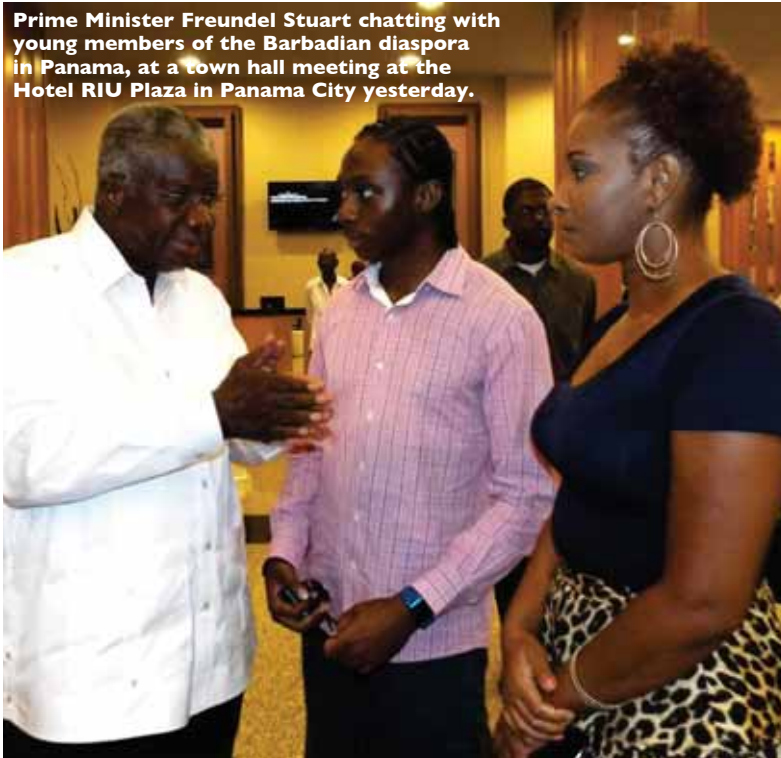


Tribute to emi

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart chatting with young members of the Barbadian diaspora in Panama, at a town hall meeting at the Hotel RIU Plaza in Panama City yesterday.



GOVT TO HONOUR BARBADIANS WHO LEFT FOR PANAMA

Government is working on a tangible way to pay tribute to those Barbadians who emigrated to Panama and sent back money to help build the economy and society.

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart made that disclosure yesterday as he addressed members of the Barbadian diaspora in Panama at a town hall meeting at the Hotel RIU Plaza in Panama City.

The meeting which attracted close to 300 persons, many of whom were first, second and third generation Barbadian

descendants, was hosted by Stuart in Panama.

He said remittances which made up a significant part of the economy during the slavery period – an estimated value of \$1 billion – “gave breathing space to an economy in decline”.

“My Government thinks it needs to acknowledge that fact. That is why we are working with other agencies, particularly the Barbadian Society; about the precise form that the tribute should take,” Stuart told the gathering.

The Prime Minister hinted that the tribute would take the form of a monument.

He also pointed out that a deal for a monument in Panama City, expected to be completed by the opening of the Crop Over Festival

SBA reintroduces



CEO of the SBA Lynette Holder

With an aim to boost sales among micro and medium business enterprises (SMEs) and encourage Barbadians to buy more local items, the Small Business Association (SBA) has reintroduced a SMART Card.

Chief executive officer of the SBA Lynette Holder said the discount card formed part of phase one of the association's Be SME SMART campaign which began in 2012/2013 to focus on the promotion of the SME sector.

The Smart Card will allow customers to enjoy a range of discounts and special offers from small businesses on the spot once they present it.

Besides getting the opportunity to sign up for the card, the help of SBA SMART ambassadors, residents able to sign up for the card at the SBA office on their website.

Holder said the association has also introduced a value-added component to its SME promotional campaign which includes a marketplace on the SBA's website. The marketplace will feature the range of goods and services available from companies as well as the discounts that are available to holders of the SMART card.

She said the SBA would also be embarking on a major eight-week advertising campaign to promote the businesses.

In addition, Holder said the SBA was hoping to transform the SMART card by the end of the year so it could be used like a bank card so customers

SBA Small Business Association

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- Supporting small businesses
- Reducing the use of foreign exchange

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New network to improve business sector

A new small business development centre network has been established in Barbados that officials are hoping will result in a more vibrant and sustainable micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) sector.

Led by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Small Business Development, the model, which was adopted from the United States, will run initially as a two-year pilot project with the aim of improving the way business is done.

Among other things, the network which will serve as a resource for people who are seeking to start or develop a small business, should also result in greater partnerships between the public and private sector and learning institutions to help the enterprises realize high returns on investments, increase their sales and retain jobs.

Addressing the launch of the new networking opportunity at the Central Bank, Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture Stephen Lashley said he believed it was “a paradigm shift for Barbados”.

He urged those involved to ensure the delivery of more cost-effective, coordinated, integrated business report of services, enhanced data collection and greater information sharing to inform programming and policy formulation.

Lashley also called for improved customer service, better use of technology and strengthening, monitoring and evaluation systems to more effectively measure impacts, benefits and performance of SMEs.

Stating that he believed the new network would help to “radically transform” the SME sector, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Small Business Development Donville Inniss said ultimately a new business model should be developed with the



From left, US Ambassador

mantra “all in an effort to transform Barbados, a business paradigm placed on the status quo.”

Meanwhile, on the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Robison, advised that the operations and the

So far the Office of the Caribbean Centre networks

igrants

art who is on a working visit to
 migration generated during the post-
 value today of at least \$20 million
 economy that seemed in terminal
 necessary to give full public
 Therefore, we are consulting with
 Barbados Museum and Historical
 that public acknowledgement should
 that the tribute could come in the
 decision to twin Historic Bridgetown
 be finalized during the official
 val in June, was another step taken

"to ensure that we build on the historic links between Panama and Barbados".
 In addition, he told members of the Barbadian diaspora that Panama Day, August 15, would be observed annually as a national day of celebration and reflection on the contribution of Barbadians to the construction of the Panama Canal.
 During the town hall meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Senator Maxine McClean invited Panamanians of Barbadian descent to participate in the celebrations for Barbados' 50th Anniversary of Independence.
 Senator McClean has had been selected by Stuart to chair a coordinating committee to oversee plans to mark Barbados' golden anniversary of Independence.
 These celebrations will begin on November 30 this year and run until November 30, 2016.
(DP/BGIS)

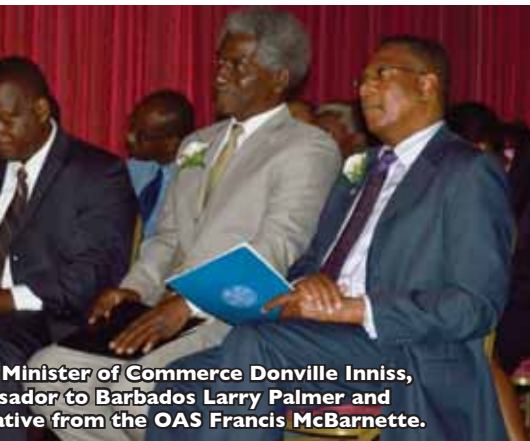


Members of the audience at the town hall meeting at the Hotel RIU Plaza in Panama City yesterday.

Smart Card

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could use it to swipe and shop online.
 In that regard, she said the SBA was currently in discussions with some commercial banks in an effort to establish e-commerce platforms for all SMEs to sell their goods and services online. This would also allow customers to gain points and other special offers.
 "So phase one will be the discount card and phase two will be the card with the magnetic strip that will allow for the points to be accrued as people make their purchases," she said.
 Holder said it was the aim of the SBA to get more companies doing business online.
 Stressing that small businesses were critical to the local economy, Holder said that by supporting them "it allows us to save jobs, allows small businesses to earn revenues, it enhances their commitment to providing quality goods and services and helps Barbados to save foreign exchange".
 The campaign, which will run until the end of this year, will be reviewed periodically and the necessary adjustments made.
 As part of its quest to drive more business among the SME sector, Holder said the SBA was also in discussions with the Barbados Postal Service to develop a courier service across the island once the online platform was developed to facilitate e-trade.
(MM)



Minister of Commerce Donville Inniss, Ambassador to Barbados Larry Palmer and Representative from the OAS Francis McBarnette.

d none must be left behind".
 we have managed to convince ourselves that the occasional
 our systemic weakness is an appropriate intervention. We need, in
 nness class that is not afraid to challenge the increasing indifference of
 he said.
 ne of the developmental partners involved, Dean of the Faculty of
 at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus Dr Justin
 ed those who use the services to ensure they do so to grow their
 get rich".
 rganization of American State (OAS) has assisted about 15 countries
 , Latin and South America with setting up business development
(MM)

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