to an Afro-American, Tempie, who is also a published author.

# Welcome to my blog

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH A CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN CRAWLEY

Although I have made Crawley my home since 2004, due to the recent ‘Black Lives Matter’ protests worldwide, over the killing of George Floyd in the USA, I realize that my expertise in matters of racial equality, to date, has not been made the best use of.

My wife and I share a wide breadth of talents, and interests including: journalism, publishing, television, music, human rights to name a few. The combination of me, being born of Dominican parents in the UK, of the Wind Rush generation, having lived a substantial part of my life in Dominica and returned and married my American wife, has enriched my own heritage, and both our stories need to be heard.

We believe that it is a great injustice, to first myself, and then to the wider the world, that much of my talent remains under-valued and under-used. Not only could I earn a higher standard of living if my talents were better organised, but the society as a whole would benefit from my input to the current narrative.

Much of our work can be found through Googling ‘Albert and Tempie’ or Ras Albert Williams.

Our raw music can be found here: <https://www.reverbnation.com/albertandtempie>

Non-fiction

<https://dreadrastafariandethiopia.wordpress.com/>

<https://albertwilliams.tech.blog/>

You can also find some of our video documentaries

at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/albertwilliams2007/videos>

In closing, you are welcome to inspect our records at Company’s House of our dissolved television company at <https://companycheck.co.uk/company/07168263/ALBERT-AND-TEMPIE-LTD/companies-house-data>

I trust that this email set the tone of the matter that I would like to discuss with you, or your assigned representative, and that you will join me fighting for justice for people of colour, and to end racial-discrimination now!

Yours truly

Albert Williams

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

# Imminent deportation of UK-born twins to different countries is a threat to the human right of every individual | July 12, 2020



Dear Mr. Editor

I bring to your attention the threat to human rights of all individuals as posed in the recent news that two twins, born of West Indian parentage in this country, and are imminently threatened with deportation to Grenada and Dominica.

This smarts of white-privilege and reeks of the residual colonialism that continues to suppress, equal rights for minorities.

This story is very personal for me, because, I too was born of Dominican parentage in the UK. In 1972, and was a product of the care system, when my father, Victor Williams a former, RAOC, who had killed his wife, our mother, and was released from Broadmore Hospital, he was deported to Dominica, along with his four children , including myself as the oldest.

I returned to the UK, 32 years later, and picked up my British citizenship from there. But the case of Darrell and Darren Roberts, (24) has prompted me to ask whether my own human rights were violated.

# Welcome to my blog

When the immigration will prepare their passports for deportation, what will be on their place of birth?

This cannot be allowed to continue unchecked as it threatens a basic human right

I await eagerly for updates on this very sad story. Should you require any further details on my own struggle for equality, please feel free to contact me.

My wife, who is an Afro-American, and also a published author and I, are very hopeful that the present debate over Black Lives Matter will lead to humanity reaching its highest realms when we step over that chasm and crush the notion of 'white supremacy' for good.

Thank you for taking the time to read my remarks

regards

Albert Williams  
Dread, poet and author

<https://dreadrastafariandethiopia.wordpress.com/>

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UK-born twins face deportation to different countries

[UK-born twins face deportation to separate nations \(2020\). Available at:](#)

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH A CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN CRAWLEY | July 22, 2020

Greetings

I would just like to begin by thanking you for the excellent work you all have put in developing the [Legacies of British Slave-ownership project](#). Below, I have included the text of a message that I am using to try to entice NGOs, public and private entities, and others to support my cause to contribute to the Black awareness in the town where I have found myself in 2020. Having made great use of your website, I have found quite a bit of information about my ancestors from Dominica and those of us who travelled to the UK during the Windrush era, when I was born in the UK.

Although this is unsolicited, but I would like to work towards developing an interactive map of Dominica where clicking on the name of an estate could return relevant information for the user.

I am also desirous of setting up some sort of an organisation to work in tandem with your organisation and others like [Slave Voyages](#) to introduce a range of products that I have in mind.

At the moment, I have come to the end of 4 months of furlough at Tesco where I have been working as a security guard for the last 14 years, and have been granted a one-year lifestyle break during which I intend to give my full attention to the establishment my goals.

I am 58 years old now, and the sentiments that I am sharing, have been the bedrock of my character since my teens.

Therefore, though this medium, I am asking you to consider my suggestions above, or please refer me to any understanding organisations that you may be aware of.

Anyway, have a great day.

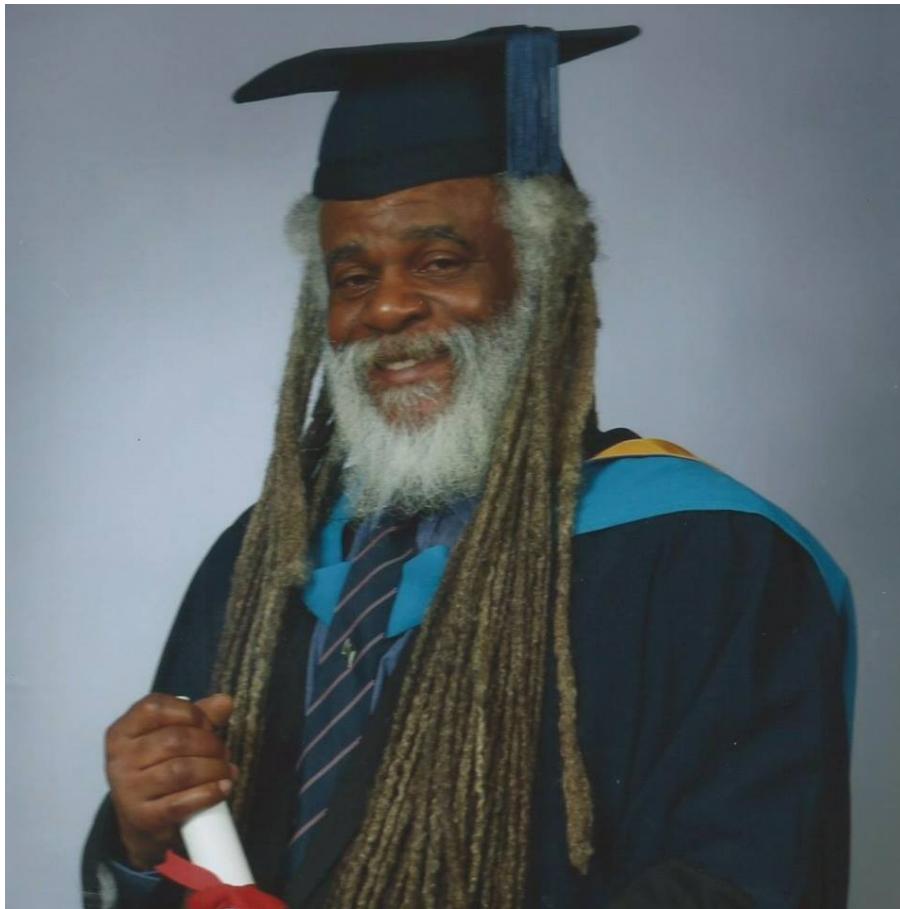
Yours

Respectfully

Albert Williams

# Welcome to my blog

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN



*Albert Williams, Author and systems thinker*

This email concerns a request for your intervention in a matter of great social importance for Crawley.

### BACKGROUND

My name is [Albert Williams](#), I have been living in Crawley since 2004, upon my return to the UK after living for 32 years in the West Indies.

I am a former, journalist and published author of three books of poetry, a book of short stories, and a non-fiction book. For the past 14 years, I have been employed as a security guard at Tesco Extra in Hazelwick Avenue. However, during this time, I have earned a BSc. Hons Computing and IT a Postgraduate Diploma in Technology Management. The Postgraduate studies were funded by a student loan which I intend to pay back. I am married to an Afro-American, Tempie, who is also a published author.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

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ALBERT AND TEMPIE

# Welcome to my blog

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Yours truly

Albert Williams

ALBERT WILLIAMS

T'was a colony, not a country | August 1, 2020



DOMINICA

#### DOMINICA: Then and now

The 21st century contemporary, Dominica is perhaps not unlike any other Caribbean island today. The hustle and bustle of everyday; public servants delivering on the agenda of elected parliamentarians, a private sector providing goods and services for a diverse population pursuing their hope and dreams. Conversely, 400 years ago, the Caribbean, was not known as the tourist destination of choice as we know it today, but a theatre of war between European powers jostling for newly-discovered ‘islands. The islands of the West Indies, were coveted not for the picturesque beauty, but for the purpose of colonisation and planting grounds on which to establish their sugar and tobacco plantations from which, as time would tell was a source of enormous wealth which transformed Europe into the behemoth commercial hubs they have become today.

# Welcome to my blog



© [IWM TR 6964](#) Marie David inspecting tobacco plants at the Hillsborough Tobacco Estate in Dominica in the Windward Islands, March 1955.

If you could toggle back and forth from the 15th to the 21st century, your jaw would drop to your feet in horror to witness the sheer scale of the effects that the Atlantic Slave Trade, on these picturesque islands like jewels in a crown surrounded by a blue sea of velvet. You would see the terrific wars of conquest between the English and the French. Their galleons being bombarded with canons, and maybe even hand to hand sword fights. Later you would see the slave ships with lumber into crude harbours with their human cargo. You would witness the auctions, forced labour on the massive plantations, and instead of lush forests, miles and miles of sugar cane, and gangs and gangs of slaves,: men, women and children, right at the bottom of this ungodly social order.

Hardly any island in the Caribbean archipelago was spared from the savageries of the forced servitude that was to be the way of life for over 400 years in these parts of the world.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



A

Artist: [William Clark](#) Cutting the Sugar Cane, From Ten Views of the Island of Antigua (1823) Kehoe, Mark C. (2020)

From Hispaniola, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Jamaica in the Greater Antilles in the North, to Carriacou, one of the smallest of islets in the Grenadines. If the particular island was too mountainous to immediately transplant their Eurocentric quests and notions of genteel European society, or less ideal suited for sprawling sugar plantations, the islands would be used for other essential crops that could fetch a good price such as Cotton and tobacco. As we will see in a future post, islands such as Dominica, specialised in a diverse range of crops, including coffee and cocoa and citrus. From the 1600s right up to the middle of the 19th Century, the West Indies, whether the islands were possessed by the Dutch, Spanish, French, Danish or English, regarded as part of the 'New world' An exotic land of milk and honey where personal fortunes were to be made, and sovereign powers to be enriched. Indeed for the British, its possessions in the New World were at the very centre of its source of wealth and power, as it extended the reaches of its empire well beyond its boundaries and surrounding seas.

When emancipation came 400 years later, 186 years ago, the slaves had nowhere to go. They had no possessions, they had nothing. Many perhaps had not eaten in days. The only education they had was obedience to 'massa' and whatever tasks they learned on the plantation. Similarly, 350 years later, those same former colonies, one by one were granted Independence. Again, nowhere to go. All massa left was ruins. The streets of Glasgow for instance are paved

## Welcome to my blog

with the wealth made from crops grown by enslaved people in Dominica, for instance. After 400 years of colonialism, very few Dominicans were heirs to generational wealth. When I arrived in Dominica in 1972, Dominica was the laughing stock of the Caribbean. When cricketers would come to play matches in the Botanic Gardens they would shake their heads, at the condition of Roseau with houses and shops looking as if it was a movie set in the 16th Century. The Imperial road from the airport, and along the coast riddled with craters. Large swathes of the country was without electricity, and only the fortunate few had a formal education. What is there to be happy about.

Have we developed so much that we still have streets in Dominica named after British kings 252 later?

Instead of Rastafarians being revered, we are still persecuted for planting marijuana, and our children are forced to cut their locks to go to school in Jamaica.

How many Caribbean islands have a street named after Bob Marley or a statue?

As long as we continue to pay lip service to the Black Liberation struggle, the Caribbeans will never be free. As happy as we are with our fancy beads, textiles, and glass we will never be truly free. Because we were taught to be subserviently gathered around the massa's commonwealth table waiting for the crumbs that fall to the ground hoping to snatch it before other scavengers.

As long as we continue to be colonial puppets dancing to the fife of the oppressor, we will be talking, dancin, singing and writing about reparations for another 400 years.

Is this what makes Emancipation Day a happy occasion? Then beat your drums, drink rum, smoke cigarettes. Enjoy your happy days before the hurricanes come. Those same monster cyclones that are steered by the same westerly winds that blew the slave ships from the west coast of Africa laden with human cargo destined for a life of misery, neglect, and abuse that still continues today.

Surely, you mean UNhappy Emancipation day. The only slaves that are happy are those that have departed this sorry place we call earth. At least they do not have to endure that shame and disgrace that is the lot of indigenous people. At least they don't have to face the indignity of a public servant kneeling on their necks.

The only reason I am alive today, is because my ancestor survived the middle passage. Because my descendent survived plantation Dominica BWI. Because, despite coming into this world to inherit nothing, I am alive because I survived the Dread Act, I survive the Racism, and I will

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

continue to survive to tell my version of this sad story of colonialism which the descendants of slave-owners delight in telling.

If reading about the brutalization of your ancestors makes you happy, then all I can say is once a slave always a slave.

I'll stop here.

## Further reading

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# Welcome to my blog

## HANDING OVER OF KEYS TO NEW HOMES AND A HOSPITAL — A MIXED BLESSING |

### August 15, 2020



Recipients of new homes | Courtesy [ABS Television/Radio](#) (2020)

While we will always be thankful for help great or small, but when bureaucracy produces poor results we must talk about that. After three years since Hurricane Irma completely devastated Barbuda in 2017. Barbuda which is the sister island of Antigua that has a permanent population of an estimated 95,000, was completely devastated by hurricane Irma which was a category 5 storm that reduced the entire island of 62 square miles to rubble. So much so that the entire population was evacuated leaving Barbuda uninhabited for the first time in 300 years.

Today we learned from the national broadcaster in Antigua, [ABS Television/Radio](#) that 15 residents received keys to houses and a further 5 residents, whose houses were badly damaged by 'Irma' also received keys to the properties. What has struck me, is that the houses are far from finished, as the residents/beneficiaries, are left to complete the construction by plastering, inside and outside walls, and the installation of tiles and the painting of the homes. No doubt, many of the residents will find the cost of paying tradesmen burdensome. The buildings are the first of 150 homes to be built under a UNDP/ EU- funded-project.

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ABS Television/Radio (2020)

### A little self-help

A spokeswoman from the National authorising Office, Christophine Worell-Samuel, said at a joint, ceremony that " in order to achieve, as close to as possible the 150 homes to be addressed, and given the availability of funds, the beneficiaries steering committee determined that finishes, such as plastering of internal and external walls, painting and tiling would be the responsibility of the beneficiaries." An undisclosed number of homes, another official said, would be handed over about this time next year. Meanwhile, keys to the newly-rebuilt Hanna Thomas Hospital in Barbuda was also handed over to officials during the joint-handing over ceremony on Friday.

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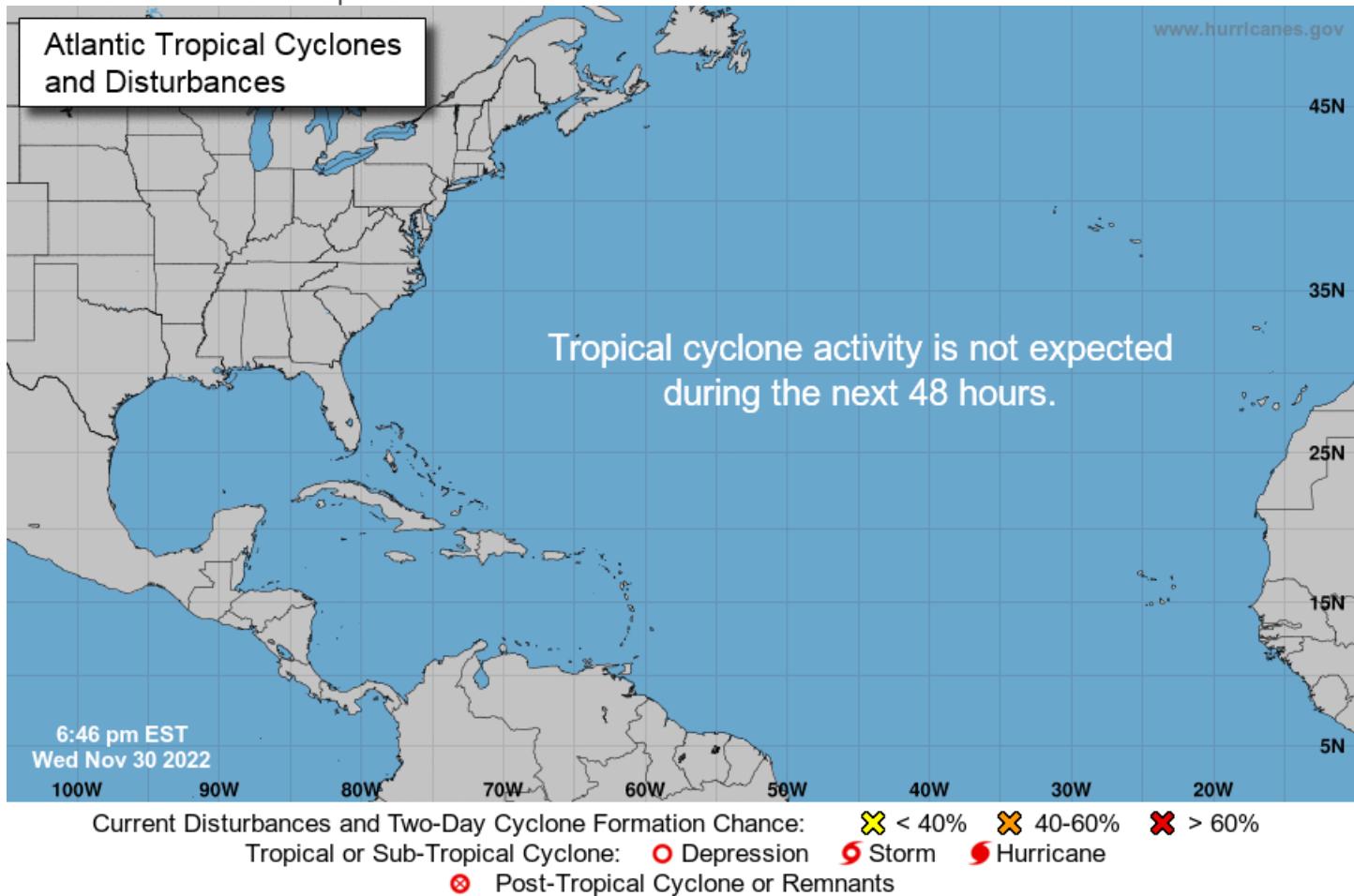


*ABS Television/Radio (2020)*

I guess the 20 homes could not have been built with any less urgency. Let's hope that maybe the lucky few might get a shelter in time for the 2021 hurricane season and end this post-hurricane Irma suffering. A mixed blessing indeed.

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2020 hurricane season update



<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

Meantime, the new homes come as the 2020 hurricane season moves into day 78 which has seen nine (9) named-storms thus far. Tropical Storm Josephine, formerly Tropical depression 11, is forecast to pass Northeast of the Leeward Islands this weekend and forecasters say that the system poses no threat to any of the Caribbean islands.

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2020)*

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on August 6 updated its 2020 Hurricane Season forecast, saying that the “2020 Atlantic hurricane season will be “extremely active.” NOAA’s prediction center calculates that there could be 19 to 25 named storms this year of which seven to 11 could become hurricanes, and three to six could be category three (3) or higher.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## AGAINST ALL ODDS | DR. ERICA JOSEPH |

### August 18, 2020

Dr. Erica Joseph, author, counselor, motivational speaker and metaphysician, based in Roseau, Dominica.



# Welcome to my blog

**Erica Joseph, author, counselor, motivational speaker and metaphysician, based in Roseau, Dominica, has been working with clients suffering from autism and other neurological ailments for the past 20 years.**

Dr. Joseph, who is the founder of the Dr. Erica Joseph Success Company Ltd, is also a strong advocate for children with learning disabilities and as part of her practice, offers personal consultations and as well as vocational training to parents and social workers who may want to be better equipped to understand and intervene should they observe symptoms of the signs of brain damage or impairment such as: dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).



## Signs of improvement

Dr. Joseph who from 2005, also designs self-mastery programs, and works from her Holistic-Health Healing-Therapy-Centre, based in Kingshill, has told this writer, that she is seeing remarkable results using her techniques with one of her in-patients.

This year, Dr. Joseph is observing the 4th anniversary of treatment of, 13-year-old, Dervon, one of her in-patient, therapy clients at her Rehab Center who is a long-term sufferer of a severe type of autism which manifests itself as 'time disorientation' which affects a person's ability to focus their attention on a task; unable to fend for themselves generally, and may have persistent bouts of agitation. The condition may also interfere with a sufferer's ability to recognise, even family members and can even lead to insomnia.

"After 4 years of therapy with Dervon, he is finally holding a crayon in his hands long enough to color a blank page," she said, commenting on a video she released last week on her social media pages (see below), which shows the youngster intently engaged in the task of drawing with a pencil on a pad. "Dervon's hands were unable to hold a crayon because of his time disorientation Autism. Today he is holding it," she remarked.

"Dervon's hands were unable to hold a crayon

because of his time disorientation Autism.

Today he is holding it."

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## *Dr. Erica Joseph*

Dr. Erica Joseph is a Doctor of Metaphysics, and a Doctor of Divinity Certified under California Laws, in the U.S.A., and the Ministry of Education in Dominica. The foundation is registered in Dominica and is a Non-profit, non-government-aided foundation.

### **The journey**

“I met Dervon’s mom when I was fundraising in town. I went to her home on a daily basis to provide therapy to him,” Dr. Joseph recounted. “When I first saw him I was terrified, he was hyperactive and had the strength of six men for a child that was only 10 years old,” she said. Dr. Joseph, who is a certified Doctor of Metaphysics, told this writer that prior to her intervention, Dervon was “sequestered in a small space to protect himself from himself and road traffic.” Moreover, she added, “He was also destroying everything in sight. To be honest, I was not sure if anyone could help him, because [his] mother said she tried so many medical doctors, and they could not help him. Also they were afraid of him , and I could not get him to settle down. And also the medication they prescribed for him they still could not get him to sleep.”

That was four years ago. At the time, her office was located opposite the Police Headquarters on Bath Road. On the corner of Boyds Avenue in Roseau, in a neglected, historic, old. wooden, church building belonging to the New Apostolic Church. In 2004, she renovated the building, and since then had offered a wide variety of services to the general public. But the building was demolished by Hurricane Maria in 2017. “Marie damaged the building... and the government acquired the property to build a police station,” Joseph said, adding, that she is now in the process of expanding her center at Kingshill where she is treating her patients.

### **Funding the brand**

Although Dr. Joseph’s success company has been featured regionally, in over 25 Caribbean Islands, and featured on regional 24/7 hour, cable network: Carib Vision, and in such cities as New York and Ontario, and as far as Europe, and the UK, on the Delia Dolor Show, who is a world-acclaimed talk show host, via Choy TV,

## Welcome to my blog



running the company and the rehab center, providing for the needs of her patients, paying staff salaries comes at a cost. For example, Joseph said that the cost of the intensive therapeutic treatment she provides to Dervon normally cost XCD\$30,000 a year.

Nevertheless, her fundraising team is constantly working behind the scenes, and so far the company has been able to raise some funding from benefactors both in Dominica and overseas.

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## Publications

Dr. Erica Joseph has authored numerous publications explaining her techniques and practice, including:

- The Power of Your will
- Breaking the Chains of Fear
- Your Word is Your Medicine
- Modus operandi for self-discipline
- Releasing The Power of Learning in you and your child and
- How to Succeed in your small business

### Appeal

Dr. Joseph also holds online therapy and sessions on holistic health and offers certifications on becoming a Survival Coach among other products and services.

For more information on Dr. Erica Joseph's Humanitarian Service Foundation, or how you can become a donor, please call + 7672650182 or visit her [Gofundme](#) page.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Albert Williams BSc (Hons) Comp & IT (Open), PGD TM (Open), MBCS** is a Dominican blogger and **author** resident in the United Kingdom.

## Further reading

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# Welcome to my blog

## HURRICANES | THE PERSISTENT COLONIAL ENEMY | August 22, 2020

Since the arrival of the satellite era, the business of monitoring storms, and forecasting weather in general, is improving in accuracy. Governments and those in authority, stand to benefit from computer modeling, for example, to forewarn residents in harm's way of approaching severe weather patterns.

In this blog, I look at how the first settlers of the 'New World' in the colonial era dealt with the climatic conditions of the West Indies. How they viewed and prepared for hurricanes, and how they recovered from their impacts. Conversely, we compare the modern Caribbean residents' approach to dealing with this persistent threat that they have inherited.

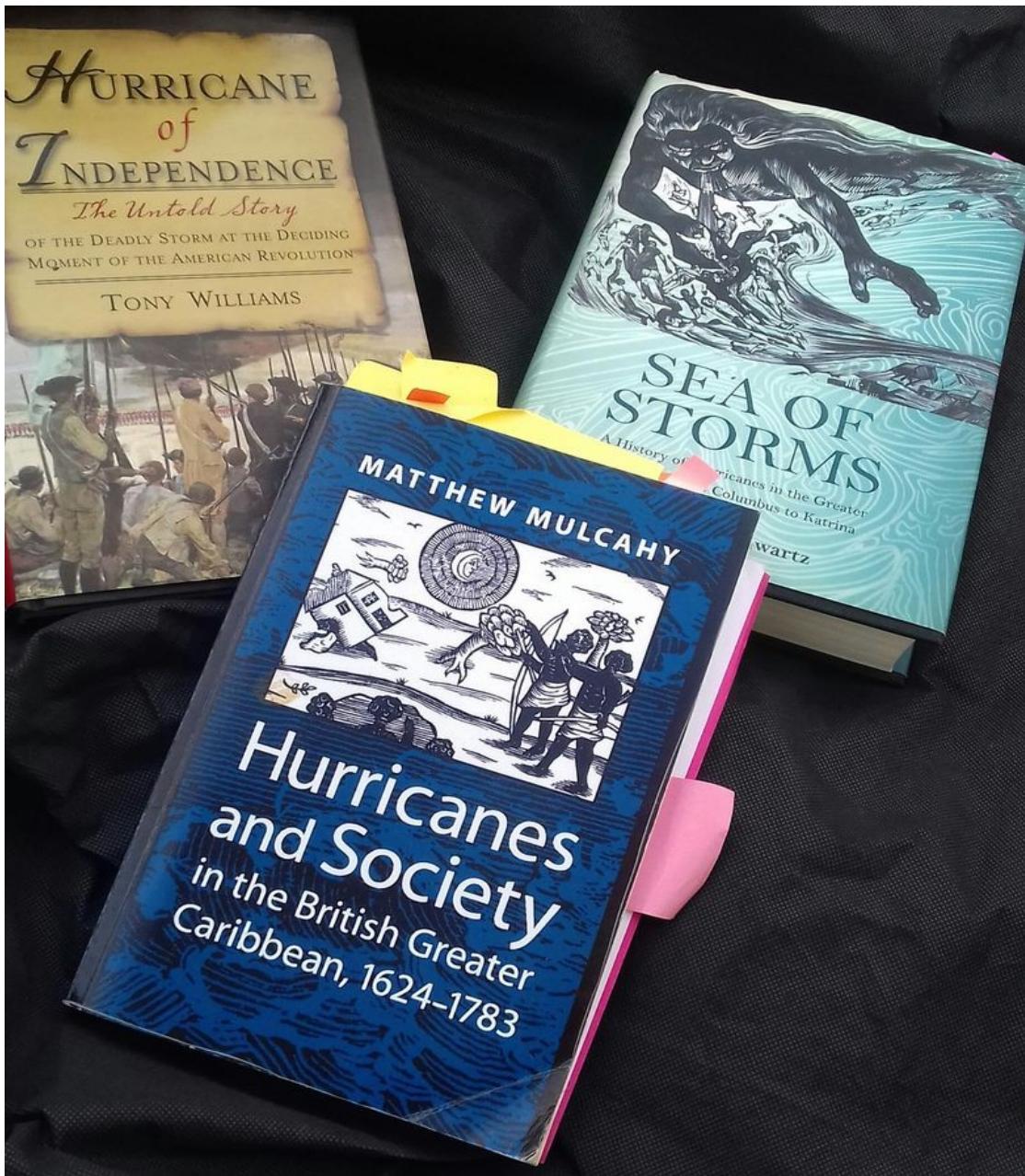
Finally, we will extract the lessons learned from both eras, to produce new insights into disaster management, mitigation, and recovery.

"Nature is doing her thing, and we are basically in the way. We are building things, constructing roads, and we are shocked and horrified when things are washed away or damaged"

*Dr. Lennox Honychurch*



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## Early legends

The Caribbean's first settlers: the Arawaks and the Caribs, had long realised the cyclic nature of the weather in the Caribbean. Over 2000 years, they had learned how to adjust their way of life to the hazardous environment that lurked beneath the veneer of gentle, spectacular, beauty that dresses these islands. Distinguished, Dominican, anthropologist and historian, Dr. Lennox Honychurch speaking on DBS Radio, on 20th October, 2017, weeks after the passage of Hurricane Maria that utterly devastated the island on September 17, said that the best source of knowledge of what we know about the impact of hurricanes on Dominica, and by extension the British Caribbean overall, comes from records kept by colonial secretaries and diarists since the island was occupied in 1763. The first of which was in 1766.

# Welcome to my blog

Of the Kalinago people, who the Europeans formally referred to as the ‘Caribs’, and from whom the Caribbean got its name, he said, that any discussion about hurricanes in the Caribbean must begin with the Kalinago people. “...because they have a great deal of knowledge about these things. They had been on Dominica for over 2000 years, and let us understand that hurricanes had been happening in this land for thousands of years. It just so happens that we are here at time,” Honychurch said. In this interview, Dr. Honychurch shares detailed information of the devastation caused in Dominica for the last 200 years, but remarked that, “...We are in the way! Nature is doing her thing, and we are basically in the way. We are building things, constructing roads, and we are shocked and horrified when things are washed away or damaged. Or our roofs are damaged or our houses are flooded. But we must understand that these things have been happening long before even human beings came to establish themselves in Dominica. But the people that first settled, the Amerindian people, and most notably the Kalinago people have left evidence of their knowledge and awareness of these storms,” Honychurch continued adding, that the word hurricane comes from an anglicized derivative of the Kalingo word: ‘huracan’. Dr. Honychurch said that the Kalinago people believed that “Huracan was this force that emerged during the period of May and October when different waves of bad weather would come across the Atlantic.”

Meantime, Matthew Mulcahy, in his book *Hurricanes and society in the British Greater Caribbean, 1624 -1783*, says that the ‘native populations of the Caribbean basin’ regarded these extreme meteorological events as a ‘tempestuous spirit’ citing a 17-century account. Further south, he says that the now lost Mayan civilisation regarded hurakan as one of three ‘most powerful forces’. Cabrakan the god of earthquakes, Chirakan the god of volcanoes and Hurakan the god of storms. Furthermore, in peacetime, when the Europeans were not at war with the indigenous peoples, the early colonists learned from the natives that they could foretell when a hurricane would strike through observation of the sky and the celestial bodies, such as the number of rings observed around the moon at night.

## The colonial expectation

During the British colonial era, in the 17th and 18th centuries, in the British Greater Caribbean — ‘a region from Barbados through South Carolina’, Mulcahy explains that the pioneer settlers that arrived in the ‘New World’ with their enslaved labourers, had to rethink their ambitions, attitudes and beliefs on what was possible to achieve in the newly-acquired lands. Not only were their initial financial investment at risk from resistance from the native peoples, but from the extreme weather and environmental hazards namely: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and hurricanes. “17th century colonists arrived in the ‘New World’ with a firm belief that they could tame and transform the American wilderness they encountered,” Mulcahy writes. According to him, contemporary, colonial thinking held the view that the object of colonial possession of these islands was a God-given right, and their duty to ‘improve’ nature by transforming, “wild and uncivilised areas into

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civilized, productive societies.” The planters, he said, “quickly set about establishing towns, farms, and plantations that more closely resembled the landscapes they had left behind.”

It was also the opinion of the early settlers that this social development, “changed the physical environment of the New World for the better.” He cited that the colonists believed that by cutting down trees and replacing them with cultivated canefields mitigated diseases lurking in the heavy undergrowth of the tropical rainforests they met. They believed, too, that by deforestation, for example, “allowed for easier passage of the trade winds across the islands, purifying the air.”

The destructive, and disruptive nature of hurricanes was not only a problem for the British, but for all Europeans bent on colonising these islands. Stuart B. Schwrtz, author of *Sea of Storms: A history of Hurricanes in the Greater Caribbean from Columbus to Katrina* writing from the Spanish perspective writes that in the 1500s, not only were towns levelled, livestock and slaves killed, and coffee plantations and canefields destroyed, another main loss resulting from the onslaught of these seasonal disasters was the disruption of the ‘Atlantic commerce and the flow of silver and gold to the king’s coffers.

## Living with hurricanes

The aspiration of building European-like societies in the West Indies, and the extraction of the wealth generated from slave labor, the slave trade, and the plantations that they slaved on, came at great personal risk and financial cost. The mis-adventures the colonists endured are well documented in the colonial newspapers and government gazettes of the day. Another source of information on the impact that hurricanes 300 years ago had on this region also comes from the personal accounts of planters themselves as they wrote about their experiences in their diaries.

## Recommended further reading

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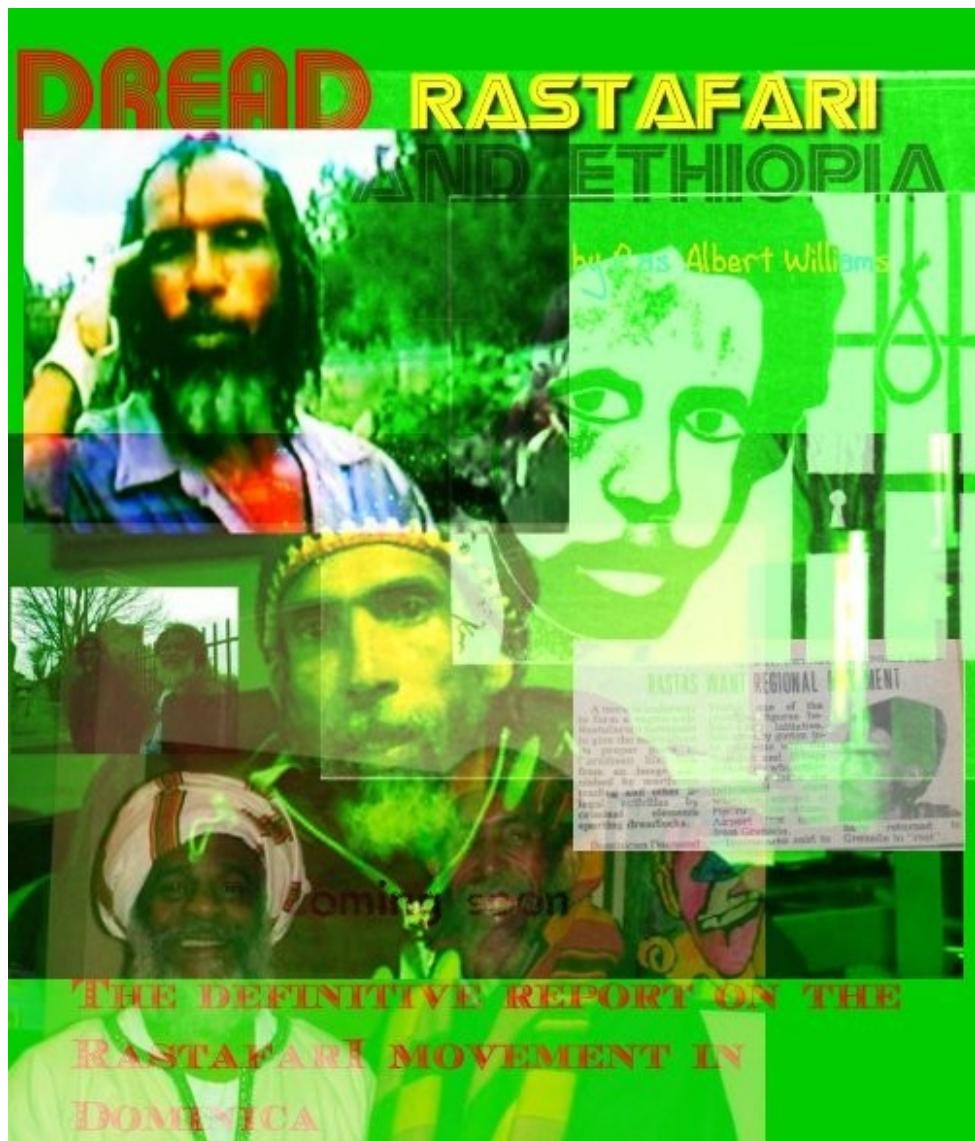
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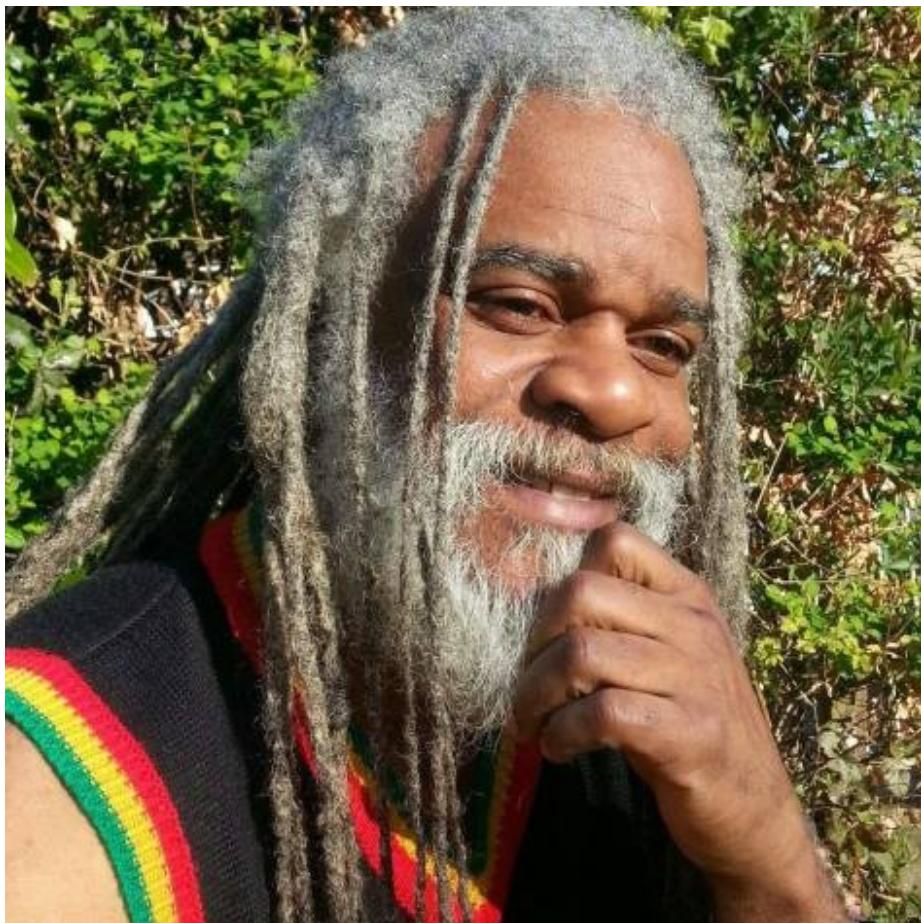
ALBERT WILLIAMS

# DREAD RASTAFARI AND ETHIOPIA: The definitive historical report of the beginning and the rise of the Rastafari Movement in the Commonwealth of Dominica | October 1, 2020



Welcome to my blog  
*Ras Albert Williams accelerated the rehabilitation of dreadlocked persons within the community.*

**IRVING W. ANDRE – AUTHOR OF DISTANT VOICES**  
Ras Albert Williams



Ras Albert Williams, was born in Emsworth in the United Kingdom (UK) on June 10th 1962. At the age of ten, he migrated to the Commonwealth of Dominica with his father.

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From the age of 12 he became a follower of The Rastafari movement and by age 15, upon graduating from the Dominica Grammar School, he dropped out of society and left the comforts of the town and headed for River Clear, a fruitful valley with a rushing river of clear cool water. There he joined a group of his contemporaries, and attempted to live the lifestyle of the dreads and proclaim the divinity of Emperor Haile Selassie.

Between 1981 and 2002, his by-line appeared in all the local periodicals in Dominica: The Chronicle, The Tropical Star, The Independent, The Voice of the People and The Sun as a free-lance contributor and columnist of scores of articles, short stories poems and other features. From June 2002 to March 2004 upon receiving a diploma in journalism/Short Story Writing from Harcourt Learning Direct, a correspondence school, he was invited to join Dominica's oldest and most read newspaper: The Chronicle as a full-time reporter and photographer. While at the newspaper, Albert joined the Media Workers Association of Dominica (MWAD), and served as its secretary for a few months.

Ras Albert is recognised as a talented individual who has shown a keen interest in many areas of the fine arts. Besides having written and self-published three booklets of poetry and a collection of short stories, namely: Honourable Natty Dread, (1982, 1990 & 1996); One Dominica-Odes for I Beloved, (1985) and Through The Far Eye ISBN 976-8155-00-0 (1996) and Haunted Heritage and Other Stories ISBN 1-4241-0680-X, In 1997, he was nominated for the DBS Radio FAME Award for Best Radio Program for the one-hour, literary radio program that he produced and presented for the Dominica Writers Guild (DWG). The show, Review was aired on the Dominican FM radio station, Kairi FM on Tuesday's, Thursday's and Sunday's. Albert is also a founding member of the Dominica Writers' Guild (DWG) established in 1982. In addition, to being one of several young persons who founded the Frontline Cooperative Bookstore in 1983.

He has worked with organisations such as the Unity of Rastafari Idren, The Movement for Cultural Awareness (M.C.A.) and the Ethiopian World Federation Incorporated (EWF Inc.) for which he served first as Sergeant-at arms and then secretary. He has also worked alongside persons such as Alwin Bully and Ophelia of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica's, Division of Culture; the Black History Awareness Committee (B.H.A.C) and the Roseau Public Library, with which he has organized dozens of public readings, book festivals, African liberations marches and Bob Marley Awareness Days. He has also been called upon to facilitate workshops in creative writing and is also noted as an excellent performance poet. He is married to Memphis-born, Tempie, author of 'Feelings' ISBN 1-4241-0706-7. Ras Albert is presently pursuing a MSc in Technology Management at The Open University. In December 2016, he received a BSc (Hons) in Computing and IT also from The Open University.

*"Within the decade, the works of a few radical poets gained local attention since they defused some apprehensions about Dreads which had built up in the previous decade. Not only the works of Ras Mo but that of Ras Albert Williams accelerated the rehabilitation of dreadlocked persons within the community."*

# Welcome to my blog

*As one of the founding members of the Frontline Co-operative and the DWG, Williams was partly responsible for the resurgence of interest in poetry during the decade."*

IRVING W. ANDRE – AUTHOR OF DISTANT VOICES , POND CASE PRESS (ISBN 0-9699857-3-8) 1996

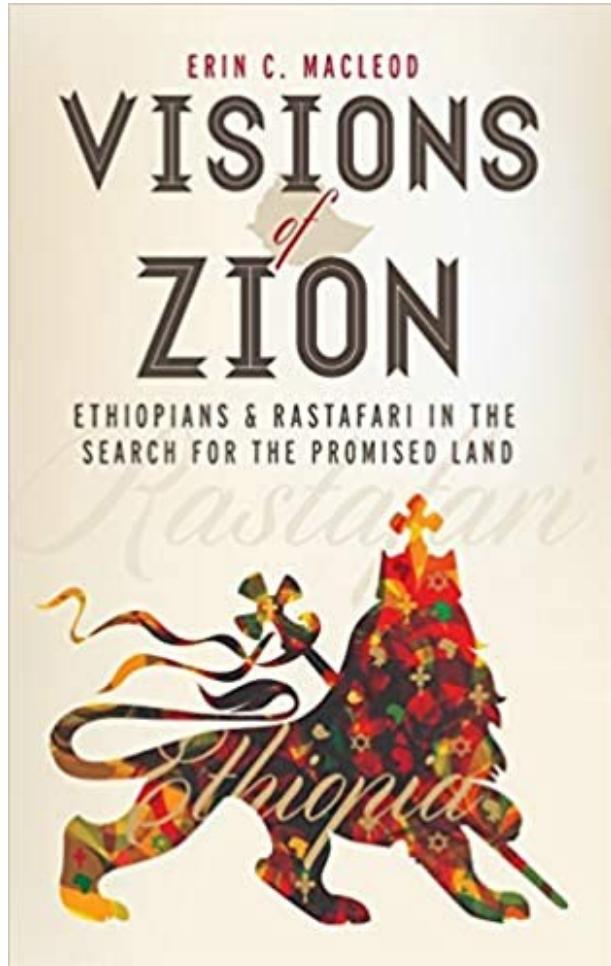
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# VISIONS OF ZION | A BOOK REVIEW |

## October 22, 2020



[From 20 August 2014](#)

*Visions of Zion-Ethiopians and Rastafari in the search for the promised land* (ISBN: 978-1-4798-8224-3,) New York university Press, is a welcome extension to the growing body of work written about the Rastafari movement. The author, Erin C Macleod, in this book, presents candid and thought-provoking insights into the sentiments of the Ethiopian people, especially as it relates to the Rastafarians who began arriving in the country since the 1960s at the invitation of the monarchy.

## Welcome to my blog

Although there are many books written on the Rastafarians of Jamaica, there are not many that have delved in such great depth into the question of repatriation to Ethiopia by the Rastafari adherents who regard the last Emperor of Ethiopia, His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie The First, as the Living God, and consequently regard themselves as his true sons and daughters. This Macleod has managed to do, conducting her research with great sensitivity, both to the Ethiopian-born respondents, and to the Rastafari community.

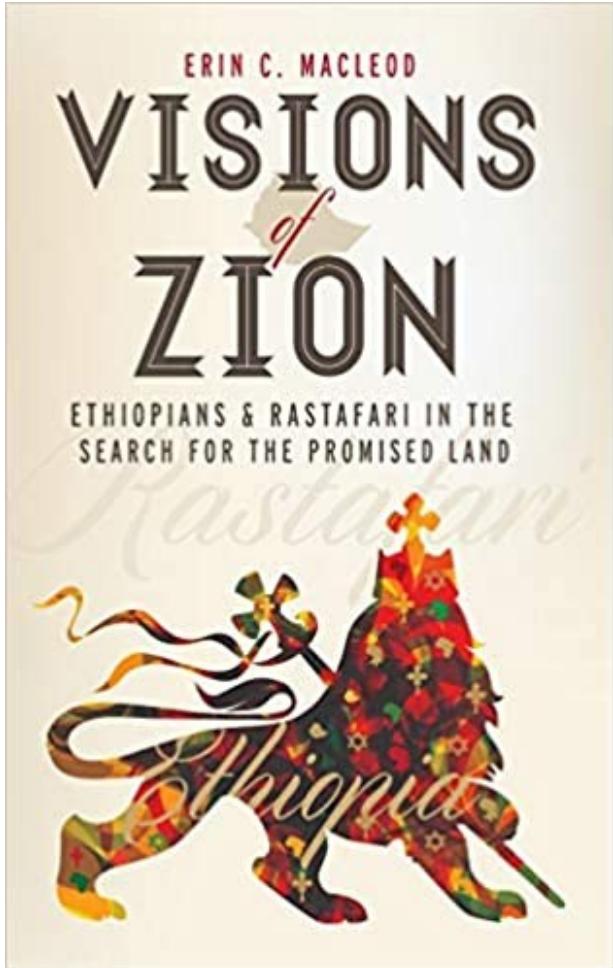
Macleod's strong work ethic and true ethnological approach is self-evident, and she draws on a rich set of scenarios, conversations, anecdotes, reflections and memories acquired during her stay in Ethiopia between 2007/08 and intermittent stays between 2004 and 2013. First as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia, a Christian, non-governmental development agency, then as a traveler, or should I say, a truth-seeker "I formerly interviewed over 90 people primarily in Shashamane." she says. Macleod E (2014,21)

The anecdotes she shares illustrate an inquiring academic mind that seeks to peer underneath this cloak of nationality, race and immigration using appropriate methodologies to analyze a plethora of data to produce an authoritative piece of work that quickly establishes her, in our opinion, as an authority on the subject of Rastafari and immigration. If ever there was a book that a student of Rastafari; a Rastafari living in Shashamane, Ethiopia, or one planning to migrate there, should read, then it is this one, *Visions of Zion-Ethiopians and Rastafari in the search for the promised land*. Moreover, this is a publication that could easily be added to the reading list of humanities modules; sociology anthropology, law etc courses at universities and colleges throughout the Caribbean and the African continent, and academia in general. Particularly those concerned with Caribbean religion in general, and Rastafari in particular.

This first edition of *Visions of Zion-Ethiopians and Rastafari in the search for the promised land* published in 2014, started its life as a theses entitled, *Leaving Out of Babylon, Into Whose Father's Land?*

*The Ethiopian Perception of the Repatriated Rastafari* back in 2009 as partial fulfillment of the requirements for her Phd in Communications at McGill University, and I am very happy that Macleod had decided to have the work published as a book so that a wider audience could avail themselves of her excellent research in a still widely misunderstood religio-socio movement which finds solace in identifying themselves as Ethiopians in the diaspora, (to chagrin of their Ethiopian hosts,) hence the ubiquitous use of the red, yellow and green colours of the Ethiopian flag, with the image of the conquering lion emblazoned as its centre piece.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



*Visions of Zion-Ethiopians and Rastafari in the search for the promised land* by Erin C Macleod

*Visions of Zion-Ethiopians and Rastafari in the search for the promised land* is a 300-page, hardback publication, and is also available as an ebook as well. It has 7 chapters, an introduction and is complete with a reference section notes for further reading, and the all important index, for finding those key words in the text. The front cover, designed by Micheal Thompson features a graphic of the Lion of Judah decorated with Ethiopian motifs and endorsements on the back.

In closing, I would advise anyone reading this book, to do so slowly. It is a journey in which one should savor and enjoy the process of getting to their destination, as much as getting to the destination its self. Read and enjoy. We can't wait to read what Erin C. Macleod will publish next.

Albert and Tempie Williams

Available at: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Visions-Zion-Ethiopians-Rastafari-Promised/dp/1479882240>.

Welcome to my blog

# TEMPIE | Tomorrow's author today | October 2, 2020



[From July 11, 2011](#)

Every once in a while, there comes along an author who captures in real-time the spirit of a particular society.

One such author in my view, is Memphis-born, Tempie D. King, author of '[Feelings' \(ISBN - 4241-0706-7\)](#)' Published by Maryland-based, traditional publisher, Publishamerica LLLP. This 164-page publication is a modern-day, classic written in the literary tradition of the Deep South. Its treatment of its subject, matter resembles such writers as the renowned, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Ernest Hemingway and Og Mandino who are the author's idols. "John Grisham," says Tempie, "is another author that I love. His work has inspired me tremendously, even more so, since I left Chicago and moved back. Now, I live where he lived...I see what he saw. Our age is only one year apart. I now sit in the same library and write as he wrote his

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

many novels such as: 'A time to kill.' ...Both libraries here in Mississippi are featuring and want to promote me just as they did John Grisham."



Tempie

Williams / CC BY-SA

Miss King, who prefers to be known by her Christian name only, presents her protagonist, Manerva R. Jones, as a young, medical student determined, to champion the cause of the down-trodden, particularly in Memphis, Tennessee, USA where the novel is set, against institutionalised racism and injustice in corporate America.

Her debut book, which was just released, March 27th, 2006, and which is now available, with great five-star reviews on-line, from top booksellers such as Amazon.co.uk, Borders, Barns and Noble and WH Smith, etc, and in several libraries, in the states Kentucky and Mississippi and others, is a well-crafted tale told in the vernacular of the characters she has presented. And through whom she relates events and episodes, which are at once recognisable to readers, acquainted with American society, and its all too evident racial divide.

Tempie, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Pre medicine, and who attended the Writers Digest School of Novel Writing, in addition to weaving her abundant knowledge of the medical profession into the plot of the story, also has extensive expertise in management and marketing and sales, and cleverly utilises anecdotes from her professional life in this little gem,

## Welcome to my blog

to bring to life the themes of family values, spiritual enrichment, and romantic love into one masterful volume of a publication, in this her first of many novels.

The author told this writer that she realised that she had the gift of writing during her early years, “in between jobs.” She already was in the habit of keeping a journal of her reflections on life matters, and it was these jottings that she would later turn into ‘Feelings’ many years later following a traumatic period when, as fate would have it, she would lose both her parents within the space of one month. “Feelings was written ten years ago,” she confessed. “...That’s when I wrote it. I remember every day; it was like an obsession. I’d go to the library and I made a job out of learning how to write a novel. I read every book that could teach me how to write fiction. I became very happy because of what it did for me. I was this person away from home...I was going through my own life obstacles. But I didn’t want family and people to know. So I would just write down what I was feeling, and when I did that it gave me a sense fulfilment. It made me feel good about my self and my life...it filled a lot of the void. And so, I built on that.”

I asked Tempie to share her thoughts in retrospect about her lead character, Manerva, around whom the story revolves. She revealed that while Manerva, is a fictional character spawned from her imagination, she is quite a creation of her own making.

“Manerva is a creation of fiction but her stories and life are so real. They are based on a lot of inspired truths,” she mused adding, ” There are actual battles throughout the story where being the author, I had to yield to my heroine and remove myself completely, and allow her to guide and dictate the story.” Tempie declares adamantly, that although memories of her upbringing of the 60’s era, which saw protest marches and boycotts to fight for the recognition of civil rights for coloureds; inspired by the oratorical speeches of the now deceased, Dr. Martin Luther King, have shaped her world-view, she sees her self as simply a writer, and states, “I wanted it to be something that I could read to my nephews and niece; something that they could be proud of.”

Aptly, Feelings is dedicated to the memory of her parents and her brother. She will ever be grateful to her two sisters and brother, and close relatives and friends for all of their love and support.

On Friday morning, Tempie will be the guest on CBS- affiliate, WREG TV Channel 3’s Live @9 to promote her first major book signing at David-kidd Booksellers in downtown Memphis, where she will meet the reading public and sign copies of Feelings on Saturday, August 5th at 1:00 p.m.

As a fellow published author, under the Publishamerica imprint, I proudly recommend, Feelings, as an amazing read, and a publication worthy of critical acclaim.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

FEELINGS (PUBLISHAMERICA ISBN 1-4241-0706-7) IS AVAILABLE AT ON-LINE BOOK STORES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND INTERNATIONALLY

Haunted Heritage and Other Stories | Book review by Tempie | October 2, 2020

# Author's stories published

AUTHOR Albert Williams is set to have a collection of short stories published in the New Year.

Albert, 43, of Dalewood Gardens, Northgate, will have 'Haunted Heritage and Other Stories' released to booksellers in early 2006.

'Haunted Heritage' is about a Dominican nurse returning to her island home with her British husband.

The story was written while Albert was working

for Dominica's Tropical Star newspaper.

He said: "That's where a lot of these short stories have come from."

"I came to England last year and I began sorting through things, looking for people to publish my work."

Albert was born in England, but left for the small Caribbean island of Dominica in 1972.

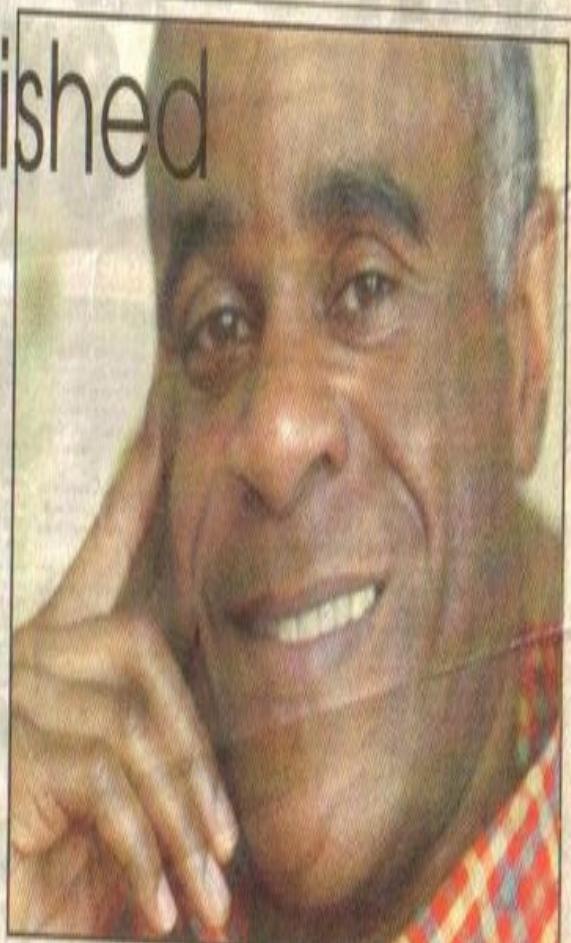
In 2000 he took a correspondence course in short story writing and journal-

ism.

He has had three poetry collections published - 'Haunted Heritage and Other Stories' which will be released through Publishamerica.

Albert said: "They have an acquisitions process and if they think the book is marketable and saleable then you sign a contract with them, which I did in July."

Albert is now working on his first novel.



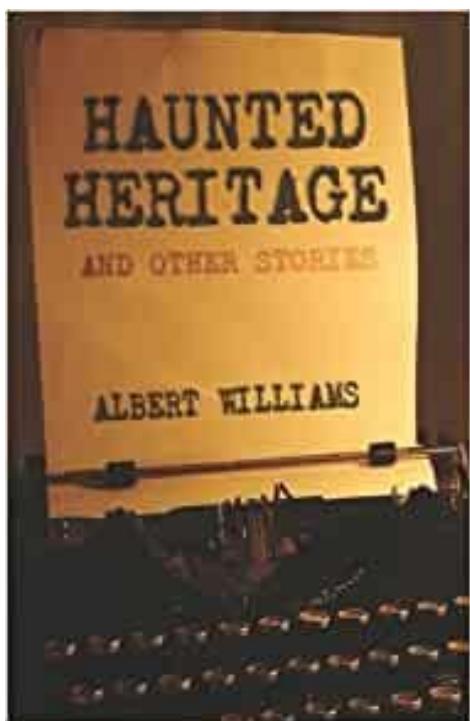
Crawley Observer, Wednesday, December 14, 2005

# Welcome to my blog

His Poems and Stories are Mesmerizing!!!

Reading this author/poet's collection of mystifying stories and sensual poems immediately took me to another place. A place far beyond my soul. A place where I was challenged to feel every essence of this written journey. Where as a reader you make an effortless choice of either savoring the flavor of arousal or simply reading the mere words and have an insipid insatiable affect.

It all began when I first took the sheet of paper off the typewriter on the cover and turned the page. I too became prey of a most inviting beast that engulfed me whole. Swallowed by untainted delight not wanting to be released as each poem took hold and gripped me tightly. Shamelessly, asking where are those trees that were greenest? Can anything be more desirable than the sun at its zenith? Feeling the flower blooming every hour against a verdure stem. . With light illuminating their dream world she reads their favorite poems. Realizing the heart that knows depths of love may never be deceived. Without her he is lost.



[Haunted Heritage and other Stories by Albert Williams](#)

The Haunted Heritage and Other Stories was the highlight story with a most exhilarating twist. Centering around a British husband Phillip's ordeal of taking his Dominican nurse wife Margaret back to her ginger bread fretwork homeland after being gone for seventeen years. The story unfolds as they return to find a seventy five year old caretaker Leah of African decent displaying bouts full of hostility. The evening is hot and sticky and Margaret becomes uneasy whispering to Phillip she hears strange things. Phillip ultimately accuses her of going mad over the spirits of the West Indies.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

The author/poet writes a beautiful storyline which shows that Margaret is overtaken by bouts of manic depression. She is hailed by the town as not only being of notoriety in being a descendant of a famous writer but she too writes her own novel, *The River Clear Revelation*.

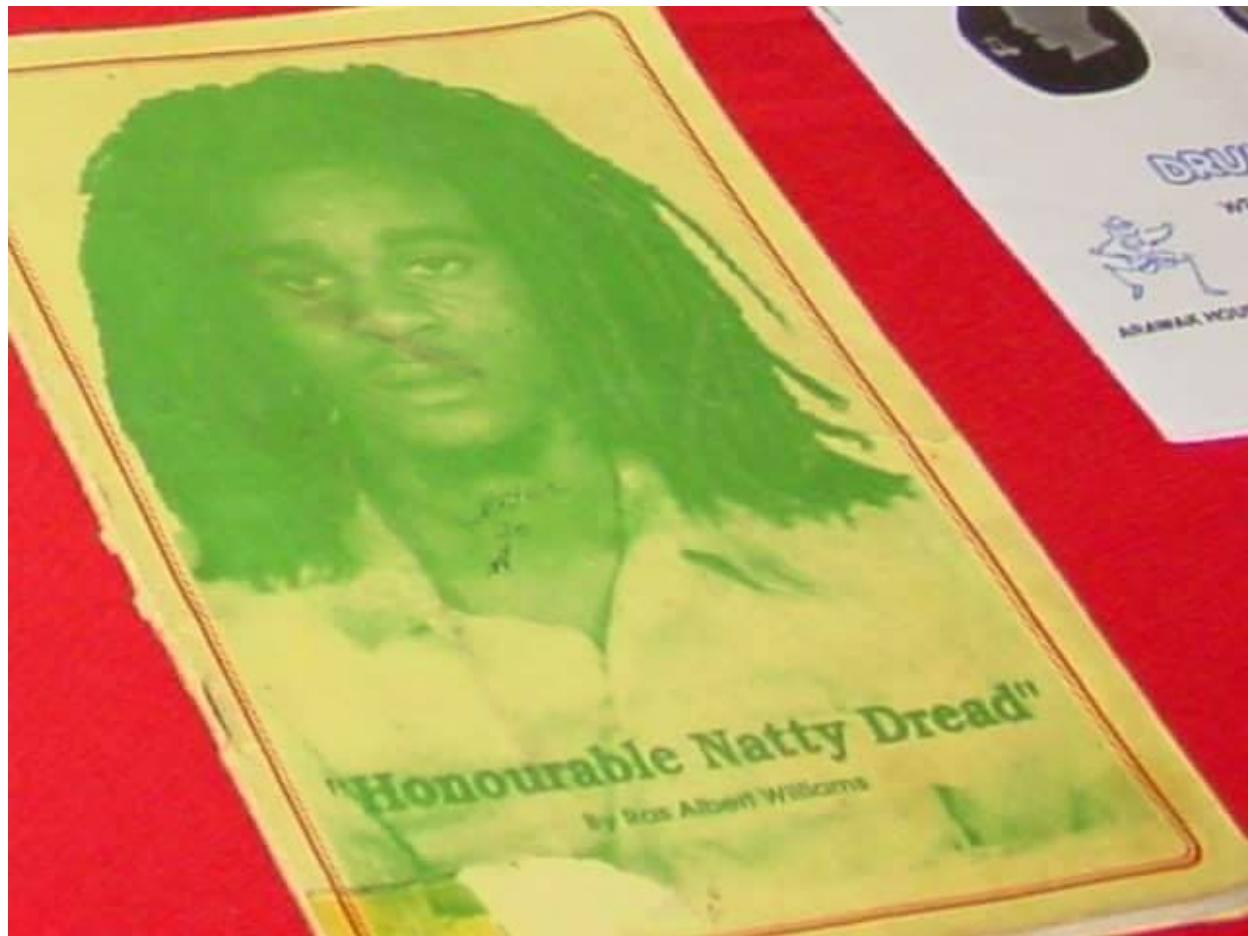
Another story that took my fancy was, Baby in the Middle. This story had a faint biblical abstract at its core. It is about a baby being born of a couple that after six months of their marriage the husband accepts a seven year medical study scholarship. He is only able to be with his wife once a year and for six weeks they are able to be with another. As this story continues, the wife announces by telephone into the sixth year of marriage she is with a child. The husband joyously receives the news only to inform the wife he has had a sperm count done and found out he could no way father a baby. The wife frantically confesses she had been unfaithful many times with the gardener. The doctor weighs his options and suggests they adopt the baby to avoid a scandal.

All in all this is a must get book to feel, see and taste the idyllic sensual delight of life that this author/poet takes you on within the most simplistic joy ride journey ever. I highly recommend, *Haunted Heritage and Other Stories* as a great read for mature adults with a creative and vivid imagination. This is a five star rating.

Reviewed by Tempie Author of Feelings (ISBN # 1-4241-0706-7)

Honourable Natty Dread | October 2020

Welcome to my blog



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

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Ras Albert would like to thank all persons  
who have contributed to the production of this book;  
Special thanks to:Ras Algi Sueitu and Gregs,founders  
of the King David Community School(first school opened  
after Hurricane David)for providing the illustrations.  
Merle Jno.Baptiste and Earl Edwards for typing Manuscript  
and A.Richardus of Photo One for cover photo.

# Welcome to my blog

## A WORD FROM THE POET

Energy that is not applied is no energy, likewise thoughts and ideas remain meaningless if not turned into reality.

To share one's thoughts is like sharing one's life and this earth could become a whole lot better if we were to respect one another's ideas and opinions.

I present Honourable Natty Dread as a tribute to Rastaman Berhane Selassie(Bob Marley) 1945-1981 in memory of his contribution towards the upliftment of I.N.I, along with selected pieces of poetry from my collection of poems from 1977-1981.

Though being a Rastafarian, I have not allowed my personal religious feelings to over-ride my work, but the doctrine is in seperatable from the simple lines of the following poetry....

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## MAN OF CREATION



Man of creation  
Rise upon your feet  
Shake loose the locks of thy head  
For verily thou shall be free!

Man of creation  
Feel the awesome power of the Father  
acknowledge his bountiful goodness  
For Jah is the beginning of happiness

Man of creation  
Sing aloud a new song  
For today you are born  
and tomorrow a new day will dawn 1979

# Welcome to my blog



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## LONESOME FEELING

I'm all alone  
Yes, just one more time  
I'm all alone  
with not a Queen  
to liven my home

Just I  
Just I within I  
with no one else to live for  
all by I self- except for the fragments  
of the past score

The reason is .....  
I really don't know why  
Maybe because of some wrong doing of the past  
or is it my fate;  
that has alighted on me by and by

It hurts me so much!  
to pass you  
without even saying hellow  
but from the expression of your face,  
tells me your love has sunk rather low  
But sometimes  
I wonder what goes on in your juvinile mind  
cause when you see me coming  
you take to your heals and hide.

You used to tell me  
About tings I could not remember  
And I'M so sure the things I told you  
you'll never forget

And now  
Though we are apart  
I hope they have some meaning for you  
For indeed I know  
You are all alone too 1979.

## TOMORROWS CHILDREN

A young boy  
feels his empty pockets  
whilst he lifts his head  
to the distant sky  
his tiny fingers pierce  
through his punctured trousers  
whilst his toes appear  
through his shoes,

This youth is innocent  
he clings to his past  
but he prays  
that he may grow up fast

Today's children are without direction  
confused by their parents reaction  
The world offers them little guidance  
But still they hear they must render obidience

Tomorrow child come what may  
Jah law you must obey  
So Rastafari say 1980.



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## ODE TO KABINDA

Kabinda is now free  
Free for I-ver  
free from the cold and misty confines  
of HER MAGESTY'S PRISON.

It was her who sentenced you to hang!  
You pleaded your innocence  
I.N.I fought for your freedom  
Free Desmond Trotter

Tears brother  
I.N.I. I shed for you  
But you are now free  
Free for I-ver

But after all those years  
of Solitary confinement  
What has become of your structure?  
What great vision have you beheld?  
A vision of redemption!

Kabinda smile  
Destrot smile  
For you are now free.



# Welcome to my blog

## WHERE HAS LOVE GONE ?

Where has love gone?  
No where can I find her  
She is hidden from I sight  
I ~~kinsmen~~  
And I country men  
Have declared war against I.N.I

I hair they do not like  
I words they cannot hear  
They mis-overstand I.N.I  
They have rejected  
And cast themselves away from I.N.I

Honourable men!  
Who am I to blame  
For this lack of overstanding  
Between the older and younger generations?

Who am I to blame  
for the victimisation of innocent youths?

Just where has love gone  
She is hidden from I sight  
Has your heart been hardened  
Or is it Pharoah that is responsible  
For my people's plight?

Hear this  
Many a weak heart  
Shall stoop in their shameful guiltiness  
But many who are prudent shall repent  
(fear ye Jah) 1980.



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## A LUTTA CONTINUA

The struggle is on  
A Lutta Continua  
The struggle for Survival

Dread in this time  
But the sun must shine  
Rasta please wear a smile  
Cause you know it is only for a while

The battle is hot  
be not deceived  
A Lutta Continua  
The struggle for Survival.



# Welcome to my blog

## LET JAH ARISE

Let Jah arise  
Let all his enemies scatter  
Let I and I the captive go  
Free from all captivity

Sellassie I did show I.N.I. de true way of life.  
It will be dread  
dreader than dread.

Who can stand his fury?  
only Natty Dread!!  
Yes I  
De Bongo man a come with haste  
to Splash shame in the bald-Head dem face

Who will abide with the Almighty?  
I and I!  
De remnants of his people  
De I-Surrection of his church  
All dem and dose dat know dat.

"JAH NO DEAD!!"

Him a just cool  
in his meditation  
Until de hour of his vengence

When Jah arise  
Rastafari will rejoice  
Singing Holy, Holy, Holy  
Lord Jah Almighty  
Who was, who is and who always will be  
King of Iration  
Sing I-ses before H.I.M.

SELAH

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



# Welcome to my blog

## BOB'S PROPHECY

"Natty Dread  
A liberate Zimbabwe!"  
Was it **Revelation?**  
Is it prophecy  
No more pain .....  
No more sorrow .....  
Majority Rule I say  
African rule today

The shackles have already  
been broken  
Their law books should have  
Already been burnt  
The door for man and man Rastaman  
Has now been opened  
Because in the east a new light has shone

"Come together to overcome"  
Zimbabwe today  
Azania tomorrow  
together we will fight  
Our war-cry Africa Unite.

I.M.I tears  
Shall be turned to cheers  
Praise Jah **AFRICA** is free  
Three cheers for Marley  
Once again freedom and Liberty

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## HONOURABLE NATTY DREAD

From out of this earth  
In every generation  
Will arise  
A mighty Prophet  
So don't you have no fear  
You have done your share  
You Honourable Natty Dread

It was you  
Who brought I.W.I.  
Out from ignorance  
And for this  
We will thank you honestly  
Although we know  
That it is written in the Bible  
That many shall be called,  
yet only a few of them shall be chosen

Through out this ya earth  
You did show your worth  
You Honourable Natty Dread  
You have paid your dues  
And you've got nothing to lose  
You Honourable Natty Dread.

Yes Brother Bob  
You were one  
You worked from dawn till dawn

Now in the physical  
You have gone, yet  
In the Spirit you will carry on  
The works of Marcus Garvey.

From out of this earth  
In every generation  
Will arise  
A mighty Prophet  
So don't you have no fear  
You have done your share  
You Honourable Natty Dread

Robert Nesta Marley  
He lived his life for we, ou  
And now we are grown  
We are the seeds  
He had sown  
Tilled by His Imperial Majesty

Yes Bob arise  
Open thy eyes  
Because we want  
To let you know  
We have discovered  
your toe  
And now he is trampled  
Beneath your feet

So if your  
Trodding in a street  
Or in a high mountain  
You Honourable Natty Dread  
Don't you have no shame  
Thy peace has brought you fame  
you Honourable natty dread.

Selah  
1981.

# Welcome to my blog

## I TIME IS UP

I time is up  
And now I must make a motion  
But while I'm gone  
Take good care of I selves

Cause I've got to go  
To a place where the sun keeps shining  
And I must leave  
And I won't be back again  
Take good care now  
In this age of tribulation  
Pray to Jah!  
For strength and direction

I time is up  
And now I must make a motion  
So while I'm gone  
Take good care  
Of one another

Cause I've got to go  
To a place  
Where I God will guide I  
And I've got to go  
So please don't get down-hearted  
Take good care please  
In these age of tribulation  
Pray to Jah for STRENGTH and PROTECTION

I time is up  
And I have no choice  
I must make I motion  
But while I'm gone  
Take good care of yourselves  
In I absence  
Take good care of one another  
I time is up. 1980.

This poem is dedicated to I brother FRANK  
and two sisters DEBBIE and LIZ.



ALBERT WILLIAMS

FOR THE BEST IN IRIE  
ROOTS SANDALS AND  
SHOES - STEP IN AT  
**MARCUS  
CHILDREN  
LEATHER  
CRAFTS**

50 BATH ESTATE HOUSING  
SCHEME

SUPPORT RAS APRIES  
ITAL SHOP!



ITAL  
FOODS  
&  
DRINKS

15 TURKEY LANE  
ROSEAU

OPEN  
DAILY

RED  
YELLOW  
GREEN

# Welcome to my blog

READING ALLFREY, NAPIER AND RHYS | October 22, 2020



Updated 20:45, October 26, 2020.

## WHAT DO PHYLLIS SHAND ALLFREY, ELMA NAPIER AND JEAN RHYS HAVE IN COMMON. They all shared a deep appreciation for the island called Dominica.

In March last year, Dr. Lennox Honychurch, Dominica's foremost historian, whose work is well recognised, and who just happens to be the grandson of Elma Napier, renewed calls for the authorities to rename the recently, constructed Roseau West Bridge in honour of Phyllis Shand Allfrey. Honychurch in reminding his audience while addressing a forum to commemorate 52 years of self-government, the theme of which was, "March 1967-March 2019: Remembering some early pioneers" said that it would be fitting that the name of Phyllis Shand Allfrey, alongside that of EC Loblack whose name adorns the East Bridge, "it would be fitting in the center of the capital that those two names stand next to each other." He was speaking of the pioneering role that Allfrey and Loblack played in the establishment of trade unions in Dominica, and the founding of the Dominica Labour Party (DLP).

The under-study of these works is to feel the ethos of the British empire in decline. To enter feet of first into the milieu of the complex social order of Dominica — that prized British possession on the far-flung edges of the of the British Empire.

To read of Rhys, Napier and Allfrey, is to absorb oneself in a genre of writing, that reflects a rich heritage. It is a study into the perspectives of what outsiders thought about the island, and

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

how the Creoles thought about themselves. This writer, is of the opinion, that the full importance, and the impact that this trio of female, white Dominicans have had, and are still having in academic circles. I think that one's understanding of history of the Dominica is enhanced through reading their works, and entices one to think beyond the cold text written by outsiders, to the warm memoirs and creative masterpieces by persons who were born there, in the case of Rhys and Alfrey. Napier who as we will learn, turned her back on empire and all its trappings for the rustic life of Dominica, and in the process, like Allfrey and Rhys, contributed to the lasting legacy, to not only the political life of the island, but the consummate literary heritage that has come down to us.

In this blog, I suggest that '21st-century Dominica' has not caught up and bought into the literary achievements of these daughters of the country. Despite the huge amount of critical literary acclaim, and a train of scholastic exegesis, in particular that of the works of Jean Rhys, the country has not fully embraced the memory of these celebrated authors. The argument that they are 'white' is ridiculous, inasmuch, that the white colonial elite, just like the negro population of the enslaved, were both imported ethnic groups into the island from elsewhere a point not lost by Allfrey.

Furthermore, since the black population were not openly allowed education, or to learn to read and write as the norm during the centuries slavery, it was not only until well into the 20th century that the first publications by Dominicans, about Dominica, of any colour began to emerge. Early residents of Dominica who did write about the country such as Dr Imray, and Thomas Atwood were among the few. Elma Napier, A Scottish socialite and aristocratic who in the 1930s while on a cruise of the possessions of the British empire fell in love with Dominica and returned there a year later to take up residence in a remote part of the island. She would go on to play a significant role in social change in the colony, and go on to represent the island in the first novel set in Dominica, written by a resident in Dominica.

When the Napiers arrived in 1932, it was just under a hundred years since slavery was abolished in 1834 in Dominica. The Colonial elite was in retreat. Estates were closing down and the white population in Dominica was outnumbered. Scotland has had a long colonial past with Dominica. A number of Scottish professionals have taken up residence for one reason or another. A land grant was made in 1804 in the parish of St Joseph, Dominica to [James Laing](#), John Lucas and Robert Reid who were slave-owners and owned the Macoucherie Sugar estate. [Dr John Imray](#), who resided in Dominica from 1832 and died on his estate at St Aroment in 1880, published *The Useful Woods of the Island of Dominica*, a detailed description of 169 trees. He would also play an extensive role in Dominica social life and politics during his long practice on the island. Other Scot residents worthy of mention at this time are [Robert](#)

## Welcome to my blog

[Melville](#) and [Jonathan Troup](#) It is perhaps no coincidence then that the first black woman to study at the University of Edinburgh was Clara Marguerite Christian from Dominica.

According to Irving Andre, Dominica has long held the fascination of eccentrics, scientists and other bohemians seeking paradise. During the centuries of conquest, Dominica was a refuge for the Kalinago, and the maroons.

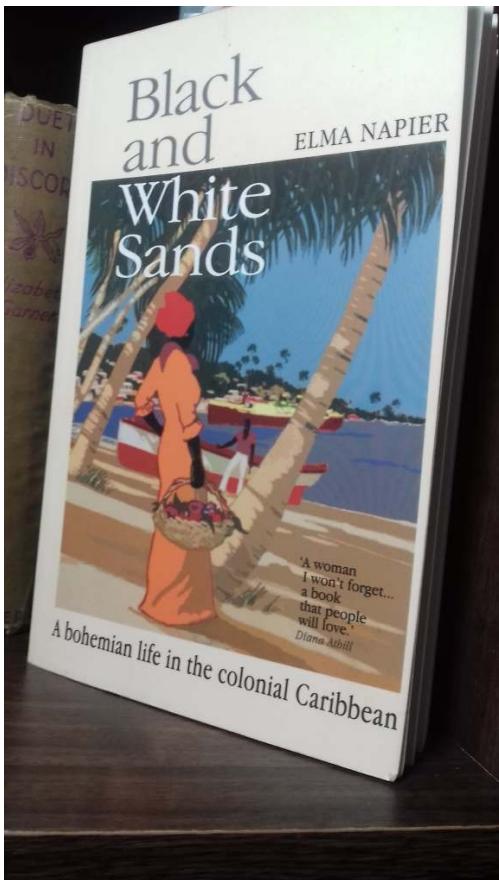
Elma Napier was born Elma Gordon-Cumming in Scotland on 23 March 1892. She was the eldest of five children born to her father, Sir William Gordon-Cumming, who was a landowner and a Lieutenant-Colonel in the 4th Battalion of The Scots Guards. Her mother was Florence Josephine Gordon-Cumming née Garner; a Scottish heiress. Polly Patullo, writing in the memoir of Elma Napier *Black and White Sands* that she wrote in 1962; but was only first published by Patullo's Papillote Press in 2009 remarked that she was “the eldest child of Sir William Gordon Cumming, whose family owned ‘half of Scotland.’”

Elma first visited Dominica while it was still a colony, with her second husband, Lennox Napier, as part of tour of the West Indies in 1931, and instantly determined to settled there the following year. Napier lived a full an active life as a mother, adventurer, writer and politician.

Napier’s life story reads like an epic Scottish/West Indian drama starring Elma Napier as herself. Her anecdotes and vignettes are drawn from the extraordinary moments of her sojourn in Dominica for nearly half a century.

In *Black and White Sands: A Bohemian Life in the Colonial Caribbean* she writes of the decision to settle in Dominica, the people she met, her surroundings and her journey in such detail that only a person of her unique insights could capture in her own unique literary style. A fact that was not lost by friend and novelist Alec Waugh who wrote several books depicting life in the West Indies including [The Fatal Gift](#) that memorializes the Napier’s. story.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS



[Black and White Sands](#)

## [A Bohemian Life in the Colonial Caribbean](#)

- *Nothing So Blue* (1927)
- *Youth is a Blunder* (1948)
- *Winter Is In July* (1949)
- *Black and White Sands* (written 1962; first published Papillote Press, 2009, [ISBN 978-0-9532224-4-5](#))
- *Carnival in Martinique* (1951)
- *Duet in Discord* (1936)
- *A Flying Fish Whispered* (1938; [Peepal Tree Press](#), 2011, [ISBN 978-1-84523-102-6](#))

**Elma Napier** (née Gordon-Cumming; 23 March 1892 – 12 November 1973), also known as **Elma Gibbs** and by the pen-name **Elizabeth Garner**,[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#) was a Scottish-born writer and politician who lived most of her life in the [Caribbean](#) island of [Dominica](#). She published several novels and memoirs based on her life, and was the first woman elected to a Caribbean parliament. ([Wikipedia](#))

The British colony of Dominica has long lured adventures, doctors, and eccentrics to its shores. The role of the Welsh and the Scottish in the Atlantic slave trade, and their role in Dominica is the subject of another blog. In the 1930s, the keeping of diaries and journals was well entrenched as a pastime or a necessity when so much depended on manual labor, and the

## Welcome to my blog

internet was not yet invented. For Elma, traveling and experiencing new lands and people was in itself, second nature. Her life in Dominica is the stuff that great directors look for to make those epic family dramas. The types that Dominicans would rush to the Arawak and Caribbean cinemas for a matinee in the afternoon. Elma Napier and her family reached Dominica as she turned forty in 1932. She laid roots and her descendants are still thriving there.

Writing in her memoir, *Black and White Sands: A bohemian life in the colonial Caribbean* Napier recalls that the family decided to visit the West Indies acting upon the doctor's advice that her husband would benefit from warmer climes. "Dominica was the only island for which we had no letters of introduction, and with Dominica, we fell in love at first sight, an infatuation without tangible rhyme or reason, yet no more irrational than any other falling in love," (Napier E 2009, p8). Whether describing the purchasing of the land and the building of her home at Point Baptiste or describing a trek in the rainforest, her attention to detail is immaculate. *Black and White Sands* is a memoir recounting her life in Dominica up to around 1972.

By the time I had read up to page 76 of the page-turner of a book, it dawned on me that Elma Napier was indeed a consummate storyteller. A writer who captured the feel of the island through the decades that she made the island her home.

(To be continued)



ean Rhys, controversial, but indisputable, a true modernist, legend that 40 years after her death continues to hold sway over her ever-growing readership spellbound with her particular rendering of postcolonial fiction/memoir writing craft.

Phyllis Shand Allfrey writing in her article in the star of 1968 referred to Rhys as '*the most famous Dominican*.' No other cultural figure from Dominica has been written about more than Jean Rhys. According to biographer, Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert, writing in a paper, JEAN RHYS AND PHYLLIS SHAND ALLFREY:THE STORY OF A FRIENDSHIP remarked, "Scholarship on Rhys is extensive and varied, encompassing some thirty books and more than one hundred articles."

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Moreover, the first editions of her books are rare and a signed copy of her *Voyage in the Dark* (1934) is on sale for US\$3,490 in an online [bookstore](#). story of Jean Rhys is another blockbuster waiting to happen. Obviously, the most prolific and the most revered of the trio of white, Dominicans were are surveying in this post. Her life in contrast brings to the fore the Dominican childhood that Napier could not have captured.

Jean's father, was [William Rees Williams](#), a Welsh doctor. "Who was reported to have arrived in Dominica on 18 January, 1881,"( [Thomas S.](#) ) A few years after arriving in Dominica in the mid 1800s, he purchased two estates.

*...in her familiar and unsteady later hand. Signed editions of the author's early works are very scarce partly because by the time she became well known towards the end of here life and her signature was more sought after many copies had already been lost."*

### *London Rare books*

Her long-time friend and editor, Diana Athill writing in the foreword to Jean's unfinished autobiography, said that it was Novelist, David Plante, who assisted Jean in "taking down her words, typing them out, discussing them and reading them back to her for revision," when Rhys was advancing in age and poor health in her mid eighties. In his own publication '[Difficult Women A memoir of three](#)', which besides his accounts being in the presence of Jean Rhys, is an autobiography that sketches his professional associations with Sonia Orwell and Germaine Greer. He candidly recounts how Jean Rhys explained to him how she started writing. "When I was little, I heard voices in my head that had nothing to do with me. I sometimes didn't even know the words. But they wanted to be written down, so I wrote them down," (Plante D. 1979, p11).



Writing in her autobiography that she was working on up to her death, but was published posthumously as *Smile Please: An unfinished autobiography*, Rhys recounts that her father came to

# Welcome to my blog

Dominica when he was nearly thirty. “I know more of my mother for she was born in Dominica,” she relates, ” on what was then [Geneva Estate](#), and Geneva estate was part of my life. In another musing she says, “My mother was a Miss Lockhart, a granddaughter of James Gibson Lockhart who arrived from Scotland at the end of the 18th Century, she said,

” He died before the Emancipation act was passed, and as he was a slave-owner the [Lockharts](#), even in my day, were never very popular. That is putting it mildly,” (Rhys J. 1979 p 33).

The Lockharts may have owned slaves, but they were not alone. Lennox Honychurch [In The Forests of Freedom - The Fighting Maroons of Dominica](#), disclosed that on August 1, 1834, when slavery formally abolished in the British West Indies, there were “668,000 enslaved labourers in the British West indies.” [The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slave-ownership](#) database returns some 871 claims were made in Dominica from planters for compensation for the loss of their enslaved workforce. A number of merchants, lawyers doctors and colonial officials also owned estates and made claims for compensation. Claim 778, James Potter Lockhart, listed as a merchant and slave-owner, made a claim for £5,646 4s 9d for the loss of his slaves at the Geneva Estate but he was unsuccessful. A counter-claim was made by the awardee, a London merchant and partner in T & W King creditors, as “a bond creditor for £10964 5s 3d at 5%”.

Charles Court, ‘Resident slave-owner, attorney and merchant on Dominica,’ and ‘Member of HM’s Privy Council for Dominica in 1832,’ has been found to have been actively involved the enslavement of people in Dominica in the 1820s. He was the ‘successful claimant’ for no less than 6 claims, and was associated with no less than 12 estates, either as owner, joint-owner or agent. Lockhart was his trading partner. In 1820 they set up as Lockhart and Court. According to the site, “[Lockhart, Potter and Court](#)“ as attorneys of Thomas and Peter Turquand for Hampstead estate in 1820.”

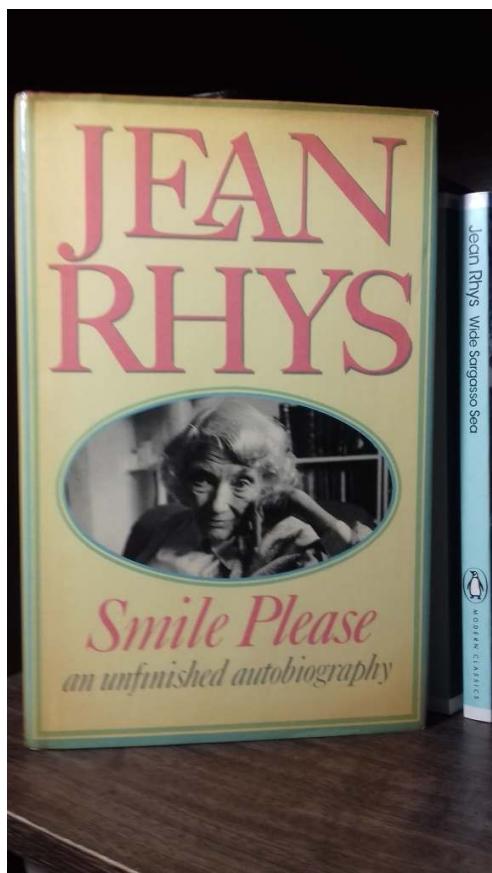
“Jean Rhys would address in her writings the impact that being the descendant of a slave owner had on her growing up, and her creole beginnings continued to affect her even when she migrated to England.

For the Jean Rhys neophyte, it is advisable to ease into her writing with, [The Cambridge Introduction to Jean Rhys](#) by Elaine Savory for example. Or Irving Andre’s [Distant Voices - The Genesis Of An Indigenous Literature In Dominica](#).’ This is even more applicable the further your point of reference is from the circumstances that gave birth to the Jean Rhys legacy. Jamaican novelist, Caryl Phillips’s has based his novel *A View of the Empire at Sunset*, published in 2018, is a biopic of Rhys’s life. Besides, being a postcolonial writer, Rhys could also be termed a [interwar](#) author. Her earliest short stories and novels were written during and reflect the atmosphere of The [Great Depression](#) and [World War I](#) (1914 -1918) and [World War II](#), (1939 to 1945.)

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Her unfinished autobiography traces a candid picture of her life from a sleepy post colonial outpost in the West Indies, to a turbulent metropolitan Europe.

Her writings and publications according to Wikipedia included:



- [The Left Bank and Other Stories](#), 1927
- [Postures](#), novel, 1928 (published in the US as [Quartet](#), 1929)
- [After Leaving Mr. Mackenzie](#), novel, 1931
- [Voyage in the Dark](#), novel, 1934
- [Good Morning, Midnight](#), novel, 1939
- [Wide Sargasso Sea](#), novel, 1966
- [Tigers Are Better-Looking](#): With a Selection from 'The Left Bank', stories, 1968
- [Penguin Modern Stories 1](#), (with [Bernard Malamud](#), [David Plante](#), and [William Sansom](#)), 1969
- [My Day: Three Pieces](#), stories, 1975
- [Sleep It Off Lady](#), stories, 1976
- [Smile Please: An Unfinished Autobiography](#), 1979
- [Jean Rhys: Letters 1931–1966](#), 1984
- [Early Novels](#), 1984
- [The Complete Novels](#), 1985
- [Tales of the Wide Caribbean](#), stories, 1985

# Welcome to my blog

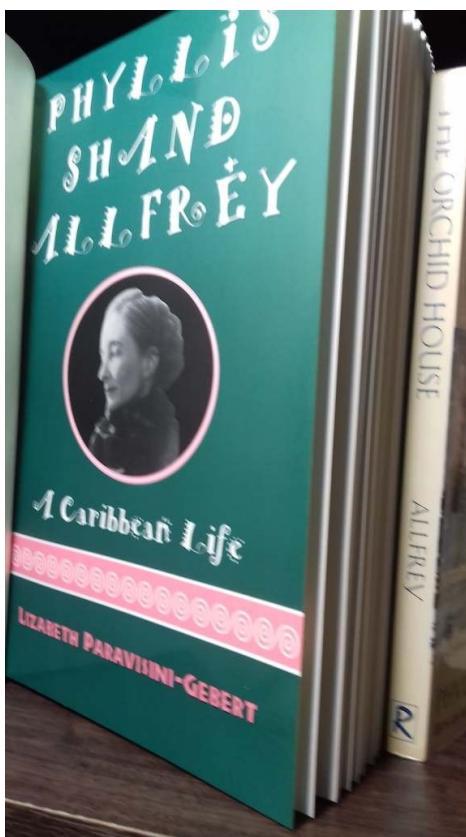
- *The Collected Short Stories*, 1987

- *Let Them Call It Jazz*, stories, 1995

Jean Rhys, born Ella Gwendolyn Rees Williams (24 August 1890 – 14 May 1979), was a mid-20th-century novelist who was born and grew up in the Caribbean island of Dominica. From the age of 16, she was mainly resident in England, where she was sent for her education. She is best known for her novel Wide Sargasso Sea (1966), written as a prequel to Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1978, she was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her writing. (Wikipedia)

(To be continued)

Phyllis Shand Allfrey (1908-1986)



- *In Circles* (poems, 1940)

- *Palm and Oak* (poems, 1950)

- *The Orchid House* (1953) [ISBN 978-0-8135-2332-3](#)

- *It Falls into Place* (2004) [ISBN 978-0-9532-2241-4](#)

- *Love for an Island: the Collected Poems of Phyllis Shand Allfrey* [ISBN 978-0-9571-1875-1](#)

Phyllis Byam Shand Allfrey (24 October 1908 – 4 February 1986) was a West Indian writer, socialist activist, newspaper editor and politician of the island of Dominica in the Caribbean.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

She is best known for her first novel, [The Orchid House](#) (1953), based on her own early life, which in 1991 was turned into a [Channel 4](#) television miniseries in the United Kingdom. ([Wikipedia](#))



iographer, Lisabeth Pravisini-Gebert writing in the *Phyllis Shand Allfrey : A Caribbean Life* that Allfrey could trace her lineage to the French aristocracy. She said that her family was colonial administrators, of “which there was no mixing with the growing negro population.” Like Napier, Allfrey would find her calling in politics and would serve in the short-lived West Indian Federation.

Phyllis was born into a white colonial, ruling-class family who have been resident in the West Indies since the 17th Century. According to (Paravisini-Gebert pg6) Shand’s biographer writing in the *Phyllis Shand Allfrey: A Caribbean Life* on her mother’s branch of the family tree her ‘earliest ancestor in the West Indies’ was [William Byam](#) whose direct line through his father could be traced to one of the knights of King Arthur and the Round Table in [AD 540](#). He was a ‘pioneer West Indian planter in Barbados in the 1600s. “In 1645 young Major Byam was among royalist officers imprisoned in the Tower of London during the uprising of Oliver Cromwell and the parliamentary army during the [English Civil War](#). He and his fellow Royalists were consequently banished to Barbados, where he received a large grant of land, was appointed the treasurer of Barbados, and which was a ‘fledgling British colony and then a Royalist refuge.’



[William Byam's colonial diary, and a 'Brief Description of the Guianas'](#)

However, in 1651 the British Parliament were fearful of the rise in the number of Royalist on the increasingly wealthy colony could be used as a base from which to launch a bid to restore the monarchy. In 1652 The ‘Commonwealth navy, retook the colony and Major Byam and his men were banished this time to Suriname where he eventually became Governor. In 1667 Surinam was besieged by a Dutch fleet. Byam surrendered, and the Treaty of Breda that followed saw Surinam now becoming a Dutch territory. The English planters and some 4000 enslaved were ‘moved to the island of Antigua.’ Byam became governor of Antigua and died there age 47 in 1669.

# Welcome to my blog

Phyllis's ancestry is, according to Irving Andre in his *Distant Voices*, related in 'excruciating detail' in *Caribbean Life*. Her paternal great-grandmother married Francis Shand, a descendant of William Byam and the scion of a family of absentee West Indian merchants and ship owners in Liverpool. Phyllis's grandmother, Marion Crompton was related to the Cromptons who also had been resident in Dominica for several generations and could trace her family connections to French 'ancient country gentry' and the uncle of '[Empress Josephine](#), Robert -Marguerite Tascher de la Pagerie, BaronTasher (1740 -1806)" who would marry Napoleon Bonaparte. She and the illustrious, Dr. [Henry Nicholls](#), a physician from England, married in 1877.

(To be continued)



eadng Napier, Rhys and Allfrey makes one fall in love with reading books again. Especially those that are set in Dominica. A very old-school technology that is still with us. As we come to the close of this survey of short survey of these the literary contribution of these three white Dominican, postcolonial, female, writers Elma Napier, Jean rhys and Phyllis Shand Allfrey what lessons have we learned. For one thing, the art of the craft of autobiographical writing is a genre that these three writers have demonstrated that they could do very well. Particularly, in the case of Napier and Rhys, and more so the former. Usually, in modern times, a well-known person would publish just one autobiography, though several official and unofficial biographies could surface.

I see no reason why the writings of Napier, Rhys and Allfrey are not the basis for a module of study throughout the educational system, from high school to university. I think that there is much to be gained from deep study of their works. Moreover, course-work in this field would foster an appreciation for, not only postcolonial literature, but provide an example of how to incorporate your lived experience of 'what you know' into the creative medium.

Further, I see no reason why every 5 years or so, that there is not released a historical drama based on Dominica. I am thinking of writing a screenplay or a novel or both, on the *Dominica invasion by the British in 1761* or [Battle of the Saintes](#). Just two examples of potential big screen productions.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

In closing, my findings are that Dominica has much to be explored by unearthing these forgotten writers. From a ‘creatives perspective’ the possibilities to explore are endless. The fact that the Afro-Dominican experience is, as you know, is scanty at best, then this is an opening to grab the creative license to create the narrative.

Moreover, the body of work that Allfrey, Napier, and Rhys have left behind are important historical records. Sources not only of their own colonial experience but also provide a glimpse into the plight people of colour with who they shared the island of Dominica. I am excited about the possibilities of a new layer of anthropological research this presents. Since very little record of the description of the descendants of the enslaved or the slaves themselves: How they lived on the plantation; what they ate; what they wore; marriage and family. We catch glimpses of this in their works.

Another point worth mentioning, is that the craft of memoir writing is exemplified in the works of Allfrey, Napier and Rhys. This needs to be further researched and experimented upon. Who else is responsible for doing that but the Afro-Dominicans themselves.

Allfrey, Napier, and Rhys therefore, could only write from their own perspectives. From their own local knowledge. Who knows, maybe there is an Elma Napier or Jean Rhys or Phyllis Shand Allfrey waiting inside us yearning to be emancipated. Maybe there could be a combination of all three. The possibilities, I repeat are endless.

However, the future of the legacy of Allfrey, Napier, and Rhys in Dominica remains to be seen. Dominica finds itself between a wall and a hard place. In the era of Black lives matter which has seen the memory of slave traders and slave owners face retribution: statues being torn down all over the world. You may have heard that the insurance agency [Lloyd's of London](#) and Greene King other institutions have also come forward with offers of reparations of a sort for their role in the slave trade. The question is: will Dominica shun, Alfred Napier and Rhys, or will they embrace the literature they have left behind? Only Time will tell.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

DOMINICA GOVERNMENT LIBERALISES THE HERB | October 27, 2020



## House of Assembly

Updated: 08:15 pm, 27 October, 2020

Parliament approves amendment to the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) (Amendment) Act 2020 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana for religious and personal use clearing the way for its final assent by the President, His Excellency Charles Angelo Savarin.

The Dominica Labour Party led by Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit has within the hour, amended the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) (Amendment) Act 2020, in a historic act of parliament towards first steps of relaxation of laws prohibiting the cultivation and/or possession of marijuana. The amendment seeks to allow users to possess no more than 28 grammes of Cannabis on their person or in their residence.

# Welcome to my blog



[Pexels.com](https://www.pexels.com)

Further, the act makes provision for the cultivation of no more than three trees. Also, persons who have a previous marijuana conviction for less than 28 grammes will have their sentences expunged.

## **What is prohibited under the law?**

The act also refers to the use of the plant for religious purposes. Prohibited under the law, is smoking in public places to wit “A person who commits an offence under subsection (2) is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand, five hundred dollars.

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## 2020 DRUGS (PREVENTION OF MISUSE) ACT (AMENDMENT)

2. In this Act the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act is referred to as “the Act”.

3. Section 7 of the Act is amended in subsection (4) by deleting the word “fifteen” and substituting the words “twenty-eight”.

4. The Act is amended by inserting the following new sections 7A and 7B immediately after section 7:

“Restriction on possession of cannabis.

**7A.** (1) It shall not be lawful for a person to have more than twenty-eight grammes of cannabis or cannabis resin in his possession.

(2) A person who has twenty-eight grammes or less of cannabis or cannabis resin in his possession is not guilty of an offence under section 7(2).

“Prohibited places under the new amendments include “any structure, building, public transport or facility, that the public, or a section of the public, is entitled to use or that is open to, or is being used by, the public or a section of the public (whether on payment of money, by virtue of membership of a club or other body, or otherwise), road or path in the immediate vicinity of such buildings;

[It] does not include a privately-occupied residence not used for commercial purposes, or a usual place of worship of members of the Rastafarian faith or other faith.

# Welcome to my blog

The lifting of restrictions comes as Dominica winds up to the climax of its 42nd Independence anniversaries. The Dominica Labour Party in its 2019 Political Manifesto promised that it would address the question of decriminalisation of within this cycle.

## CARICOM and Marijuana Commission

In 2014, the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government at its Twenty-Fifth Inter-Sessional Conference convened in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, mandated the establishment of a CARICOM Regional Marijuana Commission (the Commission) to interrogate the issue of possible reform to the legal regimes regulating cannabis/ marijuana in CARICOM countries.

Prime Minister Dr. Skerrit in his budget speech in August announced that his government was forging ahead with A draft bill to “pave the way for a regulated marijuana industry in the Caribbean nation of Dominica” and that it would be tabled in the present sitting of the house that opened today at 10 am, October 26th for the The Fourth Meeting of the First Session of the Tenth Parliament under the Commonwealth of Dominica Constitution will held at the House of Assembly, Victoria Street, Roseau, Dominica, West Indies. Read the amended legislation [here](#)

Thanks to the Prime Minister and his fellow parliamentarians for taking such a bold step, and for his forward-thinking on this matter that has been so divisive in the past.

Meanwhile former Speaker Emerita, [Alix Boyd Knights](#) told this writer that, “an act of Parliament does not become law until it has been assented to by the President and then Gazetted. It is NOT YET law.”

## Further reading

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TO SMOKE OR NOT TO SMOKE -SMOKING TO BE BANNED IN ALL WORKPLACES, PUBS AND PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PLACES IN BRITAIN BY 2006 (reposted from Nov 4, 2004) | October 27, 2020

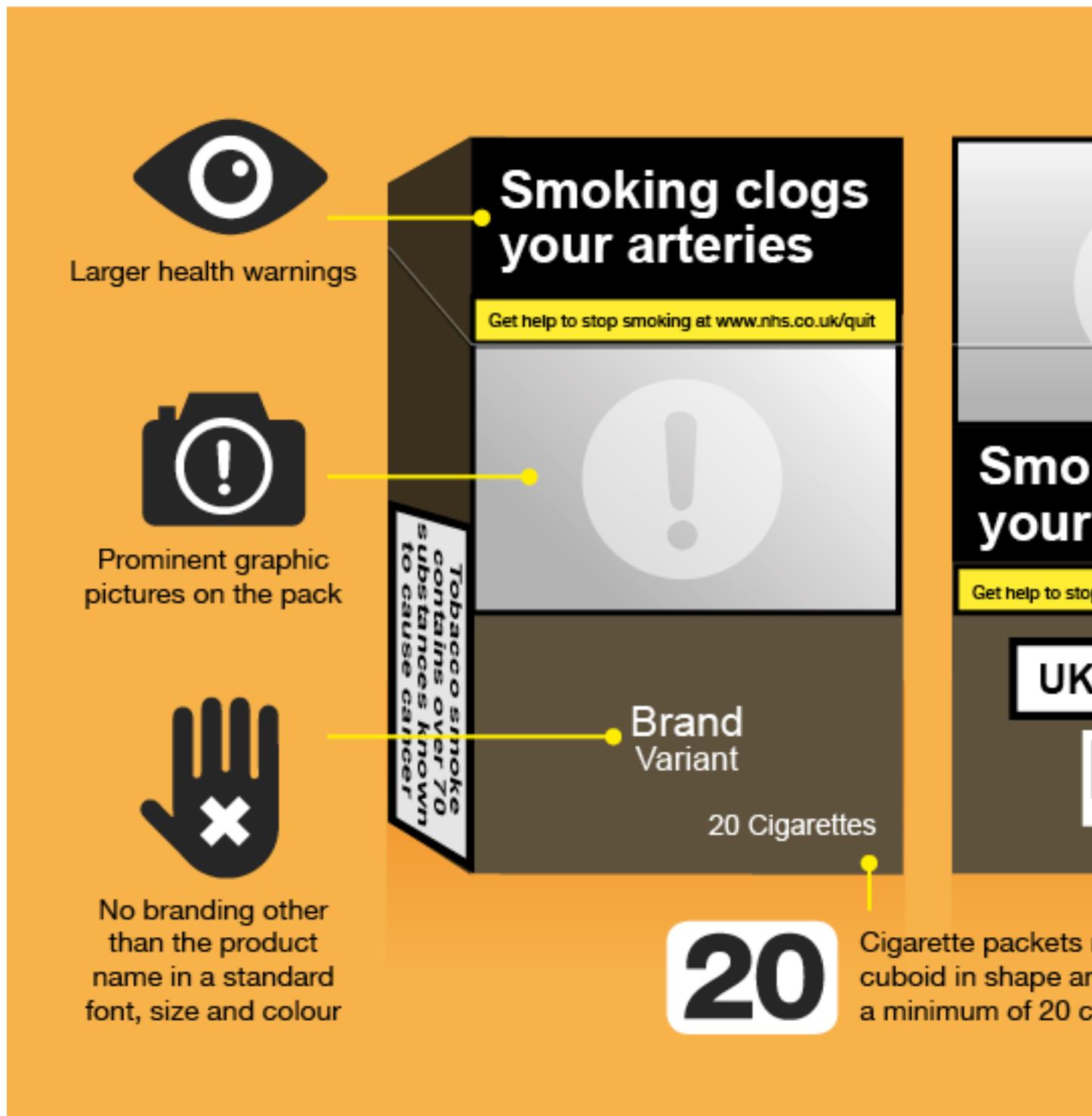


## Welcome to my blog

Moves to ban smoking in all public places such as bars, pubs, trains and the like are in full gear as parliamentarians put the final touches to legislation that will outlaw the pastime in a bid to safeguard the health of the non-smoking public.

For sometime now tobacco manufacturers have been forced to display highlighted and enlarged health warnings on all cigarette and tobacco wrappers warning the consumer of the ills of smoking. "SMOKING KILLS" while another warns, "SMOKING KILLS OTHERS AROUND YOU."

## The new standard pack



# Welcome to my blog

In addition to the big wigs in parliament, an ally in the war on tobacco is the Ministry of Health authorities. Who have sponsored a radio and television advertisement that claims that smoking deposits layers of fat in the veins.

Manchester-based, General Practitioner, international stop smoking expert, Dr. Chris says that, " stress is one of the main factors people experience when people try to give up smoking." Steele is the author a Fresh Start Relaxation tape offered as part of a quit smoking program by Pharmacia, and states that by listening to this tape smokers can be helped to relax and achieve the ideal of quitting the smoking habit.

According to a report from the Health Development Agency in the U.K.: 'The Smoking epidemic in England' smoking can be attributed to all the deaths in the town of Crawley, a southern English town. The November 17th issue of the Crawley Observer in an article by Ben Morris states 31percent of the population of Crawley are smokers. This Morris writes is the same rating as that of the inner city cities of greater Manchester and Central London. Surrey and Sussex has the lowest percentage (25 percent) in the U.K. The article continues by quoting Dr. Mike Gill, Regional Director of Public Health for the South East. " We are in the grip of a smoking epidemic. The publication of this report sets out the scale of the problem we face... smoking isn't just a national. The figures show how our local communities are affected."

## Key facts

Tobacco kills up to half of its users.

Tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year. More than 7 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to secondhand smoke.

Over 80% of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco users live in low- and middle-income countries.

## World Health Organisation

According to recent statistics 230 deaths each day in the U.K. While in the southeast region 12,500 persons die every year because of smoking.

Despite the government health warnings and the stark facts painted by the statisticians, arguments from the other side of the divide continue to flame. Readers of The Sun contributing to the Dear Sun Department -the page where you tell Britain what you think, have outnumbered those that support the moves, as is apparent in the November 18 issue of the publication.

"Whatever happened to freedom? Ban this and ban that. you must do this and do that. Is no one tiered of this? can't we please have a weak government again? Must we have one that considers itself God's infallible instrument, with the moral right to make us dance on command? I want Tory sex scandals again—not Tony Blair's bullying. Enough. "One writer from the Battersea, South West London wrote. Meanwhile, another says, " how about putting the

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

same effort into clamping down on criminals as trying to criminalize law-abiding citizens? Banning smoking violates what should be an individual's choice. ...Soon smokers, drinkers, slightly overweight people and those who occasionally like to hunt will be deemed bigger nuisances than the habitual muggers, burglars, car thieves, rapists and paedophiles. ...Crack down on them instead. Us smokers work hard to pay taxes and deserve some pleasure in life."

But Vivienne Nathanson of the British Medical Association, in the same department defending the government's view declares, " If smoking should be matter of choice, what choice for the pregnant barmaid, who risks having a sickly baby because the Government does not think her health is worth the same as an office worker? Most people will feel that ignoring the health of bar workers is simply not fair play."

This writer spoke with a male smoker, in his early 30's, who was introduced to cigarettes since the age of 14. He says that he wants to stop the habit and has tried on several occasions, believes that smoking in public places takes away the other person's right to choose. " Smoking should be considered a Class A drug rather than Class C as more persons smoke cigarettes and consequently die from smoking than any other drug," he mused. He believes too, that smoking in the past has been glamorised on television adverts and in the movies enticing persons, particularly the young to join the bandwagon. "If they would show video tapes of persons seeking medical attention from the effects of smoking and the many surgical operations they undergo for cancer etc, persons would perhaps change their mind about their choices."

He went on to say that he is aware that cigarettes contain many harmful ingredients, in the paper and in the filter. "We cannot dispute the facts," he says, " nicotine is not good for the body. Nicotine is a weed killer," he concluded.

Meanwhile as the debate continues in and out of parliament, Pharmacia, manufacturers of Nicorette products—Chewing Gum, 16-hour patch, inhalor, microtab and nasal spray, contend that their products, "double your chances of success...you are twice as likely to succeed with nicorette compared to willpower alone," their literature states. To kick the habit.

Persons desiring to quit the habit for good are invited to register free-of-charge in its Fresh Start Complete Quitters Program, specially designed to give practical advice and motivation on how to achieve this. By simply dialling telephone number 08002 GIVE UP (0800244838) in the U.K. between 9am and 9pm, you will receive: a personal progress handbook, daily progress monitor. Help line card, nicorette coin, as well as the relax with Dr. Chris Steele audiotape and regular mailings. For more information log on to <http://www.nicorette.co.uk>.

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AUTHOR TO PEN BOOK CHRONICLING HIS WINDRUSH EXPERIENCE | October 27, 2020

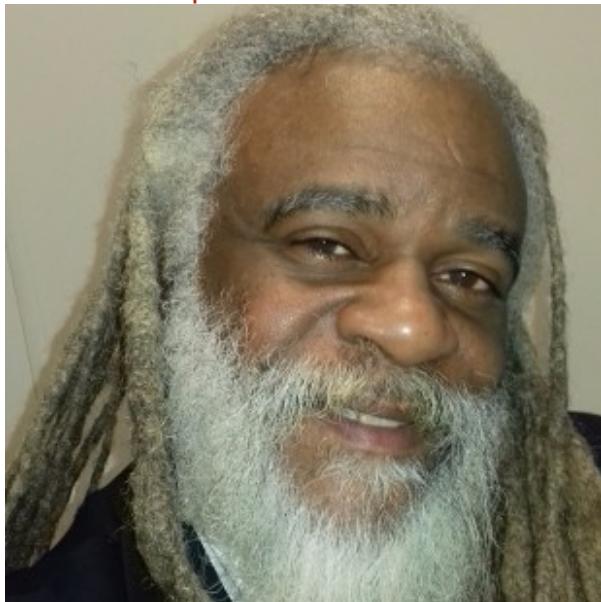
## ALBERT WILLIAMS



**A resident in West Sussex, 58 -year-old, British-born, Albert Williams, of Dominican parentage, has announced that he is working on his 6th publication: My Windrush Story – the narrative of the life of Albert Williams (Written by Himself)**

# Welcome to my blog

A different experience



This publication, which also will be accompanied by a [website](#) and mini-documentary will be unlike anything published on the subject of the Windrush generation thus far. The author, who has five previous publications, spent 32 years in Dominica before returning to the UK in 2004. He said, “my Windrush experience is markedly different from most stories that you’ll read about,” he reiterated adding that, “unlike 2nd generation of West Indians, many who have never visited their ancestral homeland, and during the Windrush Scandal, found themselves deported to various West Indian islands under severe circumstances.” Williams says that the time he spent in Dominica was beneficial for his own character building and for ‘getting to know my roots.’

“My windrush experience is markedly different from most stories that you’ll read about.”

*My Windrush Story – the narrative of the life of Albert Williams* (Written by Himself) will be divided into three sections: “This is a great assignment for me!” he says, “it is an opportunity to throw all my experiences, resources, and skills at the project, that I’ve learned during my first 10 years in the UK, 32 years in Dominica, and 16 years since my return to the UK.

## Decolonising the mind

[Williams](#) also says that much of the colonial history research that he has conducted in 2020 will inform this latestest publication in light of the on-going Black Lives Matter protests. He also contends that this project may help the Windrush generation understand more holistically their West Indian heritage alongside their Britishness.

## Cover photo:

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

“ Photograph of Northlands (Maternity Hospital) ,” Explore Emsworth Museum, accessed November 25, 2020, <http://emsworthmuseum.org.uk/emcms/items/show/1102.2020-06-11> 16:29:32

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Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, saddened by Volcano disaster in St Vincent | April 21, 2021

## Welcome to my blog

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Second, has thanked emergency services and ones involved in the relief effort, as the La Soufrière Volcano disaster enters its 4th day.

She offered words of consolation to the Government and People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in a telegram issued today April 14, 2021.

" I have been saddened by the destruction caused by volcanic eruptions in recent days," she said, adding, " my thoughts are with the many people and families who have been evacuated from their homes and livelihoods have been affected."

This comes despite mourning the death of her husband of seven decades, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh who died on April 9th, the same day that the La Soufrière volcano on St. Vincent began a series of explosive eruptions, prompting the authorities to evacuate thousands of citizens from the Red and orange zones.

The message comes as Her Majesty resumed royal duties today, four days after the death of her husband, to host 'an event to mark the retirement of her household's most senior official, the Earl Peel who has stepped down as Lord Chamberlain, newspapers report.

Full text below

[Source: [NBC Radio St Vincent and the Grenadines](#)]

# ALBERT WILLIAMS



WINDSOR CASTLE

I have been saddened by the destruction and major disruption caused by volcanic eruptions in recent days, and my thoughts are with the many people and families who have been evacuated from their homes, and whose livelihoods have been affected. I send my thanks to the emergency services and all those involved in the relief effort.

My prayers will remain with the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines at this very difficult time.

ELIZABETH R.

14th April, 2021.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS



WINDSOR CASTLE

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ELIZABETH R.

14th April, 2021.

# Welcome to my blog

Historic parliament in St Vincent sanctions 117 million dollars from Consolidated Fund to meet volcanic emergency | May 12, 2021



Volcanic plume seen on 9 April 2021 by the [Sentinel-3B](#) satellite

## Consolidated Fund

A bill to sanction payments from the Consolidated Fund upon certain services in excess of the Appropriation Act of 2021 relating to the year ending 31 December 2021 was passed in the parliament in St Vincent and the Grenadines yesterday.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

The 2021 Supplementary Estimates for St. Vincent and the Grenadines was tabled in the name of the Parliament representative for East Saint George, Camillo Gonsalves, who is the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology.

The bill was ‘taken through all stages in this sitting’ in accordance with Standing order 48/2. The Minister in his presentation thanked everyone who has contributed in the trying times of the last month who contributed to the recovery effort, since the repeated eruptions of the La Soufrière volcano. He stated that \$117.9 million dollars were needed to address the humanitarian La Soufrière volcano disaster.

“We are before this honourable house, almost one month exactly, after that first explosive eruption with a budget of one hundred and seventeen point nine million dollars to address the most immediate humanitarian cleanup demands that volcano eruption has placed upon us. And I want want to thank the staff of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Planning, and of course my Cabinet colleagues for the very, very, hard work they have done in the last month even while dealing with cleanups, and NEMO meetings, and the various exigencies of the eruption that we found time, over the last for weeks to put together this \$117.9 million dollar-budget to address the challenges that we all face together.”



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## Preliminary estimates

He went on to say that the preliminary incomplete estimates of the damage and the loss are ‘sobering estimates’ “Even without going to the full extent of the Red Zone and the Orange Zone, and up the mountains, we know that cleanup costs will exceed \$38 million dollars.

We know that there is damage to over 5,000 buildings, exceeding 35 million dollars.

We know that at least, 175 million dollars of loss and damage has been inflicted on the agricultural sector, and some estimates are as high as US\$150 million dollars.

We know that in the Red Zone, a hundred percent of vegetable crops have been destroyed, 65 percent of arrowroot crops, 90 percent of tree crops, and 80 percent of root crops have been destroyed.

We know that hundreds of livestock have been lost—pigs, goats, sheep, cattle. We know that thousands of chickens have been lost.

We know that there is over 15 million dollars in damage to our forests, and the evaluators, quite naturally, couldn’t get all the way up into the mountains to evaluate the full extent of the damage to our forestry,” he told the house adding,

“we know that there is damage to our public utility infrastructure—water, electricity generation and distribution capacity.

And all of this preliminary data, sobering as it is, excludes large swaths in the Red and Orange Zones that were inaccessible at the time of the assessment, and the assessments were made before the torrential rains that we experienced that sent flooding and lahars down the hillside and caused even more damage to the infrastructure and the lives and livelihoods of the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.”

## La Soufrière volcano

The government of St Vincent and the Grenadines, acting upon the advice of the UWI Seismic Research Center, lowered the La Soufrière Alert level to Orange on May 6, 2021. The Alert Level was raised to Red on April 8, 2021 when the seismologists observed an escalation in activity” at La Soufrière volcano prompting Prime Minister of St. Vincent, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves to issue an immediate evacuation order from the North of the Island, from the Red and Orange zones on Mainland St. Vincent

On April 9 the volcano had a major explosive eruption that blasted away its 1979 dome and the new effusive dome that had begun to grow in late December 2020.

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House adjourned

Contributions were also heard from the Prime Minister as well as several members of the government side of the house. However, members of the opposition were absent. Including the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Godwin Friday who was instructed to leave the chamber by Speaker of the House, Rochelle Forde, when Mr. Friday failed to accept her ruling on a matter raised during Questions in regard to a senator which erupted into a heated exchange between the Speaker and the Mr. Friday.

The bill passed the Committee Stage with amendments was read a third time and passed.

Debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Act 2021 will resume when the House reconvenes on Tuesday 29 June 2021, due to Prime Minister being out of state from May 20th for 3-4 weeks in relation to a domestic matter. The proceedings were broadcast live by NCB Radio St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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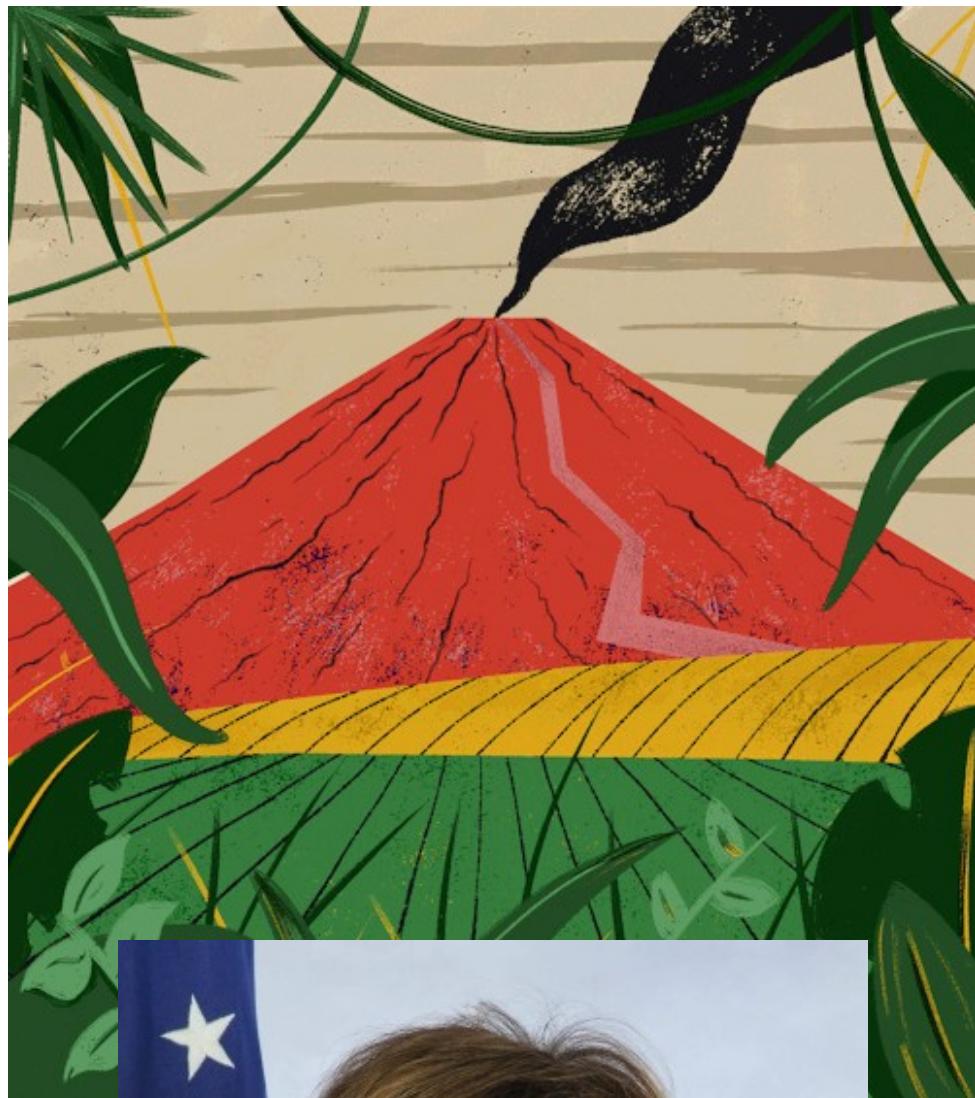
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# Welcome to my blog

US\$3.8 million to St. Vincent disaster recovery -Ambassador, Linda Taglialatela, US Ambassador to Barbados/OECS | May 14, 2021



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Ambassador Linda Taglialatela, US Ambassador to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean and the OECS has just announced in a press conference hosted by the Office of the Prime minister in St. Vincent and the Grenadines,(SVG) that a further US\$ 3.8 million dollars is to be made available to the Government of SVG for what Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves describes as the “Humanitarian and rehabilitation recovery effort after La Soufrière volcanic eruptions”

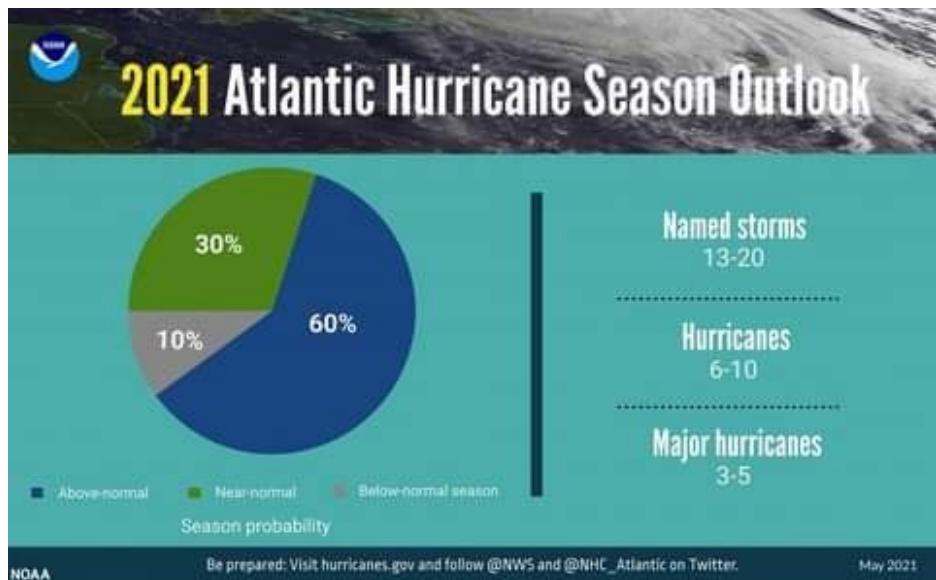
Ambassador Taglialatela announced that “It gives me great pleasure to announce today, that the United States is giving 3.8 million dollars for emergency assistance to the people affected by the eruption of the volcano.” She said this “newest assistance is administered from the UNAID and adds to the USA’s ongoing commitment to help with the assistance to the island. This 3.8 million dollars increases the USA’s contributions to 5 million dollars.

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# Welcome to my blog



As Barbadians mop up after what officials there are describing as a ‘freak storm’ event, the trail of devastation caused by a passing tropical wave is an abrupt reminder that the 2021 North Atlantic Hurricane Season, which officially commenced on June 1st, is well on the way.

Prime minister Mia Mottley, who toured the island early Thursday, meeting with affected residents, last night told a press conference that scores of houses were either deroofed and others were totally destroyed. She said that a number of schools also sustained structural damage, and fallen trees have blocked roads with mudslides making some roads hazardous for vehicle travel.

Mottley related that, “I don’t think in my life I have seen so much lightning,” she said, adding, ” and indeed it is only this afternoon when others have expressed that we were getting 490 lightning strikes per minute, and we had over the period of time almost 46,290 strikes based on what was collected.” The prime minister also remarked that the thunder sounding as if it emanated from the bowels of the earth, “and there was a roaring of thunder, not the usual claps of thunder that we are accustomed to, but a roaring coming from almost the belly of the

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

earth. and then of course high winds and in the middle the met office would have issued a high wind warning immediately it started."

The storm also knocked out the electricity power supply in parts of the island. However, no fatalities or injuries have been reported.

NOAA predicts that the season will be an active one with 13 – 20 named storms; 6 – 10 hurricanes of which 3 -5 could become major hurricanes.[To be updated]

[Estimated percentages of types of storms. Image via NOAA.

# Welcome to my blog



## Is Froyla Tzalam's, appointment as Governor-General of Belize, a good thing?

Her Excellency [Froyla Tzalam](#) was sworn in as Belize's third Governor -General on 27 May 2021 with all the pomp and ceremony that such an occasion deserves, at the Government House, Belize House of Culture, in Belize City. Her historic appointment places her in the history books as the first indigenous governor-General in the British Commonwealth, and the third Governor-General of that former British colony in Central America that gained its independence from Great Britain on 21 September 1981.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF BELIZE

Belize is located on the North-eastern coast of Central America situated between [Mexico](#) on the North the Caribbean Sea on the east, and Guatemala on the south and West. The area which we now know as Belize since 1975, was formerly called British Honduras during its years as a Crown Colony of the British colonial empire between 1749 to 1964.

The original people of the area were the Mayans. The Maya civilization flourished across southeastern Mexico, of Guatemala and Belize, and the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador according to a Wikipedia entry. The Mayas were noted for developing its own writing system, and for its pre-Columbian advances in architecture, mathematics and astronomy. Their history goes well beyond 8000 BC.

When the Spanish explorers first encountered the Mayan civilizations, they were in awe of their ancient architectural sites whose ruins and stelae act as testimonies to a well advanced civilization such as [Caracol](#), a large ancient [Maya](#) archaeological site, located in what is now the [Cayo District](#) of [Belize](#), and Xunantunich which is located on a mountain ridge above

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

the [Mopan River](#) and in ancient times It served as a “Maya civic ceremonial center” to the Belize Valley region in the Late and Terminal Classic periods, according to Wikipedia.



**Caracol**, a large ancient [Maya](#) archaeological site, located in what is now the [Cayo District of Belize](#)

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## Mopan River

### COLONIAL ERA

In the 16th century, the Spanish did not express much interest with Belize yet declared it part of the [Spanish Empire](#), claiming that there was no gold to be found there, but, it was English pirates who first began to build settlements there, and in 1716 the first permanent settlement was founded. “during the 18th century, established a system using [black slaves](#) to cut logwood trees.” “The British settlers, who called themselves Baymen, began importing African [slaves](#) in the early 18th century to cut [logwood](#) and then [mahogany](#).” – Britannica. The first British superintendent over the Belize area was appointed in 1786.

When the British abolished slavery throughout the British Empire in 1833, slave-owners in British Honduras, now Belize, were compensated at “£53.69 per slave on average, the highest amount paid in any British territory” due to an estimate of the skills of their slaves’ in the ability to work in mahogany extraction.

“A symbolic milestone, it should not be seen as willfully ignoring our colonial past, rather it is a new chapter in Belize’s evolution as a country for all and by all.

*Her Excellency [Froyla Tzalam](#)*

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## WHO IS FROYLA TZALAM

Froyla Tzalam replaces Sir Colville Young, her predecessor who retired from the position as Head of State, the country's most senior diplomat, and served as the country's second Governor-General for 28 years. Mrs. Tzalam's appointment was approved by Buckingham Palace, and on May 27th, 2021, Mrs. Tzalam was installed as the country's first in Governor-General of Maya descent, and the first indigenous Governor-General in the entire British Commonwealth.



Tzalam is a native of Belize from the village of San Antonio, Toledo. She describes herself as a "Mopan Mayan woman." She holds a Masters in Rural Development from Sussex University, England and a Bachelors in Anthropology from Trinity University in Texas. According to the San Pedro Sun, "she is recognized as an active Belizean in history, indigenous rights, and the Maya culture with high academic degrees in Anthropology and Rural Development." Meanwhile, Belize.com says, "Froyla Tzalam stands proud and strong in both the Maya and Western worlds. As a Mopan Maya leader, she strives to forge awareness and acceptance between the Indigenous and Industrialized communities."

## WILL SHE DO IT HER WAY

For one thing, she will be stuck in the bureaucracy of centuries —279 years— of colonial protocol. She in effect becomes the "viceregal representative of Belize who is also Commander in Chief of The Belize Defence Force. " She is the final act of authority to rubber stamp any future government action in Belize. Belize, is a central American country, formerly British Honduras, was a British Crown Colony from 1749 to 1964, and was declared an independent nation on 21 September 1981. Belize, formerly, British Honduras "was the last continental possession of the United Kingdom in the Americas."

# Welcome to my blog

Prime Minister of Belize, John Briceño, who informed The Queen of the nomination of Mrs. Tzalam for the Office, in April told legislators, “I am confident that Froyla will serve this high office with distinction, that she will bring her own style and talents to the high office of the Governor-General of Belize.” ([Caribbean National weekly](#))

The constitution of Belize, the supreme law adopted when the country gained independence on September 1981, in Chapter 4, part 5 among her duties will be to appoint or remove prime ministers, members of the House of Representatives and other ministers of State. The Governor-General, may also grant pardons or reprieves to individuals from punishments or executions. The Governor-General is Head of State and is a representative of the Queen. Belize is a [Commonwealth Realm](#) that retains the British Monarchy as Head of State. It is a position that is hereditary, being able to be passed down to her heirs.

## IN HER OWN WORDS

Speaking at her inaugural address, Her Excellency, Froyla Tzalam, said, “I am honoured to stand before you today as a Belizean, Mopan woman and to express my deep humility and gratitude for this recognition. I am very aware of the responsibility that comes from holding this office and I will do my work as I have done elsewhere with passion and commitment to do good to the best of my ability.” She paid homage to her predecessor Sir Colvill Young and Lady Young who held the post for 28 years, from 1993 to 2021, citing their unwavering commitment to Belize for nearly three decades of service. Their love of music has created a legacy she said “which has been recognised by so many.”

The newly-installed Governor-General also thanked the sitting prime minister [Johnny Briceño](#) and his cabinet for what she described as their trust in her to “serve in this high office.” She went on to thank her fellow Belizeans who as she said, “who have expressed their delight over social media on her appointment, saying “ Many roots people and others have expressed their pride and happiness in seeing someone like them reflected at the highest office in Belize. all children can now aspire to be governor-General no matter their background. It has truly been a humbling experience, and a symbol of Belize’s maturity.” Tzalam also thanked persons who had supported her endeavors in the past and that her appointment was because of people like them. She also praised her parents, her mother who was in attendance, and her father who was deceased 30 years ago saying, “ my parents did raise us to see ourselves as poor. We had food and shelter. I was surrounded by family with lots of rooms to run around, as well as chores to teach me how to be responsible. These chores imbued in me an appreciation of the benefits of hard work. I want to salute my family and friends, here and abroad, and the countless people who have molded me.” She also thanked her husband, Daniel Mendez and her children. “They are part of this journey,” she said, “ and I will need their patience and love to guide me, and to keep me grounded,

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Her Excellency Froyla Tzalam reminded her audience that her appointment as Governor-General was a “symbolic milestone, it should not be seen as willfully ignoring our colonial past, rather it is a new chapter in Belize’s evolution as a country for all and by all. I intend to carry out the constitutional role of this office with the required diligence. It is also my hope that time will permit me to carry out my constitutional duties,” she said, adding, “This is an institution with its own culture, however, like all institutions it is inhabited by people.”

Tzalam noted that since her appoint was announced she has received many requests for the building of bridges and roads and to amplify the voices of the people. “ I intend to build metaphorical bridges in this country, uniting all of us in the rural areas and the towns. I will use my interests in strengthen local communities to build a nation that can overcome challenges. for us in Belize we are beginning to understand that there is more than one way to live. More than one way to talk, more than one way to see reality. As someone who has been vocal and passionate about our culture and history, and looking at how society is organised, the office of Governor-General can provide a platform,’ she insists, “for unifying our diverse voices.”

We pray that Mrs. Tzalam who is the first Maya Indian to become a governor-general in the 54-member countries of the British Commonwealth that spans Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific will advance the struggle for all oppressed people.

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Barbados counts the cost after Category 1 Hurricane Elsa slams the Windward islands | Elsa heading for Cuba and Florida | July 5, 2021

# Welcome to my blog



Hurricane 'Elsa' which, at the time of writing has been downgraded to a top-end tropical storm, intensified from tropical depression 5 on Wednesday June 30, 2021 to a category 1 hurricane in less than 24 hours. The National Hurricane Center (NHC), based in Miami Florida, began issuing 'Potential Tropical Cyclone advisories at 5 PM (AST), 2021.

## CARIBBEAN PUT ON NOTICE

Hurricane Elsa, has broken several records, including the earliest and furthest forming tropical cyclone in the month of July.

The NHC began to investigate Invest 97L as a tropical wave, and as a possible threat to Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and the southern Windward Islands. St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Martinique were immediately put on Tropical Storm Watches. Meanwhile, governments and citizens in the rest of the Windward islands, the Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti were advised to follow the progress of the storm which the NHC gave the area of low pressure that was 1,195 miles (1,920 Kilometers) East of the Windward Islands, a 70 percent chance of developing into a tropical storm in the next 48 hours, and a 90 percent possibility over the next 5 days.

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### The obligatory press conference

Barbados, the most Easterly of the islands in the Caribbean chain, which had suffered ‘at least 13 houses with roof damages from what authorities termed a ‘freak storm’ on June 16, sprang into action holding a press conference at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, which was carried live at 7:12pm on the night of July 1, 2021. “Clearly we have an urgent matter that is upon us,” Prime Minister Mia Mottley told the nation, “with respect to Tropical Storm Elsa. I’m asking everyone who is listening, to listen carefully, and who is not listening those of you who are listening I’d like you to carry a message to people who are not listening because do not assume that everybody is on social media. Do not assume that everyone is listening to a radio. Therefore the combined efforts of communication as we prepare ourselves, and this tropical storm watch is absolutely critical,” she said.

Meanwhile, Director of Meteorology, Sabu Best told the briefing that a tropical storm warning was in effect. He mentioned that a tropical storm warning is issued when sustained wind speeds reach 34 to 63 knots or between 39 and 70 miles per hour associated with a tropical storm or hurricane are forecast could affect Barbados within 36 hours. “In this case,” he said, “in the very early hours of the morning on Friday the 2nd of July 2021.” He went on to warn Barbadians that he expected that the country would begin to feel the effects of the storm in the early hours of the morning and that he expected an increase in sustained wind speeds to around 60 miles per hour.

Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Public Affairs, Wilfred Abrahams, expressed his ministry’s state of preparedness. “Following the freak incident over the last couple of weeks we are aware of the fragility of a number of the properties in Barbados and we are expecting sustained storm-force winds.”

### St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which was under a tropical storm watch, also held a press briefing. St Vincent is recovering from a series of

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explosive volcanic eruptions that began on April 9 when La Soufrière Volcano erupted sending clouds of ash into the atmosphere and thick dust sediments settled across St Vincent and as far as Barbados. He too urged his countrymen, residents many who have lived in shelters for weeks, and visitors to take heed of the warnings and directives of the authorities. He made particular mention of persons who may have returned to their holdings near rivers, warning them of the danger of lahars as a result of the large deposits of volcanic ash still on the hillsides.

## ELSA BECOMES A HURRICANE

The National Hurricane Center in its July 2, 8:30 AM AST special Advisory declared Elsa a hurricane. Sustained winds reached 75 mph, and it was churning towards Barbados and St. Vincent, now under a Hurricane Warning at a good clip of 28 miles mph. Dominica was added to islands of the Windward now under a tropical storm watch which included Grenada and its dependencies, Saba and Sint Eustatius and Jamaica. In that advisory, a tropical Storm Warning was issued for Martinique ,the Southern coast of the Dominican republic and the entire coast of Haiti.

Elsa had just become the earliest fifth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season since the era of satellite observations began in 1966, replacing Hurricane Eduardo which formed on July 6, 2020 which prompted, Meteorologist Ella Dorsey, to publish during her coverage “it is very rare that we see storms form in the Atlantic Ocean this early. “ according to the Certified Meteorologist, “the water usually isn’t warm enough”.

Tropical cyclones in this part of the world, are generated over tropical Atlantic waters “between 8 and 20 degrees latitude”. Tropical storms favour high humidity, light winds, and warm sea surface temperatures starting at 26.5 degrees Celsius (80 Fahrenheit). The warmer the sea the more conducive it is for development. Usually, in West Indies hurricane activity peaks during the months of August to late October.

## Barbados is hit hard

The NHC forecasted that ‘tropical storm conditions would begin affecting the portions of the Windward Islands Lesser Antilles on the Friday. A storm surge of from 1 – 3 feet as far as Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles was predicted. The new hurricane was expected to dump anywhere from 3 to 10 inches of rain across the hurricane watch area, accompanied by flash flooding and mudslides. Tropical storm conditions were expected across the Windward Islands through to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica on Saturday night. The minimum central pressure dropped to 1003 mb, as it raced toward Barbados. with sustained winds of 74 mph and higher gusts of 86 mph recorded by the Barbados Met service. The CBC News TV8 in Barbados remained on the air. Their Facebook page featured a live broadcast on which seasoned broadcasters sought to reassure the Barbadian public abreast of the situation as reports began to file in of damage to properties around Barbados. One young reporter who had been out covering the progress of the hurricane said, that her team was trapped by falling trees and

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other debris. By morning Images of uprooted trees, deroofed houses and other damages were being flashed on the screen. The Barbados Defence force were deployed to help elderly citizens, as power and water outages, reports of families trapped in their homes were reported to the island's National Emergency Operations Centre.

Elsa was the first hurricane in 66 years to near-miss the island since Hurricane Janet of 1955.

### Elsa treks west-northwest

As the center of the system passed near St. Vincent and St. Lucia, Elsa was downgraded from a Category 1 hurricane to a tropical storm early Saturday, but continued moving west-northwest at near 29 mph toward the greater Antilles leaving a trail of devastation in its wake across Barbados and parts of the Windward Islands. Social media images and footage told a harrowing story. Roofs were lifted clean off some buildings and palings were blown away, roads were impassable, and rivers swelled their banks.

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The Prime Ministers of Dominica, St. Lucia and ST. Vincent and the Grenadines all issued stay-at-home orders with employers are asked to close their operations until the all clear was given. Prime minister, Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados, at a press conference to announce the 'all-clear' remarked that her island had sustained "significant damage across the island" At a press conference on July 3rd, Mottley said, "Elsa is clearly up there between Tomas and Janet as one of those events that literally brought dislocation, anxiety and horor to too many Barbadians over the course of the last 36 hours." She reported that there were no lost of life in Barbados,

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however, “some people have lost everything. She said, adding “ The quality of construction has to be dealt with.”

Meanwhile, Director of the Department of Emergency Management, Kerry Hinds who joined meeting via zoom, reported that among reports of storm damage were 2 reports of flooding; 7 incidents of water damage; 13 impassable roads; 15 electricity power outages; 15 roof leaks; 60 fallen poles; 62 house collapses; 85 fallen trees; 89 accounts of house damages; 743 reports of roof damages and 87 other types of devastation.

Meantime Prime minister, Allen Chastanet of St. Lucia disclosed that the island suffered one fatality during Hurricane Elsa’s passage. By Sunday Hurricane Elsa was in the vicinity of Jamaica and Hispaniola where it claimed two lives in the Dominican Republic, while and dumping significant amount of rain in the area, up to 15 inches of rain on Jamaica and Southern Haiti causing widespread flooding.

In the latest National Hurricane Center’s 5 AM (EDT) Monday, July 5, 2021 Tropical Storm Elsa Advisory Number 20, Elsa was just south of Central Cuba. Maximum sustained winds at 65 mph (100 km/h). The system is moving northwest at 14 mph forward speed and it is expected to traverse Central and Western Cuba today, then it near the Florida Keys early tuesday before moving over the coast of West Florida on Tuesday and Wednesday

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ROSEAU, DOMINICA | STALWART TRADE UNION LEADER, Kertiste Augustus, Secretary General of Waterfront and Allied Workers Union has died | July 9, 2021

We regret to announce that Kertiste Augustus, Secretary-General of Waterfront and Allied Workers Union passed away today.

Kertiste Augustus, who led the island's largest private sector representative body for nearly half a century, was a close friend, and fellow trade unionist with Patrick John, as disclosed by himself in an interview with Dominican, Radio personality, and archivist, Alex Bruno. He also recently served as Assistant Treasurer of the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP)

I remember him too as an avid sportsman and a footballer and that he was nicknamed, 'Pallas'. On Tuesday, I was shocked when I read a post announcing that Mr. Augustus had suffered a stroke, and had been admitted to the Dominica China Friendship Hospital yesterday.

His demise comes on the heels of the death of Dominica's first Prime Minister, Patrick John who died, Tuesday, July 6. aged 83.

## Trade Union

In the 1960s, Patrick John founded the Seamen and Waterfront Workers, in Roseau, Dominica. A trade union which formed as a consequence of a falling out over a matter with the Dominica Trade Union, according to Patrick John. The fledgling labour organisation soon found its membership swell, as new sectors of the private sector sought representation from the union led by the charismatic leader. The Seamen and Waterfront Workers evolved to become the Waterfront and Allied Workers Union (WAWU), with Patrick John as its founder and first General-Secretary.

At the age of 28, Patrick John was elected Mayor of Roseau in 1965, and in 1970, John ran for the Roseau North seat for the E.O. Leblanc Dominica Labour Party and won. He consequently handed leadership of WAWU to Augustus General-Secretary, when he assumed responsibilities in the legislature as Minister of Communication and Works. John would serve as Minister of

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Home Affairs, while serving as Deputy Premier, and replaced Edward Oliver Leblanc as Premier when Leblanc suddenly resigned, for reasons known only to himself, in 1974.

## Football

Pallas like PJ, had a passion for football. I can still see him now in my mind's on the field at Windsor Park, (now a stadium) I believe he also served for many years as a football official.

The Harlem United Sports and Community Club Executive on its [Facebook](#) page noted that, Augustus was “a member of the Harlem Rovers dominant teams of the early 70’s,” adding that he, “was an instrumental piece of the 1973 Harlem Rovers Invincibles Team which won every football competition that year, 4 of them at that going undefeated. “

## Colossal loss

As a trade union representative myself, for many years with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW), I can understand what a colossal this is to the trade union movement in Dominica. On behalf of my wife, Tempie we extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of both Mr. Augustus, and Mr. John, and the wider WAWU membership, and the trade union fraternity.

Kertiste Augustus, who led the island’s largest private sector representative body for nearly half a century, was passionate about membership education, and fought tirelessly towards the improvement of the lot of the employee and their families. Augustus also served as Secretary-General of the Caribbean Congress of Labour in 1883

## Official funeral

On Monday July 26, 2021, the Dominican Flag was flown at half-staff on all public buildings, pursuant to the government-declared, Day of National Mourning, as a mark of respect for the former Member of Parliament.

The late Kertist Alphancous Augustus, served in the First Parliament under the Commonwealth of Dominica Constitution Order of 1978 following political independence from Britain on November 3, 1978, as an Opposition Senator from November 8, 1978, to June 26, 1979, and again from July 2, 1979, to April 27, 1980. He received and Official Funeral at the St. Gerald’s Cathedral Chapel on Monday, July 26. 2021.

In attendance were family members and friends, as well as dignitaries including His Excellency the President Charles A. Savarin and Mrs. Savarin; Prime Minister, Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit and Speaker of the House, Honourable Joseph Isaac, Government Ministers and Officials, Members of Parliament and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The body of Kertist Alphancous Augustus was interred at the Roseau Roman Catholic Cemetery.

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He leaves to mourn his wife Lyris and children, Kertiste, Brenda and Igna, step daughter, Sharon and adopted daughter Shanice.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

SOME THOUGHTS ON 'A STREET IN ROSEAU, DOMINICA' | July 11, 2021

# Welcome to my blog



The Parliament building of Dominica, on Victoria Street in Roseau. It is just beyond the New State House. It was built in 1811. The building was destroyed by arson in 1979, and rebuilt. (21 March 2013, by [Roger W](#) from Sarasota, Florida, U.S.A.)

This blog concerns my reflections on ‘A street in Roseau, Dominica, c<sup>1880</sup>.’ by an artist named Pann and a photograph taken from the pavement in front of the grounds of the studios of tDBS Radio, showing the intersection of High Street on to Victoria Street, Roseau.

## A street in Roseau

A recent, 21st century, [photograph](#) with a wider view of the scene captured in the painting captioned, ‘A street in Roseau, Dominica, c<sup>1880</sup>.’ by an artist named Pann, and that Dominican, Historian and anthropologist, [Lennox Honychurch](#) has identified as “Victoria Street looking down the hill towards Newtown Savannah”, was taken from the pavement in front of the grounds of the studios of the nation’s national broadcaster, DBS Radio, showing the intersection of High Street on to Victoria Street, Roseau, in the present-day.

The random picture was shot during the passage of Tropical Storm Elsa (upgraded to a hurricane) near Dominica, and was posted on the station’s Facebook page. According to the Dominica Meteorology Service, on Friday, July 2, this inst. the center of the tropical storm

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passed 138 miles South of Dominica at 11 am, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph as the 5th named-storm, and 1st hurricane of this 2021 Atlantic Hurricane season.

There is so much more I could continue to write about this photograph and the painting in the post below. Firstly, I could mention the names and their geological history of the mountain peaks in the picture. Mornes Patates, for example, according to Wadge G of the University of the West Indies, “Mornes Patates is the youngest volcano in Dominica.” Moreover, I could research the ‘References to the Plan of the Island of Dominica, as surveyed from the year 1765 to 1773’ to investigate who were the original purchasers of the lots in that area of Dominica as colonialism commenced on the island.

## Morne Patate Estate

The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery in its [database](#) reveals that James Matthews, a “Merchant in Dominica in partnership with John Gordon at the time of compensation” on 27th June, 1836 was awarded compensation of £2429 15s 9d for the loss of property (129 Enslaved people) associated with a Morne Patate Estate identified in the record of Claim No.169A&B&C.

## Sophia

Did you know that in the 1817 Slave Register Return it was recorded, that ‘One enslaved female, [Sophia](#) was reputed to be aged 100 and had grandchildren on the estate’?

I could let my imagination drift, and investigate how the road was cut, how DBS Radio came to be built. I could investigate the ancestry of the person taking the photo, and if I am feeling generous offer some insights into my own [32 years residence](#) in Dominica and my own biographical heritage. Oh! the many times I have walked up and down High Street and Victoria Street as a child growing up in Dominica.

The many times I have visited DBS Radio in my own capacity as an author/poet granting interviews, or in producing Rastafari Revelation with the Inity of Rastafari Idren or promoting activities of the now defunct, Dominica Writers Guild, dropping in at the library and so on, and so on.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

A SPORTSWRITER'S MEMOIRS | Featuring R. St. Havis Shillingford | July 12, 2021



# Welcome to my blog

Retyped from the original newsprint first printed in 3 parts from February 12th-20th, 2002 in the Tropical Star by Columnist, Albert Williams.

In 1974 Reginald St. Havis Shillingford received Dominica's third-highest award, the Sisserou Award, for his long and distinguished career in sports development in this country.

He also served in the public service from 1953 during which time he held a number of positions. As a sportsman his contribution is legendary, and he is particularly renowned for his delectable and informative commentaries, whether on the air or in print. A member of the Music Lovers Government Band, and founding member of a number of sports organizations, Havis, as he is more commonly known, has a story to tell, and quite justly is among DBS Radio's One Hundred Great Dominicans in recognition of his contribution to sports journalism.

Born in Roseau, on February 26, 1935, Havis recalls his upbringing in rather removed circumstances in comparison to today. Very close to where the Financial Center now stands was the location of the Roseau Mixed School where he had some of his early education, and his love of sports must have been ignited as he rubbed shoulders with his contemporaries. It would be persons like his great-grandmother, Alice Adams, and later on headteachers such as Victor Archer, Zephania Joseph, and Nathaniel Jeffers who would influence the young Havis and bend his already keen interest towards the pursuit of excellence, both on and off the field of life.

Sitting on the player's Pavillion at the Botanic Gardens on a somewhat overcast afternoon, the soft-spoken great, spoke to me of his days at the Dominica Grammar School (DGS) and the rigid

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discipline that was the order of the day. English Grammar was understandably emphasized and so were the great works of literature. But it was through the introduction of sports master, Mr. Ericson Watty, that the young and promising Havis would take a deep and abiding interest in sports and physical education, and as is still very much the case, even 2002, is still an incurable volunteer, and among other things, is actively involved in efforts to reintroduce the sport of boxing on the island.

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### **WILLIAMS: MR. SHILLINGFORD, TAKE US BACK TO THOSE FORMATIVE YEARS, THOSE EPISODES THAT STAND OUT IN YOUR MIND AS HALLMARKS OF YOUR EARLY UPBRINGING?**

**SHILLINGFORD:** I lived, from my earliest recollections with my great-grandmother Alice Adams who was my guardian after my mother and maternal grandmother had migrated in search of better pastures. My guardian and her sister, Amelia, hailed from Layou on the West coast.

I was impressed with the absolute need for acquiring the best education I could obtain. Thus it was imperative to attend school each day and to pay absolute respect to my school teachers. Earlier on, I attended Miss Lister Giraud's Infant School on Fields Lane, and Miss Ada Elwin's School on Cross Street near the State House, then the colonial administrator's residence. My education continued at the Roseau Mixed School and then the Roseau Boys School, eventually to my attendance at retired school principal, Mr. Zephaniah Joseph's private school in downtown Roseau. Mr. Joseph was a firm disciplinarian and insisted on absolute dedication to work. From his school, I gained a scholarship to attend the Dominica Grammar School (DGS) just before my eleventh birthday.

At the time, the Dominica Grammar School was comprised of eighty-four boys and had only one graduate master, the Headmaster, Mr. William G Grayson, an Englishman who taught chemistry. The DGS was situated on Great George St. where the Roseau Health Center now is. Importantly, there was an inculcation into our youthful sensitivity that the school elevated itself to an extremely high standard of education, and that by no means would it be lowered for anyone, regardless of background or social standing. You sat in the class in a numerical position, dictated by the previous term's examination results. Failure to do your work diligently was sure to result in flogging, about which no dog barked. We didn't have the luxury of a playing field, but the school had a motto of '**Mens Sana in Corpore Sano, a healthy mind, in a healthy body.** Thus, there was a tradition of excellence in sports, and this rested, not only on physical discipline and diligent exercise but equally upon the appropriate use of the mental facilities in determining sporting matters.

# Welcome to my blog

One of the fundamental cornerstones of the DGS education was the use of proper grammar and absolute lucidity in expressing one's self. In fact, you could earn physical punishment by improper speech or behavior outside the school walls.

**WILLIAMS: AS A SPORTS JOURNALIST, COACH, AND ADMINISTRATOR, FOR SO MANY YEARS, WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ASPIRING YOUNGSTERS WHO ARE PERHAPS CONTEMPLATING A CAREER IN ONE OR SEVERAL OF THOSE SPORTING DISCIPLINES.**

**SHILLINGFORD:** The most important thing is to be true to one's self, to whatever sport which catches your fancy. It will mean acquiring as good a first-hand knowledge as you can about the sport, reading about sports, and getting involved. A decent academic and general education will, of course, be quite an asset. Your abilities to speak well would be an aid to your peace of mind even though poverty in this regard seems acceptable these days. It is a matter of your own self-respect and a sense of decency.

## WILLIAMS: HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN SPORTS WRITING?

**SHILLINGFORD:** I recall Mr. Stanley Boyd, Former Dominica Tennis Champion, inviting me as Editor to do a sports column and reporting for The Chronicle. One supposes this to be an offshoot of being a radio sports commentator which started for me in 1958 along with Jeff

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Charles, my long-time buddy. Our first introduction to the microphone was a broadcast of the Windward Island Inter-Schools Tournament at Windsor Park. We got there by default when the official commentators failed to show up after the first two days. There was a natural affinity between radio commentary and journalism in print, so the whole thing evolved along those lines. However, I would regard the basic influence started at the Dominica Grammar School where Mr. Nathaniel Jeffers and Mr. Joffre Robinson inculcated a desire to express oneself lucidly and intelligently. The gift of love for the English language was generously instilled by these two men who hated to hear the language mutilated.

### **WILLIAMS: WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE CURRENT SPORTS SCENE IN DOMINICA?**

**SHILLINGFORD:** The biggest factor seems to be a lack of discipline on the part of the sportsmen and sportswomen, coaches, and sports administrators. Everyone wants everything without expending the required effort in the pursuit of excellence. In this respect, you would think the current situation of having around eleven or twelve secondary schools as against only three schools in the forties and fifties, would lead to improvements in the educative approach to sports development. But this unfortunately is not the case. Far from a progressive in our sports at the national level, we are faced with a serious decline in performances locally, regionally, and internationally.

Our secondary schools have not assumed a lead in sports orientation and development of a substantial order. Sports have been given only a peripheral place, not really above the utter marginal. In any case, our education system seems geared only toward regurgitating methods only designed to cater to the passing of exams. One would like to see what one could call an educated product, a better-rounded individual, coming out of our schools. Sports then would benefit the community at large.

### **WILLIAMS: IF YOU THINK THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS DECLINE IN OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, SURELY THE SEEDS OF THIS MAY HAVE BEEN SOWN IN THE PAST**

**SHILLINGFORD:** One of the culprits is more than likely to be detected in the history of Dominica, which has had, repeated migrations of our cream of sporting talent, not to pursue sporting ambitions. Within my memory, I recall thousands of young men, who left for Aruba and Curacao in the forties and fifties in search of. The same thing happened on an even bigger scale in the fifties and sixties when the grand exodus to England took place. The latter migration happened just when the recovery was just setting to repair the exodus caused by the disappearance of sporting talent in the previous era. More recently, we have lost many of our better cricketers and footballers who migrate to the USA and Canada to seek employment as bank clerks, engineers, surveyors, bus drivers, policemen, nurses, etc. The sports drain has not

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abated and each time there is a serious disruption of continuity as far as the role models are concerned in our field of performance.

## **WILLIAMS: MR. SHILLINGFORD, WHAT FEATURES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INTRODUCED TO SALVAGE OUR SPORTS IN DOMINICA?**

**SHILLINGFORD:** For my part, I would ardently like to see a situation in which every child at school is afforded the opportunity to come under appropriate sporting influences, not merely as an element of recreation or ‘having fun’ or ‘having a sweat’. Even though sports should be fun for anyone involved in it. There ought to be an educative ingredient contained therein. Sports should form a legitimate part of the school’s curriculum and some effort to recruit persons with a leaning in this direction as school teachers.

Too often our schools are staffed merely with teachers whose overriding interest is not in being to deliver an excellent education to students under their care, but in using the teaching position as launching into career opportunities not remotely related to education as a vocation. On the question of funding for sports development, we might consider some ways of drawing in our thriving business houses to see sports as national development. In this regard, we ought to have a more liberal scale of contribution toward sports; the building of decent playing fields and their maintenance. The present upswing in drug abuse and the now emerging aspect of gang activity ought to impress on us that all is not well with our youthful population. We may as well do something positive in this regard or face the consequences.

## **WILLIAMS: RECENTLY WE WITNESSED THE OPENING OF THE NEW SPORTS COMPLEX AT STOCKFARM, AND PLANS ARE ON THE WAY TO UPGRADE BENJAMIN’S PARK IN PORTSMOUTH.**

**SHILLINGFORD:** At one time we had only Windsor Park and Botanic Gardens as national sporting venues. Botanic Gardens ought to have long evolved into a cricket Test facility for the good of our sports, and for Dominica, as a whole. The demise of the Canefield stadium has been quite a tragedy, and it is difficult to quantify the related consequences to our national development. Some insist there are grave connotations implicit in a lack of intellectual development across the spectrum of our social fabric. When we consider the natural production of talented sportsmen along the West Coast it’s a damning testimony that St. Joseph still does not have a decent playing facility. The youth at Grand Bay, through their forthrightness, have ensured that the Geneva field did come along. The same needs to become emphatic at Castle Bruce where the potential is abundant and elsewhere. In this day and age, any new secondary school ought to be furnished with a substantial playing field as an automatic provision of its basic facilities. This applies to the Grand Bay Secondary School, the Castle Bruce Secondary School, and the Community High School in specific cases. Even more

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than this, a new school should be equipped with a functional gymnasium, which could be utilized for a variety of creative pursuits of both a sporting and cultural nature.

**WILLIAMS: BETWEEN THE YEARS, 1993-1997, YOU WERE PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, WHAT THOUGHTS DID YOU HAVE AS YOU SAW DOMINICA FIELD ITS FIRST OLYMPIC ATHLETES?**

**SHILLINGFORD:** Representation in the Olympic games? We saw the Dominican contingent and the dignified exuberance displayed by Jerome Romain and others at the Atlanta Stadium. with the Dominica flag flying proudly at the world's greatest sporting event. Joyce Rabess, General Secretary, Clifford Severin, Treasurer of the Olympic Committee, and myself all thought that we were in our second heaven. for us, we considered Dominica's debut in the games as the forerunner of great things to come in terms of Olympic exploits by all our athletes from a variety of sports disciplines. We were looking for an intense emergence of sporting ambitions back home.

**WILLIAMS: ARE WE LIKELY TO PRODUCE ANOTHER STELLAR ATHLETE IN THE LIKES OF JEROME ROMAIN?**

**SHILLINGFORD:** I have no doubt the potential is there what it takes is the right sort of hard work to bring the potential to fruition. Nowadays standards have soared up and up to the point where the world records of only a few years ago have become commonplace as far as performances go. when I saw Dawn Williams at the 1995 Olympic Games in Atlanta it was clear that she would record potential in the 800 meters. Perhaps she could have broken through better if she had come under regular and appropriate coaching much earlier in her career. The same goes for many others with innate potential. Another thing, is we need to have far far more track and field athletic competitions and school athletics seasons.

**WILLIAMS: WHEN YOU RECEIVED THE SISSEROU AWARD IN 1974, DID YOU ENVISION THAT YOU WOULD STILL BE AN ACTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPANT NEARLY THIRTY YEARS LATER?**

**SHILLINGFORD:** I didn't know the likely extent of my life span, but I never thought that there was much likelihood of my interest in sports ever waning. From active participation, there is obviously scope for coaching, administration, and journalism. It depends on the growth of the individual, the growth patterns in sports, and the growth of the public. When I started off, there were only cricket, football, netball, and then basketball on the local scene. Today, there is a greater volume as to the number of sports on the scene even though the matter of quality in performance has suffered. A commentator and journalist must feed off heightened performances in our league competition etc.

**WILLIAMS: WHAT MAKES OR BREAKS A COMMENTATOR?**

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**SHILLINGFORD:** A good and general education is perhaps the absolute key. In other words, you can be an excellent commentator if you think well, and speak well even if you might be limited to your sporting background. By the same token, a sweeping knowledge of sports which isn't backed by due facility with proper expression and breadth of knowledge can be to little avail. Of course, much depends on the educational level of the listening public. Some people are moved by basic excitement rather than the depth of the spoken word. This latter factor has taken further root in view of the ever-present 'comments man.' In earlier times the commentator was responsible for painting the entire picture unaided by anyone. The position has changed. Still, it is excellent to be on top in the literary manner.

## WILLIAMS: IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT RADIO COMMENTATORS ARE VERY ARTICULATE IN THEIR DESCRIPTIONS.

**SHILLINGFORD:** More so, I would think than their television counterparts. There is an obvious need for graphic presentation while on radio. And nowadays with the possible alternation between radio and television, microphones a commentator requires to be sure of his craft and specific technique. The glaring deficiency we in Dominica face is the absence of sufficient opportunity for the commentator to practice his art. To put it bluntly, you don't develop

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quality commentators by exposing them to a handful of assignments during an entire year. All our radio stations and television stations should indulge in more frequent live coverage of sports events, not simply depending on ready-made programs from overseas.

(To be continued with part three (Fig 3))

Sources:

Tropical Star, Wednesday, February 6, 2002, Dominica

Tropical Star, Wednesday, February 13, 2002, Dominica

Tropical Star, Wednesday, February 20, 2002, Dominica

An evaluation and improvement of innovative strategies used in models for disaster management |T802 Research Proposal | July 18, 2021



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## Proposed title for the research

1An evaluation and improvement of innovative strategies used in models for disaster management

## 2Background to the problem/issue

The subject of designing models for disaster management is an academic discipline that continues to receive much attention from scholars over the last five years. Media reports suggest that severe weather occurrences are on the increase. Indeed within the first two months of 2019, several weather-related records have been broken causing loss of life, damage to infrastructure and disruption to the lives of millions of people in every continent. Disasters hazards are a threat to any populated area and could range from Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons, to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. To floods, droughts, landslides or avalanches. Some hazards are seasonal and can anticipated such as the annual hurricane or monsoon season. Hazards are costly to the economic progress of countries across the globe. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines a natural disaster as a catastrophic act of nature that significantly disrupts the day-to-day pattern of their lives. WHO says that natural disasters also render victims ‘helpless and suffering’ and in need of humanitarian assistance to provide basic necessities: food, clothing and shelter and medical supplies, and in need of ‘protection from unfavourable factors and conditions (World Health Organisation 2019) Within the last few years, the study of disaster management and the recovery from disasters has continued to intensify. According to a recent UNISDR report, cited in (World Meteorological Organization. 2018), between 1998-2017, “the greatest economic losses from disasters have been the USA, US\$ 944.8 billion; China, US\$492.2 billion; Japan, US\$376.3 billion; India, US\$ 79.5 billion; and Puerto Rico, US\$ 71.7 billion” (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction 2019) However, the cost of disasters to low income countries, such as the Caribbean, according to (International Monetary Fund 2019) the impact of weather-related disasters “...estimated disaster damage as a ratio to GDP was 4.5 times greater for small states than for larger ones, but six times higher for countries in the Caribbean.” Therefore it goes without question that all nations should be endeavouring to achieve the 7 targets and the 4 Priorities for action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. ”The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk” (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction 2019)

3Justification for the research Therefore, if better innovative strategies are not devised, disaster refugees and loss of livelihoods are inevitable. An improvement of the understanding behind the use of models and the deployment of innovative methods to create greater efficiencies will lead to an increased awareness of areas that can be improved. This dissertation will evaluate of the strengths and weakness, successes and failures, of disaster management systems written on by researchers in the past 5 years, and bring new insights into how these

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disaster management models can be synthesised to create an innovative strategy to enhance the success rate of managing disasters.

Moreover, this dissertation will add value to the on-going discussion among academics on the best methodologies to deploy at the various phases of disaster management and response with the view of saving lives and livelihoods, and lead to the protection of world economies.

## 4Aim and objectives (or equivalent)

**Research aim:** To evaluate and improve disaster management modelling

**Objective 1.** To identify and evaluate existing models used in disaster management

**Objective 2:** To select 2 or 3 of the existing models to improve through enhancement with current strategic thinking'

**Objective 3:** To compare and evaluate 2 or 3 of the selected models to produce an innovative, new model based based on the synthesis of those models and new findings in current research to propose an enhanced model.

**Objective 4:** To formulate a candidate model.

**Objective 4:** 'to seek expert evaluation of the validity and potential value of the proposed model.

**Objective 5:** To update/optimise the model based on expert evaluation.

## 5Initial review of the literature

### My literature review

The resources in this literature review were selected to inform the primary research the proposed topic for research. They are drawn from the major works written on innovation strategy, business modelling and disaster management, as well as the current thinking on the application of systems frameworks and constructs to managing complex situations.

These works, and others to be reviewed over the course of this module, are important to this research into what are the most important benchmarks that any fledgling disaster management organisation should consider in order to ensure that it is sustainable over time, and that it has the type of business model to meet the challenges for which it has been created.

The review of these resources, therefore are listed in order of importance regardless of the date of publication.

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## 1. The innovators dilemma

The first of these works is drawn from an international author who is regarded as an authority on the subject of technological innovation, provides the historic context for deploying technological solutions to management problems in general.(Christensen 2016 pp 161- 166) in his discussion of how to appraise an organisation's capabilities and disabilities, that apart from matching the task to the ability of the employee, he proposes the theory that managers should build their organisation with three cornerstones in mind, namely:

1Resources- (Christensen 2016) cites resources such as staff, machinery, cash, technology and product design, as well as its networks with suppliers and distributors. These assets he says may be "hired and fired, bought and sold, depreciated and enhanced." He adds that such resources are transferable across the boundaries of an organisation and that access to 2high-quality resources enhances an organisation's chances of coping with change.

2Processes – Of processes he says,they are" the pattern of interaction, coordination, communication and decision-making through which they accomplish transformation."The author adds that these processes could be divided between being formal clearly defined and documented, and informal, habits that have evolved of the life of the organisation and have become the working culture of the business.

3Values – The third class of factors the author identifies that defines a technologically-driven organisation are the criteria by which decisions about priorities are made." (Christensen 2016) identifies corporate values as being ethical in nature ie. – the standard by which decisions are made. According to the author, these value systems should permeate throughout the organisation. Yes, this looks useful as background and to help you get some direction. His work are beneficial to my research because it explores the concepts that distinguishes a technologically-innovative business model a business model in the usual enterprise sense.

## **2Oslo Manual**

Meanwhile, the second publication in this literature review, (OECD 2018) defines innovation as any new or improved product or process, or combination of both, that differs significantly from the previous product or process deployed by or within a specified setting or organisation.

The manual was launched in 1991 in the City of Oslo, Norway, and signalled the inaugural formal agreement reached by technologists, policy makers and practitioners in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators which was became the internationally agreed standard and guidelines used by European countries to measure business innovation. The manual now in its fourth edition, takes into consideration what it says are "major trends, such as the pervasive role of global value chains, the emergence of new information technologies and how they influence new business models" (OECD 2018).

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The potential for use of this manual in conducting primary research for my project is its wide breath of information regarding methods and procedures to analyse the measure of business innovation in an organisation. Part 3 of the manual, more specifically, deals with *Methods for collecting, analysing and reporting statistics on business innovation* of which I will find invaluable to inform how I craft the questionnaire and surveys I intend to circulate as part of my primary research.

## 2Systems Approaches to Managing Change

Thirdly, the reader, *Systems Approaches to Managing Change: A practical guide* edited by Martin Reynolds and Sue Holwell , is a compendium of works written by experts in the field of systems thinking and practice. Moreover, the book gives an overview of 5 systems approaches to managing change and describes how these methods are deployed and gives suggestions on which approach is suited for a particular scenario, depending on the outcome desired.

It is my opinion, that systems thinking approaches, such as *The viable systems model* and *Soft systems Methodology* are particular relevant to research question because of the acute nature of the host country, Dominica. Not only because of the annual hurricane season, but also because of the underlying threat of volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, earthquakes, drought and other man-made disasters. Such a volatile situation calls for a wide-angled view of building back resiliently, and being prepared for the next disaster.

The utilization of Systems thinking in disaster management will greatly enhance the execution of its operations through nurturing a deeper understanding of complex problems.

The validation of the frameworks introduced by (Reynolds and Holwel 2010) have proven successful in many scenarios as introduced in the text.

## 2A placed-based model

The 4th resource that I have reviewed at this stage of module, is the 2008 paper written by (Cutter et al 2008) entitled *A place-based model for understanding community resilience to natural disasters*.

Bearing in mind that the paper was written a decade ago before the destructive, natural disasters of 2017 and 2018 the authors have devised a a model that they have named, *The Disaster Resilience of Place (DROP)*. According to the authors this acts as a “mechanism to improve the comparative assessments of disaster resilience at the local or community level”

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The authors are of the view that governments have evolved in their attitudes to managing natural disasters. First from being reactive to proactive, and secondly, a desire to define ‘the standards and metrics’ by which resilience is measured.

According to (Cutter et al 2008), DROP model is a new approach to understanding the connected nature of vulnerability and resilience though a model that takes into consideration the ‘antecedent conditions’ against the ‘hazard-event characteristics’.

This paper is significant to my aims to create a new or enhanced innovation strategy model for disaster management.

## 5. Disaster Management system as an element of Risk Management for Natural Disaster systems using PESTLE Framework

(Sarwan D et al 2016) have developed, what they call a ‘global model for disaster recovery planning and management based on a model used in the information technology sector to recovery from a breakdown due to man-made emergencies and involving data recovery and incident- response. PESTLE, which is an acronym that stands fro an awareness of the Political, environmental, social, technological and economical aspects of an organisation.

Their approach, to adapt the principles of disaster management in PESTLE are similar to the approach that I am proposing: to overlay systems thinking with innovative strategy. The authors of this project regard PESTLE as ‘powerful technique’ to make choices about an organisations environment, and to build resilience to risks identified in PESTLE.

Furthermore, the PESTLE model is deployed with the Disaster Risk Management Process (DRMP) proposed by (Rehak R.H 1994) and cited in (Sarwan D et al 2016) of which the main interests are: (1) Risk location (2) Knowledge management (3) Political commitment (4) Taking active measures to reduce risks (5) Cautionary methods for disasters (6) Preparation for disasters and (7) Repairs and rebuilding.

The PESTLE system proposed by (Sarwan D et al 2016) also includes the Effective Disaster Recovery system Plan (DSP) and the Evaluation and Validation Model. The authors of this work, like all the other authors in this review provides me with a rich choice of approaches that I may utilize in my own research, and may even in some instances be incorporate in to my design for an innovative strategy for disaster management

## 6. Three-Domain Model for Disaster Management Framework

Meanwhile, (Ha K, 2017) proposes a three-domain model based on a study of flexible organisations. The author suggests that the three domains: (1) Disaster, (2) human

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behaviour and (3) disaster environment are combined to produce a ‘multi-purpose model. According to the author, the failure of a government to recognise the holistic nature of disaster management, it is likely to be unsuccessful in managing disasters.

According to (Ha K, 2017), the methodology used in his research was qualitative content analysis to ‘interpret disaster management frameworks appearing in peer-reviewed works, as well as technical reports and other documents. The author, in this work, then proceeded to describe his methodology for constructing his three-domain model using qualitative analysis. Which he says is inclusive of the main components are: management lifetime; prevention/mitigation; preparedness and response, and recovery according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

## 7. A Metamodel for Disaster Risk Models

In this 2015 written research in models used in disaster management (Nur H. W. et al 2015) have analysed a models deployed by the Indonesian government. For example, the “BNPB (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana) disaster risk model, the volcanic disaster risk model using SMART (Simple Multi Attribute Rating Technique) method, and the tidal flooding disaster risk model using fuzzy method” (Nur H. W. et al 2015)

According to the authors, they are proposing a generic model utilizes the parameters of three typical models used in Indonesia. The paper then goes into an analysis of the three models chosen.

## Potential literature and other sources of information

A list of potential literature and other resources, that due to time constraints to submit this draft for feedback, that I will look at as the module progresses are:

A Multi-objective MPEC Model for Disaster Management of Power System Restoration (Abassi et al 2017)

The Resilience Activation Framework: a Conceptual Model of How Access to Social Resources Promotes Adaptation and Rapid Recovery in Post-disaster Settings. *The Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research*, Insights from a Simulation Model of Disaster Response: Generalizat(Abramson, D., et al. 2014).

ion and Action Points ([Gonzalez](#) J et al 2016).

An integrated flood management system based on linking environmental models and disaster-related data (Qui L, et al 2017).

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Constructing Knowledge Innovation Models of Communication Management in Research Organization (Yang U et al 2019).

ICTs and Effective Communication Strategies: Specific Needs of Information before, during and after Disasters

(Helena Z 2011).

Technology Strategy and Management Business Models for Strategy and Innovation (Sako M 2012).

## **6Proposed research methods and techniques**

The proposed research method and techniques will be a combination of primary and secondary research. Primary research will comprise mainly in the form of doing conducting data-gathering exercises- surveys etc and analysing results

Preliminary, the research method proposed to use in this research is the ‘Qualitative method’ using a ‘Interpretivist’ paradigm’ This approach is useful making comparisons of existing disaster management systems and to design a methodology that can test my findings by using questionnaires asking scholars in the field to score against a selection of questions relating to decision making and accountability. More specifically, I will use delphi-styled surveys which may be asynchronous or anonymous, as well as structured interviews. Most likely, the most appropriate method will be the use of telephone and email interviews. There may also be opportunities to visit an expert at his/her workplace.

## **7Planning and scheduling**

**Chart identifying the main milestones and tasks associated with this dissertation**

## **Feasibility of your intended research**

At this point, I am confident that I can keep to the plan above, However, there may be some constraints in regard to the design of the surveys and questionnaires. I also anticipate some problems in identifying suitable experts and whether they would respond to my request for participation in my survey or questionnaire. In regard to my situation interest, although the target communalities of this research may not realise, but from my systems thinking training, any model in existence used in disaster management and response can be improved by increasing the capabilities and changing the world view of all involved, any model can be greatly enhanced.

## **8Ethical considerations**

In conducting my research I will ensure that any data collected will be stored in a protected storage. In addition it will not be shared or distributed outside the confines of T802 faculty and examiners

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Further, I will ensure that the reputation of The Open University is not brought into repute. The work presented in this research will also be my own work and any use beyond that will be duly acknowledged using the Harvard style referencing.

My research will conform to the high standard expected of a professional member of the British Computer Society, as well as standards laid down by The Open University, the home Office, the National Health Service Central Office for Research Ethics Committees.

## 9Risk assessment – health and safety

At all phases of this module, I will ensure that I will take all necessary precautions to protect myself, and those who I may participate in my research from harm to themselves, property and reputation.

I will follow the Open University's Ethical Principles for Research Involving Human Participants which promotes the adherence to 6 main principles. (1) Compliance with protocol (2)Informed consent (3) Openness and integrity (4) Protection from harm (5) Confidentiality and (6) Professional codes of practice and ethics (Research at The Open University 2017)

## 10List of relevant previous modules

T848-Managing technological innovation

T849- Strategic capabilities for technological innovation

TU812- Managing Systemic change: inquiry, action and interaction

TU811-Thinking strategically: systems tools for managing change

## 11Relevance of research to qualification

My research and the subsequent dissertation, in my opinion, meets the requirements of F36 – MSc Technology Management, because it is my objective to propose technological solutions to the problems of disaster management, through the sharing of best-practices advocated by experts in the industry.

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# Welcome to my blog

DOMINICA | Remembrance Day – 2021 | November 12, 2021 | November 12, 2021



West Indian troops stacking shells at Ypres, October 1917 [© IWM \(E\(AUS\) 2078\)](#)

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WIR troops were engaged in numerous support roles on the Western Front, including digging trenches, building roads and gun and gun emplacements, acting as stretcher bearers, loading ships and trains, and working in ammunition dumps., acting as stretcher bearers, loading ships and trains, and working in ammunition dumps. This work was often carried out within range of German artillery and snipers. In July 1917, 13 men from the BWIR were killed by shell fire and aerial bombardment.



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The Cenotaph, memorial for those who died in the wars, on Victoria Street, Roseau ([Roll of Honour](#)) (Photographs Copyright © John Crow 2006)

The official commemoration of Remembrance Day will take place in Dominica, at the War Memorial on Victoria Street, Roseau on Sunday 14th November 2021 at 8:00 a.m. according to an announcement from the Government Information Service.

(Photo: [Lennox honychurch](#))



[THE SOMME OFFENSIVE ON THE WESTERN FRONT,](#)

1916 : The British West Indies Regiment in camp on the Albert – Amiens Road, September 1916

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



West Indies Regiment Officers Service Dress Cap Badge

"It is anticipated that as many as possible of those who served in Her Majesty's Forces and in the Nursing Service during the Wars (1914-1918) and (1939-1945) will be present at the

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ceremony. War medals and decorations should be worn with civilian dress by all ex-officers, ex-servicemen and women and members of the Nursing Service. Medals held by relatives of the fallen may be worn by such relatives on their right breast, the release said, adding, "Detachments of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Red Cross, Girls Brigade and Youth Corps are expected to be present at the ceremony."

Additionally, the Government Information Service says, that Ministers of Government, Members of the House of Assembly, Heads of Religious Denominations, Heads of Government Departments, Officers of the Diplomatic Corps, Consular Officers, Members of the Roseau City Council and other Local Government Authorities and the General Public are invited to attend the ceremony at the War Memorial; and to be punctual and in their places by 7:45 a.m.

All persons will be requested to observe two (2) minutes silence at 8:00 a.m. and all vehicular traffic and normal activities should be suspended during the period of silence.

Members of the Public who have taken up places on the Peebles Park or West Area are requested to remain there. Dignitaries should take their places within the enclosure on either side of the Saluting Base, (Ushers will assist).

Kindly note the Ministry of Health Covid-19 protocols will be observed, the release ends.

## **(Photographs Copyright © John Crow 2006)**

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## ALBERT WILLIAMS

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**ROSEAU, DOMINICA | Prominent businessman and journalist, Parry Bellot, has died | November 27, 2021**



**ROSEAU DOMINICA | Former press secretary, entrepreneur and journalist, Parry Bellot, has died, a local media outlet has reported.**

## Welcome to my blog

In a release from the online media organization, Nature Isle News who broke the news this morning, stated, “He was a patient at the hospital for the past week and was said to be recuperating. News of his death comes as a complete surprise.” Dominica News Online posted on its website that, “he was a founding member of the Dominica Media and Communications Association,” adding, “Bellot was an active and outspoken public figure up until his passing.”

We are deeply saddened by this news. Parry was an old friend from way back. Our deepest condolences to his family and Friends.

I can remember in 1985, during my stint in the Statistics and Economic Unit I met his wife, Claudia, when she worked in the laboratory at the Ministry of Agriculture at the Botanic Gardens, and we rubbed shoulders with Parry at Dominica Writers Guild meetings, and later with the running of Community Hostels Inc commonly referred to as the Grotto home for the Homeless.

In 2016 he self-published a 73-page paperback, ‘Rebuilding Dominica Better’ (ISBN-10 : 1539550206 ) “which is a collection of articles on rebuilding Dominica after Tropical Storm Erika.”

ALBERT WILLIAMS

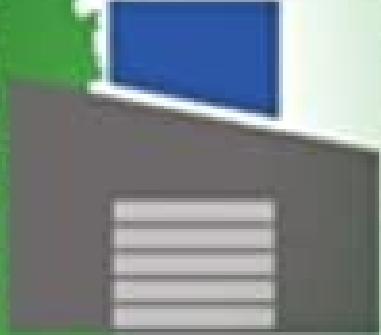
# Rebuilding Dominica Better

IN THE  
**RIGHT**  
small  
steps



REBUILD  
DOMINI  
BETTER

alive



**Moving  
Forward**

CROSS

Author  
Parry R.  
Bellot

ideas

# Welcome to my blog

by Parry Bellot (Author) ISBN-10 : 1539550206

Moreover, he was a prominent member of Dominica's private sector, where he was the founder and Managing Director at Parbel Enterprises, established in 1972. For many years he published a magazine, Link, and was also involved in a number of other initiatives, including his television program, The Link onLine in which he featured discussions, of important, local, regional, and international news of the day.

Among his many contributions to society, the late Parry Bellot served as the Press secretary under the Eugenia Charles administration in the 1980s. My wife and I extend our deepest condolences to his wife, and the rest of his family, colleagues and his many friends.

[Cover Photo] Parry Bellot as host presenting an episode of his television show.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Dominican, Violet Cuffy PhD, Senior Lecturer at University of Bedfordshire, found dead in apartment. | December 28, 2021

# Welcome to my blog



[Photo] Dr Violet V Cuffy, Senior Lecturer in Events and Tourism Management, University of Bedfordshire ([Linked In](#))

With hardly 24 hours since we learned of the death of prominent businessman and journalists, Parry Bellot, we are greeted with an announcement that one of Dominica's most promising academics, Dr. Violet Cuffy was found unresponsive in her apartment in the United Kingdom.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Nature isle News, who broke the sad news today, says, that the cause of death is not yet known. According to her [Linked In](#) page, Miss Cuffy was a Senior Lecturer in Tourism & Events Management, International Business Marketing and Tourism Department, University of Bedfordshire for the last 5 years. Previously, she served as a Tourism Lecturer at Queen Margaret University between 2013 and 2016. Violet Vyline Cuffy was awarded the title of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Surrey in the Untied Kingdom in 2010.

She is the author of The Book On Guest Houses: 7 Ways to Create Growth & Double Your Bottom Line In Any Economy, available from [Amazon](#)

Energetic, creative and intelligent. She was passionate about Dominica's culture and heritage. Her passing at so young an age is truly a great loss. Gone too soon!

Albert and Tempie Williams extend our deepest condolences to the Cuffy family.

**REST IN ETERNAL PEACE**

Rest in Peace, Dr. Kay | January 9, 2022



***"It is one of the saddest occasions to say goodbye to yet another one of my fellow authors, a friend and contemporary."***

Rest in Peace, Dr Kay. You have distinguished yourself admirably in Dominica, and beyond, in the fields of teaching, education administration

## Welcome to my blog

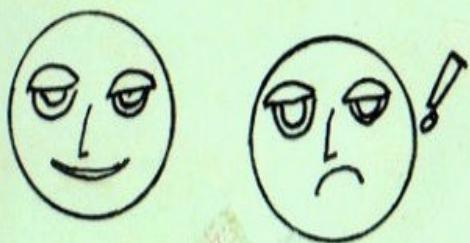
and creative writing, as many of us can attest to, especially those of us who attended the Dominica Grammar School where you taught in the 1970s.

I can remember too, when the news reached us that you had earned your doctorate in 1989, at a time when Dominican-born, successful PhD candidates were as rare as cock's teeth, we were so proud to celebrate your achievement as if it were our very own.

You were also one of the keen members of the now defunct, **Dominica Writer's Guild (DWG)**. Among your many writings and publications are:

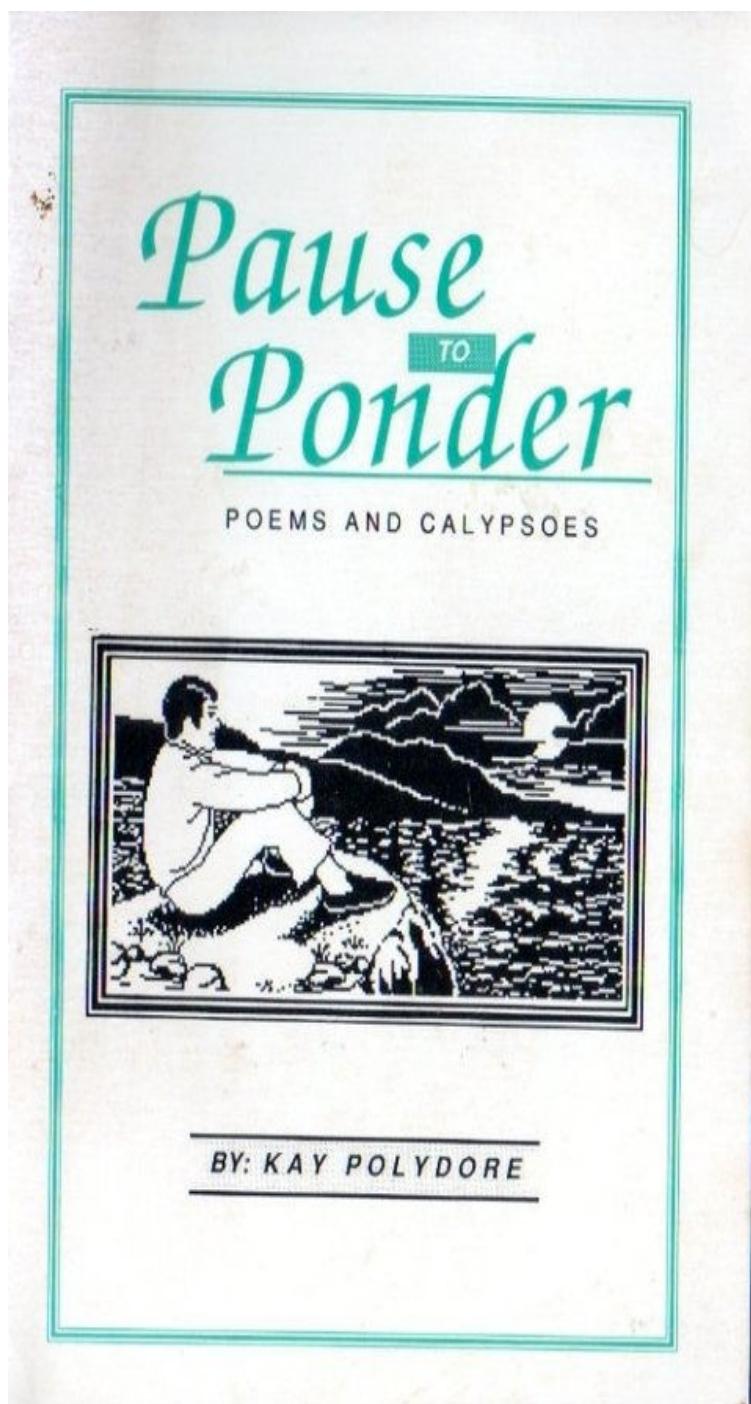
ALBERT WILLIAMS

# FOR MIRTH AND MEDITATION



Poems and Songs  
by Kay Polydore

Welcome to my blog



(Above) Two of Dr Polydore's publications

*Reflect and chuckle* (1990)

*The facetious and the sublime* (1991)

*Pause to Ponder* (1992)

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

*Mirth and Meditation* (1993).

*Issues and Opinions* (1997)

*To live is to change* (2008)

We will always remember your subdued sense of humour, that shined forth the satire of your early pieces that you shared at the times we met at the DWG meetings, and also when with other members, we would critique each other's work, as well as when you read your poetry at Guild functions at the **Arawak House of Culture** as well as a guest on our radio programme.

It is one of the saddest occasions to say goodbye to yet another one of my fellow authors, a friend and peer, and one of my contemporaries.

Our deepest condolences to the entire **Clarendon** family, and extended home circle.

DEVELOPING STORY | No permission to initiate claim – Arbeedee Limited | January 28, 2022

# Welcome to my blog



[Photo] Hampstead Beach, one of the beaches where Pirates of the Caribbean II & III were filmed, W.I.Hampstead, Dominica

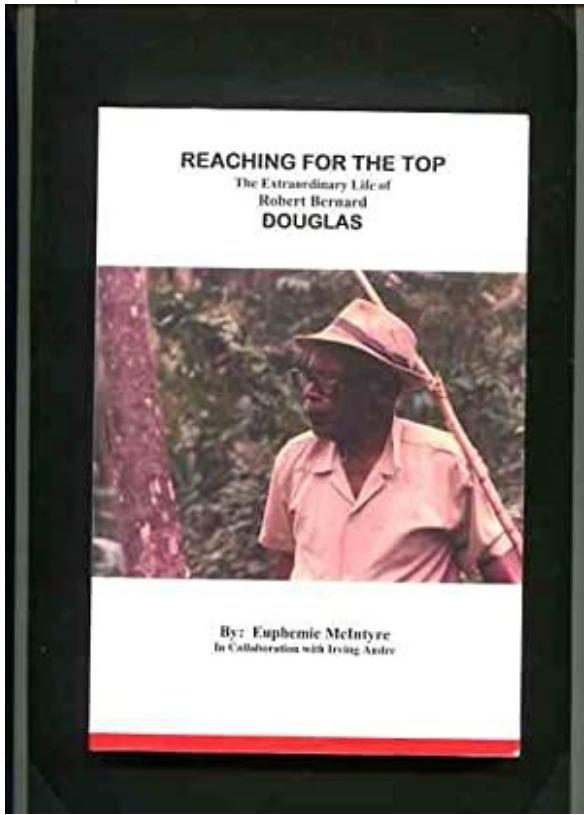
## BATIBOU BEACH 'OWNER' BLOWS UP A STORM |

Updated January 29, 2022, at 16:20.

**UPDATE | Magistrate, Bernard Paquette, sets hearing for, April 29th, 2022.**  
It had been brought to our attention that several members of the public have been summoned to court to answer charges relating to trespassing on a well known beauty spot in Dominica's scenic North coast. In a video, captioned '*Live outside the Court House at Wesley*' [Emonews](#) reported that a female member of the Douglas family has brought several persons from the surrounding community to court for trespassing on 'her' land, and for bathing in 'her' river.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Hampstead Estate



## McIntyre, Euphemie and Irving Andre:

The Douglas family is one of the largest landowners in the north of the island. Hampstead Estate, which in the 18th century, for 60 years, was the site of where former slave owners owned hundreds of slaves. By the 1930s, ownership of the Estate fell into the hands of the McIntyre family. Financial difficulties led to the government seizing the estate, which Robert Douglas, returning from working on the oil refineries at Aruba and Curacao during the 2nd world War, bought the estate in 1946. According to Lennox Honychurch, the approximately 600-acre estate, was purchased by Douglas for £1/ per acre, which is equivalent to £44.62 (2022) at the average inflation rate of 5.12% per year between 1946 and today. Dominica's 4th prime minister, the former Black power activist and politician, the late Rosie Douglas, who lead the Dominica Labour Party to a return power in 2000, was one of 16 descendants and heirs to the estate of which the Hampstead River is at the center of this issue.

According to online sources, several plots of the estate are up for sale. In particular, a one acre plot of “sloping portion of land on the northeast of the island, within walking distance to a sandy beach” listed for the going price of USD \$55,800. According to the source. “[the] land bounds with dirt road with utilities available on site. It is also bounded with a popular guest house.” The Dominica constitution states that the Hampstead River falls under the Paix Bouche constituency in the parish of St. Andrew.

## Welcome to my blog

According to [Emonews](#), the parliamentary representative, the Hon.Roselyn Paul has been notified of the matter with no response reported to date. In my opinion, journalist need to find her wherever she is, and ask her for a response to what is happening in her patch of the country. Also the Chief Agricultural Officer, and the Forestry Division, should be able to give guidance on this matter. What about the roads that pass through Hampstead, will people now have to pay a toll to pass through?

This is utter nonsense.

This reminds me of the 1970s when young man were jailed for stealing one coconut in Grandbay. I can remember as a youth living in Bense, a small village that borders on the estate, and bathing frequently in the Hampstead River and the famous Batibou Beach. I have never heard of anyone prohibiting persons to bath in the river or the sea of that area."During British colonial rule, a sugar factory was powered by water and operated near the banks of the Hampstead River" (Wikipedia)

# **ALBERT WILLIAMS**

Setting the precedent

# Welcome to my blog

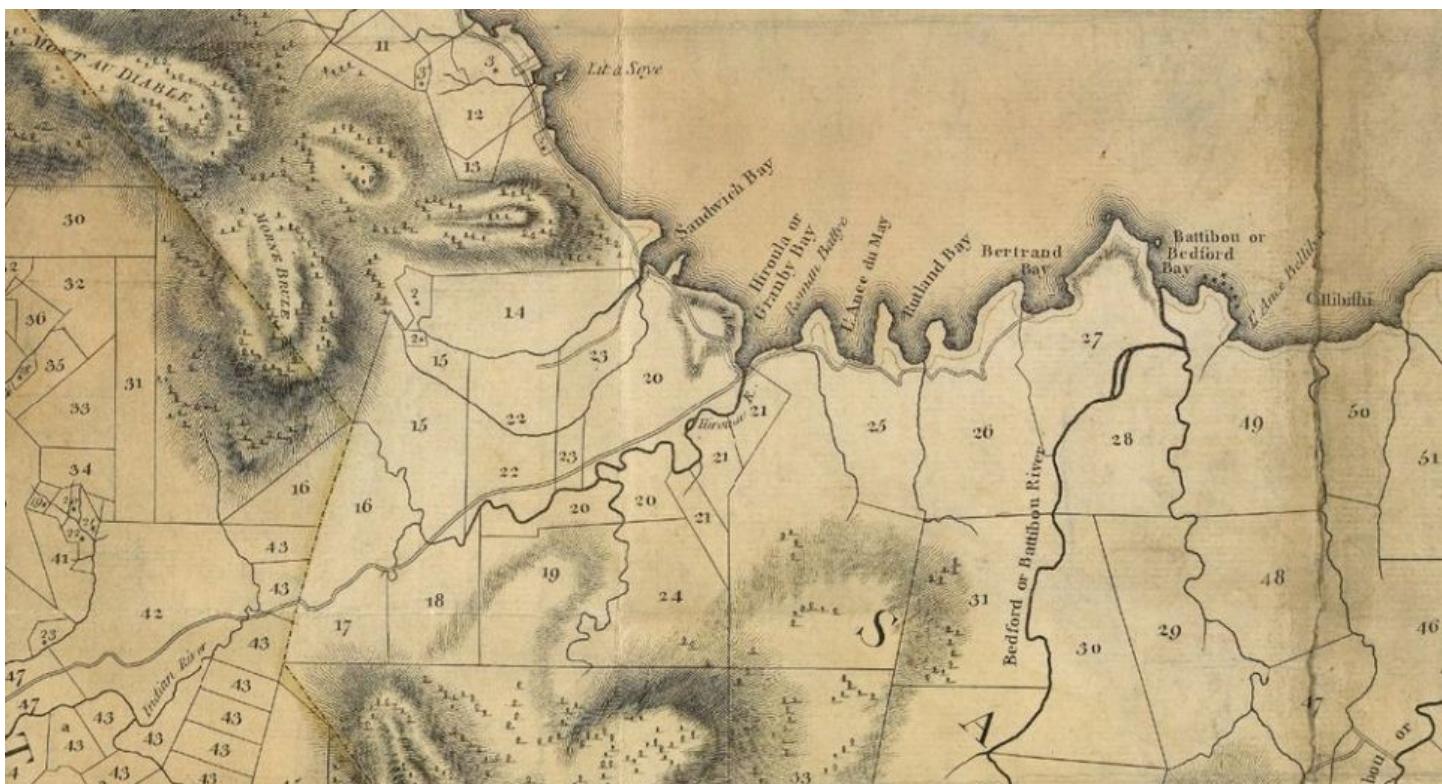


# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## Coulibistrie.

This has already set a precedent that the police would entertain a complaint against a member of the public for trespassing to what hitherto, for years has been regarded as a public access area. In the 18th -century, surveyors made allowance for a strip of land three chains wide along the entire coast of the island. This was known as the King's Three chains. According to Dominica's historian, Lennox Honychurch, writing in *Slave Valleys, Peasant Ridge,* " because it was set aside for the government to construct any necessary building or fortifications. In the years immediately following emancipation it was on these "three chains" that hundreds of newly liberated citizens, particularly on the west coast, sought to establish their squatter shacks which has led to the crowded nature of villages such as Massacre, Mahaut and St.Joseph," he wrote.

According to the Facebook page, Embrace Dominica, there is already a nominal charge for accessing the Batibou beach.



Bense Anse de Mai and Anse Soldat areas.

*Plan of the island of Dominica laid down by actual survey under the direction of the honorable the commissioners for the sale of lands in the ceded islands by John Byres chief surveyor*

## Historic case

This case brings to mind the Shillingford v Attorney-General of 1968 in which, "The lands claimed by the respondent comprise certain parcels of the Queen's Three Chains and six

# Welcome to my blog

parcels of land, of which four lie to the south and west and the remaining two to the north, of the 290 acres of land which the respondent alleged alone compose the Batalie Estate and of which the respondent by his statement of claim conceded the ownership to the appellant."

According to the source, "The learned trial judge found in effect that the respondent had established his case that Dr. John Imray at the date of his death in August 1880 had a documentary title in respect of the Batalie estate only to the lands shown as coloured on the plan "Ex. 29A", that is 292 acres."

I would be puzzled if this situation was not settled once and for all for the benefits of citizens, residents and tourist as soon as possible.

## Arbeedee Limited

Meanwhile, in an update from [Emonews](#), on Friday revealed, that the registered proprietors of the Hampstead Estate, Arbeedee Limited, have distanced themselves from the claimant, according to a letter that was read out in the courtroom in Wesley. According to Emonews, the Board of Directors, "confirmed that they have not initiated nor given permission to any person to initiate a claim on their behalf."

The letter also stated, according to the source, that "any person who is a party to a claim without having proof of ownership or permission to act on their behalf, is not acting under their authority."

The matter, which was heard by Magistrate, Bernard Paquette, was adjourned to April 29th, 2022 to allow the claimants time to "seek permission from the board of directors to continue with the claim," as per the request of the claimant, the update from Emonews said.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## HONOURABLE NATTY DREAD

A tribute to Bob Marley

BY RAS ALBERT WILLIAMS



### A 40TH ANNIVERSARY RELEASE

**In 1982, when I and I published I first book of poetry, *Honourable Natty Dread*, the Bob Marley homage industry was nascent.**

I can remember, I copied the words of my poem, that was written one month after Bob's demise, on the back of a large poster, and stuck it up on the wall at Bath Estate, where Ras Jomo et al used to live, and a sister remarked, "Albies promoting Bob Marley." Nine years later, I was on the forefront again, organising the ninth Bob Marley day observances in Roseau, Dominica. At that occasion, a representative from the Reggae Report was in attendance, and she interviewed me and other artistes

# Welcome to my blog

and wrote up a review. At the concert that was held at Harlem Jam city, I performed the song version of my poem, and Bob's Positive vibration. Each went on for at least 10 minutes. Since Bob's transition, hundreds of books, documentaries, biopics records, and even plays have been dedicated to him. But very few persons know that one of the first books published in Tribute to Dominica was published in Dominica, by one, Ras Albert Williams.

## Discovering Bob Marley

Bob Marley first came to my attention in 1975. In 1975 Bob Marley's *No Woman No Cry*. The song was recorded in 1974 and released on the studio album [Natty Dread](#) on the Island/ Tuff Gong lables (Wikipedia) In 1975, the single peaked at number 22 on the UK singles chart, and number 23 on the Dutch top 40. According to Wikipedia, sales of the single of *No Woman no Cry* was certified Gold having sold in excess of 30,000 in Brazil ( [Pro-Música Brasil](#)), 15,000 in Italy ([FIMI](#)) and 400,000 in the United Kingdom ([BPI](#)).

In 1975, Dominica was firmly in the grips of the impact of the infamous Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act of 1974, commonly referred to as The Dread Act. The Patrick John administration had passed the act on November 19, 1974 in the House of Assembly, that gave security forces the power to kill, injure or arrested any person wearing dreadlocks. Under this, most Draconian of all legislation, a first offence could land you in prison for 6 months, and 2 years for a repeat offence. The law also stipulated that any persons harbouring or sheltering a 'Dread' could also be jailed for 2 years.

Dreads were not welcome into the country, and scores of Dread brethren were killed, and many more imprisoned, and/or brutalized under the act which remained on the books up until the 1980s.

But Bob Presence on the international scene was omnipresent. His two-night concerts at the Lyceum Theatre in London, United Kingdom recorded on July 17 and 18 1975, and released as a vinyl LP on 5 December 1975 by Island Records, sent his newly-found fans into a delirium, and Bob's popularity was shot into the stratosphere. Decades later, in 2020, the long-lost introduction by Tony Garnett would surface on a reissued CDs of the two-night celebrated concert would emerge that a fan of Bob Marley had captured on pages 8-9 in his book *Memories of Jah People*: "Tony Garnett came on stage along with Bob Marley and the Wailers. They waited while he read out something about some Black Man waiting to be hanged". Amid thunderous applause; the crowd pumped ready to experience the Bob Marley and the Wailers on stage, perhaps for the very first time, (it was said the heat from the perspiring crowd condensed and fell down from the ceiling like rain,) The master -of-ceremonies, Tony Garnett read announcement from the Desmond Trotter Defence Committee before the start of that historic concert.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

*“Are you ready for show time? Ok, you’re sounding good I know you’re feeling good,” Garnett began, “but there is a point of interest I’d like to bring to your awareness. Thank you. This here says, Free Desmond Trotter, sentenced to hang in Dominica for defending Rastafari. Hail, Now they go have some speakers and film show at Hilton Community, and I’s like everybody to turn out for this like them turn out for Wailers. Yea? love! Well this, I want tell you, is a Trench Town experience. All the way from Trench Town, Jamaica, Bob Marley and the Wailers. Come on!”...and Bob opened his playlist with Trench Town Rock, and the rest is history. At that meeting were expected contributions from the historian and black activist, Walter Rodney.*

### **Bob Marley devotee**

From that time on, I became a Bob Marley devotee. I was thirteen (13) years old. At that time my own search in the bible for meaning within Rastafari and its connection to ganja and dreadlocks, and His Imperial Majesty was ignited. At the Dominica Grammar School (DGS) in 1974 through to 1979, becoming a Rastafarian was tantamount ahead of even more my school work. I reasoned with other schoolmates , and smoked herb on recess breaks, and would meet up with friends after school and go to the gardens for bible sharing and to smoke the Holy Herb. At home, bedroom wall was splattered with newspaper and magazine articles on Bob Marley, and His Imperial Majesty. The Dreag had overthrown, the ageing Ethiopian Monarch on September 12, 1974, who the Rastafarians regarded as ‘God ‘ himself. I can remember, I heard an interview with Bob Marley and Mike Phillips on BBC’s Caribbean Magazine radio show that aired on Dominica’s radio station, and I decided to write to the BBC to let them know how much I enjoyed the show. A few weeks later they wrote me back, telling me that they had sent my letter to Bob ‘s studio, and they sent me 4 large studio photographs of Bob to me, and I showed them off to my friends at school.

The Dread Act was in full force. Many high school students were openly sympathizing of the Dreads, and growing afros was one of the ways that persons identified with the Black Power struggle. One particular student at the DGS, ‘marooned’ into the hills, to join The Dreads, others, in the upper forms 4 and 5, grew dreadlocks in defiance of the school’s European dress codes, and bounced around the compound with bloodshot eyes. I, too, would first grow a full afro, and later brushed-backed locks, that transformed into early dread locks by the time I arrived at 5th form.

Dominica gained political Independence on November 3rd, 1978, I was in 4th form, and I had been elected to the student council as prefect. My dreads brushed, and pressed, and I can remember leading a squad of mainly girl students across the Botanic Gardens to eyes right the new prime minister at the School’s parade.

On May 29, 1979, we as students were also called upon to join the trade unions to protest against the Patrick regime, and we witnessed the stoning of the Ministerial Headquarters on Kennedy Avenue where I lived, and also, I can remember this incident while waiting to commence my General Certificate of Education (GCEs) exams in 1979, a teacher came into the exam room and announced that the Headmaster, one Mr. Hubert Charles, that there are two students that are

# Welcome to my blog

growing dread locks and that if they wish to continue to do the exam they would have to cut their hair. I think I eventually brushed out the dreads and reset my hairstyle to a cramped afro.

Then Hurricane David struck.

## Honourable Natty Dread

Hurricane David devastated Dominica with 150 miles per hour winds on August 29, 1979. I eventually ended up living in the hills at River Claire. And while up there I decided to publish my tribute to Bob Marley. The slim pamphlet contained ten pieces, which were, in fact, 5 poems, and five songs. It was illustrated by Ras Algie, and launched at the Harlem Jam city at the African Liberation Day activities. I remember that raising the money for the printing was a struggle, I needed XCD\$300. I applied for assistance from Small Projects Assistance Team (SPAT), who asked me to do some research, by asking previous authors like Lennox Honychurch and Giftus John what kind of paper they used and so on. Needless to say, when I returned for an answer, they told me that they had given priority to someone who wanted assistance to start a fowl coop. I eventually was able to obtain from XCD \$150.00 from the Cultural Division, and XCD\$150.00 from Eric's Bakery, a schoolmate, Neva Shillingford was the proprietress there.

But my struggle to print the book did not end there. When I brought my handwritten book to Tropical Printers Mr Ian Monroe told me that I had to bring it typed. So off I went, and was able to get my neighbour Merle Jno Baptise and schoolmate Earl Edwards to type up the 12 or so pages. Ras Algie, I had been friends with for a few years now. We were members of Ras Lion's drumming group 'I' in the mid 70s, and after hurricane David, I ran his preschool in Newtown for him for about 2 weeks while he was out of the state. I asked him to do the illustrations for the book, and it was he that advised me to use my photograph on the cover. He told me that "Bob Marley is dead. You are the Honourable Natty Dread." In those days, there were no smartphones, or even digital cameras. Few people owned a film camera, and if you did, you had to get it processed by one of the photographic shops in Roseau. I paid for a portrait photograph, and the photographer was Annie Richards at Photo One.

## Rasta Truths and Rights

Some time later in 1982, Ras Yabia, who also visited our vineyard in River Clear told me that he had seen my poetry book in Canada at the first Rastafari International Conference in Canada. And he later showed me a copy of the publication, which to my surprise the entire book was attached. Well who wouldn't be pleased that your book was receiving such attention. To this day, I have not heard anything from the organisers. Nevertheless, this led me to consult with Alwin Bully who was the Chief Cultural Officer of the newly established Division of Culture. He told me one of the ways to copyright your work was to post a copy back to yourself, with a copy of the day's newspaper. Still I argued with him that the 1911 Copyright Act of Dominica was outdated. He subsequently,

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

invited me to give a 20-minuted presentation on copyright to a copyright symposium somewhere in 1983/84.

## Do you love to write?

Looking back now on my 40th anniversary as a published author, I find it all quite amusing. I would go on to publish several more books, while activities with the Frontline Bookstore, the Dominica Writer's Guild,(DWG) and the Inity of Rastafarian Idren (IRI) continued. In 1990, I published what was the third or fourth edition of Honourable Natty Dread, and included a mashup of line from Bob Marley songs and included it inthe book under the name Babylon System and Don't Worry (See below)I also went on to stage the first Bob Marley Day in Dominica and so on. I'll stop here for the time being. As you can see, I am only just getting started talking about Bob Marley, and what he means to me, and the steps I have taken to preserve his legacy

was the first to be published in honour of Bob Marley. The first book that came to my attention was *Catch a Fire* by Timothy White in 1983 and *Bob Marley Reggae King of the world* by Malika Lee Whitney and Dermott Hussey published in 1984.

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## BABYLON SYSTEM

(c) 1990, 2010, 2016 Ras Albert Williams

You too rude!

Oh! What a rat race.

Babylon system is a

Vampire,

But I'm a duppy conqueror:

So JAH seh.

RASTAMAN live up,

Live if you want to live.

Zion Train is coming our

Way:

# Welcome to my blog

JAH LOVE protect us...

I want to give you some

Love,

But the Babylon System is a

VAMPIRE.

Would you make the system

Fight

Against your Brotherman?

Oh no...oh no, dread no.

Turn your lights down low,

Let me tell you what I know.

I'm hurting inside.

They say LOVE is a stream

That

Will find its course:

JAH LOVE protect us...

Now I know who is the real revolutionaries, but who's

Gonna

Stay at home when the

FREEDOM

FIGHTERS are fighting.

Babylon system is a

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## VAMPIRE

Sucking the children day by day,

But the gift of JAH is life.

JAH LOVE protect us...

---

## DON'T WORRY

BY RAS ALBERT WILLIAMS

(c) 1995, 2010, 2016

Don't worry about a thing,

Every little thing will be all right.

Zion train is coming our way.

Jah will be waiting there.

Don't worry about a thing.

Who Jah bless, no man curse.

Where I am, thou shall abide,

Blood is thicker than water.

Don't worry about a thing,

We JAH PEOPLE can make things work.

When one door is closed, many more

are opened. I want you to know that I'm a rainbow too.

the big fish, who always try to eat down

Don't worry about a thing.

# Welcome to my blog

Because none of them can stop the time.

I know Jah will never let us down,

And we're jammin' in the name of The Lord.

Don't worry about a thing.

Because the biggest man you ever did

see was just a baby. It's a new feeling, it's a new day,

and we just can't live in a negative way.

Don't worry about a thing.

Some will hate you pretend they love you. These are

the small fish, and we're moving right out of Babylon.

Don't worry about a thing.

Though there's so much trouble in the world.

The hotter the battle, the sweeter the victory,

but we know that we shall win, cause

we are confident in the VICTORY of good over evil.

Don't worry about a thing.

Because the sun is shinning and the weather is sweet.

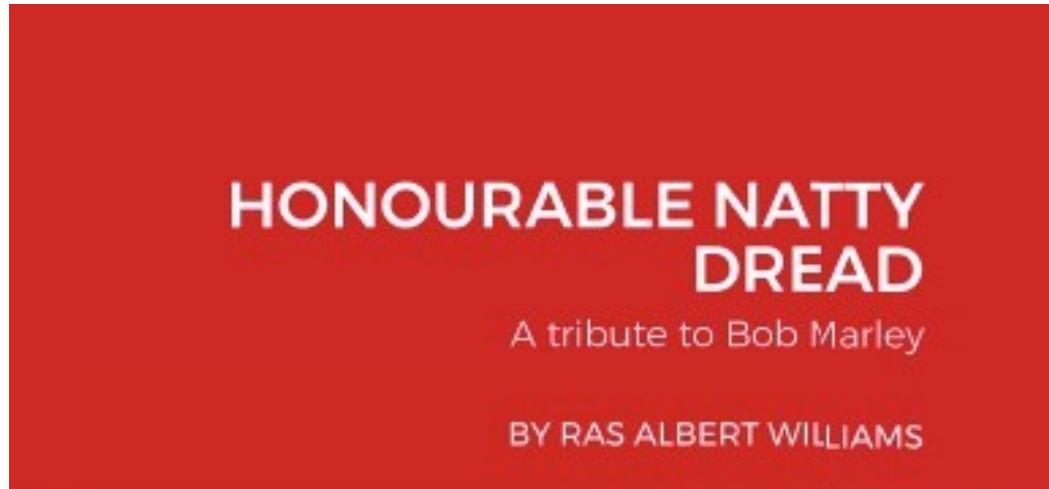
We'll be forever loving Jah and who the cap fit, let them wear it.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

[Photos] extracts from Honourable Natty Dread including the signature poem, of the same name

### New edition available

Meantime, if you want to obtain a copy of the latest edition of Honourable Natty Dread. It is now available forever on print-on-demand basis from Lulu.com for US\$21.02 or £15.66 for this hidden gem of a work, if I might say so myself. (Click graphic below for easy access)



# Welcome to my blog

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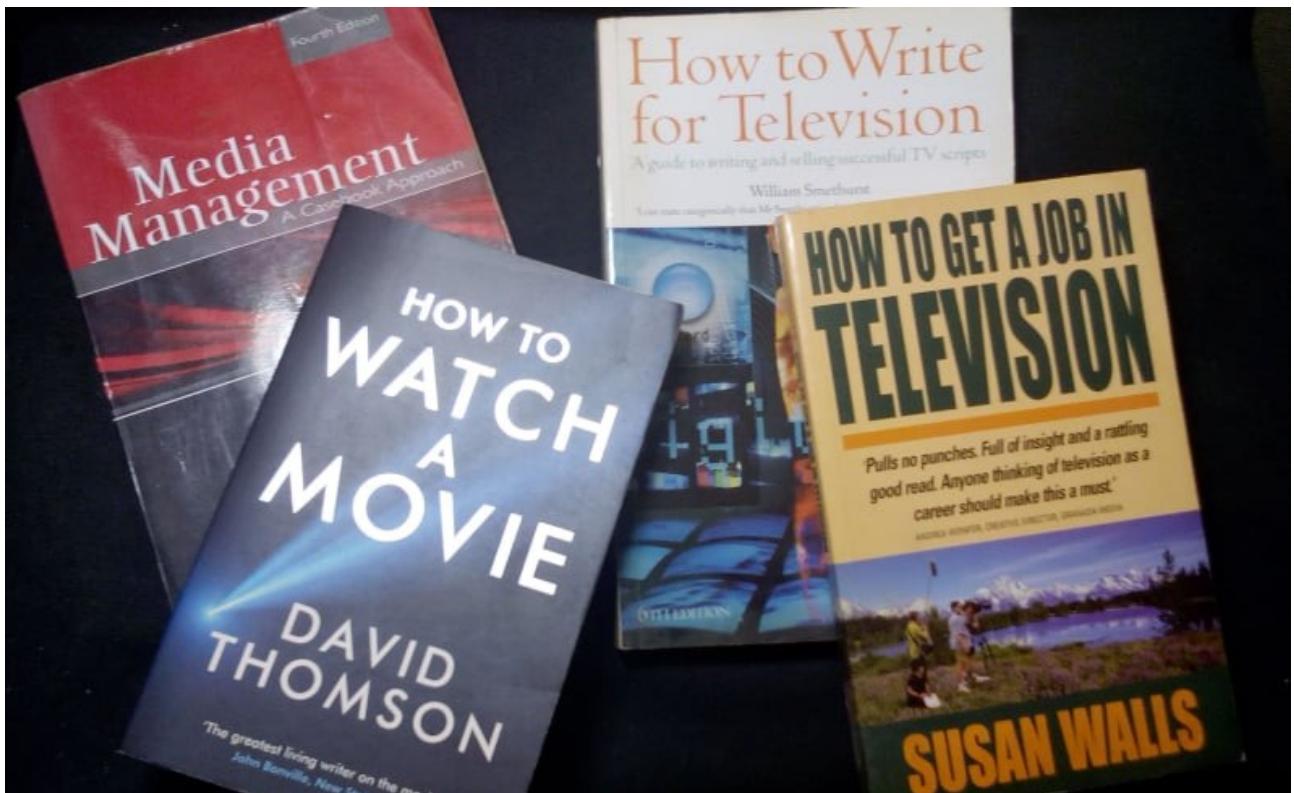
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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Time to Market Dominica through a Feature Film? | February 9, 2022



If someone could write just one scene

I came across this article by the late Parry Bellot [Time to Market Dominica through a Feature Film?](#) which sparked a few ideas in me. He lamented that Dominica had not capitalised on the opportunity of being the location of the filming of parts of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series to market Dominica and boost Dominica's tourism product.

Welcome to my blog

# Disney PIRATES *of the* CARIBBEAN



Pirates Of The Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest location:

Jack Sparrow escapes the cannibals | Photograph: [wikimedia / Hans Hillewaert](#)

File:Hampstead Beach from West (Dominica).jpg

To write a feature film, or even a budget movie, is no mean task. However, a few scenes lead to an act, and a few acts lead to a screenplay. According to [Investopedia](#), “The average cost to produce a major studio movie has been around \$65 million. But the production costs don’t cover distribution and marketing, which adds another \$35 million or so, on average.”. In 1973 when [Bob Marley](#) was asked what he thought about the music industry, and Americans like Johnny Nash getting involved with Reggae, he answered that they were spending money on them that other local businesses were not willing to spend.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Finance

Filmmaking like any other art form has its standards, and as long as all the standards are met, and the financial backing is there, it is quite possible for Dominica to produce a succession of feature films. But only that we had that disposal income to invest. We must attribute the enormous sums invested in the arts in the ‘Old world’ is due to endowments to the arts by wealthy philanthropists in the 18th-century who had more than enough money to know what to do with, and whose names associated with cities like London, Bristol and Glasgow are testament to their great wealth extracted in most cases from exploits in the nefarious Atlantic Slave Trade and plantation slavery which produced unimaginable prosperity for themselves and their descendants.

It is little wonder that there is not that deep financial well from which the former colonies in the West Indies may cast their bucket to draw funding to devote to the creation and promotion of the arts. The Crown nor the original purchasers of land in Dominica, and early legislature, did not invest heavily in the infrastructure of Dominica beyond the bare necessity to establish their holdings and to move slaves and produce from one point to another. For nearly two centuries of European exploit on Dominica, Dominica had no roads to speak of, and for the most part traversing the island was done by boat, or network of footpaths and bridle ways.

## Investment in the arts

By the 1960s when the reins of power had finally fallen into the descendants of the former slaves, the bonds with the mother country, and the other economic restrictions left little room for consideration for the large-scale investment in the arts necessary to produce world-class arts. The relationship between legacy of slavery and the stagnation of the arts in Dominica, and the wider Caribbean, must be understood to truly come to grips with the state of a severely under-funded arts and entertainment sector. To the extent that we dare not even begin to dream of competing with the cinematic products produced in Europe and North America. Nevertheless, we are where we are, and it is up to us to take the bitter cup and to make the best of it as good as we could. And what of the “Film Commission” in Dominica? Maybe the ‘film commission’ could be resurrected with an input from the Citizens by investment program.

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Colonialism in action | May 1, 2022

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands

# Welcome to my blog



Arrest of Premier Andrew Fahie on Thursday

CARICOM Community... unclear what is their response to the ongoing constitutional crisis that has hit the sister Caribbean island that last week

As far as I am aware, The British Virgin Islands is an Associate Member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the CARICOM Community, yet it is unclear what is their response to the ongoing constitutional crisis that has hit the sister Caribbean island that last week was hit by two whammies. First the arrest of Premier Andrew Fahie on Thursday at a Miami airport on a conspiracy to smuggle tonnes of cocaine through the British Virgin Island, along with the senior BVI port official, Oleanvine Maynard, and Kadeem Maynard - Ms. Maynard's son, followed by the release of the long-awaited, British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry Report which in addition to its 45 recommendations, suggested a suspension of BVI's constitution for two years and be brought under direct British rule.

In March of this year the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders issued a communique in which it expressed "deep concern" with the United Kingdom-backed Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), citing "lack of transparency."

Royal Family told to avoid 'phoney sanctimony' over slavery

The debacle comes as the Royal visit of the Earl and Countess of Wessex to the region was wrapping up where they visited St. Lucia, St Vincent, and the Grenadines and, Antigua and Barbuda. Grenada was dropped from the itinerary at the last minute. Meanwhile, Antigua and

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Barbuda Reparations Support Commission published an open letter to Prince Edward and Sophie in which they told Royal Family to avoid ‘phoney sanctimony’ over slavery.

Amanda Milling to the troubled British overseas territory

The United Kingdom’s Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss has dispatched the minister for overseas territories, Amanda Milling, to the troubled British overseas territory, for talks to determine the way forward.

The BVI is among the last remnants of the British empire in the Caribbean, as are: Montserrat, Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the Turks, and Caicos Islands.

OECS and CARICOM regard proposed British direct rule as retrograde step, BVI Acting Premier to report on Milling talks imminently | May 4, 2022

# Welcome to my blog



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Following three days of hectic meetings between the United Kingdom's Minister for the Overseas Territories, Rt Hon Amanda Milling and local BVI representatives, Ag. Premier Hon Wheatley is expected to address the territory imminently with a report on the outcome of the meeting, according to Hon. *Vincent O. Wheatley* the 9th District Representative and Minister of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration.

Milling arrived on the British Virgin Islands on Sunday, May 1, 2022 to hold discussions seated around the early publication of the [Commission of Inquiry \(CoI\) report](#), and more importantly, the recommendation that the BVI House of Assembly be suspended and the territory brought under direct British rule for two years. [Sir Gary Hickinbottom](#) who is the Sole Commissioner in the British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry, who has has more than 45 years experience in the legal profession and who has served as a full-time judge for 20 years, most recently a Lord

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Justice of Appeal said, "I have concluded that the only way in which the relevant issues can be addressed is for there to be a temporary suspension of those parts of the Constitution by which areas of government are assigned to elected representatives. The suspension should be as short as possible to enable principled elected government to be restored."

Hundreds of protestors carrying placards depicting anti-colonial slogans gathered outside the governor's mansion in Road Town, Tortola on Monday culminating in a roadside public meeting with speakers addressing the issue.

Welcome to my blog

# **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER  
THE RT HON SIR GARY HICKINBOTTOM**

**VOLUME 1: REPORT**

Presented to His Excellency John James Rankin CMG  
The Governor of the Virgin Islands  
4 April 2022

Published on the Authority of the Governor of the Virgin Islands

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

Fahie not entitled to immunity



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Meantime, local media, The Virgin Islands Consortium has reported that “The federal government in a filing late Tuesday said that British Virgin Islands Premier Andrew Fahie’s request seeking immunity as head of state of the BVI has no legal effect, and that the United States does not recognize the BVI — a territory of the United Kingdom — as a sovereign state.”

Lawyers for the premier of the British Virgin Islands, Andrew Fahie, had requested his immediate release from US prison citing diplomatic immunity. Premier Andrew Fahie could face as much as life imprisonment if convicted of the drug and money laundering charges laid against him in Florida, USA last Thursday. The acting Premier Hon Wheatley has reacted to the allegations against Premier Fahie actions described in affidavit as “Deplorable, Disappointing and Shocking.” He is expected to announce imminently the outcomes of the meeting with Amanda Milling who yesterday has had meetings with “Christian Council Representatives, key figures in the finance sector, and representatives of community groups” Milling had said that she recognised that, “these are difficult times for the people of BVI. I am here to listen, and to understand,” adding, “It is important that we are honest and open with each other when discussing the COI Report and the issues it has identified,”

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) issued a statement on May 2nd, 2022

The sub-regional grouping, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the regional organisation CARICOM Community in a show of Caribbean solidarity have thrown in their support for the BVI government to retain its control in the face of the suggested direct rule from Britain as the Commission of Inquiry (COI) recommended.

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## ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

The OECS concurs with the elected representatives of the people of the BVI that abolition of Parliament with direct rule from London represents a retrograde step in the evolution of the democratic process that is inconsistent with the United Nations Proclamation of Human Rights to be free of colonial rule.

Monday, May 2, 2022 — The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has noted with great concern the evolving situation in the British Virgin Islands involving the arrest of Premier Andrew Fahie on alleged drug conspiracy charges and the release of the UK Government report on the Commission of Inquiry (COI).

Like all persons charged with a criminal offense, Andrew Fahie is entitled to the presumption of innocence, procedural fairness, and a free and a fair trial within a reasonable time.

The OECS has noted the position taken by the duly elected Government of the BVI which, while welcoming the recommendations arising from the Inquiry, rejects the intention of the British Government to impose direct rule on the BVI. It is clear to us that, in principle, it is ill advised to impose direct colonial rule and the history of such imposition in the Caribbean has never delivered the desired result.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

The OECS concurs with the elected representatives of the people of the BVI that abolition of Parliament with direct rule from London represents a retrograde step in the evolution of the democratic process that is inconsistent with the United Nations Proclamation of Human Rights to be free of colonial rule. The UN Declaration on granting independence to colonial countries and peoples – Resolution 1514 of 1960 is an international commitment to which Britain is itself bound.

The historical responsibility for strengthening governance in the BVI must rest on the shoulders of the elected representatives and the people of the BVI themselves. That ultimately will be the guarantee of good governance and full, transparent accountability.

We strongly urge the British Government to work with and support the elected Parliament in this process of rectification.

The OECS for its part, is willing and ready to provide technical and other support required by the BVI as an Associate Member State in addressing the governance issues that need attention.

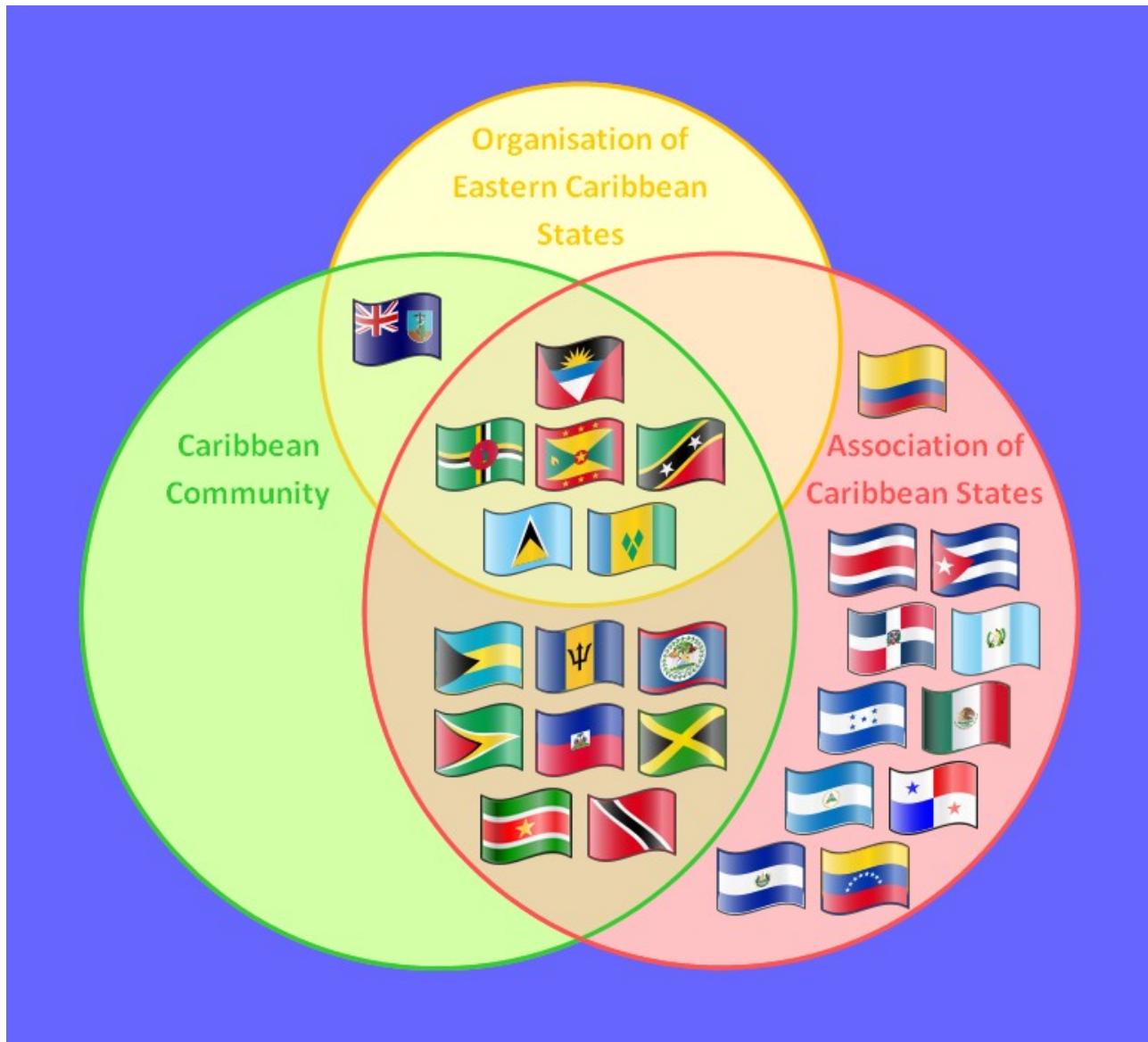
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CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF THE REPORT OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM'S BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

CARICOM reminds the United Kingdom of its international obligations in respect of United Nations Resolution 1514 of 1960 – the United Nations Declaration on The Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.



The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) takes note of the release on April 29, 2022, of the Report of the British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry (COI) with its far-reaching recommendations. The British Virgin Islands (BVI), a British Overseas Territory, has been an Associate Member of the Community since July 1991.

CARICOM supports the decision of the duly elected Government of the BVI to welcome the recommendations for improving governance and their commitment to work with the United Kingdom to address the weaknesses identified in the COI report. CARICOM agrees that the people of BVI and their duly elected representatives have the responsibility to ensure good

# Welcome to my blog

governance with full transparency and accountability and should work together to achieve mutually acceptable solutions to address the concerns highlighted in the COI report.

CARICOM is however deeply concerned by the Report's recommendation to suspend "those parts of the Constitution by which areas of government are assigned to elected representatives" and taking the retrograde step of restoring direct rule by the Governor in Council as existed in Her Majesty's colonies during the colonial period. CARICOM supports the BVI government and people in their objection to this recommendation.

The imposition of direct rule, and the history of such imposition in the Caribbean, was never intended to deliver democratic governance or to be an instrument of economic and social development of our countries and peoples.

CARICOM believes that any action to suspend the House of Assembly in the BVI and impose direct rule from London would be inconsistent with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Accordingly, CARICOM reminds the United Kingdom of its international obligations in respect of United Nations Resolution 1514 of 1960 – the United Nations Declaration on The Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

The Rt Hon. Amanda Milling has a lot to think about | Transform our society into a model democracy – Ag. Premier, Hon. Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley | May 5, 2022

The  
Rt  
Hon



Amanda Milling (left), and Governor of the British Virgin Islands, Mr. John Rankin CMG. HM Governor's Office in the BVI ([Facebook](#))

The United Kingdom's Minister for the Overseas Territories, the Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP. (47), concluded her discussions yesterday with elected officials and heads of civil societies in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) a British Overseas Territory located in the northeastern Caribbean.

The BVI or simply, the Virgin Islands, is part of an archipelago of a population of just over 30,000, according to 2019 estimates, and is made up of The British Virgin Islands

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comprising of “the main islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke, along with more than 50 other smaller islands and cays.

## Background



Minister Milling’s visit was occasioned by recent developments in the BVI that has plunged the territory into a constitutional crisis. Citizens were hit with two body blows, (below the belt) on Thursday and Friday last week, when they learned that their premier, Andrew Fahie, along with their senior port official, Oleanvine Maynardand and her son, had been the subject of sting in Miami and had been arrested on charges of money laundering and conspiracy to import controlled substance into the US by the US Drug Enforcement Agency in Florida. This was followed by a release of the controversial [Commission of Inquiry \(COI\)](#). The territory’s Governor Mr. John Rankin CMG (65) said, that the recommendation of the report containing 45 recommendations, of which one of the four overarching recommendations that the house of assembly be suspended, and governance be brought under direct British rule for two years.

The Right Honourable, Liz Truss, (44) Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom in a statement on the matter on April 29, 2022 said, “I have instructed the Minister for Overseas Territories to travel to the Territory immediately to speak to the Governor and key stakeholders. We will then announce a clear path forward.”

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## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Press Statement On The COI Report From Minister For The Overseas Territories The Rt Honourable Amanda Milling



Yesterday, Amanda Milling at the conclusion of three days of talks with elected officials, members of the House of Assembly, key individuals, businesses, finance leaders, community groups and representatives from the Christian Council, delivered a statement which was live-streamed from the Facebook page of the HM Governor's Office in the BVI in which she said:

I appreciate that recent events in the British Virgin Islands with the arrest of Premier Fahie have been shocking and concerning for everybody. The Commission of Inquiry Report has also raised very serious concerns about the failures of governance and dishonesty by elected officials. This is a challenging time for the people of the British Virgin Islands.

I have spent the last few days listening to how you feel about the events. We discussed the recommendations from the Report. And I heard what you think is needed – which is putting the

# Welcome to my blog

best interests of the people of the BVI at the heart of any future decisions. Events are moving quickly and I would like to provide a short update on my trip and outline what will happen next.

As I return to the UK I have a lot to consider. I will share the feedback from the range of individuals and groups I have met with the Foreign Secretary, and we will discuss what steps to take next.

## *The Rt Honourable Amanda Milling*

Let's be clear – the Report highlighted significant concerns around corruption, transparency and accountability. There is no getting away from this. Like many people have told me. This isn't a question of whether something should be done. It is a question of what is done. Action is needed now to: strengthen the foundations of the Territory; deliver a better public service; maintain a strong and resilient economy; and create better opportunities for the people of the BVI. This is what I heard you want during my visit.

Over the last few days I have met with a range of people across the BVI including:

- Acting Premier Hon Natalio Wheatley;
- All party leaders and all members of the House of Assembly;
- Business and tourism leaders;
- Some of the most experienced political and public service figures;
- Representatives from the financial sector;
- Church leaders, and;
- Representatives of community groups.

My meetings have helped me gain a greater insight and understanding of the significant challenges facing BVI. Discussions with elected officials have been cordial but frank. They acknowledged the scale of the issue and that the road ahead will be challenging. But we all agreed that it is a necessary journey.

During my discussions with community and religious leaders, I heard about the impact corruption has had on the community here. I sought their views on what would be best for the people of the BVI. Everyone I have met have agreed that there needs to be significant changes in the BVI to improve governance.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

There is an urgent need to fix the systems, processes, laws and norms to ensure that money spent by the government – your money – is better spent on roads, education, hospitals and better public services and not misused as the COI has found.

We now have the opportunity to do this. To build a government that delivers for its people in a fair, transparent, and accountable way.

As I return to the UK I have a lot to consider. I will share the feedback from the range of individuals and groups I have met with the Foreign Secretary, and we will discuss what steps to take next.

I will also speak to Governor Rankin and Acting Premier Hon Natalio Wheatley on how to tackle the issues which are holding back the development of the BVI.

This must happen quickly. The people of the BVI deserve no less. You deserve a government which works in everyone's interests, not just those of a few.

A system which promotes and protects, not divides and instils fear.

A future which is bright, not overcast by the dark shadows of crime and corruption.

I am committed to delivering this in the interests of the people of the BVI.

Thank you.

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## Welcome to my blog

Statement By Acting Premier And Minister Of Finance Dr. Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley On The Visit Of UK Minister For The Overseas Territories Rt. Honourable Amanda Milling, MP To Discuss The Findings And Recommendations Of The COI Report



Meantime, Statement By Acting Premier And Minister Of Finance Dr. Honourable. Natalio D. Wheatley (42) in his statement On The Visit Of UK Minister For The Overseas Territories Rt. Honourable Amanda Milling, MP To Discuss The Findings And Recommendations Of The COI Report said:

Fellow Virgin Islanders,

Good afternoon. I know that many of you have been anxiously waiting to hear an update about talks with UK Overseas Territories Minister The Right. Hon. Amanda Milling, MP and His Excellency the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

On Monday 2nd May, I along with my Special Envoy Mr. Benito, held bilateral talks with Minister Milling and Governor Rankin to discuss the findings of the Commission of Inquiry report and its recommendations.

Our discussions were constructive but very frank and open. The Minister and Governor expressed their very serious concerns about the report's findings. I acknowledged the shortcomings of our governance and the very serious problems highlighted by Sir Gary Hickinbottom. I am in full agreement that audits, investigations and fundamental institutional reforms must take place without delay to address the very troubling issues described in the report.

No matter how uncomfortable the recommendations may be, they provide us with a golden opportunity to fundamentally change how we do things here in the Virgin Islands, which I believe is achievable within the framework of democratic governance. To be clear, I see the implementation of the recommendations as a path to achieving our national renewal, but this can be done successfully without resorting to direct rule.

My vision is to see us transform our society into a model democracy, undergirded by robust, transparent and efficient political institutions and systems of Government, where confidence in the Virgin Islands as a jurisdiction and open economy is high.

*Acting Premier And Minister Of Finance Dr. Honourable. Natalio D. Wheatley*

My vision is to see us transform our society into a model democracy, undergirded by robust, transparent and efficient political institutions and systems of Government, where confidence in the Virgin Islands as a jurisdiction and open economy is high. However, achieving this will require very strong support from the United Kingdom and very close cooperation between the Governor and the elected Government. The Territory has also been offered technical assistance from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, our fellow Caribbean Overseas Territories and our partners throughout the Commonwealth.

At my meeting with Minister Milling and the Governor, I shared some initial ideas about addressing immediate concerns pointed out in the report and an overall approach by which to implement the recommendations without a partial suspension of the Constitution. Minister Milling and the Governor listened attentively, and I very much appreciated their engagement.

My Special Envoy and I also participated in a combined meeting with Minister Milling, the Governor and the three representatives of the Opposition Parties in the House of Assembly, who had earlier had a separate engagement. In the combined meeting, the representatives of the Opposition parties and I pledged our commitment to working together in unison and in partnership with the Governor and United Kingdom to implement the recommendations of the report under a democratic governance framework if we are given the opportunity to do so.

# Welcome to my blog

Toward this end, the Virgin Islands Party, the National Democratic Party and the Peoples Virgin Islands Movement have agreed to propose a National Unity Government to Governor Rankin under my leadership as Acting Premier. Each party would be represented in Cabinet as this would give the best political representation as a Government in working closely with the Governor and United Kingdom on reforms, which must go well beyond the Commission of Inquiry recommendations.

As Acting Premier, I am very pleased to announce that I will be recommending to the Governor that Cabinet be comprised of the following Ministers in a National Unity Government:

The Honourable Kye Rymer, Minister for Transportation, Utilities and Works;

The Honourable Sharie De Castro, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports;

The Honourable Marlon Penn, Minister of Health and Social Development;

The Honourable Mitchell Turnbull, Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration;

And I will continue to serve as Acting Premier and Minister of Finance.

In terms of Junior Ministers, The Honourable Alvera Maduro-Caines will serve as Junior Minister for Tourism.

The Honourable Shereen Flax-Charles will continue to serve as Junior Minister for Trade, Economic Development with the added responsibility of Agriculture and Fisheries, which will migrate with me to the Premiers Office.

Honourable Neville Smith will serve as Acting Speaker until a new Speaker is confirmed.

The Honourable Vincent Wheatley as the Representative of the 9th District will continue to represent the interests of the people of Virgin Gorda and Anegada.

The Honourable Carvin Malone as a Territorial At-Large Representative will ensure that the people of the First District in particular, who are currently without representation on the ground, have a voice.

We are stronger working together in this way, and I hope Governor Rankin will accept and make the new appointments as required, once the necessary constitutional steps have been taken to initiate the process. I will update the public by the end of the week on his response and timelines.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

I want to thank my political colleagues in the Virgin Islands Party for their maturity and understanding in agreeing this approach. I also want to thank the National Democratic Party and the Progressive Virgin Islands Movement as our new partners for their commitment to coming together to form a stronger political core in Government that will begin the process of taking the Virgin Islands into a new era of democratic governance. Both the Leader of the Opposition and Member for the Eighth District, the Honourable Marlon Penn, and the Representative of the Second District, Hon. Mitchell Turnbull, will make statements immediately following my own on the proposed National Unity Government.

In terms of the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry report, my political colleagues and I are of the view that the urgent reforms needed cannot be delivered as things stand today. We must be honest about that.

There needs to be a fundamental cultural shift in the way we handle the peoples' business as a Government. There must be a new attitude in the way we do business. The established institutions of good governance need much more resourcing to effectively do their job. New institutions will also have to be created to support good governance, including an independent Commission of Inquiry recommendations implementation body that is not a part of our existing institutional structures. A National Unity Government is committed to making the financial resources available to advance and support the taking of these steps. Such a comprehensive approach is absolutely necessary because we must go deep and wide into our institutions and systems to fix them.

We are currently finalising our proposal on how we will deliver reform and will be coming back to you in due course to set out our approach. What I can say now is that change is going to be hard. It is going to be painful. People we know and care about will be affected, but we must take the necessary action needed to become the model democratic society we wish to see.

This is why we must come together as a community for the difficult period ahead. If we take the tough decisions now, we will emerge much stronger as a Territory with more robust political institutions, stronger systems of Government, a world class Public Service, and a strong economy in which there is great confidence in the services and products that we provide. This is the moment for change and to set ourselves on a new trajectory of national development. With an ironclad commitment by a National Unity Government, we have what it takes to advance reforms in close cooperation with the Governor and in partnership with the United Kingdom.

My final meeting with Minister Milling and Governor Rankin took place yesterday afternoon, where my Special Envoy and I wrapped up talks that were very cordial. Minister Milling reiterated that no decisions have been made yet, but that it was important for her to listen to the views of the Government, the Opposition and other stakeholders. I think this was a fair and

# Welcome to my blog

reasonable approach by her and hope that the case for an alternative to direct rule will be strongly considered.

Ladies and gentleman, as I close, I want to thank Minister Milling for travelling to the Territory and wish her safe travels back to the United Kingdom today. I also want to thank the Governor for his very balanced approach to engagement. I cannot forget the invaluable advice and support of my Special Envoy Mr. Benito Wheatley who has been my side these past days.

The United Kingdom and Virgin Islands are indeed partners, and we should approach our relationship in that spirit by building upon our good cooperation on sanctions, public registers of beneficial ownership and medicinal cannabis. There is much that can be gained that will help propel our society into a new era of democratic governance.

I will remain in close communication with Governor Rankin and provide further updates at the appropriate time.

It is now my pleasure to invite the Leader of the Opposition and Member for the Eighth District, Honourable Marlon Penn, to make a statement.

God bless you all and God bless these beautiful Virgin Islands.

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## Further reading

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Cover photo: The Rt Hon Amanda Milling (left) and Governor of the British Virgin Islands, Mr John Rankin CMG screen grab of Facebook livestream from the HM Governor's Office in the BVI

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## Welcome to my blog

DAY 4 | Prime Minister, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit to hold a press briefing at the Command Centre in Warner at 11: 30 a.m today | June 11, 2022

Day 3 of the search for 12-year-old, Kernisha Etienne of Warner found possible sighting of clothes that may have belonged to the alleged

**HELP FIND THIS MISSING CHILD!**

**LAST SEEN IN  
WARNER VILLAGE  
ON JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>  
11:30 PM**

**12 YEAR OLD  
KERNISHA ETIENNE  
OF WARNER**

**KIAN ALEXANDER  
KIDNAPPER**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
611 5100 | 611 5158 | 611 5164 | 611 5165**

kidnapper, according to Dominica Bre

Day 3 of the search for 12-year-old, Kernisha Etienne of Warner found possible sighting of clothes that may have belonged to the alleged kidnapper, according to Dominica Breaking News, but no sign of the missing child, nor of Kian Alexander.

Prime Minister, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit to hold a press briefing at the Command Centre in Warner at 11: 30 a.m today

A massive search and rescue operation is expected to resume for its 4th day in the sleepy village of Warner, in the parish of St Paul, and the wider southwest area of the Caribbean island known as the Garden of Eden, otherwise known by its official name, the Commonwealth of Dominica.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

One volunteer, Wengert Williams from Marigot on social media said, “A very hard day at the office. Mainly searching every nook and corner from the crime scene in a south-westerly direction. Twilight reconnaissance in another area gave meaningful insight for tomorrow. Details unavailable for now.” In a further update this morning, Williams informed Albert Williams Reporting, “No teams to be sent out today. We are on standby for today and tomorrow if circumstances change.”

The Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Southern Division, of the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force (CDPF), Leana Edwards, in a statement reported by Dominica News Online, on Tuesday 7, June, 2022, disclosed that at about 11:30 p.m. that a 12-year-old girl, Kernisha Etienne was abducted by a “suspected lunatic”, named one Kian Alexander, a male adult of the village of Belles.”

According to the online newspaper, prior to the abduction of the child, Alexander is said to have gone to the “home of his uncle, Laurent Joseph Bruno, and attacked him with a cutlass inflicting serious wounds to his head and face. Thereafter, he abducted 12-year-old Kernisha Etienne, the adopted daughter of Laurent Joseph Bruno, and disappeared with her into the bushes of Warner. Laurent Joseph Bruno was transported in a conscious state to the Dominica China Friendship Hospital (DCFH) for medical attention,” the media outlet reported.

**Extraordinary images from Warner, Dominica, for the 3rd day, as search for Kernisha Etienne and her abductor intensifies**

Welcome to my blog

# KERNISHA ETIENNE



# MISSING!

## BRING KERNISHA HOME!

Please Contact your nearest police station if you have any leads or information on her whereabouts.

**Bring Kernisha Home!**

However, with the widespread search expected to resume for the 4th day, frustrations are understandably beginning to rise, as despite the best efforts of hundreds of police and

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

volunteers; the deployment of helicopters, drones, and sniffer dogs, questions remain as to how a man of unstable mind is able to evade capture for 3 days while being on the run with a 12-year-old school girl.

Questions as to his motive for the kidnap of the child, and the even more urgent question, of where is the fugitive and his hostage now, are obviously on the minds of every Dominican, and many more concerns I am sure. It is unclear at what stage the police investigation is. Are there persons of interest that should be assisting the police with their investigation, for example. Yesterday, I issued an appeal for the safe return of the girl by Kian Alexander, and I think that his mother and the police should do so as well.

We must hold on to the thought that both he and the young girl are still alive, and that he is lying low somewhere either in the bush or in a location in the surrounding built-up areas. I imagine that surveillance at all ports of entry (and possible getaway points) are beefed up, the coast guard activated and wanted posters circulated in neighboring Caribbean islands. He may have accomplices. Nevertheless, Let us remain hopeful that our questions and prayers will be answered sooner than later to bring a close to this appalling crime, that the perpetrator be brought to justice, and Kernisha returned to her family. We pray also that Kernisha's adopted father has a speedy recovery, and that he too could shed more light on this whole unhappy affair.



PM Skerrit briefed

# Welcome to my blog

Late Thursday night, Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, who on Wednesday turned 50, cut short his attendance of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, in Los Angeles, California which was scheduled to run from June 6-10, headed straight for the Command Centre at Warner, where he was briefed of the ongoing search and rescue operation. In his remarks at a press conference, he thanked the assistance of Government of the French Republic and the Ambassador resident in St Lucia and his staff, as well as the Prefecture of Martinique "for responding to our request for assistance in the search and rescue of our young lady, Miss Etienne. The French as you know," he said, "have provided us with a helicopter, and we've made a second request to them this afternoon for the provision of sniffer dogs." Prime minister Skerrit said that he would personally oversee the search and rescue operation adding, "I will ensure that the police have all the resources. That there is no red-tape between the making request and making available the resources the police will come directly to me for these resources, through the Deputy and Chief of Police to ensure that they all have what they need to carry out this operation," he said. Furthermore, he urged all able-bodied public servants who wished to assist the search should do so. "I have asked all able-bodied public officers willing to join the effort to report on this matter." he said.

Meanwhile, Minister Blackmore in his comments praised the efforts of the media in circulating images of the alleged kidnapper and the medical personnel on hand, "we also want to commend the medical team. For the past two days I saw people coming in with lacerations etc being attended to immediately. I think with the intention of having a command centre, there is tremendous merit in that. And I think that that in itself demonstrates the amount of commitment that the police and the state as far as a response is concerned," he said.

**BRING KERNISHA HOME!**

**Please Contact your nearest police station if you have any leads or information on her whereabouts.**

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA POLICE FORCE



## WANTED BY THE CDPF



**NAME:** KIAN ALEXANDER  
**OFFENCE:** Attempted murder  
Kidnapping  
**DATE OF OFFENCE:** 07-06-2022  
**ADDRESS:** Belles  
**HEIGHT:** About 6'4"

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 about 11:30 P.M, Kian Alexander (a suspected lunatic), allegedly wounded his uncle Laurent Joseph Bruno, with a cutlass at the uncle's home in Warner. Bruno received serious injuries to his head and face. Immediately thereafter, Kian abducted a twelve (12) year old girl, Kernisha Ettiene of Warner, who is the adopted daughter of Laurent Joseph Bruno. Neither Kian Alexander, nor Kernisha Ettiene has been seen since.

**Anyone having information as to the whereabouts of this suspect is asked to call 911 or the Criminal Investigations Department at tel. #s: 266 5164, 2665165, 2665157, 2665119, 5117, any police station or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. He is considered armed and dangerous.**

Meanwhile, the CDPF has released a *Wanted by the CDPF* leaflet stating that Kian Alexander is wanted for the Offences of Attempted murder and kidnapping, noting that "he is considered armed and dangerous. The CDPF request anyone with any information on the whereabouts of the said Alexander to call 911, the CID or Crime Stoppers

### FURTHER READING

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## PLEASE SURRENDER | Authorities plead with kidnapper to return child | June 11, 2022



(Photo l-r ) Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, Deputy Chief of Police, Mr Lincoln Corbett and Minister of National Security and Home Affairs, Rayburn Blackmore

Kian Alexander, an adult male from the village of Belles in Dominica, and who has been on the run from police since June 7th, 2022, has been asked to turn himself in, and to allow the child to return to her parents

### The Appeal

**The appeal to the suspect came during the convening of a press conference this morning at the Command Centre in Warner, and was issued by the Deputy Chief of Police, Mr Lincoln Corbett, a 30-year, veteran of the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force.**

## Welcome to my blog

**“If the suspect, Kian Darrel Alexander of Belles is hearing us or can get the message from us, we urge him just surrender yourself to the police.”**

### *Deputy Chief of Police, Lincoln Corbett*

“If the suspect, Kian Darrel Alexander of Belles is hearing us or can get the message from us, we urge him just surrender yourself to the police. Bring in the child,” he said, ”surrender yourself and get this over and done with,” he said adding, “The young lady, really and truly needs to be with her family. In the comfort of her family, I should say. So if you are hearing us, through whatever means. We are not sure that you can hear us, but whether its Facebook or other social media platforms. Please surrender yourself to the nearest police station. Or any other person you know in the community that can take you in to the police. Please surrender yourself,” the Deputy Chief of Police,” told the press conference.

**“We will never rest. We will never be comforted by what the police have done or what others are doing, until we bring this young girl into safe hands.”**

### *Prime minister Roosevelt Skerrit*

Meanwhile, Prime minister Skerrit said, “We will never rest. We will never be comforted by what the police have done or what others are doing, until we bring this young girl into safe hands. I said that if the family is confident that they know that the young lady is safe, and they have any means of communicating this message with anyone there, we ask that Kian stop at any police station close by. Or he can drop her at a bus stop, and tell us where she is. Or at somebody’s verandah, and say this is the young lady from Warner and so forth,” he said adding “ We can deal with the other issues after that. Once we can bring the young lady home. She can be home in a warm bed, and have her breakfast and her lunch and so on. I think we can breath a sigh of relief,” he said.

## **ALBERT WILLIAMS**

According to Prime Minister Skerrit the safe return of the 12-year-old Kernisha Etienne is the focus of the state and other issues will be dealt with later.

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### **Wanted By The CDPF**

Alexander is wanted for attempted murder, and kidnapping offences, since on the night of 11:30 pm of Tuesday, June 7th, he assaulted his uncle, Laurent Joseph Bruno at his home in the village of Warner with a cutlass inflicting “serious wounds to his head and face,” before kidnapping 12-year-old, Kernisha Etienne, of the same address, and taking her with him into the surrounding bushes. Bruno, who is the child’s adopted father, was admitted to the Dominica China Friendship Hospital for medical attention.

# Welcome to my blog

THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA POLICE FORCE



## WANTED BY THE CDPF



**NAME:** KIAN ALEXANDER

**OFFENCE:** Attempted murder  
Kidnapping

**DATE OF OFFENCE:** 07-06-2022

**ADDRESS:** Belles

**HEIGHT:** About 6'4"

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 about 11:30 P.M, Kian Alexander (a suspected lunatic), allegedly wounded his uncle Laurent Joseph Bruno, with a cutlass at the uncle's home in Warner. Bruno received serious injuries to his head and face. Immediately thereafter, Kian abducted a twelve (12) year old girl, Kernisha Ettiene of Warner, who is the adopted daughter of Laurent Joseph Bruno. Neither Kian Alexander, nor Kernisha Ettiene has been seen since.



Anyone having information as to the whereabouts of this suspect is asked to call 911 or the Criminal Investigations Department at tel. #: 266 5164, 2665165, 2665157, 2665119, 5117, any police station or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. He is considered armed and dangerous.

## **ALBERT WILLIAMS**

Meantime, Kian Alexander remains at large. The search and rescue operation spear-headed by the island's Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force (CDPF), continues for a fourth day.

Since Tuesday, search parties have been frantically searching the hills and valleys of the area where the suspect is believed to be hiding.

Welcome to my blog

# BRING KERNISHA HOME!

Please Contact your nearest police station if you have any leads or information on her whereabouts.

ALBERT WILLIAMS

# HELP FIND THIS MISSING CHILD!



12 YEAR OLD  
KERNISHA ETIENNE  
OF WARNER



KIAN ALEXANDER  
KIDNAPPER

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
**611 5100 | 611 5158 | 611 5164 | 611 5165**

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Source: Prime Minister Hon. [Roosevelt Skerrit](#) holds a press briefing from Command Centre in Warner (2022). Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/GISDominica/videos/1177742789714818> (Accessed: 11 June 2022).

Welcome to my blog

## KERNISHA ETIENNE



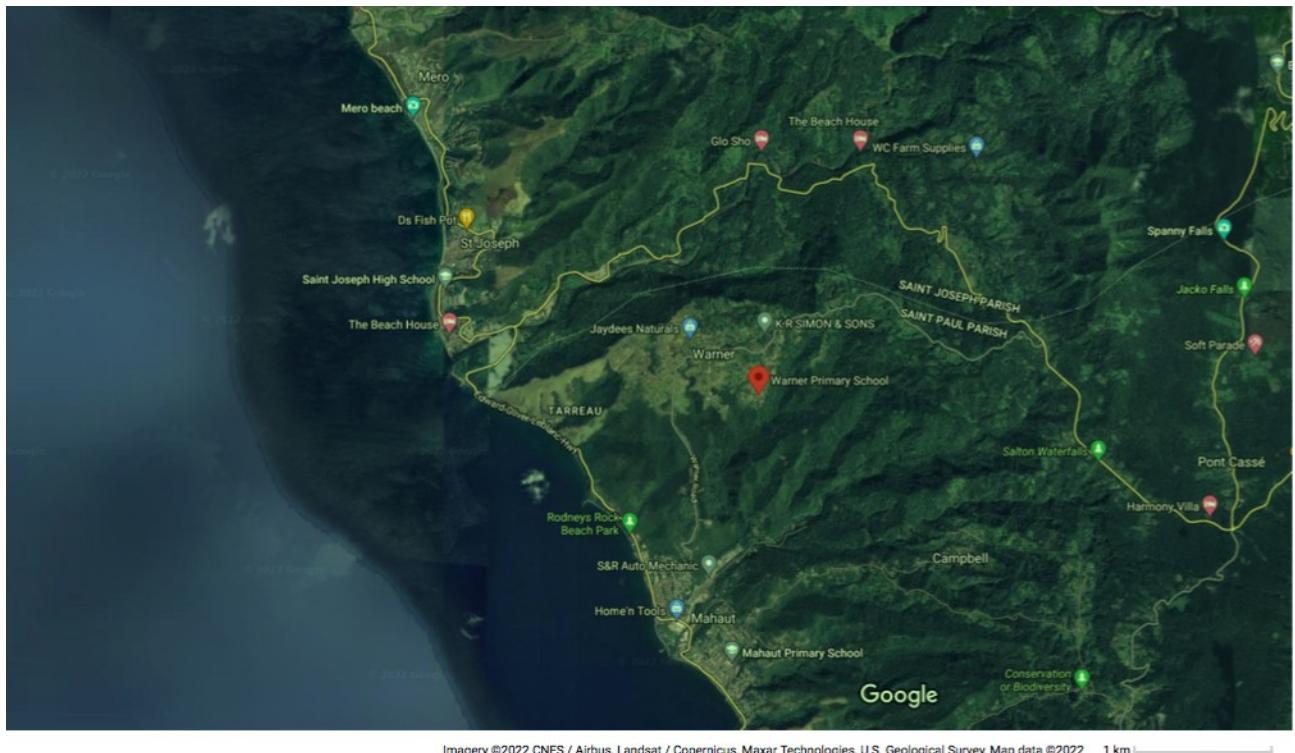
# MISSING!

## BRING KERNISHA HOME!

Please Contact your nearest police station if you have any leads or information on her whereabouts.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

WARNER, DOMINICA | June 13, 2022



Warner is a village in the south-West of Dominica, in the Parish of St. Paul, and has a population of about 515 residents, and was formerly the site of an ancient, Pre-Columbian era, village of the indigenous Kalinago people of Waitukubuli before the arrival of Europeans.

The village gets its name from an 18th-century, absentee slave owner, a British planter, Charles Warner of Antigua. who came from a dynasty of plantation owners. According to Dominica historian, Lennox Honychurch, “Charles Warner who was a descendant of Thomas Carib Warner, purchased properties in several parishes such as St David, St Andrew, and St Paul, but his main Estate was named Warner,” adding, “On that plantation, he produced sugar, rum, molasses, and coffee.” Charles Warner, born in 1805, was the only son of Col. Edward Warner.

According to The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery, Colonel Edward Warner, was an unsuccessful claimant for £2104 5s 5d for the loss of slave labour on the Hatton Garden Estate as compensation in 1837 for the loss of 127 enslaved. Colonel Edward Warner, formerly of the 26th Regiment, died in prison, aged 74, “having been an inmate of the prison since the 22d of February 1848, when he was received on account of a debt”.

Meanwhile, Joseph Warner (1717–1801), relationship unclear, was a British surgeon and plantation owner in Dominica. He was the first to tie the common carotid artery, an operation he performed in 1775.

# Welcome to my blog

Warner is situated nearby to Mt Joy, and southwest of Glasham. Attractions nearby include, the Warner River, Morne Negres Marrons, the Charles Warner Trail, and the Charles Warner ‘Secret Pool’

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# A case of a missing person, 20 years ago | June 17, 2022

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

ALBIE J MISSING AFTER NINETY DAYS

## Albie-J still missing after ninety days

Family and friends of 44-year-old, dreadlocked, rastafarian, musician Albert Albie-J Joseph, who resided on Great Marlborough Street Roseau are aghast that even after three months on new leads have surfaced to bring a measure of closure following the alleged accidental death by drowning of their loved-one. Shrouded in mystery from the start, it was the New Chronicle that broke the news to the nation, one month from October 16th 2001, in a front page lead where is Albert...? In which the paper reported that an associate of Joseph with whom he used to accompany in early-morning fishing in the vicinity of the Roseau Fishing Complex, told the police that he had seen something fall into the sea around 5:00 a.m. This Journalist spoke with one of his sisters Roslyn, who



said that, "she will continue to pray that the truth surrounding the disappearance of her brother will surface." As a teenager Albie-J was attracted to the rhetoric of the black power movement of the early seventies and adhered to the rastafarian path for the last thirty years. During the height of the cadence-lypso boom he performed and recorded with a number of local groups including Ghetto Roots and Black Blood in which he played the drum and percussion instruments. Albie-J was also a composer. Albert Demoux, owner of Demoux's Record World, recalls, "he would visit me as often as possi-

ble and talk about the old times of music... He spoke of putting the album Black Blood on C.D. and have it distributed in radio stations to promote the group," Jerry Lander, one of the musicians who worked with Joseph in those pioneering days, considers him some one you could get on with. "He was just a nice guy. Even until all the bands broke up...he was still jovial... as good friend I find it very strange," he said referring to the alleged incident. Traumatized by the affair, close friend and confidant, Eghen Walsh, "he was a close friend of mine since I grew up across from where he lived and visited him quite a bit. When he was announced missing I was totally shocked, and three months later still can't understand what happened to him, and I don't think enough was done to find out what happened."

(First published in the Tropical Star, Wednesday, January 23, 2002)

Family and friends of 44-year-old, dreadlocked Rastafarian, musician, Albert 'Albie J' Joseph, who resided on Great Marlborough Street,

## Welcome to my blog

Roseau, are aghast that even after three months on, no new leads have surfaced to bring a measure of closure following the alleged accidental death by drowning of their loved-one. Shrouded in mystery from the start, it was the New Chronicle that broke the news to the nation, one month from October 16th, 2001, in a front-page lead ‘Where is Albert...?’ In which the paper reported that an associate of Joseph with whom he used to accompany in the early morning fishing in the vicinity of the Roseau Fishing Complex, told the police that he had seen something fall into the sea around 5:00a.am.

This journalist spoke with one of his sisters, Roslyn, who said that “she will continue to pray that the truth surrounding the disappearance of her brother will surface.”

## B.Blood of Dominica

As a teenager, Albie J was attracted to the rhetoric of the Black Power movement of the early seventies and adhered to the Rastafarian path for the last 30 years. During the height of the Cadance-lypso boom he performed and recorded with a number of local groups including Ghetto roots and Black blood in which he played the drums and percussion instruments. Albie J was also a composer.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS



Albert Darroux, owner of the Darroux's Record World, recalls, "he would visit me as often as possible and talk about the old times of music...He spoke of putting the album Black blood on CD, and have it distributed to radio stations to promote the group."

"he was just a nice guy. Even until the band all the bands broke up...he was still jovial  
as a good friend  
*Jerry lander*

## Welcome to my blog

### Close friends

Jerry lander, one of the musicians who worked with Joseph in those pioneering days, considers him someone you could get on with, “he was just a nice guy. Even until the band all the bands broke up...he was still jovial as a good friend. I find it very strange,” he said,” referring to the alleged incident.

Traumatized by the affair, close friend and confidant, Egbert Walsh, “he was a close friend of mine since I grew up across from where he lived and visited him quite a bit. When he was announced missing, I was totally shocked, and three months later still can’t understand what happened to him, and I don’t think enough was done to find out what happened.”

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[Photo] Albert Joseph, aka Albie J was a songwriter, drummer, and percussionist and was a founding member of the short-lived B. Blood combo. (Albie J 5th from the left)

(2022) [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/B-Blood-Dominica-LP/dp/B0743K6V47). Available at: <https://www.amazon.com/B-Blood-Dominica-LP/dp/B0743K6V47> (Accessed: 17 June 2022).

[Photo:] Cutting from Tropical Star, Wednesday, January 23, 2002)

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

**Statement by Deputy Commissioner of Police in Dominica, Lincoln Corbette regarding Kian Alexander | June 19, 2022**



Statement by Deputy Commissioner of Police in Dominica, Lincoln Corbette on the capture, and subsequent demise of the wanted man, Kian Alexander. Issued, on the evening of June 18, 2022.

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The police have been relentless from the day she was abducted from her home by Kian Alexander on the 7th of June, 2022.

About 3:15 pm on the 18th of June, 2022, while searching in the Brookhill Estate, a police patrol team encountered Kian armed with a cutlass about three feet long.

The police attempted to apprehend him, he charged at the police with the cutlass.

## Welcome to my blog

The police took action to subdue him by shooting at his legs.

The police took immediate action to render first aid.

During that time, he said certain things to the police as to the possible whereabouts of Kernisha Etienne.

As a result, the search has been intensified in the area to find Kernisha Etienne.

The ambulance and the district medical officer were summoned and he was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

We are soliciting all able-body people to assist the police in the search for Kernisha Etienne.

I wish to commend all the officers, members of the public who have been relentless in searching for Kernisha.

We also wish to commend the public for the trust and confidence in the police.

Our main focus has been and remains the safe return of Kernisha Etienne to her family.

Thank you.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

TWO WEEKS MISSING | Search for Kernisha continues | June 21, 2022



**Up until press time, Kernisha had not been found.**

Below is a brief outline of some of the efforts that have taken place to bring kidnapper, Kian Alexander to justice, and to find the missing child, Kernisha Etienne.

**Tuesday, June 7**

• **Kernisha was abducted** on the night of June 7, from her home by 31-year-old, Kian Alexander following a cutlass attack on the person of Laurent Bruno, who was the suspect's uncle, before taking Kernisha hostage and disappearing into the nearby bushes.

## Welcome to my blog

- The Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force (CDPF) commences a Search and Rescue operation to apprehend the suspect, Kian Alexander, and to rescue 12-year-old, Kenisha Etienne.

## Wednesday, June 8

- A massive search was launched for the kidnapper and his hostage with over 100 police officers were pressed into service with hundreds of volunteers from all over Dominica.
- The (CDPF) sought the assistance of the general public, more specifically the people residing in the Warner and Belles area, in finding 12-year-old Kernisha Etienne who was abducted from her home at Warner last evening.
- In a statement to the media, Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Southern Division, Leana Edwards, reported that on Tuesday 7, June, 2022, at about 11:30 p.m. Etienne was abducted by “suspected lunatic”, Kian Alexander, a male adult of Belles.
- Prime Minister, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit issues a voice note on the abduction of Kernisha Etienne of Warner, from Los Angeles, California where he is attending the IX Summit of the Americas.
- Based on a request from the Government of Dominica, the French Government has provided a helicopter and a k-9 unit to aid in the search and rescue efforts.
- Hon. Rayburn Blackmoore – Minister For National Security & Parliamentary Representative of Mahaut/Warner Constituency, and Hon. Dr. Adis King – Minister for Youth Development and Empowerment, Youth at Risk, Gender Affairs, Seniors Security, and Dominicans with Disabilities release statements on the kidnap of Kernisha Etienne.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

### Thursday, June 9

- The now, massive police and civilian search and rescue operation for a 12-year-old girl abducted by a man said of ‘unsound mind’ runs into 2nd day.
- At a press briefing at the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) headquarters, the Commonwealth of Dominica Police solicits the assistance of the general public, more specifically the people residing in the Warner and Belles area, in finding 12-year-old Kernisha Etienne who was abducted from her home at Warner on Tuesday 7th June, 2022 at about 11:30 PM.

### Friday, June 10

- Prime minister Roosevelt Skerrit was briefed by the police at the Command Center in Warner upon his return to Dominica from the Ninth Summit of the Americas in California and asked all able-bodied public officers willing to join the effort to report on this matter.
- Education Minister Hon. Octavia Alfred makes a statement on the Abduction of Kernisha Etienne in which she announced that her ministry will continue to provide psycho-social support and counseling to the staff, students, and parents of the Warner Primary School and to the members of the community at large.

### Saturday, June 11

- An appeal to Kian Alexander to surrender himself and allow the child to return to her family was issued by the Deputy Chief of Police, Mr.

## Welcome to my blog

Lincoln Corbette at a press conference at the Command Centre in Warner.

- A discovery of clothes that may have belonged to the alleged kidnapper was found, but no sign of the missing child, nor of Kian Alexander.

## Sunday, June 12

- The Catholic Community held Prayer Service for Kernisha Etienne at the Warner Chapel.

## Monday, June 13

- Education Minister Octavia Alfred has announced that the government will continue to provide psychosocial help to the staff and students of the Warner Primary School following the abduction of Kernisha Etienne, a student of that learning institution.
- The Annual Feast of St. Anthony is celebrated in Toucari and Cottage. St Anthony patron saint of lost people and lost things. The sermon is based on Luke, Chapter 10: and missing Kernisha Etienne.

## Tuesday, June 14

- Tuesday, June 14, marked one week, 7 days, (168 hours) since Kernisha's abduction.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

### Wednesday, June 15

- Prime Minister calls on citizens to focus on the safe return of Kernisha and not be sidetracked by misleading Information.

### Thursday, June 16

- Our walk with the Clergy hosts a pilgrimage from Warner at 6:00am and ends at the Blessed Peter Donders Chapel in Belles. Church faithful led by Catholic clergymen, walk from Pont Casse to Belles.
- Following ten days of largely a clueless search, Alexander was spotted by citizens “on the West coast of the island,” But despite the efforts of the citizens to attempt to apprehend him, he manages to escape. The abducted child was not with him.

### Friday, June 17

- The search and rescue operation continues

### Saturday, June 18

- Kian Alexander, wanted by police for questioning on attempted murder and charges, was cornered in Clark Hall, Layou area.
- According to the Deputy, Police Chief, Lincoln Corbette, at about 3:15 pm on the 18th of June, 2022, while searching in the Brookhill Estate, a police patrol team encountered Kian armed with a cutlass about three feet long. The police attempted to apprehend him, when he charged at the police with the cutlass. Alexander was shot and died from his injuries. Corbette said, “During that time, he said certain things to the

## Welcome to my blog

police as to the possible whereabouts of Kernisha Etienne." Kernisha was not with him and remains missing.

●The Girl Guides Association of Dominica, parents, and supporters walk the street of Roseau to raise awareness of the prevalence of sexual abuse of children in society.

## Sunday, June 19

●Statement by Deputy Commissioner of Police in Dominica, Lincoln Corbette on the capture, and subsequent demise of the wanted man, Kian Alexander. Issued, on the evening of June 18, 2022.

## Monday, June 20

●Police intensify the search in Warner for missing Kernisha based on Alexander's alledged dying declaration.

## Tuesday, June 21

●Today marks two weeks, or 14 days, (336 hours) since the abduction of 12-year-old, Kernisha Etienne of Warner.

**BRING KERNISHA HOME!**

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

FAILED SEARCH TO RESCUE KIDNAPPED GIRL PROMPTS CALLS FOR INQUIRY |  
June 23, 2022



Above: (l-r) Prime Minister, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit; Deputy Chief of Police, Lincoln Corbette, and National Security Minister, Rayburn Blackmore at the Command Center, Warner, June 10, 2022.

**With the search and rescue operation to find the kidnapped, 12-year-old, girl from Warner, Kernisha Etienne, now officially hitting its 16th day, concerned citizens are feeling abandoned by the authorities.**

The hunt for Dominica's most-wanted-man, came to an end on Saturday when he was finally cornered by a search party in the Layou area. Unfortunately, allegedly Alexander succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained during the stand-off when according to CDPF, Deputy Police Chief, Lincoln Corbette in a pre-recorded statement said that the Alexander charged at the police bearing a three-foot cutlass when he was shot in the legs.

## Welcome to my blog

Kernisha Etienne, the minor whom he had grabbed from her home on the night of June 7th, was not with him. Corbette in his statement said that despite receiving first aid, Alexander before he expired, disclosed possible information on the whereabouts of Kernisha Etienne.

Whatever information Alexander is purported to have told the police has not yielded any results. And little Kernisha remains unaccounted for.

## Call for Commission of Inquiry

This has led to calls from the national Joint Action Movement (NJAM) for Dominicans to support a demand for an ‘Investigation into police handling of Kernisha Ettienne’s abduction and death of Keyan Alexander.’

“The nation has been subjected to almost ninety-six hours of total silence from the police, the Minister of National Security, and the Government of Dominica on the circumstances which lead to the death of Kian Alexander, presumably the only person who had information on the whereabouts of the child, and how they intend to continue the search and rescue efforts for the child,” a section from the statement issued yesterday said, adding, “NJAM has deemed “totally unacceptable”, what it says is the deafening silence of the police and the government of Dominica and as a result, the organization is demanding that the authorities inform the nation of the current situation with regard to the missing child and what could have led to the death of Keyan Alexander, “when it was public knowledge and understanding that he had to be apprehended alive, thereby assisting to confirm the whereabouts of the twelve-year-old child, Kernisha Etienne.”

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

### The whole truth

It would be in the interest of the Prime Minister to break the silence and address the nation on this matter. On June 10th he said that he was taking over the search and rescue operation to look for the girl. And the police gave the assurance that as far as, possible, that the abductor, Kian Alexander would be brought in for questioning, alive so that he could be questioned on the whereabouts of the 12-year-old girl that he kidnapped. According to the Deputy Chief of Police, Lincoln Corbette, “During that time, he said certain things to the police as to the possible whereabouts of Kernisha Etienne.” that was on Saturday.

Up till press time, as far as I am aware, Kernisha Etienne has not been found. The police must take responsibility for not finding the kidnapper within the first 60 minutes since the alert was raised when she was grabbed and taken to parts unknown by the abductor. And they have failed us, the families concerned, and the general population by extension again, by shooting dead the only person that could tell the police what he has done with the girl, or his side of the story. The utter silence from Prime Minister Skerrit in light of the recent developments is unacceptable. Unless the police are continuing to search with credible leads, unless there is some divine intervention and a miracle is manifested that even at this late hour we can find the girl alive or evidence to the contrary, we most likely will never know what has happened to poor Kernisha. Even as I am writing this comment, Emonews is streaming a Sacrificial Prayer service at the Warner Primary School.

The people are hurting. If the Prime minister is reading this message, or one of his disciples can make sure this message gets to him, I implore him to do the right thing and bring the persons responsible for this objectional failure to account. Or take responsibility himself.

## Welcome to my blog

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## ALBERT WILLIAMS

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Welcome to my blog

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**MISSING!**

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

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Welcome to my blog

# THE LAST PAGE | Saying goodbye to librarian and author, Judith Baptiste... | June 24, 2022



## ALBERT WILLIAMS

I'll always remember Mrs. Baptiste as the face of the public library until she retired. From as far as I can remember, as a frequent user of the public library, a practice that stayed with me all the years I lived in Dominica, I recall Mrs. Baptiste as a very warm and cheerful Library Assistant of that historic, venerable institution.

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### The Public Library

Her commitment to her job was very self-evident. She was the first member of the Staff to greet you, to stamp your returned books; and the last member of staff to stamp your books out for another two weeks. She was your first point of contact in the library.

In the year 2022, in the year of Our Lord, The Public Library building, on Victoria Street, Roseau is no longer in use. It sits like a lonely old, abandoned person, now storm-ravaged from that devastating Hurricane Maria of 2017, and mysteriously set alight by arsonists on more than one occasion. If the current stewards did not have the resources to make the refurbishments, I could understand.

According to Dominica News Online, “The Dominica Library and Information Service is reporting a loss of about \$1.7 million in the book loss following the passage of Hurricane Maria.” Public library services have since been diverted to the National Documentation Center. In May of this year, the Ministry of Public Works And The Digital Economy announced an architect competition for the design of the new Dominica National Library. Construction of the winning design was

## Welcome to my blog

expected to commence this quarter and is expected to finish by early 2023 say MMC Development Ltd.

Meanwhile, the 117-year-old, Carnegie building is no longer in use. No longer are there knowledge-seeking, patrons from all walks of life: school children, researchers, ordinary housewives, or clerics just visiting to browse books and magazines gracing its floorboards. Or sitting on the grounds to admire the picturesque rugged Dominica shoreline of the quaint villages of Loubiere, Point Micheal, and Soufriere in the distance.

Scotts Head, which appears to be floating above the horizon, is in the distant point of view, is a village on the southwest coast of Dominica, in the parish of Saint Mark Parish. It is a tiny village that shares its name with the Caribbean's only tied island, "a small peninsula with a rising headland that extends westward from the village at Dominica's southwest tip," and that gets its name after "Colonel George Scott, who had served in the British invasion force that captured Dominica from the French in 1761". It is also the site of the ruins of an old fort. Scotts Head juts out as it has for centuries. That perfect lookout across the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean sea. High, green, mountain mastiffs: Morne Anglais and Morne Plat Pay, complete the background; standing broodingly in the background while the azure calm, Caribbean sea laps at the shingled beach. Behind the library is a drop of maybe a hundred and 50 feet.

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In 1954 Government took over the administration of the library under the Public Library Act No. 11 of 1954.

The Creole-styled building, designed by Administrator Bell in the “traditional Caribbean architecture” at the beginning of the Edwardian Era, was comprised of the main hall, sectioned with tall shelves of a wide catalog of reading material; a quiet reading room, a reference section, offices, and a storage basement. The latticed railing encircled the one-story edifice, wrapped by wide verandahs, set atop a cliff on Victoria street once part of a larger scenic spot. Next door is the Fort Young Hotel built into the ruins of an 18th-century fort built by the British in the 1700s.

## Welcome to my blog

It is evident that Queen Victoria (1819 – 1901) was deeply admired by colonists during her reign. Not only is the Victoria Memorial Library named after her, commemorating the memory of the late Queen Victoria, but the very street on which it is built is named after her. Moreover, the remnants of the old cast-iron Victorian drinking fountain, which stands on an ancient well, and today is a feature of the old Market square, was erected in 1872 to celebrate the introduction of piped water from La Riviere Douce in the Roseau Valley, is named after her. The 165 ft waterfall that tumbles down into the White River in Delices, is also named in her honor.

The Public Library (formerly the Carnegie Library) was a gift from the Scottish-American millionaire philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, at the behest of Dominica's Administrator, Sir Henry Hesketh Bell in 1905. Carnegie, “one of the richest Americans in history.” He made his wealth from the American Steel industry, and upon retirement, “Carnegie devoted the remainder of his life to large-scale philanthropy, with special emphasis on local libraries, world peace, education, and scientific research.” Dominica is one of 6 islands in the Caribbean that are recipients of libraries funded by Carnegie endowments. He funded over 2500 worldwide. According to Dominica’s most renowned historian, Dr. Lennox Honychurch, “Dominica’s Library and Information Service had its beginnings with Reading Rooms which were started on the island here in 1843.”

A scene from the 1990, Channel 4, tv-series, adaptation of The Orchid House, based on the 1954 semi-autobiographical novel, written by white Creole, Dominican, Phyllis Shand Allfrey, was filmed on location here. In 2012, Carolyn B of Brisbane, Australia, remarked on Trip advisor of the Public Library wrote, “Helpful librarians, amazing

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

breadth and depth of collections. Be sure to ask to look in the West Indies section of the reference section. There are many incredible local authors. You might even meet some at the library.”

For decades, the library served as an office; somewhere where I could do research in the West Indian section for the works of Caribbean authors, my findings I would share on the Guild’s twice-weekly radio program on Kairi FM. It was a place where I could write my handwritten drafts for submissions to local newspapers, or make last-minute changes to my script for Review, our radio program, or other assignments. It was a place where photocopying services were available. And that is where I began to systematically, photocopy every newspaper article that I wrote or which mentioned my name into an archive file. A practice that continues to this day, albeit with more modern ways of manipulating data. And there were certainly no smartphones, with access to unlimited libraries of knowledge back then.

Perhaps my first memorable interaction with Mrs. Baptiste was during my teens, while still at the Dominica Grammar School. I once selected a book by German philosopher Immanuel Kant titled Critique of Pure Reason. I was curious about logic and algebra, and what was meant by ethics. In Critique of Pure Reason, Kant spends considerable space explaining and expanding on the concepts of ‘A Priori and ‘*a posteriori* ‘ which basically means from within or from without.

Mrs. Baptiste looked at me, and she suggested that I read another publication. I don’t know why, but I stood my ground, and as it was my practice, renewed my loan over and over until I had finished reading it. Apart from that my memories of Mrs. Baptiste at the library were always one of helpfulness and dedication. I was a regular user of the library throughout the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. The internet was not yet

## Welcome to my blog

invented, and if one could not afford to purchase the books and the magazines that one wanted to self-educate one's self with, one borrowed books from the library, held discussion marathons with peers, and listened to the radio. It was a different world back then.

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### A lovely family

Away from the library, I grew to know both the late Judith Baptiste and her late husband, Thomas Baptiste of Newtown quite well. One of her daughters, Debbie, and I were friends and students at the Dominica Grammar School, and I have also brushed shoulders with other boys in the family. What a lovely couple and family, Her husband, who was more popularly known as Tom Baptiste, was a former cricket umpire and national sportsman who represented Dominica in both cricket and football. In later life, he became a long-serving officer of the Roseau Town Council.

I particularly remember Mr. Baptiste as a regular contributor to the Chronicle, and as a sports commentator, along with the likes of Reginald St. Havis Shillingford, Ossie Walsh, and others who for many years were hosts of a weekly sports radio program on Radio Dominica and later DBS Radio when the station moved up its frequency from 590 AM to 595 AM. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, another emerging Dominican historian writing about Thomas Baptiste following his demise in 2010 wrote that “Baptiste was an avid sportsman and devoted his life to the development of sports in Dominica.”

Former journalist, Steinberg Henry, writing in his 2014 publication, *Calypso Drift*, recalls that Thomas Baptiste also served on the Committee for National Salvation, alongside, Mary Eugenia Charles, Pierre Charles, Athie Martin, Brian Alleyne, Alvin Armatrading,

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Bernard Wilshire and Catholic priest Francis Huysmans, Norman Rolle, Egbert Germaine, Gabriel Christian, Rosie Douglas, Norris Charles, Anthoney Joseph, Charles Maynard and others in the wake of the May 29, 1979, civil uprising that forced Patrick John out of office (Steinberg, S (2014) pg 179)

Meanwhile, The Dominica Sun newspaper in a 2012 tribute article for famous Dominican cricketer, Tom Lafond (1947-2012), wrote in reference to Mr. Baptise, “As if that was not enough, he took on cricket commentary giving further evidence of his ability to become a voice of cricket in the category of a Jeff Charles, Harvis Shillingford, Thomas Baptiste, and Ossie Lewis.”

In our early teens, it would not be unusual, in the Windsor Park or the Botanic Gardens (Station), if we were not actively engaged in a game of cricket or football, to find us, youngsters, just sitting on the stands listening to Tom Baptiste, Ossie Walsh and perhaps Reginald St. Havis Shillingford or whoever talking about whatever what was in vogue at the time.

The Gardens have always been a talking point for European seafaring travelers since the 18th century. and are a favorite place for many residents of Roseau or visitors to simply sit under a tree or picnic on the grass enjoying the cooler breeze gushing down from the valley. Many-a cricket match has been played there, as well as National Day and Independence day rallies. And to think that the Gardens is open free to the public day and night. The Botanic Gardens, like the public library, are privileges we so take for granted.

But perhaps the strongest memory I have of Mr. Baptiste is of sometime around 1980 to 1981, I was introduced formerly to Mr. Baptiste by my friend, Errol Thomas. We were trying to get a musical

## Welcome to my blog

group off the ground. The name of the band was The Living Word. It was a reggae group and practiced mostly songs written by me, such as *Honourable Natty Dread* and *I time is up*. Somehow, we got round to talking about a contact he said he had in England that may be able to help us. He asked Simon, a former solider in the Dominica Defence Force, now a photographer, to take some photos of us, and asked us to prepare a cassette tape of some of our songs to send up for this agent.

After some time, Mr. Baptiste told us that the gentleman said that there were too many of us in the group, well there were maybe close to 8 or more of all dreadlocked. Anyway in 1982, when I told Baptiste that I was working on a book of Poetry, he suggested that the 'book be credited to the band.

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## Caribbean viewpoint

I will always remember too, Mrs. Baptiste as a keen member of the Dominica Writers Guild (DWG) in the 1990s. Between 1982 and 1992, the DWG had a close working relationship with not only the Division of Culture but with the Public Library itself. The Guild was formed in 1982 by head Teacher of the DGS Anthony Lockhart, and English teacher, Arundel Thomas. In 1977, while I was still at the DGS, Lockhart, and Thomas co-wrote an anthology of short stories called *Two Heads*.

In 1982, I published my own pamphlet of poems Honorable Natty Dread, a slim volume of ten poems that prompted researcher and biographer, Irving Andre in his 1999 and 2021 editions of *Distant Voices* to write "Williams was partly responsible for the resurgence of interest in poetry in that decade." (Andre (1999) pg 264; Andre (2021) pg 289.)

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

From 1982 to 1985 dozens of new poets made their debut as published poets. The membership of the Guild continued to grow, and in 1985, I published my second anthology of poems. *One Dominica Odes for I Beloved*. That year the DWG collaboration with the Youth Division to mark the International Year of the Youth. The guild under the presidency of Sobers Esprit organized the second National Poetry Festival and a book fair held on the grounds between the Public Library and the former Victoria Memorial Library building that now houses the DBS Sales Office. A highlight of the evening was the book launch of *One Dominica Odes for I beloved*, and it was carried live on DBS Radio.

“Realization of my accomplishment of having published this collection of poems. These poems are designed to enhance all Caribbean Literature Sections Catalogue but above all our own Dominican libraries.”

*Judith V. Baptiste*

The DWG and the Frontline bookstore also worked in close collaboration on literary projects, and new authors joined our ranks as the years went on, including retired librarian, Judith V Baptiste. I remember her participation in group meetings, and our radio programmes, in which she read and critiqued each other's works, and planned activities. She was one of the poets who performed during the Dominica Festival of arts DOMFESTA of July 1995 on the – VOICES OF THE POETS – at ARAWAK HOUSE OF CULTURE in which she read a few pieces of her work from her 38-page volume of poetry, Caribbean Viewpoint. Below (fig 2) is a snap of some of the female poets backstage at the Arawak before the show including Mrs. Baptiste on the extreme left. (Fig 3) shows more guild members in a pre-show briefing.

# Welcome to my blog



Backstage (l-r) Judith Baptiste, Carla Armour, Marcia Lynch, Rena Abraham, and Christobel Laronde.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

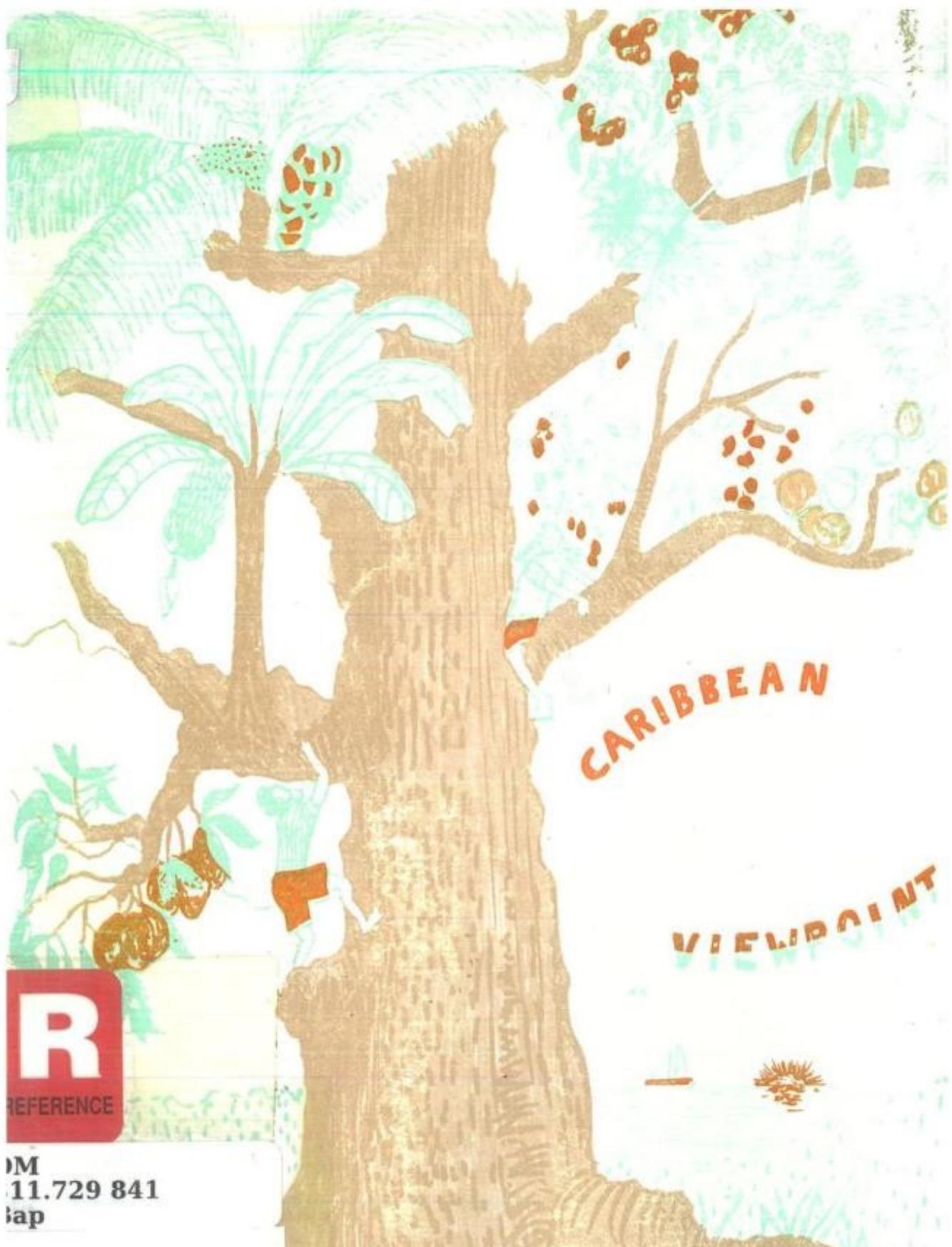


Backstage pep-talk from stage manager Marcia Lynch (L-r) Ras Albert Williams, Christabel Laronde, Carla Armour Judith Baptiste, Algernon Ducreay, Marcia Lynch, Gregory Rabess, Emanuel Prince, and the late Ras Algi

Welcome to my blog

# A celebration of her life

# ALBERT WILLIAMS



## Welcome to my blog

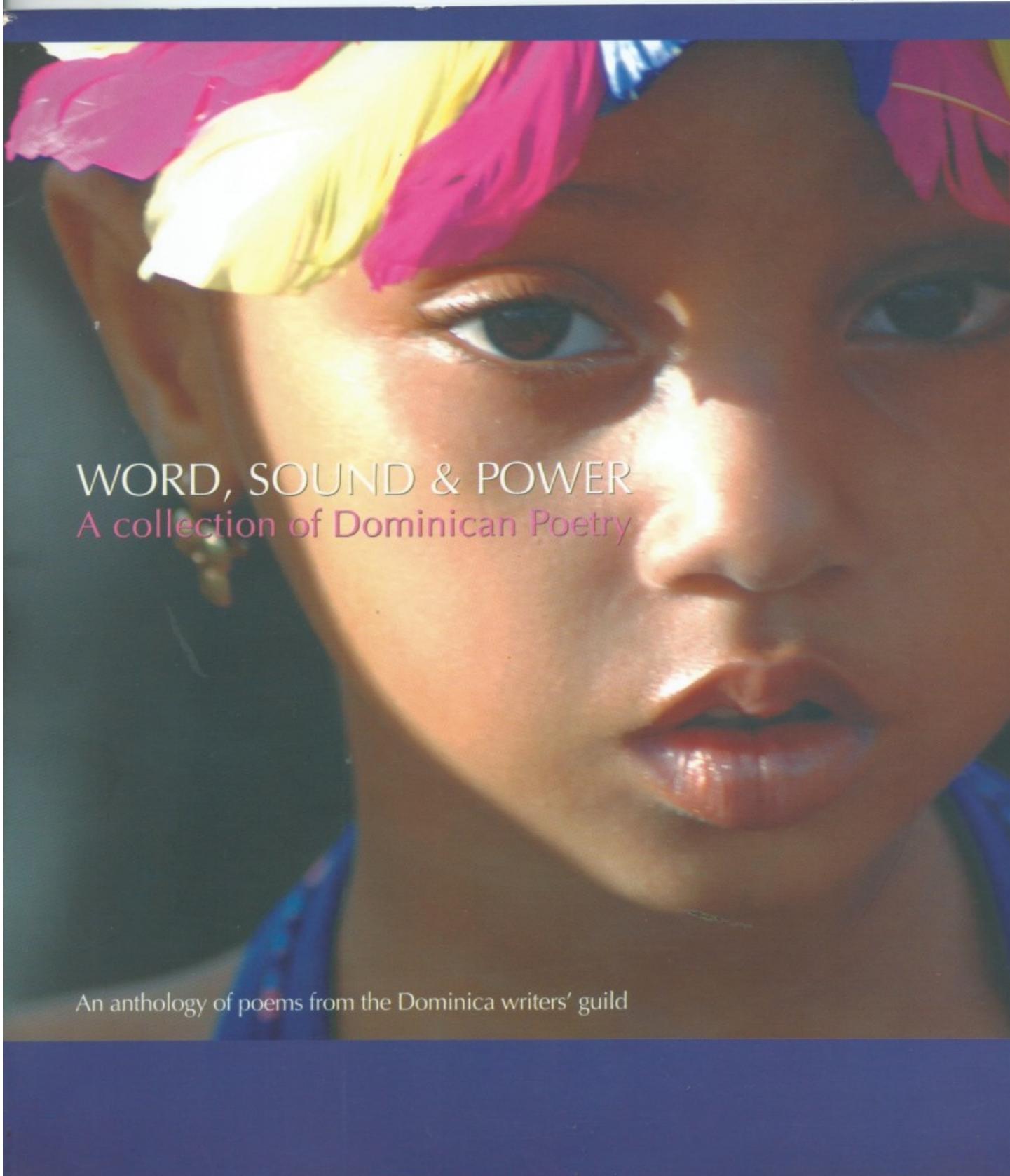
### Judith V. Baptiste.

Mrs. Baptiste regarded her collection of poems as a personal achievement. Writing in the preface of her book, she wrote, “Realization of my accomplishment of having published this collection of poems. These poems are designed to enhance all Caribbean Literature Sections Catalogue but above all our own Dominican libraries. Although my works have been recently compiled, some of the contents I hope will be easy reference to readers of History and Culture.”

She also hoped to have published short stories and stated that she enjoyed working with the future generations. Mrs. Baptiste also had a song in her soul. She wrote to her readers that the first poem in the collection was dedicated to the Library Summer School, and the piece: (*H.MS.*) *Worship in Masquerade* were in fact lyrics of songs she had composed. “My resolve is to continue short stories as well, should it meet the approval of the Writers Guild for further publications,” she said, adding, “Should this goal be met in this world of Literature, my services are offered to any organizations who are interested in working with children and adults as well.”

In 2007, Mrs. Baptiste’s poem, a moving ode to the land of her birth, *Dominica Poem*, was included, along with some 42 other poets, including myself, who had one poem featured in the 2007, Dominica Writers Guild, Venezuelan Embassy-funded anthology: WORD, SOUND & POWER A collection of Dominican Poetry, see (Fig 6)

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WORD, SOUND & POWER  
A collection of Dominican Poetry

An anthology of poems from the Dominica writers' guild

# Welcome to my blog

## DOMINICA POEM

With the help of the Almighty  
We were born in a beautiful country  
whose majesty is unsurpassed  
with splendour  
that is breathtaking in this enchanted Isle.

She lies between Guadeloupe and Martinique  
a happy healthy and fertile land  
her towering waterfall, mountain peak  
white river, valleys, springs, black sea sands.

Her lush vegetation adorns her beauty,  
seashore with moss so green  
reef's coralli grows in boundless ocean  
manifesting turtles, shellfish, fish,  
lost treasures,

Where people lie basking in  
the warmth of her sunshine  
coconut palm trees and fruits  
delicious fruit juices in variety.

Our island is bejeweled and bedecked  
with her rain forest  
her Sisserou and Crapaud  
lovely flowers, vegetables  
and ground provisions  
bananas so vital to our economy.

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Final respects

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**JUDITH V. BAPTISTE**

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I cannot overstate the profound sadness with which we have received the news of the passing of Mrs. Judith Vivian Baptiste of Castle Street, Roseau, who resided at Newtown, and who was the Widow of the late Thomas C. Baptiste.

The memories of our discussions at the library will remain with me, as well as her activities with the Dominica Writers Guild. My wife, Tempie, and I, and all former members of the Dominica Writers Guild, I am sure, extend our deepest sympathies to her children, Madame Evelina E-M. Baptiste retired Director of Public Prosecutions, The Honourable Davidson K. Baptiste, Justice of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Gordon Baptiste, a former employee of Dominica Brewery and Beverages Ltd, Deborah Baptiste, Administrator of the Benefits and Claims Department, Dominica Social Security, Thomas A. Baptiste, City Clerk, Roseau City Council, and Colin O. Baptiste lecturer. To her Granddaughter, the Honourable Chekira Lockhart-Hypolite, the Parliamentary Representative of the Roseau South Constituency, as well as to the rest of the entire home circle and friends too numerous to mention.

The Funeral Service of our dearly departed takes place today, Friday, June 24th, 2022, at the St Gerald's Cathedral Chapel, and is scheduled to begin at 3pm. Viewing will begin at 2:30pm.

Our deceased sister will then be interred at the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Long Acre, Roseau.

The matriarch joins her beloved husband, the late Thomas Baptiste in the great beyond for all eternity.

Welcome to my blog

# May They both Rest In Eternal Peace

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# ALBERT WILLIAMS

HAMPSTEAD, MORE THAN A FORMER SUGAR ESTATE | July 26, 2022



[Cover] Hampstead Beach, one of the beaches where Pirates of the Caribbean II & III were filmed, Dominica, W.I. © Hans Hillewaert

**As Dominicans prepare to commemorate 188 years of Freedom, here are a few thoughts:**

# Welcome to my blog



The Emancipation Day extravaganza at the Hampstead Estate ruins is back on the cards after the much-anticipated event was dropped from last year's celebrations at the last minute due to Covid-19 restrictions. I am heartened to see that the idea has been revisited.

Athlene Douglas-Murdock, a descendant of the late Robert Douglas, who purchased the Hampstead Estate, one of the largest estates in Dominica, in the 1940s, speaking at the this year's launch of Emancipation 2022 activities on July 1, said, "On Emancipation Day itself, the reason for the season, on Monday, the first of August, Dominica celebrates one of the most important and significant holidays of our calendar year." Mrs. Douglas-Murdock recounted that on that day, August 1st, 1834, 188 years ago, all slaves in Dominica were declared free. She called on her listeners to appreciate the historical

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significance of August Monday, and suggested that her personal view is that the August Monday should be renamed as Emancipation Day.

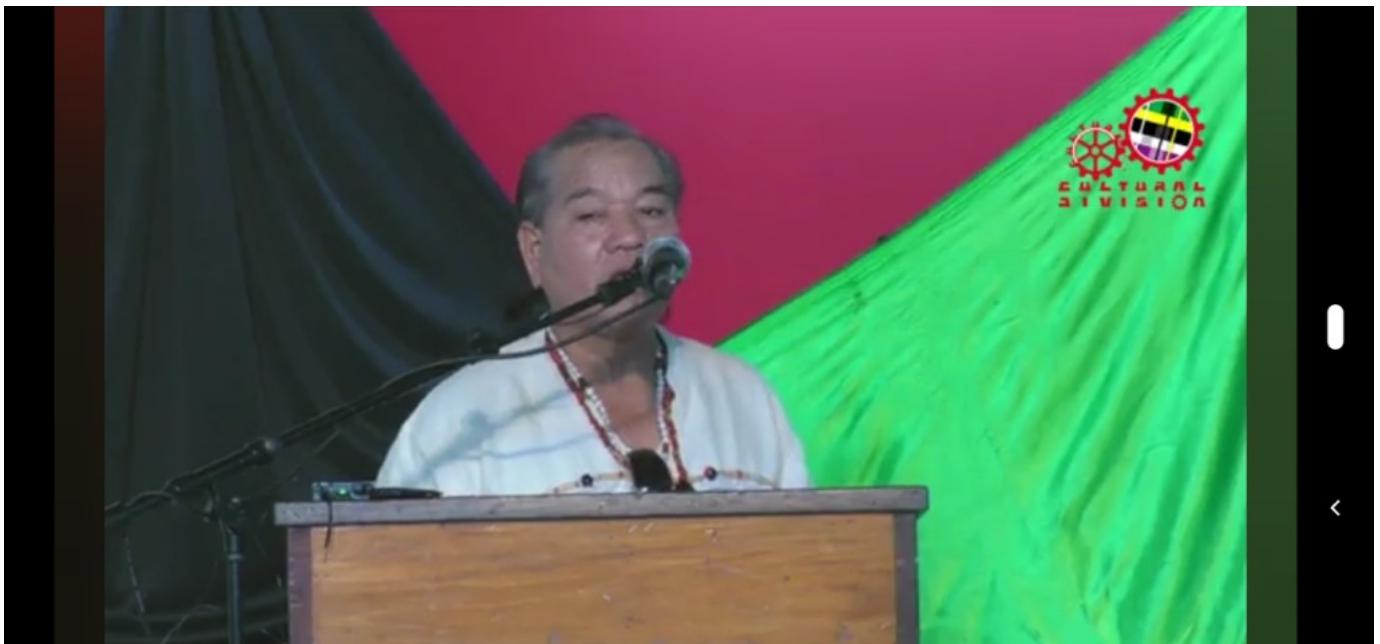
“On Monday, the first of August, Dominica celebrates one of the most important and significant holidays of our calendar year.”

*Athlene Douglas-murdock*

“On that day, Monday, first of August “she said, “we call on all Dominicans to seriously reflect on some of the historical milestones which paved the way for the freedom we enjoy today. And pay homage to the people who participated in the liberation like the Caribs, as Mr. Paris just told us,” she said, adding, “We invite you to Hampstead, an old sugar plantation, between 12 and 6, to enjoy some Spiritual, Historical, Cultural, moments together in the spirit and atmosphere of cordiality and jubilation. It will be a real education and entertainment day of fun, through exhibition, food, history, inspirational speeches and performances, the ‘works’, at the Hampstead works.”

This is an important day in our history, she said, “when we highlight the bitter/sweet trials of our past and pay homage to our heroes of a dark age which would later provide for the foundation for the transformation of the lives that we enjoy, all of us to in our beautiful island of Dominica,” she said.

## Welcome to my blog



Meantime, Cultural Elder in the Kalinago Territory, Mr. Prosper Paris, who also spoke at the event said, "On behalf of the Ministry of Kalingo Affairs, Environment, Rural Development and Kalingo Upliftment, I greet you on behalf of the Kalinago people. We are very happy that we have been included into this program, because one cannot speak Emancipation without mentioning and recognizing the contribution of the Kalinagos, our forefathers have done in the Emancipation of not only Dominica but the whole Caribbean against colonization," he said, adding, "So it is just fitting that we keep up this program with recognition of the Kalinagos in the many contributions and many aspects of resistance. Of many aspects of Culture of Dominica and the Caribbean. So we speak on a larger level." Mr. Paris told his audience that this year the launching of Emancipation 2022 coincided with the establishment of the Kalinago Territory established on the 4th of July, 1903.

"Imagine a Caribbean, a Dominica, that was once occupied by the Kalinagos, and due to colonization we were squeezing in a small

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portion of land less than 300 acres in an area where we call the Carib quarters.”

Prosper said that the extension of the Carib Quarter, an area of less than 300 acres, in 1903 to establish the Kalinago Territory, formerly, the Carib Reserve, was as a result of a bold intervention by British Administrator, Hesketh Bell. Bell he said was “sympathetic to the cause and seen enough suffering. And by reflection, he said, ‘After All, these people has fought and defended the Caribbean. They have defended the island of Waitukubuli, so writing to the Crown to ask them to extend the Kalinago Quarters, as it were, will not be a big thing to give the Kalinagos seeing that they have suffered, and now they are cornered in an area of poverty,’ he said, prompting him (Hesketh Bell) to write to the Crown to ask for an extension of the boundaries.

“But we are thankful today that,” he added, “that if it was not that bold step by Hesketh Bell at the time, maybe the dream of some of the colonizers would be achieved when they said the time will soon come when this war-like, fearless, cannibalism-type of people would once [be] liquidated into the negro society,” he said adding, “So our death-call, our ending, our liquidation was anticipated long before now. But because of the bravery, because of the continuous struggle, of the Kalinagos before and present, we are able to fit in into a national agenda where we can recognise and let the nation recognise our contribution,” he said.

“We are very happy that we have been included into this program, because one cannot speak Emancipation without mentioning and recognizing the contribution of the Kalinagos, our forefathers have done in the Emancipation of not only Dominica but the whole Caribbean against colonization”

*Cultural elder, Prosper Paris*

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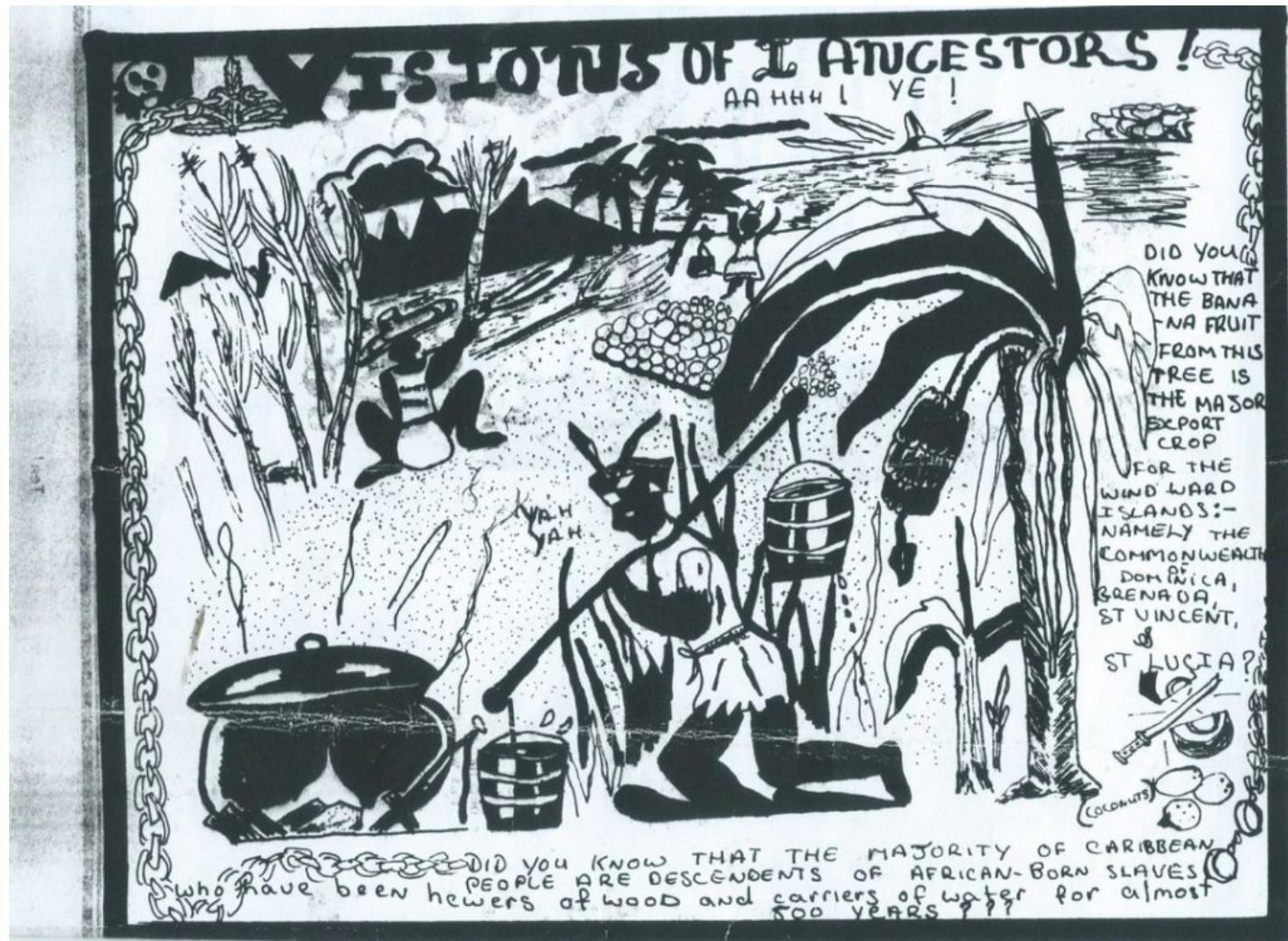
The repurposing of heritage buildings, such as the Hampstead works, is part of the handing over of one generation to another. The Hampstead estate, is a historical site, and was once the scene of so much oppression. Yet even 100 years ago white colonials could appreciate the significance of history when they and their wives and children would go up the river and hold Maroon parties, thrilled to be in the wild escapes of the hinterland. The sense of history a continuity was not lost on this colonial writer in an 1828 publication, *Sketches and recollections of the West Indies*, wrote, “Having reached the beautifully sequestered spot, which had formerly been the favourite resort of the runaways, but which now presented to our sight only a single hut, we sought for shelter and shade in the beautiful maroon house, fitted up as a place of retirement, or of amusement and pleasure, for the captain’s family and friends, when they wished to enjoy a day’s fishing or shooting,” Hampstead Estate, although maybe a shadow of its former heyday, is nevertheless, a historical, even sacred site that the blood, sweat, and tears of our ancestors bled, lived and died.

According to Neil C. Vaz in his dissertation, *Dominica’s Neg Mawon: Maroonage, Diaspora, and Trans-Atlantic Networks, 1763-1814* “In August, the worst had come to fruition for the British planters of Dominica. Just two days before Sonthonax’s declaration of freedom in Saint Domingue, “50 armed Men on the Windward of this island [Dominica], at a Bay called Battibou in the Night and went to the Nearest estate Hampstead plundered the House of everything and carried off nineteen Negroes, the rest of the Gang escaped to the woods.”

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## EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT



My father was born in Bense, and I lived in Bense, in my youth, between 1985 and 1990. There, I participate in many areas of village life. Circumstances got the better of me and I joined the band of the last few laborers who still worked on the estate. Mr. RBD Douglas was still alive and very active at the helm. He must have been in his late 80s then. We would gather at the 'works' and be broken up into groups headed by a supervisor, and assigned our tasks for the day. As

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Hampstead, was in its day, largely a sprawling coconut plantation. The fields needed weeding, holes to plant the coconut saplings needed digging in the soil, and fertilized; fallen coconuts needed to be gathered up, and their husks removed; and the husked coconuts transported back to the ‘works’ to be turned into copra.

I remember once we were digging holes to plant some coconut plants in the sandy soil with a garden fork. So I asked the supervisor, how am I able to get the sand out of the hole with a fork? And he told me, “with your hands.” I can vaguely remember too “RBD” telling me once, “You want work; look work!”

It was an eye-opening experience for me as a published author and informed my understanding of the estate culture that is so synonymous with Dominica. I had already published *Honourable Natty Dread* (1982) and *One Dominica Odes for I Beloved* (1985). Even then, no one told me that the ‘works’ covered other ruins. Just like no one told me that “a short 20-minute walk from the road beyond the village of Bense down a narrow trail to Chaudiere, where the Napier built a second home deep in the rainforest.” I guess, in that regard, not much has changed.

I remember last year I found a Youtube video that featured the Hampstead ruins. British colonists were fond of renaming areas in Dominica after English namesakes, perhaps as a means to remind them of their ancestral homes, they left 4,000 miles away to replace with the toils of establishing estates in the tropical West Indies.

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Bense, Anse De Mai, and Anse Soldat



Dominica's foremost historian, Dominican-born, Dr. Lennox Honychurch, author of the *The Dominica Story A History of the Island* writing in his book about two terrible hurricanes of 1813, and the

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intensification of the war against the Maroons in 1814 on page 118 wrote: “*In the same year, 1813, Dominica was hit by two severe hurricanes in July and August which totally destroyed Government House, the Court House, and other major buildings. It affected the life of the whole community, including the Maroons and added to this, the wide-spread action against their members intensified in 1814. In April, a chief called Clemence was brought in from the Colihaut area; in May, Hill from Woodford Hill and Robin from Hampstead. Fifteen Maroons were brought to Roseau by sloop from Rosalie. They had not bargained for traitors, and it was the Rangers — fellow negroes who knew the forests as well as the Maroons — who were the main cause for the downfall of the Negres Marrons..”*

Moreover, in a presentation at the Bense Seventh Day Adventist Church on, December 22, 2020, he gave a history of the north-eastern communities of Bense, Anse De Mai, and Anse Soldat, explained that before the arrival of the Europeans on Dominica, the Kalinago people had established settlements at Batibou which was the Kalinago name for the entire area now known as Hampstead, Anse De Mai and Anse Soldat. Anse De Mai he said got its name from the French who in the early days of French attempts to colonise the island, a certain French captain called Du Mé. and his associates carried out a brutal massacre on a Kalinago village at Anse de Mai. According to Honychurch, the Kalinago regarded the Guadeloupe and Maria Galante as part of their territory and had observed the expansion of the French to nearby Maria Galante setting up a settlements there, and at night, would raid and destroy them in an effort to deter the invaders from coming to Dominica. “And so he reacts,” said the historian, “getting people together, he comes and massacres...he kills a lot of the Kalinago who are living in Anse De Mai.” Honychurch told his captive audience that it was the French who named the sheltered beach, Anse Du Me, because he went there and committed this atrocity.

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## The British



*Ten Views in the Island of Antigua*, W. Clark, 1823, plate X.

The British took possession of Dominica in 1763, and between 1763 and 1773 John Byres was commissioned to survey the island to be sold by lots of no more than 300 acres to wealthy Englishmen who renamed the lands they bought after English towns and interests. Batibou became Hampstead, and the land was cultivated with sugar cane. Despite the intrusion of Europeans, many of the Kalinago names are to this day still used for the beaches at La Lai and Swayay.

Throughout the 18-century and a good part of the 19th-century despite the Slave Trade was being outlawed in 1807, thousands of West Africans were imported into Dominica to labour as slaves to clear the forests

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and plant the sugar cane, coffee and indigo. The early purchasers of lands named them either after themselves, or English namesakes. Hampstead was established as a sugar estate with sugar fields as far as the eye could see. Its mills to crush the ‘canes’ were powered by the Hampstead River, the ruins of which are still visible today over 200 years later. And the Batibou beach was used a landing bay where the hogsheads of granulated sugar, puncheons of molasses and rum would be transported to waiting ships for bound for Britain. An entry in the *Legacies of British Slavery* (LBS) database indicates that Hampstead Estate changed hands several times when the proprietors fell on managerial difficulties defaulting on their loans and mortgages. Many planters just sold up and left the island, or land titles would be taken over by merchant/attorney firms, such as Lockhart, Potter and Court, Vance Caldwell & Vance and Harper & Brade who sold them on to new buyers. The graphic below, extracted from the London Gazette, shows Hampstead Estate up for sale in 1787. Note the description, and the mention of 103 slaves, 21 cattle, and 6 mules.

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### F O R S A L E.

A Sugar Work Plantation called Hampstead, in the Parish of St. Andrew, in the Island of Dominica, A healthy and pleasant Situation on the Windward Coast of that Island, containing 300 Acres of Land, of which 56 Acres are fine Bottoms, 126 and half cleared Land, and 117 and half Acres in valuable Wood, which would make good Coffee Land; 103 Slaves, 21 Cattle, and 6 Mules: It has a good Shipping Place in a Bay belonging to it called Bertrand, or Battibou Bay, and a Water-Mill turned by a Canal from a River that runs through the Estate, which is conducted at a small annual Expence, as the Slaves are chiefly fed from Lands they cultivate as their own. For further Particulars enquire of John Prettijohn, Esq; in Barbadoes, or of Thomas Court, Esq; in the said Island of Dominica, and in London, of the Assignees, of Mess. Lewis Chauvet and Co. at No. 10, Old-Jewry.

THE Creditors who have proved their Debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued forth against Lewis Chauvet and Peter Turquand, late of the Old Jewry, in the City of London, Merchants and Copartners, are desired to meet their Assignees, at Batson's Coffee-House, in Cornhill, London, on the 6th of June next, at One precisely, to assent to or dissent from the Assignees proceeding to a Sale of the said Bankrupt's Interest in several Plantations in the Islands of Dominica and Grenada; and particularly to their accepting a Proposal made to them, the said Assignees, for the Purchase of the said Bankrupt's Interest in a certain Plantation in the Island of Saint Dominica, called the Hampstead Plantation, formerly the Property of Messrs. Richardson and Elder.

In 1799 the then owner, Peter Turquand fell into bankruptcy An entry at the LBS databank reads

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*“A meeting of the creditors of Lewis Chauvet and Peter Turquand bankrupts [since 1778] was called for 06/06/1799 for the creditors to agree or reject a proposal for the assignees to pursue proposals to sell the bankrupts’ interest in various estates and particularly whether to accept a proposal to the assignees to buy the bankrupts’ interest in the Hampstead estate on Dominica, formerly the property of Richardson and Elder.”*

Above is an extract from the London Gazette 15136, 21/05/1799 p. 497 provides more details of the circumstances.

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Hampstead Estate

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According to the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, “The estate shifted to cocoa and lime production and by the 20th century it had changed again to coconut and copra. The estate was owned by the McIntyre family, but in the 1930s, when the family got into financial difficulties, the government took over the management until R.B. Douglas bought it in 1946. His descendants still own the estate today.”

The late Robert Bernard Douglas, known more affectionately known as RBD, served as a member of the legislature as Member for the Northern constituency in 1954. He had 16 children with his wife Brenda. but besides legacy as a land and property owner, he left an enduring political legacy which he passed on to his sons. His first-born, Michael Douglas served as Member of Parliament for the Portsmouth constituency and a cabinet minister under the Dominica Labour Party, Patrick John-led administration in the 1970s. In 2000, his second-born, Rosie Douglas, a former Black activist of the 1960s, led the Dominica Labour Party to victory at the polls, ending 20 years in opposition, and became the country’s 5th prime minister. Today the Douglas’s are represented on Dominica’s political landscape by the son of Michael Douglas, Ian Douglas who is an attorney by profession. Currently he is serving in the cabinet of the ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) under Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit as Parliamentary Representative for the Constituency Portsmouth (Dos D’Ane, Bourne) since 2005.

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### NAMESAKE

The Hampstead estate was named after Hampstead in England by its first owner Anthony Bertrand. In old maps of Dominica, Batibou beach is named Bertrand Bay associated with lot 27, 28 and 49.

In 2006, scenes from *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest*. were filmed at ‘Batibou for Tia Dalma’s shack.

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Hampstead, its British namesake,” is known for its intellectual, liberal, artistic, musical, and literary associations. It has some of the most expensive housing in the London area. Hampstead has more millionaires within its boundaries than any other area of the United Kingdom.”

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Emancipation

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Le Roy le Rall

~~and barges and caravans  
a late late among thy numbers  
Les bateaux sont effectifs  
Les franchises les communes ont  
épartagé~~

Whereas divers persons  
divers of this mattock's nation  
and it is fit and expedient  
that all other persons  
be committed and set free  
and that a reasonable sum  
penalty or damages be imposed  
to the persons before mentioned  
to the service of such persons  
for their loss arising thereby and  
in case by being deprived of a  
reasonable time to settle differences  
and evasions it is also  
expedient that provision  
be made for the  
providing reasonable  
and sufficient time  
for the persons so  
to be committed for a  
limited period after which  
their commitment and  
evasions it is necessary that  
the laws now in force in  
the said several colonies  
should fortanwise be adapted  
to the new state and condition  
of society therein in  
such wise follow upon

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Nevertheless, Hampstead Estate, Dominica remains a “healthy and pleasant Situation on the Windward coast of this island.” There is a lot more I could add, but perhaps another time.

According to the Division of culture, the Emancipation Day extravaganza is scheduled to get on the way by 1pm on August 1st, 2022 at the Hampstead River Works Ruins in the Parish of St. Andrew, and promises cultural, spiritual and historical highlights; art and craft exhibits, musical performances, local cuisine, river bathing and more... all in the spirit and the memory of August 1st 1838. Under the Slave Compensation Act of 1837, the British government paid compensation to the planters for the loss of their property (Slaves) to the tune of £20 million. By doing so, the British government purchased the complete freedom, without apprenticeship of nearly 800,000 enslaved Africans and their descendants in the West Indies who were finally Emancipated when the British parliament passed the *Slavery Abolition Act*, outlawing the owning, buying, and selling of humans as property throughout its colonies around the world.

Emancipation Day is a public holiday in Dominica.

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### Further reading

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## Welcome to my blog

Hesketh Bell's Report on the Kalinago | July 31, 2022

[Cover] A Family of Carib natives drawn from life, by Agostino Brunias, c. 1765 – 1770s

Henry Hesketh Bell was made administrator of Dominica in 1898 at age 34. During this time he was responsible for a number of changes to the island including, allocating land for the Kalinago People who had long been displaced since the Europeans began to settle.

[Disclaimer] Reposted from Avirtualdominica.com with illustrations added by Albert Williams Reporting. This text was written in the early 20th-century, and reflects the language and social attitudes of the colonial and postcolonial era. References to the Kalinagos as 'savages' and 'Caribs', and references to 'cannibalism' and other content may be offensive to some 21st-century readers

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## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Report on the Caribs of Dominica, by Henry Hesketh Bell. Colonial Report No. 21 — Dominica, 29 July 1902.



Government House

Dominica,  
29th July, 1902

Sir,

On more than one occasion you have expressed a desire to be informed as to the present condition of the Caribs of Dominica, and I now venture to submit the following report upon the last surviving remnant of these West Indian aborigines.

## Welcome to my blog

I trust I may not be considered to be overstepping the bounds of an official despatch if I preface my description of the Caribs, as they are to-day, by short sketch of such meagre items of their history as are still available.

Cuba, San Domingo, Jamaica, and the other larger islands in the West Indies, appear to have been inhabited, at the time of their discovery, by a mild and timid race, generally called Arouagues by Labat, Du Tetre and other French historians of the 17th century. The smaller islands, stretching from St. Thomas to Tobago, seem, on the contrary, to have been peopled, at that period, by a warlike and indomitable race of savages, collectively known as "Charaibes" or "Caribs," who heroically resisted every attempt at colonization on the part of European intruders, and preferred death to the withering slavery that became the fate of the natives of the larger islands. So stubborn was the resistance offered by these dauntless savages that settlements in the places held by them were not effected until long after the other islands had become flourishing plantation and civilized communities.

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Dominica's first Cro

wn Colony Administrator, Sir Henry Hesketh Joudou Bell, GCMG by  
Elliott & Fry, 1922 © National Portrait Gallery, London

*The origin of these “Caribs” has been the subject of considerable speculation. Local traditions assert that the primitive inhabitants of the smaller islands, like those of the larger Antilles, were tribes of the great “Arrowak” or “Arouague” nation and that, at some period which cannot now be ascertained, the Caribs arrived in fleets of canoes from unknown parts, and over-ran the Leeward and Windward groups. They transmitted to their daughters the Arouague language, which thenceforward became a dialect peculiar to the females, while the sons spoke only the language of their Carib fathers.*

## Welcome to my blog

*Some writers have inclined to the belief that the invaders came from the north, while others have favoured the theory that they issued from South America. Be that as it may, the Carib type, even in the remnant that survives to-day, shows an unmistakably Mongolian character and it would be hard to distinguish a Carib infant from a Chinese or Tartar child. They have the same straight, coarse, blue-black hair, oblique eyes, prominent cheek bones, and rather flat noses, while the colour of the true Carib is so light a copper as to be almost yellow. It is an interesting fact that some 20 years ago, a Chinaman who, haphazard, found his way to Dominica drifted to the Carib Reserve. He declared that they were his own people and married one of the women of pure-breed. By her, he has had three daughters, and while they are, presumably, half-Chinese, half-Carib, they show no variation whatever from the type of the other pure-bred natives in the Reserve.*

*The advent of the Caribs in the Lesser Antilles cannot have happened many centuries before the appearance of Europeans on the scene, because even though the original Arouague had completely disappeared from these islands when Columbus discovered them, still the Carib population was very small and much scattered. They do not appear to have had any very large settlements anywhere, and it was rare to find a "Carbet" of more than 20 to 30 huts. Their villages were always on the seashore, and then they seem to have only penetrated into the mountains and valleys of the interior when in search of birds and small game, which they killed with bows and arrows. Fish was their principal food, and the skill displayed by them in the management of their frail canoes especially attracted admiration of European travellers. In these narrow barks, fashioned out a single log of the Gommier tree, the Carib did not fear to race the open Atlantic, and they appear to have thought little of venturing as far south as the Spanish Main, and as far north as San Domingo in quest of victims for their cannibal feasts.*

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

*Stedman T. II. Tav. IV.*



## Welcome to my blog

*The characteristic which most keenly attracted early travellers among the Caribs was their remarkable passion for human flesh. It appears that they rarely consumed members of their own tribe, and, in order to satisfy their craving, they would put to sea in their frail dug-outs and paddle hundreds of miles in quest of the Arrowak who still survived in the greater islands of the north and south and on the mainland. Peter Martyr learnt from the interpreters that the Caribs ruled over many of the neighbouring islands; that they cruised in large canoes, harassed the peaceable inhabitants, ate the men, carried off the women, “emasculated the boys whom they seized, and those who were born of their captives, fed them fat, and, at their festivals, devoured them. When the men go forth of the land a man-hunting, the women manfully defend their coasts against such as attempt to invade them.” It is believed that De Foe placed the scene of his inimitable tale Tobago, and that the mild “Man Friday” was one of a hapless lot of Arrowaks whom a party of Caribs from Guadeloupe or Dominica had captured on the Spanish Main, and were carrying north for the delectation of the tribe.*

*The arrival of Europeans upon the scene did not diminish the man-eating propensities of these formidable savages. On the contrary, the Spanish settlements were constantly raided from the moment they were started, and the colonists were kept in continual terror by the attacks of the “Indians”. It is probable that the Caribs of the various islands coalesced on these occasions so as to make their descents in greater force, for, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, the cannibals are stated to have “in our time violently taken out of the said island Sancti Johannis (Puerto Rico) more than 5,000 men to be eaten.”*

*Though Spaniards, Frenchmen, Dutchmen, Negroes, or Arrowaks were all meat to them, yet they seem to have shown an interesting preference to certain nationalities. Davis, for instance, in his “history of the Carribby islands,” tells us that “the Carribbeans have tasted of all the nations that frequented them, and affirm that the French are the most delicate, and the Spaniards ate hardest of digestion.” Laborde, also in one of his jaunts in St. Vincent, appears to have overtaken, on the road a communicative Carib who was beguiling the tedium of his journey by gnawing at the remains of a boiled human foot. This gentleman only ate Arrowaks. “Christians,” he said, “gave him the belly-ache.”*

*Peter Martyr gives an interesting description of a Carib homestead. “Forasmuch as have made mention of their houses, it shall not be greatly from my purpose to describe in what manner they were builded: they were made round like bells or round pavilions, the frame is raised of exceeding high trees, set close together, a fast rampired in the ground, so standing aslope and bending inward that the tops of the trees join together, and bear one against another, having also within the house certain strong and short props or posts which sustain the trees from falling. They cover them with leaves of date trees (?) and other trees strongly compact an hardened, wherewith they make them close*

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*from wind and weather. At the short posts or props within the house, they tie ropes of the cotton of gossampine trees, which grow plentifully in these islands. This cotton the Spaniards call algodon, and the Italians bombazine, and thus they sleep in hanging beds.*

*"They found also in their kitchens, man's flesh, duck's flesh and goose flesh, all in one pot, and others on the spits ready to be laid to the fire. Entering into their inner lodgings, they found faggots of the bones of men's arms and legs, which they reserve to head arrows, because they lack iron; the other bones they cast away when they have eaten the flesh. They found likewise the head of a young man, fastened to a post, and yet bleeding and drinking vessels made of skulls."*

# Welcome to my blog



*So frequent and unbearable were the descents of the Caribs on the settlements and plantations in the northern islands that, in 1547, the King of Spain gave special permission to the inhabitants of San Juan to make war upon the Caribs and to enslave them. The natives of Trinidad, Guadeloupe, Martinique (Martinino), Dominica, and Santa Cruz were specially aimed at. These islands appear to have always been the chief strongholds of the Caribs, and their mountains configuration, dense forests, and precipitous defiles doubtless afforded an impenetrable protection against any punitive expeditions that might be despatched against them. Barbados, Antigua, and the other islands or coral formation, were too open and flat to give sufficient shelter, and being untenanted by the redoubtable savages, were chosen for the first footholds of the European settlements.*

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*In spite of the united efforts of the English, Spanish, French and Dutch colonists, the war of extermination declared against the Caribs led only to indefinite conclusions. The savages seemed eager to take up the gauntlet against intruders from any part of the world, and they redoubled their attacks on the growing colonies of their enemies.*

*Without a sign of warning, their crowded canoes would suddenly round a headland and swarm into the harbour of a peaceful settlement. before the white men could fly to their arms or concert the slightest plan for defence, the crimson-painted savages, yelling like friends, would be in their midst. In an instant the town was in a blaze. Overpowered by numbers, the unfortunate traders and artisans would fall like sheep under the stone hatchets and tomahawks of the Caribs, leaving the shrieking women and children at the mercy of the captors, doomed to a horrible fate in a distant island. Maddened by rum and gorged with plunder, the savages would hasten back to their canoes with their prisoners and loot, and long before the settlers in the neighbouring plantations had been able to gather to repel the attack, the swiftly-padded canoes of the ravishers would be more specks on the horizon far beyond the reach of the rescue or revenge.*

*Gradually, however, the European settlements became strong enough to guard against such frequent recurrences of these outrages, and ruthless reprisals were made upon Caribs wherever found. They were treated like wild beasts and killed on sight. No efforts were made to take them alive, because as slaves they were valueless. The Dominica Caribs especially showed an indomitable spirit. Du Tertre gives an instance of their untamable nature. He says: "What happened to the English Governor of Montserrat shows clearly the prodigious aversion which this nation (the Caribs) have to servitude; for, on having taken some of them from Dominica, he employed all sorts of means to make them work, but it was impossible for him to subdue them, for though he loaded them with heavy chains to prevent their running away, they nevertheless dragged them to the seaside, to seize any canoe or to look out for some pirogue of their nation, to carry them back to their homes; so that seeing their obstinacy, he had their eyes put out; but this rigour availed him nothing, for they preferred being left to die of grief and hunger to living as slaves."*

## Welcome to my blog



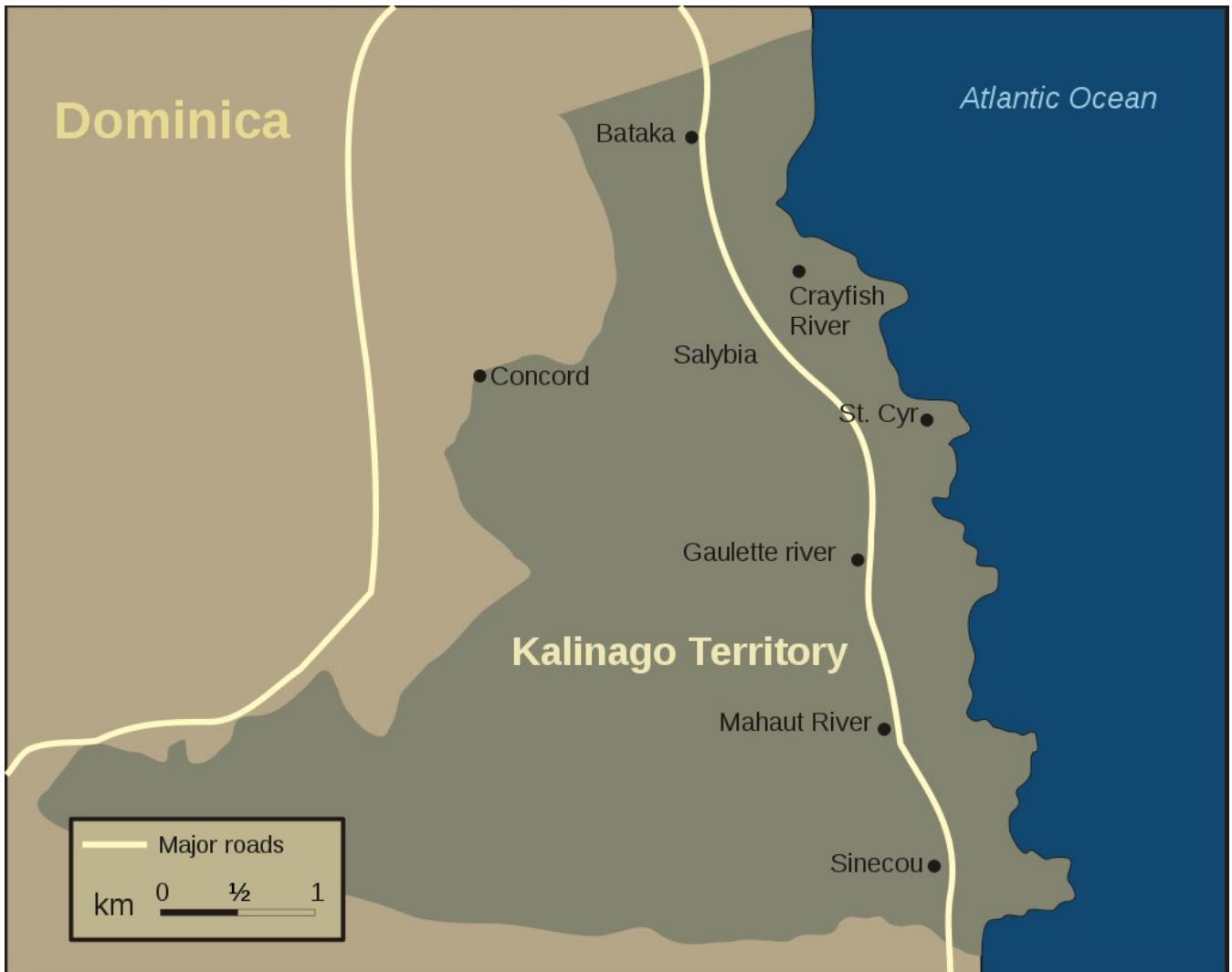
213. TWO WOMEN AND A CHILD OF DOMINICA  
Showing various degrees of intermixture between Carib, Frenchman, and Negro

*A century of peaceful avocations has completely metamorphosed the Carib. Instead of a bloodthirsty, man-eating savage, he is now as law-abiding and mild a subject as any the King has. He no longer paints crimson circles of noucou round his eyes and stripes of black and white over his body, but—and I state it with sorrow—on high days and holidays, he wears a tall hat and a black coat. His Zemis have been scattered among the collections of curios, and instead of yelling round a sacrificial stone, the Carib of to-day goes to confession to the parish priest, and tells his beads with edifying fervour. The picturesque abode depicted by Peter Martyr, where faggots of human bones represented most of the furniture, and a bleeding head hung on a post like a picture, has been replaced by the less romantic, if more comfortable, shingled cabin. The Carib has even lost the art of making the Algodon hammocks for which the world owes a debt of gratitude to his forebears. He sleeps on a bed, like anyone else, and he must be poor indeed if his little shanty contain not at least a couple of chairs and a table. The stone implements, with which in the old days he used to brain an adversary or hollow out his canoe, have long been replaced by the hoe and the axe from Birmingham, while the beautifully sharpened celts that once caused him so much labour to fashion are now only found hap-hazard under some inches of earth, and are greedily snapped up by the neighbouring Negroes as “thunderstones,” accounted passing good for the concoction of “medicine.”*

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*The hundred years of peace and protection have arrested almost att the last gasp, the extinction of this interesting remnant of one of the world's races. The 20 or 30 families reported at the beginning of the century are still with us to-day, if we count only the Caribs of pure breed, while att the last census, the returns showed, as the population of the Reserve, nearly 400, who claimed to be Caribs. It is to be regretted, from an ethnological point of view, that the breed is suffering much from the admixture of Negro blood. Out of the 400 who are settled on the reserve, I doubt whether more than 120 are full-blooded Caribs, and these undoubtedly the last survivors of their race in the West Indies. the so-called Caribs of St. Vincent are much more akin to Negroes than to their original types, and so early did the fusion between the St. Vincent natives and the Negroes begin, that, even two centuries ago, they were known as the "Black Caribs" in contradistinction to the "Red" or pure-bred savages of Dominica and Guadeloupe. There were never two separate colours of Caribs in the lesser Antilles, as has been stated, and the Negro admixture of the St. Vincent people is proved in Southey's History of the West Indies by the fact that when the French emissaries, in 1772, tried to rouse the St. Vincent Caribs to an outbreak against the English, they told them that, "as they were mostly descended from a cargo of slaves bound in an English ship to Barbados, but wrecked at St. Vincent, the heir of the owner had obtained an order to sell them as his property."*

# Welcome to my blog



**Map of Kalinago Territory on the Island of Dominica** Some 3,000 Kalinago live within Kalinago Territory, which stretches for almost 15 km along Dominica's northeastern coast. A paved coastal highway links the territory's eight hamlets: Bataka, Crayfish River, Salybia, St. Cyr, Gaulette River, Mahaut River, Sinecou and Concord. © Hans Hillewaert

*When I visited the Carib settlement a short time ago, I found 78 children in the school that had just been established there. Of these, I was able to pick out 26 who appeared to be of pure blood. These children all had extremely bright and intelligent expressions and many of them, in spite of their oblique eyes, were very pretty. Their hair, though very straight and rather coarse, was of a beautiful blue-black. In complexion they varied from brown to a pinfish yellow, and, judging by these specimens, the original Carib must have been a very handsome race. These little children showed remarkable intelligence. Though the school had only been opened a few weeks, some of the little*

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*ones, who could not have been more remarkable, as not one of them could speak a word of English.*

# Welcome to my blog

## A Caribbean Vocabulary.

### A CARIBBIAN VOCABULARY.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

We said elsewhere, that the Men and Women among the Caribbeans use several words to express the same thing, so that the Men have a term peculiar to themselves, and the Women another to them. Those words therefore of this Vocabulary, after which the letter M. is set, are such as are properly used by the Men: And those which have a W after them, are the proper terms of the Women. The accent denotes the syllable to be pronounced long. Note also that ch is every where to be pronounced like sh in the Caribbean words.

#### I. The PARTS of MAN'S Bodie.

MY Body, Nókobou.  
Fat, Takellé.  
My skin, Nora. This signifies generally whatsoever serves for a covering.  
My bones, Nabo. This signifies also a gristle, and the tender sprig of a Plant.  
The Caribbeans make no distinction between the Veins and the Nerves, and they express both by the word Nillagra, which signifies my Nerves or my Veins; as Lillagra, his Nerves or his Veins. By the same name they also call the roots of trees.  
My blond, Nitta. M. Nimoina-

My head, Nicheucke.  
My Eyes, Nakou.  
The ball of my eye, Nakou-uke, that is properly, the kernel of my Eye.  
My eye-lid, Nakou-ora, that is, the skin of my eye.  
My Eye-brow, Nichicouchi, properly a piece of my Eye.  
The hair of the Eyelids, Nakou-iou, properly the hair of the Eye.  
My forehead, Nérébé.  
My face, Nichibou.  
My Nose, Nichiri.  
My mouth, Niouma.  
My lip, Nioumarou.  
My tooth, Nari.  
My cheek-teeth, Nackeuke.  
My jaws, Nari-aregrick, properly, that which is next to

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*The Carib language is practically extinct. Rochefort, in an appendix to a work that is now rare, *Histoire Naturelle et Morale des Isles Antilles del'Amerique* (Rotterdam, 1665), gives a glossary of Carib words, and judging by them the language must have been a singularly harmonious one. For instance: blood, nitta; hair, mitibouri; mouth, niouma; hand, noukabo; foot, nougouti; husband, niraiti; father, baba; wife, liani; &c. &c. A large proportion of the words are given Rochefort end in open vowels, and are remarkably mellifluous. He omits to state, however, whether the language transcribed by him was the one spoken by the Carib men or the one peculiar to women of the nation. If it be the language of the males, which they brought with them from their unknown place of origin, it would be interesting to compare the words given by Rochefort with the dialects still extant among the so-called Caribs of Guinea and the Orinoco.*

*Two or three old dames were brought to me, in one of my visits to the Carib Reserve, who were supposed to retain some knowledge of the old language, but my faith in the accuracy of their illustrations was shaken by one of them assuring me in patios that the old Carib form of salutation was "Goomorring." Generally speaking, "creole patois" is he only dialect used by the Caribs, and I found it to be French of a rather less debased character than that spoken by the Negroe inhabitants of Dominica.*

*I judged, according to the pronunciation of their name by the aborigines themselves, that the accepted spelling is phonetically faulty. The early writers seem to have been much in doubt on the point, and we find, the French authors calling the "Indians" Charaibes, Caraib, or Carribe, Carribbee, or even crab. In fact, we find even to-day among the Barbadian Negroes, who have a high opinion of themselves, a jingle to the effect that they are "neither Crab nor Creole, but true badian born." All the Caribs I have met have always pronounced the name as if it were spelt "Cribs," rhyming with scribe.*

*The Dominica Caribs are still famous for their canoes and their water-proof baskets, and the manufacture of these comprise their only industries. The long dug-out which, in the old turbulent times, brought terror to the hearts of the first settlers, remains, to-day, exactly the same in shape and character as it appeared to Columbus when he described It in his diary. The straight thick stem of the great gommier tree is always the one selected for the construction of a canoe. The bark is hacked off and the heart burnt into charcoal. heavy stones are piled into the hollow, so as to widen the sides, the ends are both sharpened, and the craft is then ready for the water. In these cranky dugouts, the Caribs venture far into the ocean on fishing expeditions, and though a turn-over may be a common occurrence, the crew, who swim like fish, speedily right their craft and take incident as a matter of course.*

## Welcome to my blog

*Fish is the staple food of the Caribs. They catch enormous quantities, but make no attempt to cure or smoke the surplus. A few of them possess a head or two of the cattle or sheep, and the usual skinny West Indian fowl is generally to be found around their cabins. in spite of the poverty of their land, they raise a sufficiency of plantations, yams, tannias, and other vegetables common to the tropics. They are excellent woodsmen, and earn such money as they require by cutting native timber and splitting shingles.*

*It is much to be regretted that, generally speaking, any cash received by them invariably finds its way to the rum shop. No licensed dealer in spirits has been allowed to run a business in the Reserve, but, when on liquor bent, a trudge of many miles will not deter the Caribs. Drink is his besetting sin, and unlike the Negro inhabitants of Dominica, a small quantity of spirits rapidly shows an effect upon him. at Christmas time they especially give way to their love for liquor. For several weeks before the festive season they set to work to manufacture the well-known "Carib baskets" for which a ready sale is always found. A certain number of the tribe are deputed to journey to Roseau with the stock and charged to return with rum and gin. A general jollification follows the receipt of the liquor, and no work is done until the supply has disappeared. I do not, however, wish to give an impression that, like his cousin in the American "Far West," the Dominican Carib is being wiped out by the curse of drink. On the contrary, circumstances over which he has no control prevent his getting hold of any abundance of intoxicating liquor, and while the inclination to excess is undoubtedly there, the opportunities for gratifying it are few and far between.*

*Politically, the Caribs are now of no account. With the exception that they are exempted from any direct taxation, they are treated exactly like other natives of the island and have the same privileges. In return for their freedom from taxation, they are required to keep in order the two miles of high road which traverse their Reserve. The Government, however, has always recognized a chief or headman of the Caribs and though he has never received any stipend or other advantage he is supposed to settle petty disputes among his people and to adjust any differences that may arise as to the cultivation of the land held in common.*

*The present chief of the Caribs is called Auguste Francois, but generally known as "Ogiste." He claims to be of pure breed, but a marked tendency to a curl in his long black hair has inspired me with suspicions on this score. The Chief's hut on the Reserve is neither better nor worse than the others. It is a wooden shanty, with a thatched roof and is crowded round by mango trees and coconut palms. When I saw it last, a gorgeous 'flamboyant' tree, in full bloom, was shedding its scarlet blossoms all over the russet thatch, and many a greater potentate than Auguste might envy him magnificent tints of this surroundings. The Chief's old wife is blind and their children seem to have all died.*

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*A little grand child alone represents the continuance of the dynasty, but unfortunately, she is more Negro than Carib, and moreover, the Salic Law prevails.*

*In spite of the peaceful air of the settlement, it is not without its “burning questions,” and the Caribs are much exercised respecting the “Bastards.” Under this uncompromising denomination, are comprised all those who not be a single pure-bred specimen left to show the true type of this interesting people. Unfortunately, the younger generation show the true type of this interesting people. Unfortunately, the younger generation show but little pride of race. The men brought Negro women into the Reserve and have married them. Many of the Caribs girls have taken Negro husbands. This process has been going on for many year, and the old Caribs see the race dying out, while the privileges in the Reserve originally accorded to them and to their ancestors are being monopolized by a mixed breed whose numbers yearly increase.*

*I will now deal with one or two matters and suggestions connected with the Caribs, which I hope may have your favourable consideration.*

*Although, for over a century, the district now occupied by the Caribs has always been officially recognized as their “Reserve,” no proper grant of the land appears to have been made to either the Chief or to any other proper representatives of the tribe. Though the paltry allotment of 232 acres, in 1750, compromised in lot 60 Byres’ plan, limits of the settlement, I can find no trace of any formal arrangement by which the Caribs were allowed to consider as their own the area now held by them. The very year after Byres had completed the survey of the island, delimiting all the blocks of land that had been sold in London, Dominica was captured by the French, and remained in their possession until 1783, when it was re-taken by the British. It is not impossible that the limits of the Carib Commonage were settled during the French, and remained in their possession until 1783, when it was re-taken by the British. It is not impossible that the limits of the Carib Commonage were settled during the French occupation, but no record of the fact can be granted, and the present boundaries of the Reserve, though generally accepted, are open to considerable doubt. There also reason to believe that neighbouring landowners have, in years past, encroached upon the area which was intended to be reserved for the Caribs, and since I have been in Dominica I have been called upon to settle several disputes as to boundaries.*

*I have, in preceding pages, reported that most of the land in the Carib reserve is of the poorest description and practically worthless. To the poverty of the soil should, I think, be ascribed to the fact that, generally speaking, these natives grow no produce save the commonest vegetables and foodstuffs, and whenever I have impressed upon them the*

## Welcome to my blog

*advisability of planting cocoa, limes and other profitable products, I have always been assured that the land in the Reserve was too arid to grow anything of the kind. some months ago, however, it was brought to my notice that a good many of the Caribs were working plots of land in a valley that appeared to be outside the northern boundary of their reserve, and that they already possessed several flourishing patches of cocoa in the locality. The matter was brought to light through Mr. Wm. Davies the owner of the adjacent plantation "Concord," who submitted an application for a block of what he described as "Crown lands adjoining his estate." Mr. "Government Officer" Robinson was sent to inspect the locality and he returned with the report that the land applied for by Mr. Davies was in the actual occupation of the Caribs and was being well cultivated by them. The Caribs, moreover, claimed that the valley does from part of their original Reserve, and they would, I believe, strenuously resist eviction.*

*It appeared to me very desirable that the limits of the Reserve should be properly and finally delimited, and I commissioned Mr. A.P. Skeat, a licensed surveyor, to survey the land held by them add to make a plan. He was instructed to follow the recognized boundaries of the Reserve and to adopt, wherever possible, streams, cliffs, and other natural landmarks. He was also authorized to include that part of the Hatton Garden Valley in which their cocoa and other plantations are situated. The land, moreover, was to march with the limits of the neighbouring estates, so as to leave no intervening narrow strips of unoccupied land.*

*Mr. Robinson, an old Government official, long resident in that district, well acquainted with the Caribs and much respected by them, was associated with Mr. Skeat in making the survey. The Carib Chief and the principal men of the tribe were also consulted, and the proposed boundaries were accepted by them as very satisfactory. They also expressed much gratitude for the proposed liberality of the Government.*

*I attach hereto the plan of the survey made by Mr. Skeat. It will be seen that the Carib Reserve, within the boundaries now proposed will include 3,700 acres. The inclusion of the valley lands, whose ownership has hitherto been opened to doubt, will probably add three or four hundred acres to the area heretofore held by the Caribs, but I hope this suggested liberality will meet with your sanction. This surviving remnant of the race has been so badly treated in the past that a little kindness to them in the future may not be considered Quixotic. The proposed extension of the Reserve involved only the gift of Crown lands situated in a district which is not likely to attract settlers, and all proper precautions will be taken that the Crown's disposal of them is open to no counterclaim.*

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

*I will conclude by recommending to your favourable consideration the advisability of granting to he Carib Chief a small stipend. The present headman, Auguste Francois, is very poor, and has not long to live. I doubt if his subjects contribute much to his support, and I believe that an allowance of £6 a year would be gratefully received. The stipend might be paid out of the Crown Land Funds.*

*I have, & c.,  
H. Hesketh Bell,  
Administrator*

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Two women and a child of Dominica

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ALBERT WILLIAMS

# Dread Leader, Mal Esprit has transitioned | August 8, 2022



It has come to I and I attention, that Mal Esprit has transitioned. Rest in Zion, Dread. Transition well to join the ancestors: Calypso, Rosay, Victorie, Tranquille. Jacko, Balla, Juba, Zombie, Pharcell, Elephant, Jupiter, Goree Greg, Sandy, Charlotte, Marie-Rose...

“Mal was one of the most serious members of the group known as ‘The Dreads’”

# Welcome to my blog

*Ras Albert Williams*



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## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Notting Hill Carnival is back | August 29, 2022



Like figurines from a magical world, the revellers and musicians have appeared on the streets of West London, albeit for a few hours when the sons and daughters of immigrants from the West Indies reenact their ancestor's heritage taking to the streets with a gaiety that only masqueraders know how. The festival is back on the streets after a two-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic that forced governments worldwide to limited outdoor gatherings, and to put place strict restrictions: wearing of masks and social distancing in an effort to curb

## Welcome to my blog

the spread of the disease which at the time of writing according to Gov.uk has killed 205,000 persons in the UK, and 6.4 million worldwide. The legal restrictions in the UK were lifted this year on February 22 following a successful massive roll-out of a vaccination program.

## West London

But the waiting has not been in vain, the organisers, Notting Carnival Hill Ltd, the participants and their sponsors have thrown everything into the staging of this year's festivities to pull off the biggest street theater on the planet; a juggernaut of an event. West London which is the home of the Notting Hill Carnival that coincides with the British Summer weekend holiday in August. It was developed from an idea of a Trinidadian human rights activist, Claudia Jones, in 1958 who according to the Washington Post, "began organizing a gathering to unify the community after a series of racially motivated attacks on West Indians in west London's Notting Hill neighborhood."

## Carnival

Carnival, however, is more traditionally held in the two days before the season of lent, before Ash Wednesday, "a religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting" which usually falls in either February or March. Some countries that observe Carnival in February or March are Venice, Italy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Louisiana, USA, Bonaire, Curaçao, Carriacou, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique Saint-Martin, and Trinidad and Tobago, the home of ubiquitous steel pan orchestra that is synonymous with the season.

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

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Welcome to my blog

# FORMER PRIME MINISTER RECOUNTS HURRICANE HORROR | August 29, 2022

**Remembering Hurricane David August 29, 1979**

Reprinted from The Chronicle, Friday, August 29, 2003



On August 29th, 1979, the Commonwealth of Dominica, not yet a year

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### as an independent nation, was struck by one of the most vicious storms to hit land in the 20th century.

Hurricane David lashed the country with winds over 150 miles per hour, winds gusting up to 175 miles mph leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. 80% of its forests destroyed, 68,000 persons rendered homeless, over forty persons known to have been killed, and over 3000 injured. Hundreds of homes and properties lay in ruins.

No other individual is better suited to recount the effects of the worst natural disaster to occur in Dominica in recent times than, former Prime Minister, Oliver J. Seraphin. Seraphin, who was known as an ‘interim prime minister’ was formerly a member of the cabinet of Dominica Labour Party administration, under Patrick John who was ousted out from office at the heights of a constitutional crisis that saw Seraphin sworn into office on June 25, 1979. At the recommendation of the committee for National Salvation

“What is most frightening, is when we opened the back door, looking out at Morne Bruce, there was no longer the Morne Bruce that I knew. There were no houses or trees in sight.”

*O.J Seraphin former Prime Minister of Dominica*

Oliver J. Seraphin (b1943) fondly called O.J., become Dominica’s second Prime Minister. And it was under his watch that the most devastating storm in the modern history of Dominica was to hit.

I formerly wrote this article while a reporter for the Chronicle in 2003, as part of the 24th anniversary of the passage of Hurricane David. I Visited Mr Seraphin at his home in the interior of the island, and he told me that I was the first journalist to interview him since Hurricane David, and his role in Dominica’s destiny, from the political upheaval of the later part of the 1970s to the onslaught of Hurricane David.

## Welcome to my blog

What follows, is a reworking of that article that is the essence of a candid interview conducted with the unassuming, former politician, in an effort to seek his thoughts as prime minister of Dominica on that day and the months that followed.

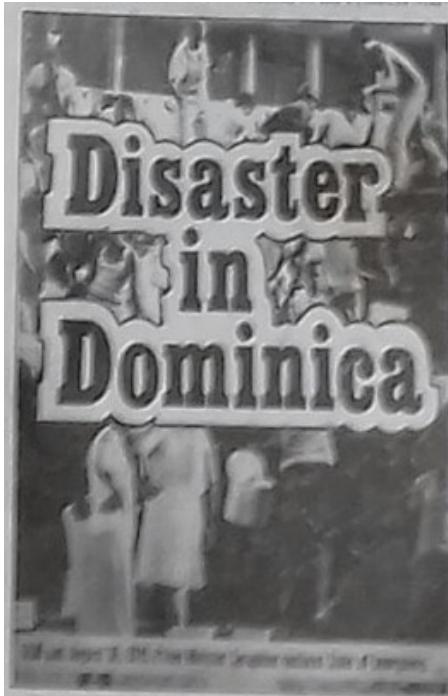
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### HURRICANE WARNING FOR DOMINICA

“The hurricane warning was more for Barbados than for Dominica,” he remembers. “The Morning when the hurricane actually struck Dominica, we had only a few hours of preparation when we found out that the hurricane had shifted its course, a few hours before it actually arrived. In the hours preceding the hurricane, we were in a state of preparedness, but nobody was quite prepared for that which took place. The Aftermath was awesome .”Seraphin recalled.

Seraphin told The Chronicle that a series of meetings had been held prior to the arrival of the hurricane at the Government Headquarters with the Commissioner of Police, the now-disbanded Dominica Defense force, and Cabinet in preparation for what they thought would be a normal storm.

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Seraphin said that he and other officials weathered the storm for six hours at President Jenner Armour's official residence at Morne Bruce. Seraphin had failed to reach his own Morne Bruce residence. When the storm had subsided, Seraphin was not prepared for what he saw. "What is most frightening, is when we opened the back door, looking out at Morne Bruce, there was no longer the Morne Bruce that I knew. There were no houses or trees in sight."

His wife had only recently given birth and Seraphin said that after seeing the destruction, he thought she was one of the victims. "The houses and the hillsides had been virtually wiped out and erased from the mountainsides so it did give me the impression that my wife could have been one of the victims," he said.

As he walked the streets after the hurricane, Seraphin said he encountered the unbelievable. "There were very houses standing, there were very few roofs still existing, and there was chaos." The hospital was destroyed and so were the government offices. He remembered how the nurses of the Princess Margaret Hospital rose to the occasion.

## Welcome to my blog

“ One of the most interesting aspects of it was the Princess Margaret Hospital. Some of the unsung heroes are the nurses who stayed back for duty because by then the hurricane had struck the roof and had virtually destabilized the life of the hospital.—drips were on the floor and the patients were on the ground,” he lamented.

### COPING

Seraphin Praised the efforts of Matron, Evadney Richards who gave yeoman service, working night and day to bring relief to persons. “Richards is yet to be officially recognized for her valiant efforts,” Seraphin said. “There were a few brave souls. We had a small group of persons who were involved with me assisting persons to reach the hospital using makeshift means of transportation and carrying them on our backs to the National Commercial Bank..”Seraphin remembered, adding, “I think one of the things that really must be mentioned, is the second floor of the National Commercial Bank was converted into a hospital. There were rugs and we got blankets from the police headquarters...and that became the hospital. A morgue had to be found for placing the dead, and there being none, we found one in the place of the Convent Prep. That Is where we actually laid down the dead bodies...found in the river Clear area. The bodies were later buried in a mass grave.,” he said.

One Bizarre moment Seraphin recalled is when he visited Moreau’s Garment Factory in Pottersville that was being used as a shelter. He had brought some food supplies to the persons sheltering there from the warehouse of Astaphans supermarket. Seraphin said while he was at Moreau’s Garment Factory, he noticed that one person was silent.“There was one person in particular who seemed not to be part of the discussion taking place. It dawned on me that this person was so silent. So I went over to this person’s bed and said, ‘why don’t you come

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

and join us!' When I lifted the sheet, there was this smashed face on a dead body! What is amazing was that [the] people all around had accepted the dead as a natural occurrence of Hurricane David because it appears that person had died from being hit by a fallen tree in the backyard of Mr. Moreau's residence," he recounted.



### A CALL FOR HELP

The Next morning, at 6:30 a.m, Prime Minister Seraphin declared a state of emergency in Dominica. The British frigate, H.M.S. Fife was the first vessel to reach the devastated island and was Dominica's first contact with the outside world. Seraphin used the ship's radio to launch an international appeal to the world: an S.O.S illustrating the damage that had been done to his beloved country. "The fact that we were about 60% or more homeless and that we were in dire need of assistance—no water, food, shelter—There was a strong need for assistance. Don't forget," he mused, "that the entire agricultural sector was razed to the ground; supermarkets, to large extent, were largely destroyed," Seraphin said his voice trembling slightly.

## Welcome to my blog

The Former prime minister remembered with gratitude the generous assistance received from donor countries and agencies that followed his appeal. “ We got aid of unimaginable description. We got assistance in such a way that persons ate and drink much more than they would have normally. Assistance came from the British, Americans, Venezuelans and the French among others,” he recalled..In September, a month later, when he attended the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, he was seated next to Cuba’s President, Fidel Castro who also assistance to Dominica. “ but of course, one of the concerns we had, was that we could not bring in Cuban military assistance when there was American military personnel on the ground. That would have created a major state of confusion in the diplomatic world,” he concluded. Instead, Seraphin decided to ask the Cuban leader to assist young Dominicans with scholarships so that they could go to Cuba to further their education.

### THE REBUILDING

Many Months after Hurricane David hit Dominica, life was slowly returning to normal. Makeshift homes slowly replaced the relief blue tents that had sprung up everywhere, and voluntarism and self-help were the order of the day. The streets were slowly being cleared of debris, the trees had begun to sprout, and fish began to reappear in the rivers. Aid continued to pour in from nations around the world. It would be a different Christmas for some, and one of the most memorable for many. According to Seraphin, citizens still received their salaries and were still entitled to rations of food and clothing or ‘brogodoh’ as the donated clothes were nicknamed. Some even received free shelter. “Most people were also receiving clothing from all parts of the world, and we received them in bales, and because we were using the Red Cross headquarters up at Turkey Lane, that is

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

where the big trucks would come and would throw the bales down, and it would make a noise like ‘brogodoh.

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Welcome to my blog

# REMEMBERING | Honourable

Edward Registe, the Parliamentary Representative for the Grand Bay Constituency |  
September 2, 2022



[Cover] Photo: [Edward Registe](#) on the campaign trail (2019) (Facebook) Updated 11:23 pm  
September 2, 2022

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

As some of you may know, the Grand Bayrian, Edward Registe; that youthful, cultural activist, social worker, politician and former Deputy Speaker in Dominica's House of Assembly, was well known to me.

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Although he wasn't a personal friend of mine, I remember interacting with him during my stint with The Chronicle as we met at the many media scrums to collect the news. At that time he was known for his deep voice on the airways at DBS, and later moved over to work as the public relations voice of the Dominica Water and sewage company, DOWASCO. I also knew of him through his many other works he did in and out of the community of Grand Bay of a wide spectrum activities. Particularly during his debate at the amendment of the drug laws. (Prevention of Misuse) (Amendment) Act 2020. In 2020 the House of Assembly debated the bill. The new legislation allowed for users to possess no more than 28 grammes of Cannabis or resin on their person or in their residence. and legitimate landowners permitted to plant no more than three(3) plants on their holdings and Persons with small marijuana convictions were to have their records expunged 28 grammes or less. Additionally persons under the age of 18 remain prohibited from possession or cultivation of the plant. (See: [Dominica Government Liberalises the Herb](#))

"today the world has woken up to the harsh truth that marijuana was never as harmful as tobacco and alcohol which remained legal."

*Ed Registe*

Welcome to my blog



# ALBERT WILLIAMS

**The late Hon. Edward Registe**

At the sitting of Parliament on 26th October, 2020, the Speaker of the House, Joseph Isaac, recognised the Honourable Registe, from Grand Bay.

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## Decriminalization advocate

With enthusiastic applause from his colleagues in the background, Registe began his contribution in support of the bill, “Mr. Speaker, this is a very sobering moment...very sobering moment”, adding, ”...this bill which is before the house is certainly timely, historic, and quite welcomed by myself and many who are users of the herb for various reasons Mr. Speaker.” Registe continued his hard-hitting, eloquent speech, replete with academic references to the history of marijuana. To a time when marijuana was not illegal. And to welcome the amendment and pointed out the various benefits decriminalization and erasing of records of persons convicted of small amounts of marijuana.

While he warned young people to not abuse the privileges of the new dispensation in regard to substance abuse, it was his remarks that make me remember his contribution on the debate overall is when he said, “Mr. Speaker, what is one spliff,” he said, “what has one spliff done to deserve this kind of treatment? Terrible, Mr Speaker, we have been making mistakes for along time and so today, today, is the day when a spliff takes its rightful place in our country and books of legislation, Mr. Speaker,” adding, “today the world has woken up to the harsh truth that marijuana was never as harmful as tobacco and alcohol which remained legal.

Registe mentioned that although many thousands of deaths can be related to the consumption of tobacco and alcohol, he said, “I drink

## Welcome to my blog

alcohol but knowing it can be responsible for death. We all have to die anyway," he said. "Marijuana consumed in moderate amounts kills no one, and that we have known for many years, Mr. Speaker," adding that the proposed legislation made for possession of about 28 grammes or an ounce of marijuana, "We are allowed to grow three trees, and allowed to possess 28 grammes or less, one ounce...that's just about an ounce...yeah...I'm right About 3 joints, 3 – 5 joints, according to how you wrap it (laughter) And you can do so...you can posses it without fear of prosecution." he said adding, " This I believe is a first step towards greater opportunities. Let us cooperate my dear people, I speak to all our people this is not a carte blanche legalisation of marijuana. This is a first step. Let us cooperate in our endeavour in harnessing the real opportunities that could be derived from marijuana in the future. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I support this motion," he said.

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Parliament of Dominica – 26th October, 2020

sitting of

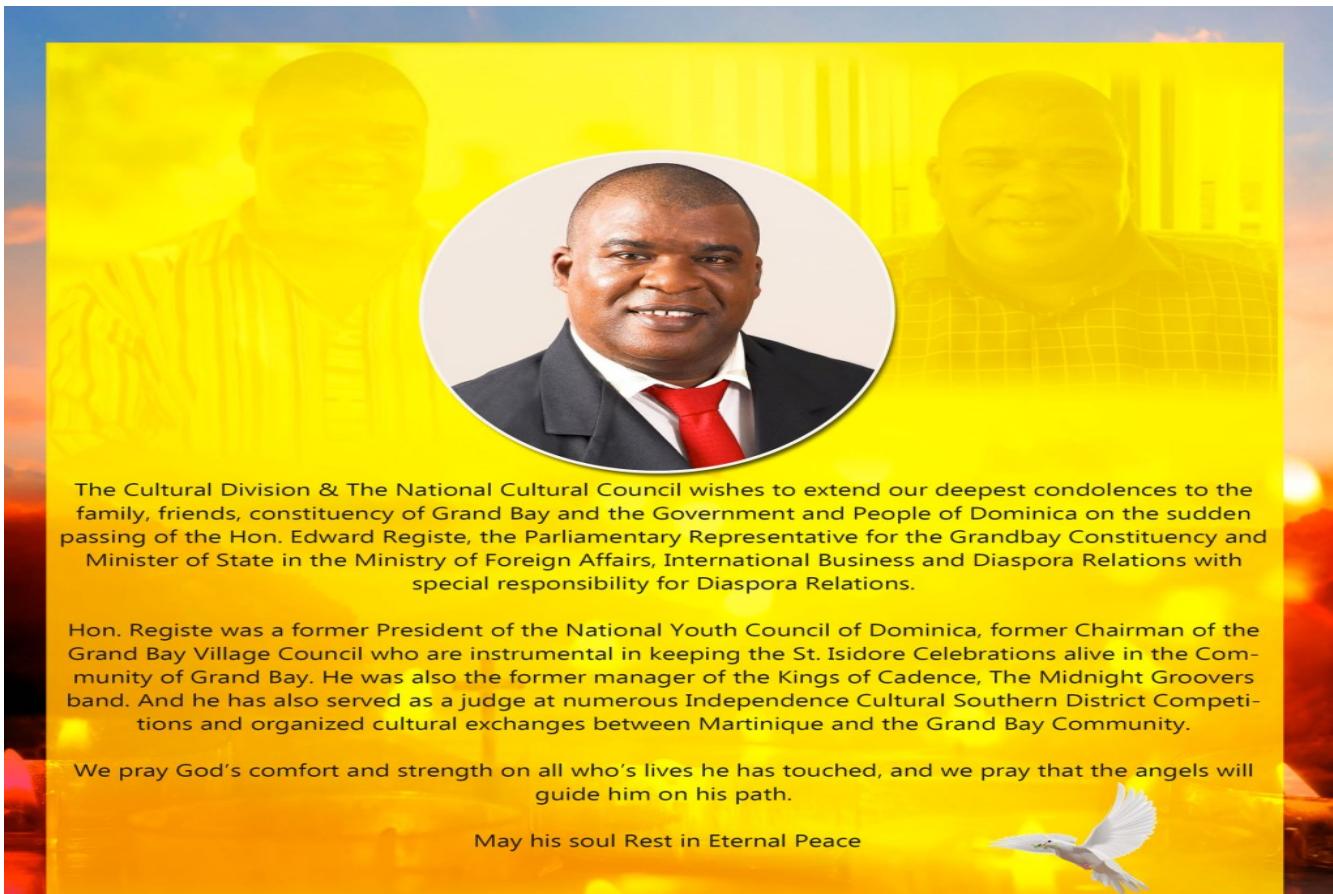
## ALBERT WILLIAMS

### Legacy

“In 2014, Edward Registe was appointed a Dominica Labour Party (DLP) Senator and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly of Dominica. He is a former General Secretary of the Dominica Labour Party. Registe successfully contested the Grand Bay seat for the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) in the 2019 General Election. He was appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Diaspora Relations, with Specific responsibility for Diaspora Relations in the Roosevelt Skerrit Administration on 17 December 2019.” – Caribbean Elections Biography.

On Thursday November 25, 2021, Dr. Vince Henderson on the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) ticket won the Grand Bay by-elections with a landslide victory with 1211 votes; thrashing the contenders, the independent candidate, Julius Gabriel alias ‘hand bag’ who received 161 votes and Clarenton “Twa Woche” Andrew who received 3 votes. The Bi-election was triggered by the demise of former Parliamentary Representative, Honorable Edward Registe .

# Welcome to my blog



Commonwealth of Dominica Division of Culture (2021)

Registe fell ill while on the job and succumbed on September 1 at the age of fifty (50) due to cardiac arrest. He was accorded a State Funeral and Burial Service on 20th October, 2021 held at the Grand Bay Catholic Church Grounds. He was interred at the Grand Bay Catholic Cemetery.

The Government of Dominica has since decided that the Grand Bay Primary School will be renamed the Edward Registe Primary School in memory of the late Hon. Edward Registe.

It is a fact of life that many lives will be cut short in their prime. As we are all on borrowed time. My wife and I join all those who mourn the first year of his transition to join the ancestors. It must be getting very crowded over there. As long as there is a place for us. Because we too want to ride with the ancestors one day.

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

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# Welcome to my blog

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II dies | September 9, 2022



The British Monarch of 70 years, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

Second passed away yesterday, Thursday, September 8, 2022, at her Scotland residence, the Balmoral Castle.

As could be expected, and rightly so, the daily papers have devoted their pages to content recounting the life of the late Queen Elizabeth, and reactions from persons of all walks of life. As well as messages of condolences from world leaders.

As the United Kingdom, the realms and the Commonwealth of Nations enter a period of ten (10) days of official mourning. The mortal remains of the late Monarch will lie-in-state in Westminster Hall for four days. The State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen will take place on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 1100 hrs (BST) at the Westminster Abbey.

Her eldest son, formerly, Prince Charles (73) in a few months times will be coronated as King Charles III.

The papers provide a tangible record of a monarch much loved and revered, not only in the British Isles but around the world.

HM Queen Elizabeth ranks as the longest serving British monarch serving 70 years, 214 days: 6 February 1952 to 8 September 2022 , surpassing Queen Victoria who served from 20 June 1837 to 22 January 1901, 63 years, 216 days.

The world and the British Empire have gone through not only great technological change, but a growing acceptance of the necessity for change in a modern world.

The Late Monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, introduced The Commonwealth, an invention of the 20th-century, comprising of former colonies of the British Empire, which is a notable model of adaptation of The Crown to meet modern demands.

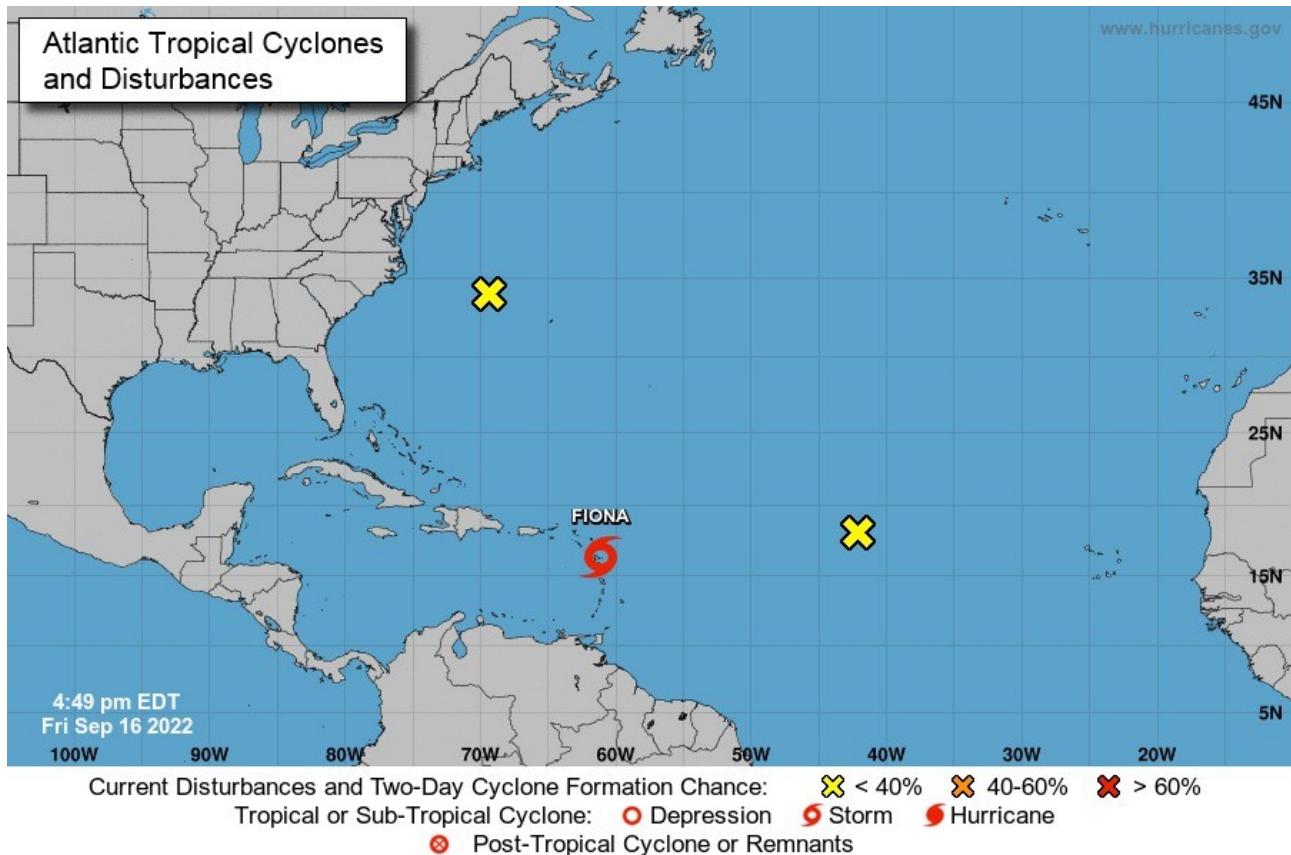
## Welcome to my blog

Rather than an increase of the Colonial land stock that categorised the actions of her forebears, the Imperial Empire, under her watch has been markedly reduced.

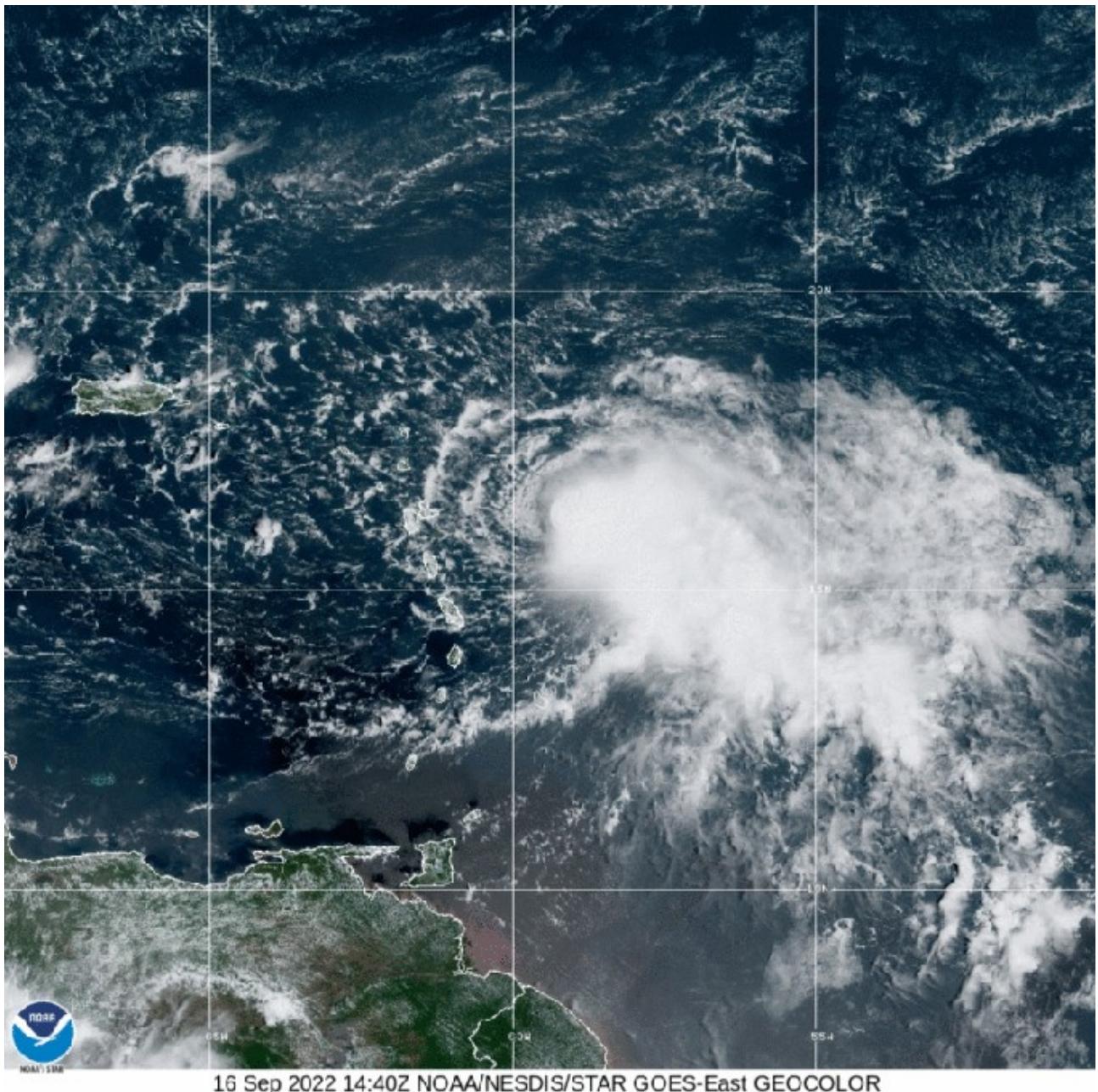
In light of the fight for equality and liberation, this is significant, and in the centuries ahead, when the story of Empire will be analysed in the cold, light of hindsight, the reign of Elizabeth II will loom large over the story of the diminishing British Empire accelerated during her incredible reign.

**The 6th-named storm of the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season has begun to bear down on portions of the Leeward islands | September 16, 2022**

# ALBERT WILLIAMS



# Welcome to my blog



## Tropical Storm Fiona

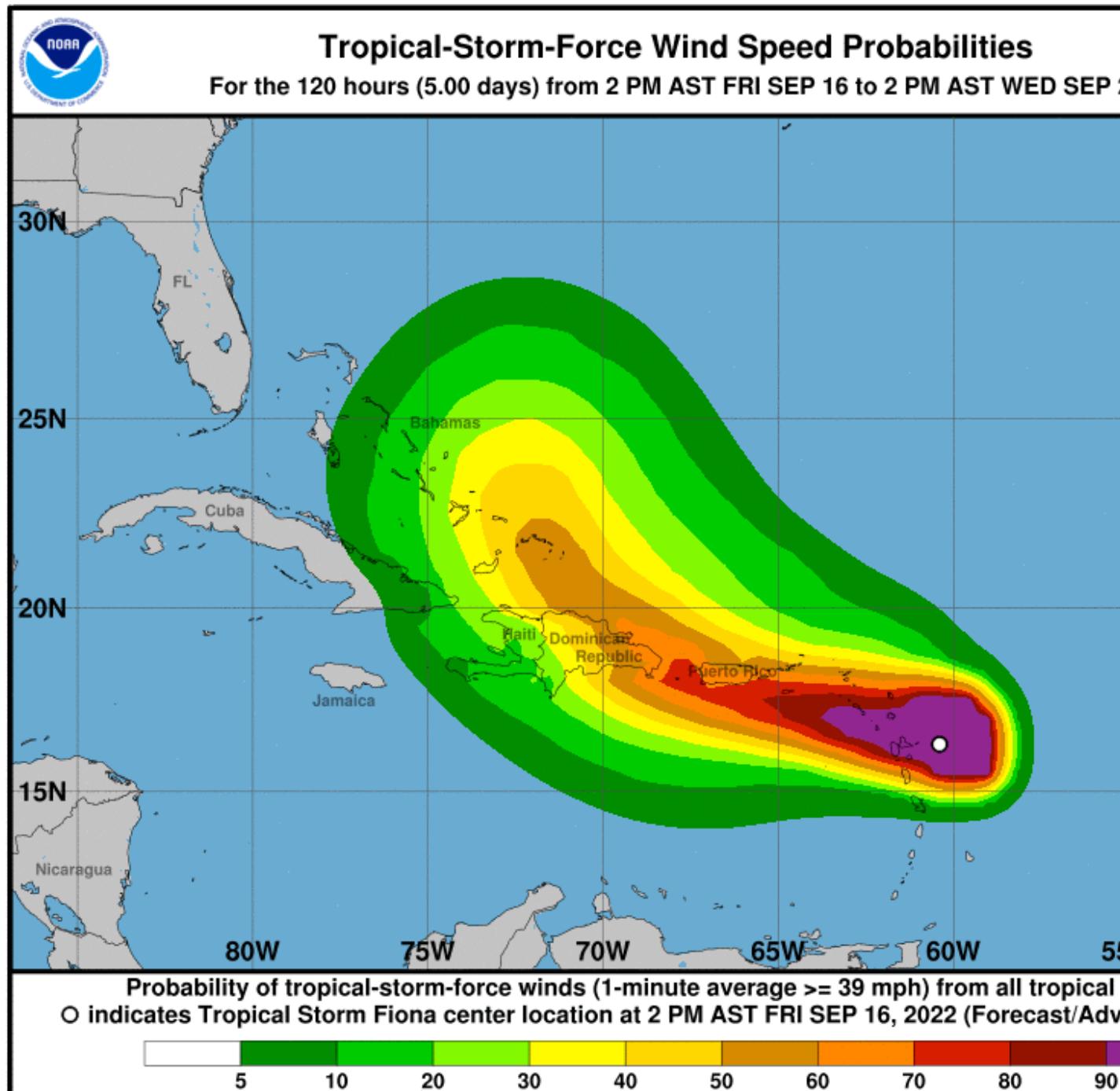
The 6th-named storm of the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season, Tropical Storm Fiona, formerly Tropical Depression Number 7, formed in the tropical Atlantic on Wed Sep 14 2022, located near latitude 16.6 North, longitude 49.6 West, has begun to bear down on portions of the

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Leeward islands, according to the 500 PM AST, Fri Sep 16, 2022, Tropical Storm Fiona Advisory Number 10 issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami Florida.

According to the NHC ‘Fiona’ is located 20 MI...35 KM ENE of Guadeloupe or 260 MI...420 KM ESE of St, Croix in the US Virgin Islands. Maximum sustained winds at 5pm are 50 MPH...85 KM/H and the system is moving West or 280 degrees at 15 MPH or 24 KM/H. The minimum central pressure is 1004 MB...29.65 inches.

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"During this period, I urge everyone to be vigilant and safe as we closely monitor the situation. Please remain connected to local media for updates."

*Prime Minister of Dominica - Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit*

## WATCHES AND WARNINGS

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A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for:

- \* Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Anguilla
- \* Saba and St. Eustatius
- \* St. Maarten
- \* Guadeloupe, St. Barthelemy, and St. Martin
- \* Puerto Rico, including Vieques and Culebra
- \* U.S. Virgin Islands
- \* British Virgin Islands

A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for:

- \* Dominica
- \* South coast of the Dominican Republic from Cabo Engano westward to Barahona
- \* North coast of the Dominican Republic from Cabo Engano westward to Cabo Frances Viejo

The National Hurricane Center says “Tropical storm conditions are beginning across portions of the Leeward Islands within the warning area and will continue through Saturday. Tropical storm conditions will spread westward to the U.S. and British Virgin Islands Saturday morning, and across Puerto Rico Saturday afternoon and Saturday night.”

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The latest bulletin added that, “Tropical storm conditions are possible on Dominica this evening or tonight and across the watch area in the Dominican Republic beginning Sunday afternoon.”

Meantime, Dominica’s Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit posting on his official Facebook page early Friday afternoon said, “During this period, I urge everyone to be vigilant and safe as we closely monitor the situation. Please remain connected to local media for updates.”

### **Next advisories**

Next intermediate advisory from the NHC will be at 800 PM AST, with a complete advisory at 1100 PM AST.

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*Tropical Storm Fiona Public Advisory (2022). Available at: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT2+shtml/162048.shtml> (Accessed: 16 September 2022).*

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

A trough system has left one man dead; 60 landslides, and marooned villagers along Dominica's east coast | Sunday | November 11, 2022



National Disaster Coordinator at the Office of Disaster Management (ODM,) Fitzroy Pascal

An update on the destruction left in the wake of a trough system that drenched torrential rains over communities in the east and south-east of Dominica. And the public and private sector response to the disaster thus far, was the subject of a multi-stakeholder press conference, led by Prime Minister Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit this afternoon.

According to the country's National Disaster Coordinator of the Office of Disaster Management (ODM,) Fitzroy Pascal, the severe weather

## Welcome to my blog

event, which was forecasted by the Dominica Meteorology Service, who initially issued a Flash flood watch on Saturday, later upgraded to a Flash flood warning on Sunday, told the press conference that the trough system that impacted the island on Saturday, November 5th- to Sunday, November 6th, dumped in excess of 13 inches of rainfall along Dominica's east coast.

### **14 inches of rainfall**

Castle Bruce, he said recorded 14 inches of rainfall in that 24-hour period. "The heavy rainfall along the east coast resulting in flooding," he said adding, " there were 50 to 60 landslides along the east coast. As a result there were road blockages, some communities were cut off, for instance Petite Soufriere, Good Hope and San Sauver. We had persons initially trapped or stranded along the O'Delices-Rosalie Road, and unfortunately we had one death 58-year-old male, Edward Henson Durand."

According to Mr Pascal the areas affected by the trough system stretched from the village of Wesley in the northeast to Delice in the southeast of the island to where heavy equipment operators were immediately dispatched from Saturday to regain access to the marooned communities and that on Sunday evening a search team comprising of Fire and Police personnel brought supplies to the stranded residents in O'Delice area where ten persons were stranded.

### **Logistical support**

Pascal added that the Ministry of National Security, he said, has been tasked with providing logistical support, "that means that the deployment of water, medical supplies and general food supplies to the affected areas, particular Petite Soufriere, San Sauveur and Good Hope.

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We have been utilizing the Coast Guard vessels...and the DASPA pilot boats." According to Pascal the pilot boats have been engaged in a number of sorties assisted by the fisher folks in these communities.

The National Disaster Coordinator told the briefing that food supplies are being distributed in the affected areas, "so far we have distributed supplies in terms of food for 800 people to last 5 days. That is just for the Petite Soufriere, San Sauveur and Good Hope area," he said adding, "From today we have started distribution to the other affected areas like Castle Bruce, Tranto, Maupo, and from tomorrow we will be doing the Kalinago Territory and Atkinson, Grand Fond, Rosalie, Morne Jaune and Rivière Cyrique, and La Plaine La Ronde, Boetica and Delices. So we are covering the entire eastern communities of the island stretching from the Kalinago Territory, Atkinson to Delices in the South," he told the briefing.

The Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force are providing security, and logistical support on the ground.

### Source

Roosevelt Skerrit (2022). Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/SupportRooseveltSkerrit> (Accessed: 12 November 2022).

# Welcome to my blog

Prime minister Skerrit praises first responders, reports on government interventions to address storm damage | November 12, 2022



On Thursday Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit led a tour of affected areas, San Sauveur and Petite Soufrière by boat)

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Members of the head table at “Update to the Nation: Government response in the East/Southeast of Dominica” (l-r) Press Secretary in the Prime Minister’s Office, Dionne Durand-Smith (Moderator); Prime minister, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit; National Disaster Coordinator at the Office for Disaster Management (ODM), Fitzroy Pascal; Bernard Ettinoffe, Manager of the Dominica Water and Sewage Company (DOWASCO) and Bertillia Mckenzie, Manager of the Dominica Electrical Services (DOMLEC)

## Press conference

**A press conference convened for the purpose of updating the public and the media “on the interventions on the way by the government of Dominica and further actions planned to bring relief to the affected communities in the east and southeast of Dominica who were recently affected by a trough system, took place on Thursday,” according to Press Secretary in the Prime Minister’s Office, Dionne Durand-Smith who moderated the conference.**

The multi-stakeholder briefing was led by Prime Minister Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit. Also at the head table were: Director of the Office for Disaster Management (ODM), Fitzroy Pascal who provided a report on the effect

Welcome to my blog  
of last week's trough on communities along Dominica's east and southeastern coast.

Also in attendance was Bertillia Mckenzie, manager of the Dominica Electrical Services (DOMLEC) who described the company's efforts to restore power to the affected areas, as well as Bernard Ettinoffe, Manager of the Dominica Water and Sewage Company (DOWASCO) who reported progress in the water restoration. Other government contributions came from Lucien Blackmore, acting permanent secretary in the Ministry of public works and the Digital Economy who addressed the issue of the clearing of roads and, as well as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Chandler Hyacinth who gave an update on the impact of the disaster on education on the ministry's schools in the eastern district.

## A village mourns

**“We stand in solidarity with his family and  
the entire community.”**

### *Prime Minister Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit*

Prime minister Roosevelt Skerrit in his opening remarks underscored that the recent trough had inflicted serious land slippage and damage to property, both private and public. The Prime minister offered his personal condolences and on behalf of the government and the people of Dominica to the family and friends of Mr Henson Durand, and by extension the people of Petite Soufriere. Durand was the sole fatality attributed to this disaster. Prime minister Skerrit said, “we stand in solidarity with his family and the entire community.”

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(Above) Henson Durand of Petite Soufriere (Credit: [Emonews](#))

“We are looking at the entire east: Delices, La Plaine, Boetica, Morne Journe, Riviere Cyrique, Grand Fond, the whole of the Kalinago Territory, Atkinson, Antrizzle, the whole of the Castle Bruce constituency. From Castle Bruce down to Petite Soufriere, all of these areas are being looked at

# Welcome to my blog

*Prime Minister of Dominica, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit*

## Damage survey

Prime minister Skerrit reported on his findings from a personal tour of the disaster stricken-region, said that he visited from Atkinson to Kalinago Territory, Castle Bruce by land, and on Wednesday, he visited San Sauver and Petite Soufriere. “Traveled by boat to San Sauver,” he said adding, “ it was not for the faint-hearted...the Atlantic side was rather choppy, and we had to transfer from the Coast Guard vessel to a fishing vessel to get on shore, and the transfer was a bit challenging,” he said.

Skerrit said that the it was important for him to personally tour the area to assure the communities affected that government is with them. According to the Prime minister, it was also important for him to oversee the government’s response thus far. “Because we had mobilized medical supplies also water and food supplies for distribution in San Sauver, Good Hope and Petite Soufriere. Unfortunately I couldn’t get to Good Hope because of two major slides.” he said.

The widespread environmental destruction that the Director of the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) in Dominica, Fitzroy Pascal said resulted in “50 to 60 landslides along the east coast.”

## Self-help spirit

Prime minister also took the time to commend organisations that responded to the event. He thanked the heavy equipment operators

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

who he said have been operating under very challenging circumstances. “But their intrinsic motivation has kept them going as it is the practice of us in Dominica, when we are faced with an adversity,” he said. Of the management of the The National Emergency Planning Organisation (NEPO), the Office of Disaster Management (ODM), the ministries and permanent secretaries of whom Skerrit said, “have been exceptional in the government’s response in those communities.”



## Welcome to my blog

Prime minister Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit addresses residents during a tour of the affected areas of San Sauveur and Petite Soufriere.

[ Photo] [Roosevelt Skerrit](#)



Photo shows land slippage in the area destroying the road network

[ Photo: [Roosevelt Skerrit](#)]

## Income support

According to the Prime Minister, the entire east of Dominica will need extra government support. “We are looking at the entire east: Delices, La Plaine, Boetica, Morne Journe, Riviere Cyrique, Grand Fond, the whole of the Kalinago Territory, Atkinson, Antrizzle, the whole of the Castle Bruce constituency. From Castle Bruce down to Petite Soufriere, all of these areas being looked at, he said. In the meantime, the

## ALBERT WILLIAMS

government is providing food and water supplies to these communities, and a doctor will be posted in San Sauver to provide care to anyone who may need care. He thanked the teachers and principles for their efforts to keep the educational sector running despite the adversity affecting the region, “Our schools in the east which have been affected will receive water and food supplies,” he said adding, “In times like these, access to school is paramount.”

The prime minister also announced that a package of measures to provide income support to families in those areas has been decided, “Farmers have been affected. They have not been able to access their farms, those who have access to their farms, have not been able to take their produce to the farms, so we will be supporting these people. Bus drivers have not been able to make a daily bread, because the roads are cut off, and we shall be reaching out to them, The shopkeepers, some have acted as good samaritans and have provided groceries and supplies to their neighbour, which is commendable, I know of one guy, “he said, “whose shop is now empty because, he gave out everything in the shop to the people. And that is the spirit that we want to continue to have in our country. That we are truly our neighbor’s keeper, and that in times of distress we can work together to make like better for all of us at least a little more safe,” he said.

## Relocation

On Tuesday the prime minister led a tour of government officials and the media to Castle Bruce, and on Thursday visited the communities of San Sauveur and Petite Soufriere. On his [Facebook](#) page on which he posted that The Government of Dominica has received a detailed update on the extent of damage caused by last weekend’s heavy rains

## Welcome to my blog

which resulted in flooding, landslides and the loss of life, and shared photographs of that mission.

The Prime also announced that discussions have begun with the view of relocating residents from hamlets cut off from Petite Savanne, as well as at Dubique which he said are vulnerable to similar occurrences in the future. “The road that we constructed there was completely washed away, and to create access there is going to be a challenge. And even if you were to create access to those hamlets, in the long term it’s going to be a challenge,” he said adding, “We have started discussions within the government, and I have also shared this with the residents who I have met. Because I spoke to quite a number of them during visit to San Sauver and Petite Soufriere, that we have to look at relocating. Relocating the Petite Savanne way, and relocating the Dubique way. We have done this before and we can do it again. We are now looking at possible locations, safe locations to build new communities. Many of them have met and told me ‘this time we shall move,’ he said.

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Williams, A. (2022) *A trough system has left one man dead; 60 landslides, and marooned villagers along Dominica's east coast | Sunday, ALBERT WILLIAMS Reporting.* Available at: <https://albertwilliams.tech.blog/2022/11/11/a-trough-system-has-left-one-man-dead-50-landslides-and-marooned-villagers-along-dominicas-east-coast/> (Accessed: 12 November 2022).

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

## Dominica Electoral Office releases list of Nomination Centers | November 16, 2022

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. CASTLE BRUCE<br>CASTLE BRUCE PRIMARY SCHOOL                      | 11. PORTSMOUTH<br>ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE              |
| 2. COLIHAUT<br>COLIHAUT VILLAGE COUNCIL OFFICE                      | 12. ROSEAU CENTRAL<br>ELECTORAL OFFICE                |
| 3. COTTAGE<br>COTTAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE                              | 13. ROSEAU NORTH<br>ALPHA CENTRE, GOODWILL            |
| 4. GRAND BAY<br>GRAND BAY VILLAGE COUNCIL OFFICE                    | 14. ROSEAU SOUTH<br>ELECTORAL OFFICE                  |
| 5. LA PALINE<br>LA PLAINE POLICE STATION                            | 15. ROSEAU VALLEY<br>HOUSE OF MERRILL MATTHEW, LAUDAT |
| 6. MAHAUT<br>MAHAUT VILLAGE COUNCIL OFFICE                          | 16. SALISBURY<br>SALISBURY POLICE STATION             |
| 7. MARIGOT<br>MARIGOT POLICE STATION                                | 17. SALYBIA<br>KALINAGO COUNCIL OFFICE                |
| 8. MORNE JAUNE/RIVIERE CYRIQUE<br>GRAND FOND VILLAGE COUNCIL OFFICE | 18. ST JOSEPH<br>ST JOSEPH COMMUNITY CENTRE           |
| 9. PAIX BOUCHE<br>PAIX BOUCHE VILLAGE COUNCIL OFFICE                | 19. SOUFRIERE<br>SOUFRIERE POLICE STATION             |
| 10. PETITE SAVANNE<br>BELLVUE CHOPIN HOUSING SCHEME MALL            | 20. VIELLE CASE<br>VIELLE CASE COURT ROOM             |
|   | 21. WESLEY<br>WESLEY POLICE STATION                   |

### NOMINATION CENTRES



Electoral Office

**NOMINATION  
DAY IS  
FRI. 18<sup>TH</sup>  
NOV. 2022**

For more information

CALL: 266-3336

[electoraloffice.gov.dm](http://electoraloffice.gov.dm)



The Electoral Office in Dominica, yesterday, November 15th, released the list of the returning officers and the locations of the Nomination Centers in the 21 constituencies ahead of the November 18th, Nomination Day, in accordance with Section 6 (1) of the House of Assembly (Elections) Act, Chapter 2:01 of the Revised Laws of Dominica, 1990, Election.

According to its website, “prospective candidates must deliver, or cause to be delivered to the Returning Officer of the Constituency for which he/she seeks to be elected: a Statutory Declaration of his/her qualification, and his/her consent in writing to the Nomination, together with a deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in cash, at the place fixed for nomination.”

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Nominations are to be received by the returning Office at the prospective nomination center between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on that Day.

General Elections in Dominica are to be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022

### Source

<http://electoraloffice.gov.dm/>

ALBERT WILLIAMS

# **DOMINICA ELECTORAL OFFICE DECLARES 6 SEATS TO DLP | November 21, 2022**

**The Electoral Office in Dominica on Saturday has declared the returns of the November 18th, Nomination Day.**

The Dominica Labour Party(DLP) nominees in 6 of the 21 constituencies have been duly elected as they were the only candidates seeking election in the constituencies of Colihaut, Cottage, Paix Bouche, Petite Savanne, Rosalie and Vielle Case. Prime minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, who has been nominated for the 6th consecutive time, has held the Vielle Case seat since 2000.

Consequently, Prime Minister Skerrit since he assumed office in 2004, has led the DLP to electoral victory on four successive elections viz. 2005, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

The lists of the duly elected and duly nominated candidates were released on Saturday via the Electoral Office's Facebook page, and revealed that 45 candidates were duly nominated on Friday 18th November 2022, for the historic, General Elections scheduled for December 6th.

## Welcome to my blog

The United Workers Party(UWP), Dominica Freedom (DFP) and Alternative People's Party(APP) have all opted to boycott the December 6th, snap general elections amid calls for electoral reform. The failure to contest effectively removes the UWP as the “Parliamentary Opposition” in the House of Assembly elections, held since the January 31st, 2000 General Elections in which the DLP led by the late Roosie Douglas entered into a coalition government with the DFP to defeat the Edison James-led UWP. The DLP won 10 seats; the DFP – 2 and the UWP – 9.

The newest political party in Dominica: Team Unity Dominica(TUD), launched in August of this year, is to contest in 5 of the 21 constituencies.

A record-number of 19 independent candidates will remain in the contest with the DLP and the TUD for the remaining 15 constituencies.

General Elections were called on November 6, when Prime Minister Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit in a public address said that he wants the 2023 to begin with a new mandate, given to a fresh Labour team to commence the rebuilding of Dominica post- COVID-19. He added that he had written to advise His Excellency Charles Savarin that the House be dissolved effective immediately, and that a fresh writ be issued on Monday, November 6, 2022, for the holding of General Elections in the Commonwealth of Dominica. “Nominations,” he said, “will be held on Friday, November 18, 2022,” adding, “General Elections Day in Dominica, the day the Labour party will be seeking a fresh mandate, with a fresh team is Tuesday, 6th December, 2022.”

General elections in Dominica were not constitutionally due till December 2025.

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# Duly Elected Candidates

COLIAHUT	DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY
DARREN PINARD	
COTTAGE	DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY
ROLAND ROYER	
PAIX BOUCHE	DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY
LAKEYIA LENNICKA JAMELLE JOSEPH	
PETITE SAVANNE	DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY
JULLAN B.G DEFOE	
ROSEAU VALLEY	DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY
IRVING FRANCIS MCINTYRE	
VIEILLE CASE	DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY
ROOSEVELT SKERRIT	



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# Duly Nominated Candidates

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CASTLE BRUCE CONSTITUENCY  
OCTAVIA ALFRED  
KELVIN CADETTE

GRAND BAY CONSTITUENCY  
VINCE HENDERSON  
LYNDON PETERS  
HENRY MORRIS SHILLINGFORD

LA PLAINE CONSTITUENCY  
JASON FONTAINE  
DR. CASSANDRA WILLIAMS

MAHAUT CONSTITUENCY  
CASSANNI C LAVILLE  
DUNSTAN PETERS

MARIGOT CONSTITUENCY  
ANTHONY SAMORA CHARLES  
CARLOS KEITH CHARLES  
GREGORY RIVIERE

MORNE JAUNE/RIVIERE CYRIQUE CONSTITUENCY  
KERTNEY MATTHEW  
GRETNA BERNADETTE ROBERTS

PORTRUSH CONSTITUENCY  
MAGDALENE HEATHER VIDAL  
FENELLA WENHAM

DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY  
INDEPENDENT

DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY  
TEAM UNITY DOMINICA  
INDEPENDENT

TEAM UNITY DOMINICA  
DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY

DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY  
INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT  
TEAM UNITY DOMINICA  
DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY

INDEPENDENT  
DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY



Electoral Office

## 2022 DULY NOMINATED CANDIDATES

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[electoraloffice.gov.dm](http://electoraloffice.gov.dm)



ROSEAU CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY  
JASON JNO.BAPTISTE  
MELISSA POPONNE-SKERRIT  
KARSHMA RICHARDS

ROSEAU NORTH CONSTITUENCY  
MIRIAM ALETHEA BLANCHARD  
SHERMAN HARTFORD BOSTON  
TYRONE FRED NICHOLAS

ROSEAU SOUTH CONSTITUENCY  
DAVIDSON KENYATTA JULIEN  
CHEKIRA NIKISHA SARA LOCKHART  
WAYNE NORDE

SALISBURY CONSTITUENCY  
LYNSIA FRANK  
JESMA PAUL

SALYBIA CONSTITUENCY  
VINCIA MASSALA CASEY  
COZIER PIUS FREDERICK  
MUTA JUSTINE LAVILLE MATTHEW

TEAM UNITY DOMINICA  
DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY  
INDEPENDENT

DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY  
INDEPENDENT  
INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT  
DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY  
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INDEPENDENT  
DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY  
INDEPENDENT



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## 2022 DULY NOMINATED CANDIDATES

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COLIHAUT  
DARREN PINARD

COTTAGE  
ROLAND ROYER

PAIX BOUCHE  
LAKEYIA LENNICKIA JAMELLE JOSEPH

PETITE SAVANNE  
JULLIAN B.G DEFEOE

ROSEAU VALLEY  
IRVING FRANCIS MCINTYRE

VIEILLE CASE  
ROOSEVELT SKERRIT

DOMINICA LABOUR PARTY



Electoral Office

## 2022 DULY ELECTED CANDIDATES

These were the only candidates nominated in their respective constituencies.

For more information

CALL: 266-3336

[electoraloffice.gov.dm](http://electoraloffice.gov.dm)



**NOAA predicted an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season for 2022 | November 27, 2022**

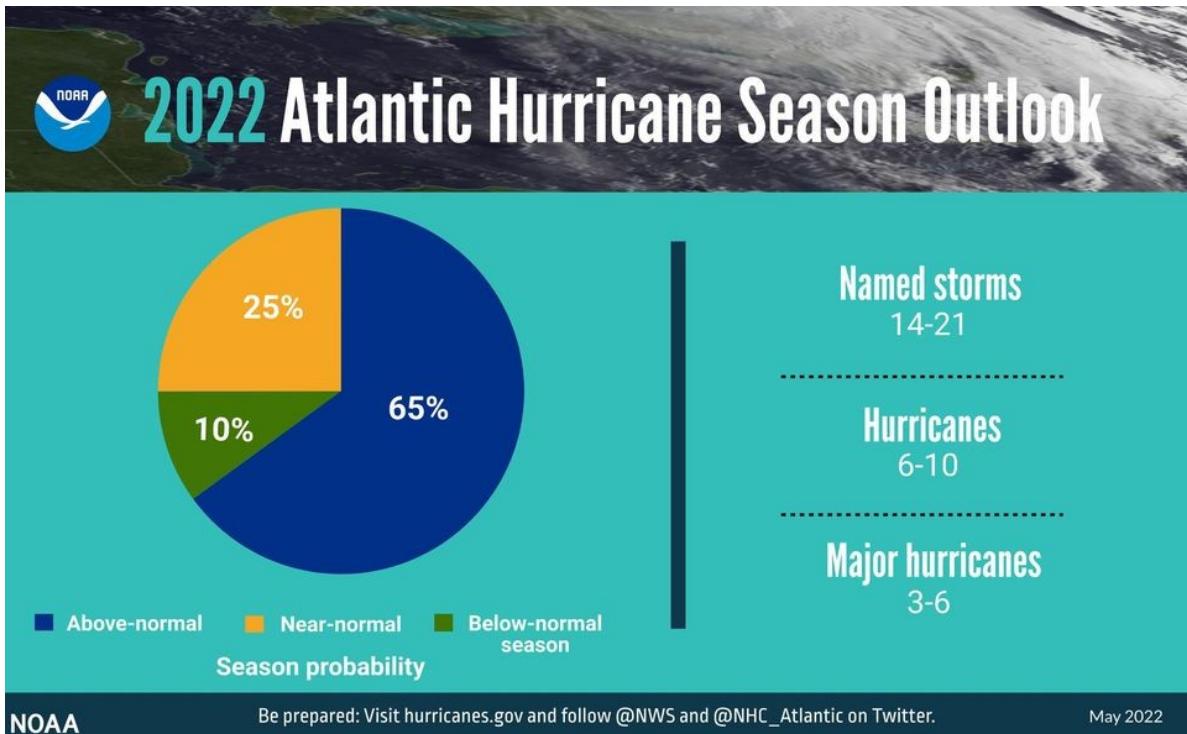
## ALBERT WILLIAMS



(Above) An American flag stands in Fort Myers Beach, Florida in the aftermath of Ian ([Wikipedia](#))

With the season coming to a close on November 30, and tropical cyclone formation not expected during the next 5 days, it's a good time to review the last six months.

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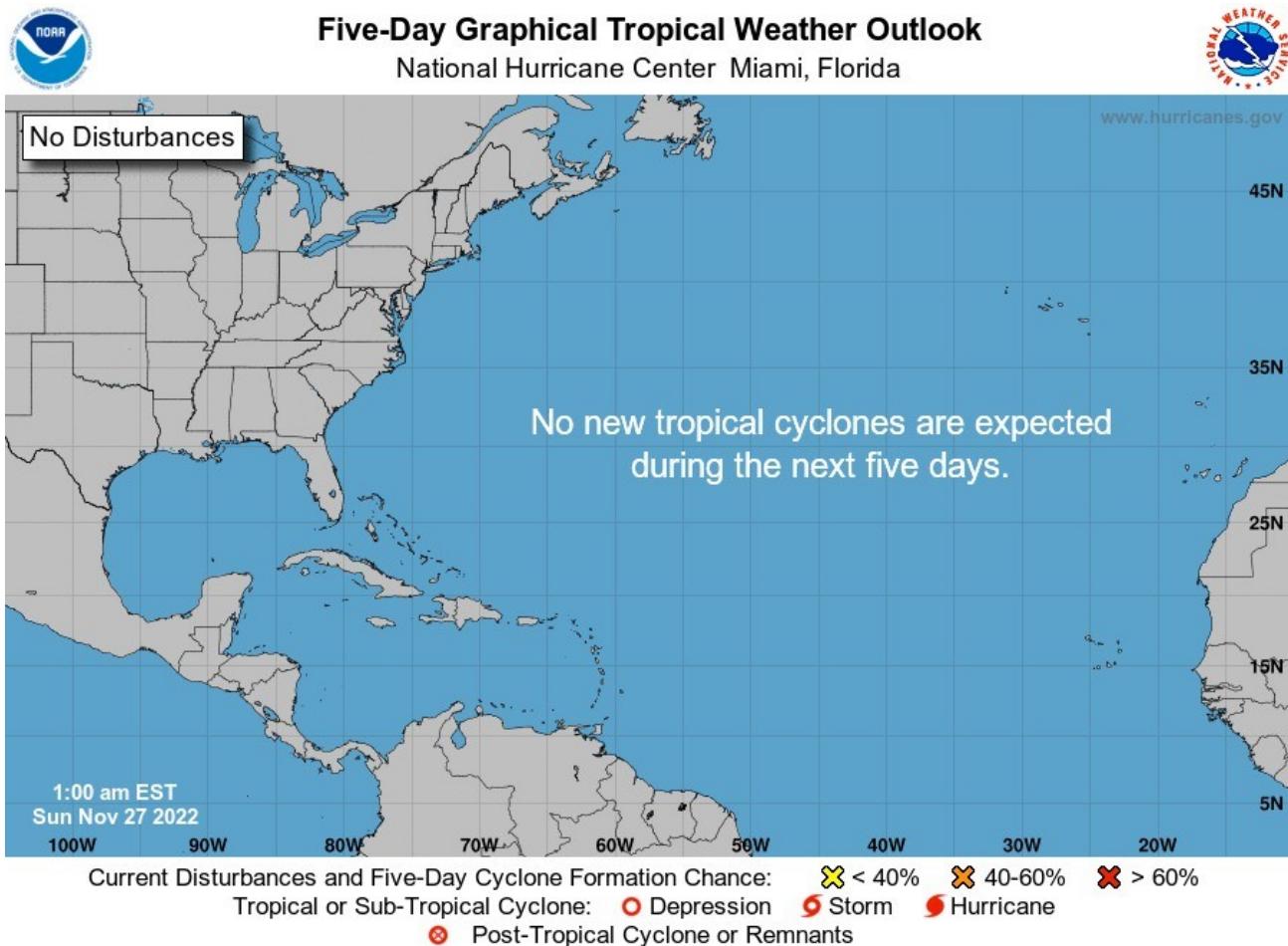


Did you know that the 2022 season was the first season since 2014 to not have a pre-season named storm.

This year, according to Wikipedia there were 2 Major hurricanes of Cat. 3 or over (Fiona and Ian Category-4); including 14 named storms and 8 Hurricanes. Alex, the first named system was formed on June 5, 2022, the website said adding, that not since 1996 has more than one storm crossed between the Atlantic and Pacific basins intact during a single season.

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Hurricane Ian was the most destructive Category 4 Atlantic hurricane to strike the state of Florida.



Hurricane Fiona, the sixth named storm, third hurricane and first major hurricane of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season was the

strongest extratropical cyclone to strike Nova Scotia, Canada with winds of 105 mph.

In other impacts, a trough system impacted Dominica, leaving substantial flooding and triggering over 60 landslides along Dominica's east coast, and claimed one death.

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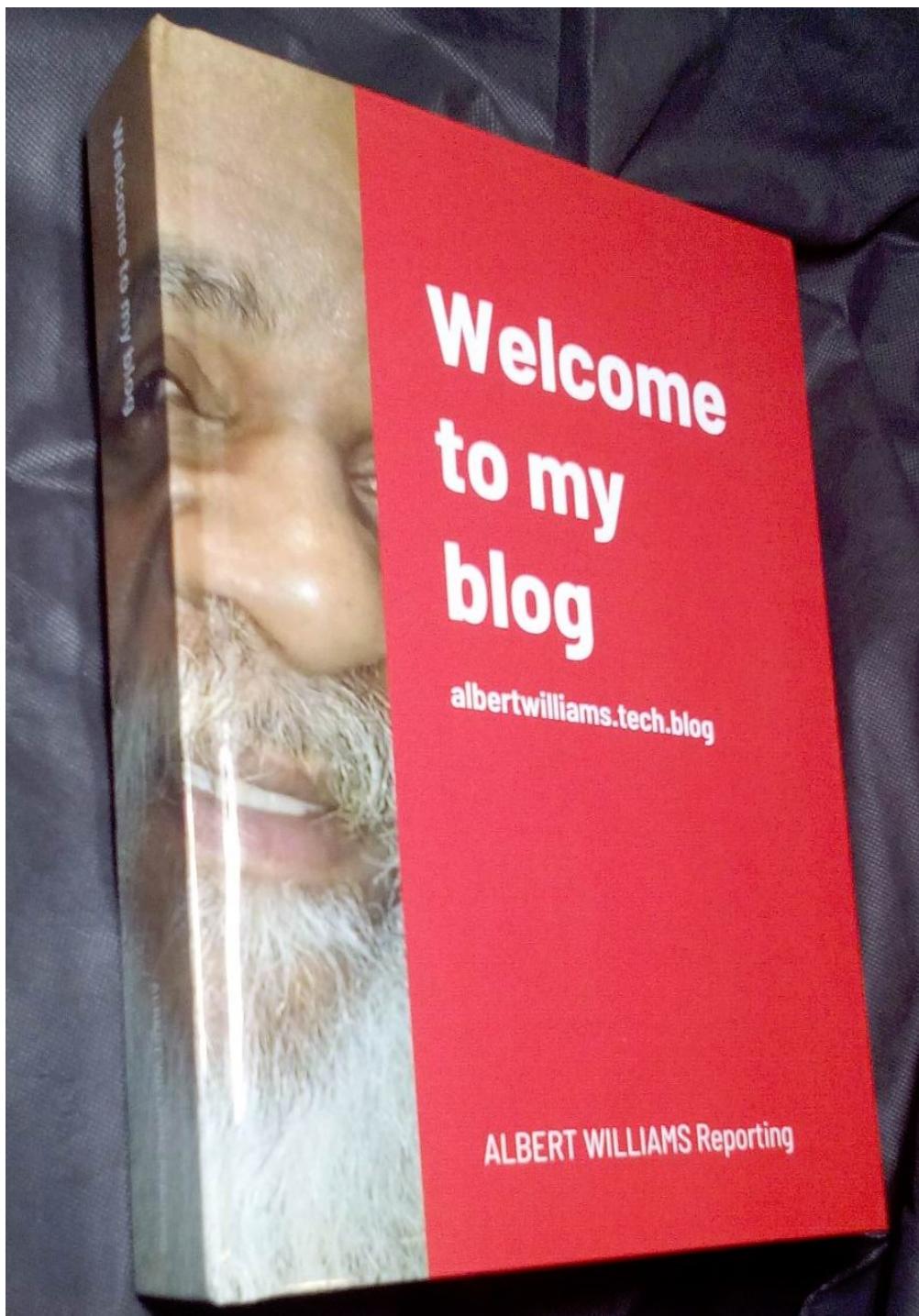
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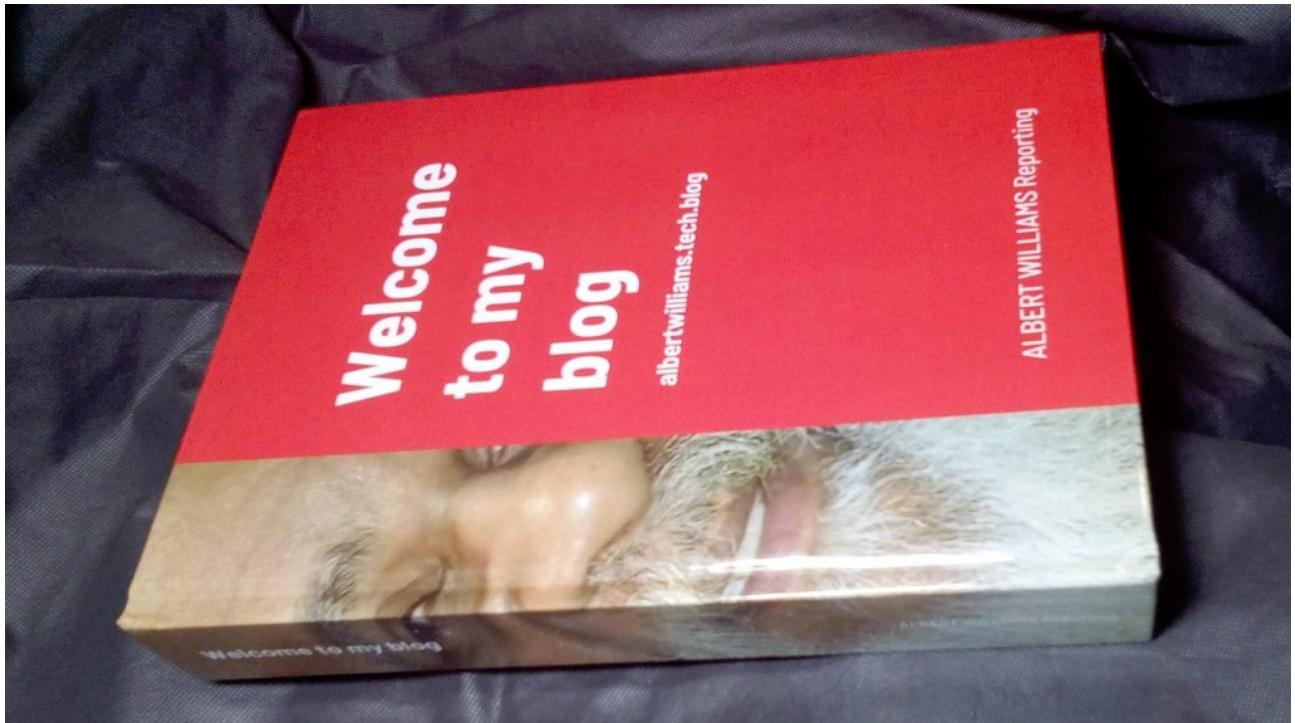
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ALBERT WILLIAMS

Welcome to my blog | COMING SOON! |  
December 13



## Welcome to my blog



[Photo] (Cover) Welcome to my blog

It could not be more appropriate to end the year-long observance of my 41st anniversary of being a published author.

'Welcome to my blog' is a journal — a time-capsule of academic papers, blog posts, commentaries, biographies and reflections on a wide spectrum of topics published by the author on his blog: [albertwilliams.tech.blog](http://albertwilliams.tech.blog) between 2016 and 2022.

The Book is 8×11.5 inches by 11.5 inches, and features 137 blog posts. The 765-page book, to be self-published by the author before the end of the year at [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com), will be in colour, and will be available in both hardback and soft cover formats at most online books dealers and stores.

Enquiries: [albertwilliams.tech.blog](http://albertwilliams.tech.blog)

# ALBERT WILLIAMS

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