

# The Diplomatic Courier

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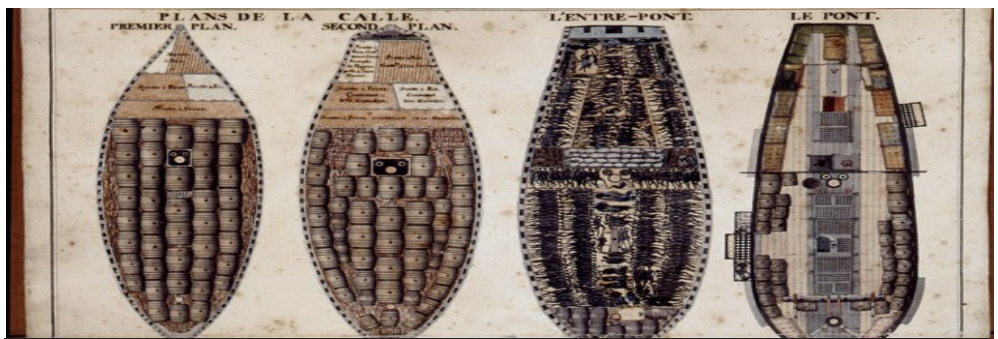
## Plan of Action for People of African Descent launched by OAS and PAHO

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) announced on July 28 in Washington that it has collaborated with the Organization of American States (OAS) to launch a new Plan of Action for the Americas, including the Caribbean, for Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

PAHO says the initiative seeks to strengthen public policies to protect the rights of this population in the region, "and ensure their full and equal participation between now and 2025."

The initiative also aims to improve the health and well-being of the more than 150 million people of African descent estimated to live in the Western Hemisphere.

"These populations have worse health outcomes than other



*British and other European shipwrights laid out elaborate plans to ship the most slaves in quickest time from Africa to the Caribbean. Consequently, there are peculiar health problems affecting the 150 million African descendants in The Western hemisphere. The UN and PAHO now have a plan to address this particularly unhealthy legacy of Slavery in the Caribbean.*

racial groups due to the inequality, poverty, and social exclusion they endure, which are closely related to racism, xenophobia and intolerance," PAHO said.

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## Centre established to study the Legacies of British Slave Ownership



The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slave-ownership has been established at UCL with the generous support of the Hutchins Center at Harvard.

The Centre will build on two earlier projects based at UCL tracing the impact of slave-ownership on the formation of modern Britain: the ESRC-funded Legacies of British Slave-ownership project (2009-2012), and the ESRC and AHRC-funded Structure and significance of British Caribbean slave-ownership 1763-1833 (2013-2015).

Colonial slavery shaped modern Britain and we all still live with its legacies.

The slave-owners were one very important means by which

the fruits of slavery were transmitted to metropolitan Britain.

Those behind the centre believe that research and analysis of this group are both key to understanding the extent and limits of slavery's role in shaping British history and leaving lasting legacies that reach into the present.

The stories of enslaved men and women, however, are no less important than those of slave-owners and they hope that the encyclopaedia produced in the first phase of the project, while at present primarily a resource for studying slave-owners, will also provide information of value to those researching enslaved people.

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## Saint Lucia to host CARICOM Commission's next Reparations Rally

The CRC was established following a mandate from the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government at their Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago in July 2013, to establish national committees and a regional commission to pursue reparations from the former European colonial powers for Native Genocide, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery.

Twelve CARICOM Member States have established national reparations committees to date, namely: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

As part of its activities the CRC is hosting a series of international Reparations Relays and Rallies in collaboration with the CARICOM Members States which have committed to being part of the reparations movement. These events are being held on days of historical significance in relation to slavery, the slave trade or native genocide in each Member State. A baton and torch are passed from the current Member State to the next one which will host the rally. The first leg was hosted by Barbados in April, while Guyana hosted its Rally and Relay in May. Suriname will host their event on August 9, the Day of the Indigenous People and Saint Lucia's event will be on August 17, the 129th birthday of Pan Africanist and National Hero of Jamaica, Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

The celebrations in Suriname will feature a marketplace of art and craft, rituals and performances, a music festival and the passing of the Reparations Baton, at the Palm Gardens in Paramaribo. The activities in Saint Lucia will be held at the Open Campus, The Morne, Castries. A feature address will be delivered by Ambassador Dr. June Soomer, the new Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean States. Dr. Soomer is the immediate past Saint Lucia Ambassador to CARICOM and the OECS, and a founding member of the Saint Lucia National Reparations Committee.

The establishment of the CRC has inspired the birth of similar reparations commissions and committees in the USA, Europe, Britain and Canada in recent years. Aspects of the CRC's 10-point Action Plan for Reparatory Justice have been emulated in the policy platforms of the Black Lives Matter and other civil rights movements in the USA and Canada.



*Prof. Pedro Welch, Chairman of the Barbados Reparations Task Force, with the Reparations Relay Baton*

### Editorial

## Emancipation, Repatriation and Reparatory Justice

This second issue of The Diplomatic Courier appears on Emancipation Day, a holiday across (most of) the Caribbean aimed at not allowing the regions people to forget that Slavery existed and Emancipation happened. The real story of Slavery and what it meant to Africa and Europe, the Caribbean and the Americas (north and south) is only half told over 150 years after Emancipation.

The accounts of colonial historians are slowly but effectively being erased and re-written by the sons and daughters, heirs and successors of the slaves who suffered the worst Crime Against Humanity ever known to mankind.

But the education and re-education process is also well under way across the Caribbean, thanks to the work of the CARICOM Reparations Commission and the National Reparations Committees (NRCs) established by the Heads of Government to help make the case for Reparatory Justice from Europe for Slavery and Native genocide. The regional movement, led by the Commission and Sir Hilary Beckles, has blazed a trail across the region that has resulted in the CARICOM initiative now being embraced internationally as a template for pursuit of Reparations for Slavery.

Indeed, the Chairman has been leading from in front. He has traveled to Africa for contacts with The African Union (AU) which has embraced the idea. He has also represented the region with the US Congressional Black Caucus, which intends to take similar action towards reparations in the USA. The UK House of Lords too, has been learning from the Commission Chairman about what the regional Reparations Movement is all about.

Sir Hilary was invited to The Gambia just last week, where he participated in activities ahead of presentation by that African state of a resolution on Reparations at the UN General Assembly later this year.

Emancipation, Reparations and Repatriation are related themes in this the first year of the UN Decade of People of African Descent and Marcus Garvey's birth anniversary on August 17 provides an annual window between August 1 and August 17 for two weeks of annual activity aimed at promoting these related international and regional themes at the national level.

But the Reparations Movement and issues of reparatory Justice for Slavery and native Genocide goes beyond the Commission, the NRCs and the individual modern day freedom fighters and advocates for progressive change. The Governments of the region today have the added task of seeking to convince the new British Government of the need to start or continue talks with CARICOM regarding the regions call for discussion on reparations in its collective letter to Britain, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and all the other European Union member-states that benefited from slavery.

The letter was dispatched to then British Prime Minister David Cameron, whose own family participated in and benefited from slavery in Jamaica. Signed by Barbados PM Freundel Stuart on behalf of all CARICOM member-states, Mr Cameron never bothered to reply, only telling the world flatly in Jamaica last year that all Britain was prepared to give for reparations for slavery was the couple hundred million British Pounds to be shared by all the affected independent Caribbean states.

Cameron never knew his term of office would expire long before he could have expected. His replacement, Theresa May, is now to be approached during the British anti-immigrant Brexit brouhaha, but even where there seems no immediate hope, hopes must never be dashed. It so happens that the new British PM has already committed herself - and UK funds - to end Modern Slavery in Britain (Story in International Section on Back Page). It would be interesting for CARICOM to find out how she will eradicate modern slavery without repairing the damage Britain led Europe into creating through mankind's greatest crime against humanity.

The Reparations Movement is well under way today, more forward than ever in recent Caribbean history. It is now for the governments and diplomats in the region and around the world to step up their statements, actions and commitments to a level that will match the process already being driven by the Regional Commission and the CARICOM NRCs and the African and African-American movements borrowing pages and singing from the same Reparations hymn sheet and working with the same template in pursuit of Reparatory Justice.

# Plan of Action for People of African Descent launched by OAS and PAHO

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“The vicious circle has particularly dire consequences for the health and well-being of people of African descent,” said PAHO Dominican-born Director, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne. “They struggle with significantly less access to, and utilization of, health services when compared to the rest of the population.

“It is the moment to put an end to this phenomenon,” Etienne added. “PAHO is committed to closing the disparities in health that have been experienced by Afro-descendants living in the Americas, and we now have a historic window of opportunity to mobilize forces with our Member States and partners to do so.”

As the agency of the Inter-American System specializing in health, PAHO said it will work on the health aspects of the plan, which establishes that countries should include an Afro-descendant approach in their health policies; specifically that the unique health needs of this population should be considered when developing health policies and programs targeting them.

PAHO said sexual and reproductive health campaigns will also be promoted in Afro-descendant communities.

They will seek to expand access to family planning methods and contraception, while reducing maternal mortality, which is a more serious problem among the indigenous and Afro-descendant population, according to an analysis conducted by PAHO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Another part of the plan is aimed at getting countries to draft and implement protocols for the treatment of non-communi-

cable diseases among people of African descent, PAHO said.

In this regard, PAHO reiterated its commitment to lend the necessary technical support to the Ministries of Health of the region.

During the launch of the new plan at PAHO the headquarters here, Betilde Muñoz, director of the OAS Department of Social Inclusion, said the Plan of Action “is the result of the collective consensus of OAS Member States and reflects the reality of Afro-descendant populations” in the region.

“The path to achieve social inclusion for the Afro-descendant populations of the Americas is filled with challenges but also with opportunities,” she said. “That is why it is crucial for us to join forces.”

The Plan of Action is the regional response to the 2015-2024 International Decade for People of African Descent proclaimed by the United Nations, which seeks to promote recognition, justice, and development for Afro-descendant populations.

Within that framework, the OAS and PAHO said they will step up their cooperation in those three key areas, “promoting the full enjoyment of the economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights of people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

PAHO said it encourages an intercultural approach in the health services of the region, “to ensure that all ethnic and racial groups can access the care they need.”

“This care should integrate traditional knowledge and practices to improve the health of indigenous populations, people of African descent, and other ethnic or racial groups,” PAHO said. “Additionally, it seeks to improve information on these and other racial and ethnic groups in order to facilitate the adoption of policies that improve their health.”

## Centre established to study the Legacies of British Slave Ownership

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The pioneers of the centre are also delighted to announce that the two-part BBC programme Britain's Forgotten Slave-owners won the BAFTA TV award for 2016 in the ‘Specialist factual’ category (awarded 8 May 2016).

The first of two episodes, presented by David Olusoga,

was broadcast on 15th July 2015 on BBC2, the second a week later. (For more information see the BBC website page and BBC programme page.)

They are also delighted that Britain's Forgotten Slave-owners, broadcast by the BBC on 15 and 22 July 2015, won the Royal Historical Society Public History Prize Winner for Broadcasting, 2015. (UCL)

## *Saint Lucia and the World*

# US\$2 billion CIP deal aims to make Saint Lucia Caribbean's Racing and Entertainment Centre

**S**aint Lucia will become home to one of the Caribbean's iconic resort and lifestyle developments after Prime Minister Allen Chastanet signed an inherited agreement last week to build the island's first and only international standard integrated development.

The main investment agency on the island says the 'Pearl of the Caribbean' is valued at over US \$2.6 billion and occupies a 700-acre site to the south of the island.

The project will comprise a marina, a racecourse, a resort and shopping mall complex, casino, Free Trade Zone, extensive entertainment and leisure facilities, eco-tourism as well as architecturally designed villas and apartments.

Overall, the Pearl of the Caribbean Development is designed to be a well-balanced project with open space making up over 50% of the overall development.

It is designed to be a sustainable and self-contained development and is expected to generate between 500 to 800 jobs in construction during its initial phase of implementation.

The agreement was signed by the Government of Saint Lucia and the project's Master Developer DSH Caribbean Star Limited in Saint Lucia and construction of the initial phase of the project is set to commence in 2017.

The signing follows three years of negotiations between DSH Caribbean Star Limited and key agencies of the Government of Saint Lucia including Invest Saint Lucia (ISL), the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) and the Development Control Authority (DCA).

The Pearl of the Caribbean is also set to play a lead role in the development of a new horse industry in Saint Lucia, proving a new tourism and entertainment option for international tourists as well as new employment opportunities for locals.

Upon completion, the project will be able to house more than 1,000 racehorses and have the capacity to hold feature racing carnivals, establishing Saint Lucia as a racing and entertainment centre in the Caribbean and leveraging off the international appeal of the sport to promote Saint Lucia to a diverse audience base.

The announcement of the Pearl of the Caribbean is the latest high profile step in Saint Lucia's drive to create new industry and bring in new investments.

The signing also followed on from the government's launch of the Saint Lucia Citizenship by Investment Programme in January 2016 and confirmation of the extensive upgrading of the Hewanorra International Airport which is located only two kilometres from the Pearl of the Caribbean development.

The objective of the Master Plan proposal is to create a new tourism district targeting not just the short term visitors to Saint Lucia but investors in the properties such as the Homestead Villas, waterfront Villas and other commercial properties.

The Pearl of the Caribbean is expected to appeal to international investors, especially in emerging markets like China, South East Asia and Russia.

The Pearl of the Caribbean proves high quality investment op-



*Prime Minister Allen Chastanet recently sealed the deal, which had been negotiated through the CIP under the previous administration.*

portunities and resort style living on an island famed for its unspoilt beauty, pristine beaches and World Heritage sites. Investment opportunities in this project also qualify for Saint Lucia's Citizenship by Investment Programme.

China's booming investment and outbound tourism sectors have significantly boosted economies across Europe, North America, South East Asia and Australasia over the last decade.

In 2015 the World Travel and Tourism Council stated that Chinese outbound tourists spent a staggering US \$215 billion, a 53 percent increase on the USD140 billion spent in 2014.

DSH Caribbean Star Limited is an affiliate of Desert Star Holdings Limited, a Hong Kong-based and registered management and investment company with international investments in commercial and equine property.

Last month, Desert Star Holdings and a joint venture partner signed two significant agreements in China to kick start a commercial breeding industry in Ordos, Inner Mongolia and to manage the country's premier racecourse, Ordos Yiqi Racecourse, in the same region.

It is estimated that China's horse industry has the potential to generate up to USD2 billion in direct economic benefits over the next decade.

The total direct and indirect economic impact of a commercial equine industry on the Chinese economy may be as much as US \$8 billion which includes the creation of 34,000 new jobs. The first notable event held in China since this announcement will be the CECF Ordos (20-21 August), an event founded by the China Horse Club.

DSH Caribbean Star Limited is also affiliated with the China Horse Club, a leading lifestyle, business and thoroughbred racing club which has extensive ties with leading international participants in the horse racing industry including Coolmore (Ireland, USA, Australia), WinStar Farm (USA), Sheikh Fahad's Qatar Racing (Britain), Newgate Farm (Australia), SF Bloodstock (USA, Australia, Europe), Vinery Stud (Australia), Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum (Dubai), Barbara Banke (USA), Ananda Krishnan (Malaysia) and Markus Jooste (South Africa) among others.

*For more information, please contact Invest Saint Lucia at [www.investstlucia.com](http://www.investstlucia.com).*

## *Saint Lucia and the World*

### OECS says Saint Lucia largely compliant with tax transparency standards



The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says that Saint Lucia is “largely compliant” with international standards on transparency and the exchange of information in tax matters.

The finding is contained in a report published by the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information.

The Global Forum is the multilateral framework within which over 130 jurisdictions assess each other’s compliance with international standards.

The report followed up on the Global Forum’s review of Saint Lucia’s legal and regulatory framework for the exchange of information, under Phase 1 of the peer review process and how the territory exchanges tax information in practice, under Phase 2.

With the release of the latest batch of reviews, the Global Forum has now completed 235 peer reviews and assigned compliance ratings to 101 jurisdictions that have undergone Phase 2 Reviews.

Twenty-two jurisdictions are rated “Compliant,” 67 are rated “Largely Compliant,” and 12 are rated “Partially Compliant”.

There are still 7 jurisdictions which remain blocked from moving to a Phase 2 review, due to insufficiencies in the legal and regulatory framework. The supplementary reviews of five of these jurisdictions are currently under way.

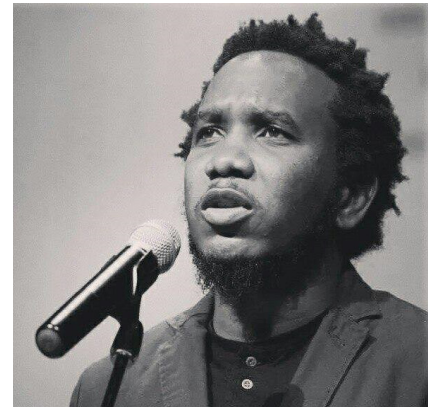
Global Forum members are also working together to monitor and review the implementation of the international standard for the automatic exchange of tax information for which exchanges are to start in 2017.

The monitoring and review process is intended to ensure the effective and timely delivery of the commitments made, the confidentiality of information exchanged and to identify areas where support is needed.

It is also assisting its developing country members to ensure that they can also receive the benefits of the ongoing global move to automatic exchange of financial account information. (Tax-News.com)

## Lucien read Emancipation verses in New York

In honor of Saint Lucia Emancipation Day 2016, the Consulate General of Saint Lucia in partnership with the Brooklyn-based Caribbean Cultural Theatre and the Caribbean Research Center – Medgar Evers College, hosted an event entitled Emancipation Voices – New Generation of Caribbean Poets, and will feature a reading by acclaimed Saint Lucian poet Vladimir Lucien.



*Award-winning Saint Lucian writer and poet Vladimir Lucien.*

The event was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, 7 PM, at the Central Brooklyn Campus of Medgar Evers College, located at 1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. A discussion with Mr. Lucien will immediately follow. Admission is free.

A native of Gros-Islet, Mr. Lucien’s poems are based on family, the stories of ancestors, the history that makes its way into his voice as a writer of Saint Lucian descent, and his personal heroes, including Walter Rodney, C. L. R. James, Kamau Brathwaite, and a local steel bandsman with whom he is acquainted.

Hailed as an exciting new voice in Caribbean poetry, Mr. Lucien’s work has appeared in *The Caribbean Review of Books*, *Small Axe*, *Wasafiri*, *PN Review*, *Caribbean Beat* and *BIM* magazine. His debut collection, *Sounding Ground*, was the winner of the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, and was recently shortlisted for the Guyana Caribbean Prize for poetry. Copies of *Sounding Ground* will be on sale.

Mr. Lucien has been featured at the Miami Book fair and the Read My World Festival in Amsterdam. Most recently, he became the first non-Jamaican to hold the post of Writer in Residence at the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus). He is a Lecturer in Literature and Caribbean Studies at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

Other writers featured during Emancipation Voices – New Generation of Caribbean Poets included poet Samantha Thornhill of Trinidad & Tobago and Tiphonie Yanique of the US Virgin Islands.

All Saint Lucian nationals, as well as the general public, were invited to attend.

## *Saint Lucia and the World*

# 9th Annual Saint Lucia-Taiwan Partnership Trade Show set for November 25-27

**S**aint Lucias Department of Commerce, International Trade, Investment, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs, in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), will host the 9th Annual Saint Lucia-Taiwan Partnership Trade Show at the Johnsons Centre, Rodney Bay from November 25th to 27th, 2016.

The Trade Show will highlight a wide range of quality goods and services from Saint Lucia and Taiwan.

In addition, businesses from both countries will profit the opportunity to develop strategic trading and networking alliances.

The Taiwanese contingent is keenly interested in seeking agents for the retail of their products.

To this end, the Department of Commerce wishes to invite manufacturers and service providers interested in participating in the Trade Show, to collect registration forms from the Department or download at [www.commerce.gov.lc](http://www.commerce.gov.lc) and submit completed forms, on or before September 16th, 2016.



*Saint Lucian and Taiwanese producers, buyers and sellers build strong trade links at the annual expo.*

For further information, please contact Ms. Cindy Eugene, Marketing Specialist at [cindy.eugene@govt.lc](mailto:cindy.eugene@govt.lc) or 468-4216/285-4677.

## **Saint Lucia Supports ECLAC Agenda for Equality for Women**

**M**inister for Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development Dr. Gale Rigobert has thrown the support of the Government of Saint Lucia behind calls for more to be done to ensure the economic and social autonomy of Caribbean women.

Dr. Rogobert on Tuesday 26th July 2016, participated in a high level panel on "Autonomy and Gender Equality: The Caribbean Towards 2030" held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The preparatory meeting of the Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean with Caribbean countries, was hosted by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Dr. Rigobert used the opportunity to congratulate the many UN (and affiliated) agencies that have worked tirelessly advancing the cause of women and advocating for gender parity. She highlighted what she perceived as challenges to making further progress, notwithstanding the extraordinary efforts and significant strides that have been made.

"Much of what we have been advocating for and fighting against is sometimes incongruent with and challenge deeply entrenched cultural, ethnic, and religious traditions, historical practices and ways of thinking," Dr. Rigobert noted to the high-level government officials and senior international gender experts in attendance at the ECLAC meeting.

She said it posed a particular challenge with respect to achieving women's autonomy, also citing the necessity for a multi-faceted methodology involving stakeholders (including men)

in achieving gender equality and autonomy. Dr. Rigobert lamented that women seem to be carrying a disproportionate burden of care, which she said, was seldom acknowledged, nor rewarded.

"Hence, because much of what women do as "work" takes place in the informal sector (which is often not remunerated nor accounted for in the national statistics) the economic autonomy of women is much harder to achieve," the Gender Relations Minister said.

The conference also addressed other issues including the impoverishment of elderly women, the challenges of ageing, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, crimes of a sexual nature, unavailability of financing for women entrepreneurs, the need to invest in girls and the need to make financial resources available to combat the ills that confront women.

Dr. Rigobert indicated that while there has been fruitful dialogue over the past four decades there was still a significant lag in establishing the appropriate and facilitating regulatory and legal framework to help cure some of the problems that were highlighted at Tuesday's conference. She appealed to policy makers to make a greater effort to implement the many policies and laws that are "stuck in the pipelines" for one reason or another.

The Gender Relations Minister asserted that such conferences help to inform the developmental and systematic approach she envisions for gender equality and autonomy in Saint Lucia and the overarching mandate of the Gender Relations Unit. (GIS)

## Saint Lucia and the World

### Sixteen Saint Lucians awarded Taiwan Scholarships for 2016



*Students and officials during the scholarship award activity at Union last week.*

The government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) continues to express its commitment to provide St. Lucians with more opportunities to further their studies. These sentiments were communicated recently by Taiwan Ambassador to St. Lucia, His Excellency Ray Mou at a ceremony to award scholarships to some sixteen Saint Lucians.

Ambassador Mou says interest in Taiwan Scholarships has increased sharply over the years, making competition for awards intense because of the high quality of candidates from different countries. "This year we have nine recipients of scholarships and another two ICDF scholarships winners and five medical scholarship winners making a total of sixteen. The number of scholarships has increased from previous years. I hope we can have more scholarships, for that I promise you, I will try to obtain more scholarships in the future. I know you have a new government and I will surely work very hard with your government."

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, John Calixte emphasized the importance for the scholarship recipients to make best use of the opportunity afforded them and to always aim for excellence. "This scholarship has afforded all of you an opportunity to realize your dreams; take it with both hands and the determination and pride and make that dream become a reality. There is no elevator to success, unfortunately you have to take the stairs."

Taiwan Scholarships Alumni as well as students currently pursuing studies in the Asian nation were also on-hand to provide support to the new batch of recipients.

Saint Lucia has more than sixty students now studying in Taiwan, and more than fifty have already completed their studies.

### CARICOM Reparations Commission boosts online presence

The CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC) is becoming more accessible online as it seeks to boost its presence by rolling out a new website and new social media platforms via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The website address is [www.caricomreparations.org](http://www.caricomreparations.org).

The Commission can also be found at the following social media: addresses

<https://facebook.com/CARICOMReparations/>, <https://twitter.com/CariReparations>, and <https://www.instagram.com/caricomreparations/>.

The CRC's website is a multimedia portal that aggregates a wide range of print, video, and photo content about the growing reparations movement in the Caribbean and around the world. It contains news reports as well as speeches, lectures and essays by CARICOM leaders, public intellectuals, academics and civil society activists in the Caribbean, North America, Europe and Africa.

The website's scope expands beyond the Caribbean region to encompass content that reflects an emerging global movement for reparatory justice.

The social media campaign is geared towards bringing global awareness to the CARICOM reparatory justice movement, creating the context for the achievement of the 10-point plan through mass mobilization and support for the initiatives of the CRC. Additionally, it is expected to bring about a social movement that will contribute to achieving the goal of reparatory justice.

"We are very pleased to launch our new website and social media platforms in this week of Emancipation celebrations, a time when our people all over the region are marking the end of chattel slavery, apprenticeship and indenture in the 19th Century," said Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission.

"These new online tools will serve to inform the general public on what the Commission has done since it was established three years ago and how a global reparations movement has emerged over that period. This information will empower and inspire advocates for reparatory justice in the Caribbean and around the world," added Professor Beckles.

The site and the social platforms will also catalogue progress made in recent years in the struggle for reparations. They will report on initiatives underway and those soon to be launched in various CARICOM Member States including the Reparations Relay initiative. Furthermore, these social media platforms will engage young people in the Caribbean and around the world in the ongoing reparations conversations and debates.

## *Saint Lucia and the World*

# Student shares her experiences with the National System of Orchestras of Venezuela

On Wednesday July 27th 2016, the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Her Excellency Leiff Escalona, and the First Secretary, Juan Echeverria, met with the most outstanding student at the Saint Lucia School of Music, Ms Melody Frevier who, accompanied by her parents, came to express her deepest appreciation for the support received from the National System of Orchestras and Youth and Children Choirs of Venezuela, the institution that facilitated an intensive workshop of musical training in violin playing for a period four months in the Cities of Guarenas and Guatire in Miranda State.

This experience was enabled within the structure of the cultural exchange programme that has been developed in recent years through the ALBA-Petrocaribe Integration Scheme, with the short and medium term aim of creating a Caribbean Orchestra, with Saint Lucia being chosen as the pilot project.

The young student expressed her intention to share her knowledge and experience with other students from St. Lucia, noting that she had the opportunity to train with the Youth Orchestra and the Regional Orchestra of Miranda State, and to participate in a series of concerts in Caracas and other cities around the country.

Fevrier received training in technical skills on her favoured instrument - the violin, and also in orchestral direction, as well other aspects of performance in the musical industry under the guidance of specialist teachers of the Simon Bolivar Musical Foundation.

Her parents, Mr. Peter and Sophia Fevrier, were very appreciative of the opportunity presented to their daughter. Said her father: "From 2013 to date, through the support of the Venezuelan Government in collaboration with the Saint Lucia School of Music, music students in this country have been able to participate in and share wonderful experiences in the area of musical training, which has increased the skills level of the children and young people of the island, and this co-operation and exchange should continue and be further strengthened."

Additionally, Melody said "The Venezuelan teachers have a high technical level, the students are very disciplined and above all, a high demand and passion from each and every one of the teachers and students from the different centres of the System of Orchestras that I met." She also said that



*SIMPLY MELODIOUS! Certified Top Saint Lucia Music School student Melody Fevrier (centre), between her parents, at appreciative meeting with Venezuelan Ambassador Leiff Escalona (left) and First Secretary Juan Echeverria.*

"discipline is part of the daily life of the System and I think that with perseverance one can achieve all the goals in the professional and personal level, as stated by its motto: "To Play and to Fight".

The Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in St. Lucia, Leiff Escalona, expressed her pleasure with the family's visit to her office, while thanking "the Saint Lucia School of Music and the Simon Bolivar Musical Foundation for haven opened the doors to this talented young lady in order to form linkages with the experience offered by 'The System', as part of cultural exchange between Venezuela and the Caribbean."

"We are proud to hear a student from St. Lucia speak that way about our National Orchestra, which has trained more than 787,000 children and adolescents mostly from low income families, and who have the opportunity to learn and perform classical and popular music, and to enjoy learning the art."

"It is important to acknowledge that this miracle of inclusion at the national level in all states and cities of Venezuela, is possible thanks to the policies of the Bolivarian Government, through the conviction of Commander Chavez, who from 2010 decided to make it a Musical Foundation, attached to the Office of the Presidency, in order to give the financial boost and to exponentially increase the number of participants."

"Today these policies remain a priority for President Nicolas Maduro, who continues to maintain that the development of human beings is a fundamental premise of the Bolivarian Revolution" ended the Ambassador.



## Envoy to CARICOM and OECS honoured to serve in new role

Saint Lucia's newly-appointed ambassador to CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), His Excellency Cosmos Richardson, has welcomed the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in his new role.

Mr. Richardson, who officially assumed the appointment on July 20, will be responsible for representation of Saint Lucia's affairs in cooperation with the OECS Commission and the CARICOM Secretariat.

The new envoy is also responsible for Caribbean Integration and Diaspora Affairs and will facilitate and develop partnerships between the Diaspora and Saint Lucians living at home as well as develop and implement a strategic framework for Diaspora Affairs.

This will be done with the aim to effectively manage the functions of the OECS and CARICOM, while creating opportunities across geographical boundaries and promoting public awareness.

"It is an honour for me to be able to serve in this capacity," Mr. Richardson said.

He explained, "During my 30-year stint as a public servant, I spent a lot of time committed to matters affecting the OECS and CARICOM, so I believe I am well placed to provide advice and guidance to the government.

"I will also ensure that the general public will be kept informed of developments within the OECS, CARICOM and the Diaspora."

The new ambassador will also serve as Saint Lucia's focal point on the OECS Commission and the Permanent Committee of Ambassadors for CARICOM.

## Saint Lucian former minister to address High Level Climate Change Policy Forum in the Philippines

Dr. James Fletcher, Saint Lucia's former Minister for Sustainable Development, has been invited by the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) to address the CVF High Level Climate Policy Forum in the Philippines Senate in Manilla, Philippines on Monday 15th August, 2016.

Dr. Fletcher is one of six climate policy leaders who have been asked to speak at this high level event that will establish the Philippine CVF South-South Centre and launch the CVF Low Carbon Monitor.

James Fletcher, who was Saint Lucia's minister with responsibility for climate change during the negotiations that led to the adoption and signing of the historic Paris Agreement, also led climate change negotiations on behalf of the Caribbean region and was a key figure in the high level negotiating team of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), leading for AOSIS on the contentious issues of Ambition and Loss and Damage.

At the Philippines CVF High Level Climate Policy Forum, Dr. Fletcher will speak on the role of developing countries in the climate change negotiations and how Small Island Developing States and other developing countries can shape and influence outcomes through climate diplomacy and participation in the multilateral negotiating process.

Five other international climate policy leaders have been invited to speak at the Inaugural Lecture session of the High Level Climate Policy Forum. Among them are Christiana Figueres - the former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and current candidate for the position of UN Secretary General, Margareta Wahlstrom - former Special Representative for the UN Secretary General on Disaster Risk Reduction, and Mary Robinson - former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is a forty-three nation international cooperation body for countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change.

For the first 18 months of its existence, it was chaired by the Philippines. Its membership is drawn from countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific. At the Manilla meeting, the Philippines will officially hand over the chairmanship of the CVF to Ethiopia.

## 2017 CALL FOR MEXICAN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Embassy of Mexico to the OECS Member States is pleased to announce the 2017 Call for Mexican Scholarships for International Students which was opened from June 6th and will end on September 23rd, 2016. The scholarships are for persons interested in pursuing a degree at the masters or doctorate level, graduate or postdoctoral research, specialization or taking part in an undergraduate or graduate-level academic mobility programme. Further details on the scholarship including application procedures and deadlines can be accessed at the following websites: <http://www.gob.mx/amexcid/acciones-y-programas/becas-para-extranjeros-29785> or <http://goo.gl/aIToQo>.

In addition, five scholarships for the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and fifteen for CARICOM academic programmes will be offered to nationals of the Eastern Caribbean. These scholarships entail one semester of immersion in Spanish at the Centre of Studies for Foreigners at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

For more information on the aforementioned scholarship programmes, please contact the Embassy of Mexico at 451-4254/451 4257 or via email at: [mexicanembassy@candw.lc](mailto:mexicanembassy@candw.lc).



Organization of  
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OAS  
Scholarships

Educational Opportunities - OAS Scholarship Programs



### OAS – KDI School of Public Policy and Management, South Korea

The Organization of American States (OAS), through the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE) and KDI School of Public Policy and Management, through the OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC), are offering scholarships to qualified candidates of the Americas to participate in Master programs.

<b>Programs</b>	- Master of Public Policy - Master of Development Policy - Master of Public Management
<b>Language</b>	- English
<b>Modality</b>	- Onsite
<b>Benefits</b>	- Full tuition waiver - Monthly stipend: between \$833 USD and \$1,000 USD per month
<b>Deadlines</b>	- September 16th, 2016

## ***Saint Lucia and the World***

# **Exquisite and Remarkable in Scale and Diversity!**

*PM's statement on signing of agreement with Desert Star Holdings (DSH), a Hong Kong-based company, for the first fully integrated development project on 700 acres of land in Beausejour, Vieux Fort*

I am pleased to announce that the Government of Saint Lucia has concluded what may well be described as an extraordinary agreement with Desert Star Holding (DSH), a Hong Kong based company, for the first fully integrated development project on 700 acres of land in Beausejour, Vieux Fort, which will undoubtedly be, given its scale, transformative in the truest sense.

DSH Caribbean Star Limited is an affiliate of Desert Star Holdings Limited, a Hong Kong-based registered management and investment company with international investments in commercial and equine property and is also affiliated with the China Horse Club, a leading lifestyle, business and thoroughbred racing club which has extensive ties with leading international participants in the horse racing industry.

DSH is led by its reputable and distinguished Chairman, Mr. Teo Ah Khing, whose list of achievements and successes gives credence and bankability to the project labelled as "The Pearl of the Caribbean" and succinctly captures what the West has known for some time and what the East will, through this project, come to learn.

Mr. Teo's vision for Saint Lucia is intimately aligned with Saint Lucia's own value proposition of economic viability, sustainability and social equity and with this partnership, the Government of Saint Lucia feels satisfied that this investment will be a key driver for the south and catalyse further investments in the southern part of the island.

For these reasons, the Government of Saint Lucia has pledged its support and assistance to DSH by taking a number of steps which will aid the success of the project.

They are as follows:

1) The Government of Saint Lucia will be making certain adjustments to the Citizenship by Investment Act as certain activities contemplated by this project does not fit within the current categories. For instance, the horse racing aspect of the project, which is central to its lifestyle component, needs to be incorporated within the categories of an approved project, not on its own, but within the broader context of an integrated development, and not solely based on a hotel construction.

2) Again, the sheer scale of this project and the Eastern market it targets, makes it necessary for the Government of Saint Lucia to review the limitation of applications stipulated by the CIP legislation which has imposed a limit of 500 applications per annum. We therefore think, that it would be prudent in the circumstances, to remove that limitation and allow the



*Prime Minister Allen Chastanet*

number of approvals to be determined by policy considerations rather than within a legislative framework.

3) As Saint Lucia moves into new markets, it becomes necessary to keep pace with these markets. Accordingly, Asia is known to be very swift of foot and business is conducted in an environment of dispatch. For that reason, the Government of Saint Lucia has also undertaken to use its best endeavours to speed up the processing time of CIP applications after approvals, without sacrificing the integrity of the process, particularly in relation to the due diligence process.

We believe that these adjustments are necessary and advisable.

DSH has promised a project remarkable in scale and diversity. This project will bring a new type of investor and indeed a new type of Saint Lucian experience: from world class horse racing to entertainment, leisure and accommodation, this project promises to be exquisite.

I commend this project to the people of Saint Lucia, we look forward to working with our new partners -- and most of all, we look forward to realizing the mutual benefits to Saint Lucia and to the Master Developer, DSH.

## REGIONAL AND HEMISPHERIC DEVELOPMENTS

### Chastanet suggests CARICOM may be irrelevant to Washington

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet has asserted that Caricom needs to speak with a unified voice. While noting that Saint Lucia completely supports the United States and cherishes a lot of that country's values, Chastanet told the Times that by not speaking with one voice, Caricom has marginalized itself.

"We have become irrelevant," the Saint Lucia Prime Minister asserted.

Chastanet said he was disappointed that the Caribbean was not at a meeting in Ottawa between Canada, Mexico and the United States.

He explained that there has been a long-standing agreement called – the Three Borders.

According to the PM, Mexico, the Caribbean and Canada share borders with the United States and have always had preferential treatment from the United States.

But he observed that the Caribbean was not represented at the Ottawa meeting.

"The fact that we were not at that meeting, the fact that a lot of the things that were given to us initially that gave us an advantage we have lost and when we look at the amount of money that is being spent in the Caribbean in expectation they have for us to be able to provide proper security in this region is insufficient," Chastanet told the Times in an exclusive interview.

He noted that added to that, is the situation that is taking place with correspondent banking. According to Chastanet, that is a potential crisis in the making.

He expressed the view Caricom heads of government at their last meeting in Guyana, recognized the need to speak with one voice not only on the banking issue, but a lot of others as well.

"We need to take responsibility and engage the US in a different way, which means that all of us need to do more lobbying, become more familiar with the American political system, more familiar with state politics – meaning Governors, Senators and Congressmen, as well as on a national basis," Chastanet explained.

He said that more importantly there are a lot of businesses, including cruise lines, that need to be engaged to ensure that there are favourable policies towards allowing the Caribbean to grow. *(Saint Lucia Times Online)*

### Chinese company buys Jamaican alumina refinery



— By Douglas McIntosh —

The ALPART alumina refinery in Jamaica has been sold to Chinese entity Jiuquan Iron and Steel Company (JISCO).

Transport and mining minister, Mike Henry, said an interest purchase agreement negotiated between JISCO and Russian alumina firm, UC Rusal, which operated the refinery, was signed by representatives of both entities on July 19 in China. Henry, along with science, energy and technology minister, Dr Andrew Wheatley, led a Jamaican delegation that attended the signing ceremony.

At a media briefing on Thursday, Henry said JISCO is expected to complete the full takeover of ALPART by November this year.

This will enable the entity to undertake the first phase of investment, totalling US\$220 million, in the plant's modification and upgrading.

He indicated that during the ensuing months, a JISCO technical team will visit ALPART to conduct a study and develop basic designs as part of the preparatory work. Henry said the project is slated to run from December 2016 to December 2017 and, on conclusion, "is expected to not only reduce production cost, but also enhance the effectiveness of production".

The minister said JISCO's registration of a local office is expected to greatly facilitate these engagements, adding that the firm will dispatch approximately 200 persons to undertake these and other activities.

He further noted that JISCO is preparing a document that will outline its "best estimates" to allow the ministry to make its own preparations and plans to cooperate with the company for "efficient and effective (project) implementation within the shortest possible time".

While assuring that the government will consider special work permits for the 200 persons "in the short term", Henry said JISCO has been asked to provide the requisite job qualifications to ensure that "no Jamaican who is qualified for these... is left out".

"But, equally important, JISCO will continue to employ the existing ALPART staff as well as recruit most of the former and available employees. As such, approximately 700 jobs are to be created as early as October/November this year," he noted.

The minister assured that the government and JISCO will be "paying great attention" to protecting the environment during the project implementation.

Henry said that in addition to attending the signing ceremony for ALPART's sale, the Jamaican delegation also met with other Chinese state-owned entities to discuss possible investment opportunities in Jamaica, "with a view to holding future talks to secure bilateral agreements for project developments" *(Courtesy Jamaica Observer)*.

## REGIONAL AND HEMISPHERIC DEVELOPMENTS

# CARICOM states at odds over Accepting Buyers of Citizenship

— By Jovan Johnsn, Jamaica Gleaner —

A legal opinion that Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states without a citizenship by investment programme (CIP) are bound to accept, as CARICOM nationals, people accorded such citizenship by territories with the policy has caused a major rift among leaders, which is expected to drag on.

Leaders discussed the contentious issue in caucuses at the 37th annual conference of CARICOM heads of government, which ended in Guyana last night.

CARICOM's Office of the General Counsel submitted an opinion in February, recommending that a person to whom a CARICOM country grants citizenship must be recognised by other CARICOM states as a national and given the same rights as persons who get their citizenship through birth or naturalisation.

Under international law, the opinion said "the prerogative for the grant of citizenship" rests with individual states.

Accordingly, it is submitted that a "citizen by investment" or an "economic citizen" of a CARICOM member state is included in the definition of "national" in the Revised Treaty, and is, therefore, entitled to the benefits of CARICOM nationals set out in or derived from the Revised Treaty".

Article 22 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas states that a national is a person who is a citizen of a member state or "has a connection with that state of a kind which entitles him to be regarded as belonging to or, if it is so expressed, as being a native or resident of the State".

However, Dr Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, is insisting that his country does not agree with the opinion and will not be acknowledging its recommendations.

### Respect The Treaty

But Gaston Browne, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, insisted that regional countries must respect the provisions of the treaty.

"The CIP provides different pathways to citizenship. You can become a citizen by birth, by descent, by naturalisation, and the CIP is one such pathway. When you become a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda, a CIP citizen, you're regarded as a citizen. The treaty is very clear that a citizen of a member state is certainly a member of CARICOM and should be accorded the rights of CARICOM. Until I see any legal opinion to the contrary, that opinion stands," he argued.

"They (opposing countries) have not produced any legal opinion to the contrary."

Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia are the CARICOM nations that have enacted legislation providing for the acquisition of citizenship by investment.

Last year, Jamaica's main investment agency, JAMPRO, said discussions regarding a residence by investment programme were well advanced.

Late yesterday, Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness noted during a press conference that Jamaica does not have a CIP and gave no indication whether one would be pursued by his administration.

Holness however said he hoped that investors would choose to seek Jamaican citizenship.

Allen Chastanet, the prime minister of St Lucia, told The Gleaner



*CARICOM is saying that all CIP passport holders are automatic equal Caribbean citizens, but Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, says his country will not be bound by citizenship agreements it did not enter.*

that the issue is a problem that would not have been resolved at the Guyana meeting.

"We're to continue discussions. They're trying to map out a way forward in terms of resolving whatever the differences are."

Irwin LaRocque, CARICOM secretary general, refused to answer questions put to him by The Gleaner about the divisions among leaders over the economic citizenship opinion.

### Push For Distinction

Meanwhile, the legal opinion, seen by The Gleaner, has also come down against a reported push by some leaders for a distinction between citizens. "It is further submitted that it does not appear to be permissible to establish categories of CARICOM nationals which make distinctions between citizens of a member state, whether such citizenship is derived from birth, descent, or registration, including economic citizens.

CIP supporters argue that the programmes allow for the creation of new revenue streams. They also argue that richer countries such as the United States, Canada, Singapore, and Australia have adopted various forms of investor citizenship programmes.

But some CARICOM members have argued that there could be security issues as citizenship could be granted to the wrong persons, who could use the 'right' to engage in criminality.

"It has been argued that the grant of citizenship without any significant residence requirements or proper due diligence could facilitate criminality, money laundering or, at worst, terrorism and result in damage to the international reputation of the region," the legal opinion stated. The International Monetary Fund has also warned that revenues from the CIP "are inherently volatile and carry risks of a sudden stop".

The concerns come as the region tries to respond to the threat of losing banking relationships with larger institutions in North America and Europe over those banks' fears that the region is being used to facilitate financial crimes.

Dominica, by requiring investments at a minimum of US\$100,000, has one of the cheapest citizenships on sale. It is estimated that people spend about US\$1 billion on CIP. ([jovan.johnson@gleanerjm.com](mailto:jovan.johnson@gleanerjm.com))

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

# Trump & Putin. Yes, It's Really a Thing!

— By Josh Marshall (TPM Editor) —

Over the last year there has been a recurrent refrain about the seeming bro-mance between Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. More seriously, but relatedly, many believe Trump is an admirer and would-be emulator of Putin's increasingly autocratic and illiberal rule. But there's quite a bit more to the story. At a minimum, Trump appears to have a deep financial dependence on Russian money from persons close to Putin. And this is matched to a conspicuous solicitousness to Russian foreign policy interests where they come into conflict with US policies which go back decades through administrations of both parties. There is also something between a non-trivial and a substantial amount of evidence suggesting Putin-backed financial support for Trump or a non-tacit alliance between the two men.

Let me start by saying I'm no Russia hawk. I have long been skeptical of US efforts to extend security guarantees to countries within what the Russians consider their 'near abroad' or extend such guarantees and police Russian interactions with new states which for centuries were part of either the Russian Empire or the USSR. This isn't a matter of indifference to these countries. It is based on my belief in seriously thinking through the potential costs of such policies. In the case of the Baltics, those countries are now part of NATO. Security commitments have been made which absolutely must be kept. But there are many other areas where such commitments have not been made. My point in raising this is that I do not come to this question or these policies as someone looking for confrontation or cold relations with Russia.

Let's start with the basic facts. There is a lot of Russian money flowing into Trump's coffers and he is conspicuously solicitous of Russian foreign policy priorities.

I'll list off some facts.

1. All the other discussions of Trump's finances aside, his debt load has grown dramatically over the last year, from \$350 million to \$630 million. This is in just one year while his liquid assets have also decreased. Trump has been blackballed by all major US banks.

2. Post-bankruptcy Trump has been highly reliant on money from Russia, most of which has over the years become increasingly concentrated among oligarchs and sub-garchs close to Vladimir Putin. Here's a good overview from The Washington Post, with one morsel for illustration ...



Since the 1980s, Trump and his family members have made numerous trips to Moscow in search of business opportunities, and they have relied on Russian investors to buy their properties around the world.

"Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets," Trump's son, Donald Jr., told a real estate conference in 2008, according to an account posted on the website of eTurboNews, a trade publication. "We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia."

3. One example of this is the Trump Soho development in Manhattan, one of Trump's largest recent endeavors. The project was the hit with a series of lawsuits in response to some typically Trumpian efforts to defraud investors by making fraudulent claims about the financial health of the project. Emerging out of that litigation however was news about secret financing for the project from Russia and Kazakhstan. Most attention about the project has focused on the presence of a twice imprisoned Russian immigrant with extensive ties to the Russian criminal underworld. But that's not the most salient part of the story. As the Times put it,

"Mr. Lauria brokered a \$50 million investment in Trump SoHo and three other Bayrock projects by an Icelandic firm preferred by wealthy Russians "in favor with" President Vladimir V. Putin, according to a lawsuit against Bayrock by one of its former executives. The Icelandic company, FL Group, was identified in a Bayrock investor presentation as a "strategic partner," along with Alexander Mashkevich, a billionaire once charged in a corruption case involving fees paid by a Belgian company seeking business in Kazakhstan; that case was settled with no admission of guilt." Another suit alleged the project "occasionally received unexplained infusions of cash from accounts in Kazakhstan and Russia."

### Sounds completely legit.

Read both articles: After his bankruptcy and business failures roughly a decade ago Trump has had an increasingly difficult time finding sources of capital for new investments. As I noted above, Trump has been blackballed by all major US banks with the exception of Deutschebank, which is of course a foreign bank with a major US presence. He has steadied and rebuilt his financial empire with a heavy reliance on capital from Russia. At a minimum the Trump organization is receiving lots of investment capital from people close to Vladimir Putin.

*Continued on Page 15*

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

# Trump & Putin. Yes, It's Really a Thing!

*Continued on Page 15*

Trump's tax returns would likely clarify the depth of his connections to and dependence on Russian capital aligned with Putin. And in case you're keeping score at home: no, that's not reassuring.

4. Then there's Paul Manafort, Trump's nominal 'campaign chair' who now functions as campaign manager and top advisor. Manafort spent most of the last decade as top campaign and communications advisor for Viktor Yanukovich, the pro-Russian Ukrainian Prime Minister and then President whose ouster in 2014 led to the on-going crisis and proxy war in Ukraine. Yanukovich was and remains a close Putin ally. Manafort is running Trump's campaign.

5. Trump's foreign policy advisor on Russia and Europe is Carter Page, a man whose entire professional career has revolved around investments in Russia and who has deep and continuing financial and employment ties to Gazprom. If you're not familiar with Gazprom, imagine if most or all of the US energy industry were rolled up into a single company and it were personally controlled by the US President who used it as a source of revenue and patronage. That is Gazprom's role in the Russian political and economic system. It is no exaggeration to say that you cannot be involved with Gazprom at the very high level which Page has been without being wholly in alignment with Putin's policies. Those ties also allow Putin to put Page out of business at any time.

6. Over the course of the last year, Putin has aligned all Russian state controlled media behind Trump. As Frank Foer explains here, this fits a pattern with how Putin has sought to prop up rightist/nationalist politicians across Europe, often with direct or covert infusions of money. In some cases this is because they support Russia-backed policies; in others it is simply because they sow discord in Western aligned states. Of course, Trump has repeatedly praised Putin, not only in the abstract but often for the authoritarian policies and patterns of government which have most soured his reputation around the world.

7. Here's where it gets more interesting. This is one of a handful of developments that tipped me from seeing all this as just a part of Trump's larger shadiness to something more specific and ominous about the relationship between Putin and Trump. As TPM's Tierney Sneed explained in this article, one of the most enduring dynamics of GOP conventions (there's a comparable dynamic on the Dem side) is more mainstream nominees battling conservative activists over the party platform, with activists trying to check all the hardline ideological boxes and the nominees trying to soften most or all of those edges. This is one thing that made the Trump convention very different. The Trump Camp was totally indifferent to the platform. So party activists were able to write one of the most conservative platforms in history. Not with Trump's

backing but because he simply didn't care. With one big exception: Trump's team mobilized the nominee's traditional mix of cajoling and strong-arming on one point: changing the party platform on assistance to Ukraine against Russian military operations in eastern Ukraine. For what it's worth (and it's not worth much) I am quite skeptical of most Republicans call for aggressively arming Ukraine to resist Russian aggression. But the single-mindedness of this focus on this one issue - in the context of total indifference to everything else in the platform - speaks volumes.

This does not mean Trump is controlled by or in the pay of Russia or Putin. It can just as easily be explained by having many of his top advisors having spent years working in Putin's orbit and being aligned with his thinking and agenda. But it is certainly no coincidence. Again, in the context of near total indifference to the platform and willingness to let party activists write it in any way they want, his team zeroed in on one fairly obscure plank to exert maximum force and it just happens to be the one most important to Putin in terms of US policy.

Add to this that his most conspicuous foreign policy statements track not only with Putin's positions but those in which Putin is most intensely interested. Aside from Ukraine, Trump's suggestion that the US and thus NATO might not come to the defense of NATO member states in the Baltics in the case of a Russian invasion is a case in point.

There are many other things people are alleging about hacking and all manner of other mysteries. But those points are highly speculative, some verging on conspiratorial in their thinking. I ignore them here because I've wanted to focus on unimpeachable, undisputed and publicly known facts. These alone paint a stark and highly troubling picture.

To put this all into perspective, if Vladimir Putin were simply the CEO of a major American corporation and there was this much money flowing in Trump's direction, combined with this much solicitousness of Putin's policy agenda, it would set off alarm bells galore. That is not hyperbole or exaggeration. And yet Putin is not the CEO of an American corporation. He's the autocrat who rules a foreign state, with an increasingly hostile posture towards the United States and a substantial stockpile of nuclear weapons. The stakes involved in finding out 'what's going on' as Trump might put it are quite a bit higher.

There is something between a non-trivial and a substantial amount of circumstantial evidence for a financial relationship between Trump and Putin or a non-tacit alliance between the two men. Even if you draw no adverse conclusions, Trump's financial empire is heavily leveraged and has a deep reliance on capital infusions from oligarchs and other sources of wealth aligned with Putin. That's simply not something that can be waved off or ignored.

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS****US Owes White House Slaves \$83 Million!**

— By Michael Daly —

The slaves who built the White House got no pay—but their owners got up to \$60 a year. So here's what America really owes the builders' descendants.

Peter. Ben. Harry. Daniel. Jerry. Moses. Anthony. Tom. Jess. Jack. Nero. George. David. Gus. Bob. Liverpoole. Gerard. Gil. Alex. Stephen. Dick. Nace. Charles. Bob. Kitt. Moses. Len. Jim. Arnold. Davy. Frank. Newton. Moses. Charles. Jacob. Gabriel. Henry. William. Joseph. James.

The slaves who helped build the White House had no surnames in the official documents, having the same legal status as dogs. Those listed above—and many more—labored from dawn to dusk, six days a week. They felled the trees. Hewed the logs. Quarried the stone. Made brick. Muscled it all to the site. Dug the foundation. Set to work as sawyers, stonemasons, carpenters, and laborers.

For these labors, their owners—or the middlemen who had leased the slaves—were paid as much as \$60 a year. The slaves themselves got not a penny.

**National Archives, Records of the Commissioners of the City of Washington**

**Payroll records for slaves leased as carpenters and joiners at the President's House, February 1795.**

Fairness might suggest that the descendants of the owners should pay the descendants of the slaves reparations drawn from whatever of monetary value may have been passed down through the owners' families over the years.

Fairness demands that the government pay the descendants of the slaves for their labors. That is not reparations. That is simply paying people honest wages for honest work. And this was not just any construction job.

The minimum should begin with the \$60 a year that was paid to the owners as what each slave's work was worth. The white workers at the White House received markedly more.

A 5 percent interest rate would seem at the lower end of reasonable. At 5 percent, compounded annually for 224 years, the \$60 would become \$3,346,218.08.

But some might argue that 10 percent interest would be more appropriate. The number then would become \$112,230,972,351.66.

Others might contend that the slaves should benefit from the same 20 percent annual return that the \$60 roughly constituted for the owners when compared to what they generally paid for a slave in the first place.

That hardly seems extreme when compared to the returns from some of the modern hedge funds. Why shouldn't slaves also enjoy that magical math? Yet at 20 percent, the \$60 would seem to become \$32,715,259,164,460,650,496.00. That is more than the American GNP.

If that number is right, we cannot afford to pay even one slave at the rate a Wall Street greedster would expect.

Getting back to the 5 percent interest and the \$3,346,218.08. It would seem only right to translate the 1792 dollars into 2016 dollars, or by a multiple of 25. The result is \$83,655,452.00.

Of course, the money would have to be taxed, like any honest wages. There would remain the hard part, which would be tracking down the descendants without the aid of the slaves' given names.

But the owners are known, and that would be a promising starting place. William Beall owned Davy, Frank, and Newton. Ignatius Boon owned Moses, Charles, and Jacob.

The other owners included James Hoban, who won a competition to design the White House and oversaw its construction. He also pocketed \$60 a year for each of four slaves: Peter, Ben, Harry, and Daniel. He bequeathed the slaves, along with his horses and the rest of his sizeable estate, to the surviving of his 10 children at the time of his death. His immediate heirs are said have sold the slaves at a tidy profit.

During the Civil War that freed all slaves, Hoban's son, James Jr., chanced to see a Philadelphia man stumble and fall in the street after taking ill with malaria. The son brought the man into his Washington, D.C., home, as the hospitals there were filled beyond capacity with battlefield casualties. The man was Eustace Bouvier and his wife, Louise Lindsay Bouvier, subsequently sent the Hobans a silver pitcher as a token of her gratitude.

A century later, the great-great-grandson of the man who designed the White House was thrilled to see the Philadelphia man's great-great-granddaughter had moved into it as the new first lady. James Hoban Alexander added a grand twist to a family tale by presenting Jackie Kennedy with the silver pitcher.

A photographer captured the presentation at the White House. There was much talk about James Hoban's design and how he had been inspired by a building in his native Ireland. But there was no mention of the slaves who had done much of the actual building, those including four that the celebrated Hoban had disgraced himself by owning.

Imagine how ecstatic the slaves would have been to see the present first lady move into the house they constructed from the foundation up. Michelle Obama got the whole world thinking about the slaves when she spoke, at the Democratic National Convention, of what it meant to her to live in a house built by slaves and watch her daughters play with their dog on the lawn.

Her speech was proof that America has never been greater. There remains the question of the unpaid wages for honest work done on the house where the next president who moves in may do so not with a first lady but with a first fellow. Either way, a debt is a debt.

# Theresa May pledges £33m boost for fight against slavery in Britain

*Prime Minister has also set up new Task Force to coordinate government response to Modern Slavery*

The battle against modern slavery in Britain is to get a £33m boost, Theresa May has announced.

The prime minister said the money would be targeted at dealing with the routes of the people-trafficking trade in countries such as Nigeria, as she unveiled a new taskforce that is to coordinate the government response to slavery.

Ministers estimate there are between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of slavery in the UK.

A review by barrister Caroline Haughey to mark the first anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act found that 289 modern slavery offences were prosecuted in 2015, and there was a 40% rise in the number of victims referred for support.

The government has also asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to assess the police response to modern slavery.

May said: "This government is determined to build a Great Britain that works for everyone and will not tolerate modern slavery, an evil trade that shatters victims' lives and traps them in a cycle of abuse.

"Last year I introduced the world-leading Modern Slavery Act to send the strongest possible signal that victims were not alone and that those responsible for this vile exploitation would face justice.

"We must do more and the historic £33.5m will allow us to go even further to support victims," she added.

"Alongside this, the Haughey and HMIC reviews send a clear message that the criminal justice system must ensure that perpetrators have nowhere left to hide. I am pleased to see progress but we will not stop until slavery is consigned to the history books."

Haughey, who has prosecuted a variety of servitude, slavery and human-trafficking cases including the first case of modern slavery, said: "The Modern Slavery Act has set an international benchmark to which other jurisdictions aspire. The act itself is fit for purpose and our priority should be to maximise the impact of the provisions that came into force a year ago.

"One year on, law enforcement agencies are using the powers in the act and the number of prosecutions and of victims supported



*Theresa May: pledged to consign slavery to the history books*



*Theresa May introduced the Modern Slavery Act in 2015, when she was home secretary. Today she is planning to end modern slavery in Britain and will be supported by protesters and activists across the UK. But what about Britain's role in Slavery and Native genocide as recorded in the history of The Slave Trade through the Great Triangle that linked Britain with Africa and the Caribbean? Photograph: Alamy*

has increased. But this is a generational fight to protect the vulnerable and voiceless and I believe we need to do more.

"There is a lack of consistency in how law enforcement and criminal justice agencies deal with the victims and perpetrators of modern slavery. We need better training, better intelligence and a more structured approach to identifying, investigating, prosecuting and preventing slavery, including learning from what works and what does not."

The move came as the UK's anti-slavery commissioner warned that people-trafficking cases are not being investigated properly.

Kevin Hyland expressed concern at the levels of potential slavery incidents being recorded as crimes. "What's alarming about that is that we do have people reporting to the authorities, but then they are not being properly investigated," the commissioner told the BBC.

"The real concern that I have is that in 2015 we had 986 cases involving minors, yet the official figures show that there's only 928 actual crime recorded incidents. So that means ... potentially the cases involving minors are not being investigated properly.

"The fact that the number of crimes recorded hasn't even reached the number of minors actually tells me that all these cases ... they are not being investigated properly because until they are recorded properly, and there are the resources put into it to see what the circumstances are behind that, we can't be satisfied that we can say it is, or it isn't, a crime of modern slavery."

The global trade in people is estimated to cost £113bn, with human trafficking for sexual exploitation believed to cost the UK £890m. (The Guardian)