

PR UWI Cave Hill launches Educational & Psychological Assessment Unit



The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Cave Hill Campus, officially launched its Educational and Psychological Assessment Unit (EPAU) on Tuesday, at the Sagikor Cave Hill School of Business & Management.

Housed within the School of Education, the EPAU has been established to strengthen access to high-quality psycho-educational assessment and consultation services across Barbados and the wider Caribbean. The unit aims to support children and adolescents, as well as families, schools, and educational professionals, in better understanding how learners think, learn, and function in

educational settings.

The EPAU focuses on assessment that informs meaningful support and planning rather than simply assigning labels. Services will include comprehensive psycho-educational assessments, screening and consultation, school-based support, and training and capacity building for educators and other professionals.

The launch brought together university leadership, representatives from the Ministry of Educational Transformation, the Caribbean Development Bank, and other key partners. During the programme, coordinator Dr Erin

Mahon outlined the unit's vision to address gaps in regional assessment capacity and to promote ethical, developmentally informed practice grounded in Caribbean realities.

The establishment of the EPAU marks an important step in strengthening support systems for learners and advancing inclusive education across the region.

The unit is now accepting referrals. Parents, schools, and professionals may contact the EPAU at erin.mahon@uwi.edu or schoolofeducation@cavehill.uwi.edu, or telephone (246) 417-4425/4426. **(PR)**

Deputy PM bids farewell to Transport and Works staff

After almost five years at the helm of the Ministry of Transport and Works, Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Transport and Works, Santia Bradshaw, today bade farewell to the staff of the Ministry at a brief meeting at the Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) offices in the Goddard Building, Haggatt Hall, St Michael.

Gathered were the Permanent Secretary Jehu Wiltshire, Chief Technical Officer Jenifer King, Chief Licensing Officer Treca McCarthy-Broome, their deputies and members of the administrative, accounts and technical staff.

In a heartfelt speech, the DPM thanked the staff for all their hard work in moving MTW to its present status. While stressing that there is still a lot of work left to be done, Ms Bradshaw expressed gratitude for the cooperation... "even through some rough times".

Under her tenure, a number of projects were started, such as the Accelerated Mill and Pave and Focused Roads Projects, which saw a number of major roads and residential ones

being paved. Other projects like the Scotland District Road Rehabilitation are ongoing and progressing well.

MTW's staff in return spoke of the DPM's commitment to the ministry and thanked her for pushing them to higher levels. Her drive to modernise various departments in the Ministry was regarded as "having made a significant difference to MTW".

DPM Bradshaw said in her new role of Ministry of the Environment, National Beautification and Fisheries, roads will also play a major factor, and significantly stressed she would still remain in contact with MTW.

She also encouraged the staff to give the new Minister of Transport and Works, Kirk Humphrey the same level of cooperation and respect formerly bestowed on her.

Minister Kirk Humphrey assumes his duties on Wednesday, February 18, when he formally meets with senior staff at the Ministry's Headquarters at the Goddard Building, Haggatt Hall, St Michael.

(PR/MTW)



Deputy Prime Minister Santia Bradshaw bids farewell to staff at the Ministry of Transport and Works. (PR)

Do we still need God now that the elections have been decided?

The general election is over and the constituents have determined which of the contending candidates will become their representatives in the next Parliament. The debate will continue as to whether the low voter turnout was evidence that a cloak of apathy has enveloped our citizenry, whether many had resigned themselves to the thought that the outcome was a foregone conclusion, or whether many abstained because they simply did not see prospective candidates that they considered to be suitable representatives.

A particularly interesting observation from one of the panelists assembled by one of the media houses on the night of the election was that morality does not win votes anymore, therefore candidates who are able to sponsor fetes and attract young party-goers are a

greater asset than those representing a more traditional base. If this is true, why then did all the political parties make a greater than usual effort to identify as God-fearing representatives who recognize that Christian values are paramount to the future success of our Republic?

It was gratifying to see the highly visible participation of existing and prospective parliamentary representatives from both major political parties in Christian church services leading up to the election, which seems to be a clear indication that candidates thought it important to be seen by the populace as God-fearing citizens, notwithstanding the fact that the pulpit always guarantees important media coverage.

Whatever the motive, we commend the

political parties for their endorsement of the spiritual climate over our nation, and the implicit recognition that "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). It is important that the leadership of our nation is seen to actively endorse the upholding of Christian values consistent with the Constitution and National Anthem of Barbados which proclaim the sovereignty of the God who has been the people's guide throughout our colonial and post-colonial history. May these values remain unchanged in any future iterations of these national texts.

Those who believe in the power of prayer recognize the importance and powerful influence of positive spiritual declarations over our nation, and the ability of prayer to

positively influence the outcome of public morality, crime and even the geo-political atmosphere that prevails around us. Either you believe in the power of prayer or you don't; but your participation in Christian church services implies that you do. Why else would you bother to show up?

We sincerely hope that now that the elections have concluded and the wishes of the majority have been made known, the parliamentarians as well as the unsuccessful candidates will continue to espouse godly morality as the compass that guides our nation as we navigate the treacherous waters that lie ahead.

**Hutson Inniss
Family-Faith-Freedom, Barbados**

Speaking Out