

14. THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020. DAILY NATION.

# COVID-19 Coronavirus UPDATE



**HOTLINE: 536-4500**



## Sir Gordon helps get students online

TEN PUPILS of Gordon Greenidge Primary School are now better equipped for online learning. They recently received ten tablets from the man after whom the Upper Rock Dundo, St James school is named – Sir Gordon Greenidge.

Sir Gordon, who maintains close contact with the school through social and financial support, made the donation to principal Dr Angela Smith. He said he hoped the electronic devices would assist the students in the new classroom format in the COVID-19 environment.

He added his ultimate goal was to see the school having a library and resource centre to benefit both the pupils and the wider community.

Gordon Greenidge Primary, which opened in 1993, was an amalgamation of St Boniface Primary in St James and Black Bess Primary in St Peter. (PR)

**SIR GORDON GREENIDGE making the presentation to principal Dr Angela Smith. (GP)**

# Bajans urged to do staycations

by **GERCINE CARTER**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) Rudy Grant is encouraging Barbadians to take greater advantage of the island's tourism offerings in the aftermath of COVID-19.**

Saying he had always held the view that there should be more local support of the sector, Grant told the **DAILY NATION**: "The reality is that Barbadians have to have as much of an appreciation of the sector and understand the importance of it if we are really going to get the full potential out of this very important area. So while COVID-19 does require some rethinking of how things are done, greater participation of Barbadians in the sector must be the focus. "We are going to see a much

smaller tourism sector operating than pre-COVID-19," the BHTA executive said, while pointing out that tourism was "not just about people coming in from a source market.

With limited airlift coming into the island at this stage of reopening, hotel occupancies are anticipated to be very low, with some hotels carrying empty rooms for a while as Grant suggested reopenings will be "staggered."

"The critical element of reopening will relate to the number of visitors, the number of guests you will have and the requirements in terms of the protocols being put in place and I think that a lot of our members will be looking to reopen, but the expectation must not be that you will necessarily see all tourism enterprises open at the same time," he said.

In the interim, staycations

would have to be considered as an option to attract business, Grant indicated.

"We are looking at how best you can package the staycation in such a way as to provide the accommodation along with amenities such as dining and visits to the attractions so that Barbadians have the opportunity to continue to contribute to this sector," he said.

Consideration was also being given to extending the staycation offer to other CARICOM countries, the BHTA executive added, but noted that depended on airlift.

Grenada's Minister of Tourism Dr Clarice Modeste-Curwen said last week the Caribbean market "must be seen as critical to the rebuilding process" but she insisted regional airfares were not conducive to intra-regional travel.

Speaking during a **Facebook**



**RUDY GRANT (FP)**

**Live series** organised by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, Modeste-Curwen said there was need for a review of the taxes on intra-Caribbean travel and how these taxes impacted the desire for travel among the people of the region.