



Historic moment for gender equality in the BRCS Board Elections

– Page 6 –



Minister offers education compact with South Central students

– Page 7 –



Caricom chairman assures Haiti of regional solidarity

– Page 14 –

BHTA TAKES POSITION

Association reaches decision on vaccination and testing protocols for tourism workers

EMERGING from discussions of the BHTA membership held on Friday, recommendations for the vaccination and testing protocols for persons employed by its members were agreed upon.

Geoffrey Roach, Chairman of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA), made the announcement in a press release issued to the media.

Pointing out that the BHTA reaffirms its commitment to the responsible resuscitation of Barbados' tourism and hospitality industry, he said, "We reiterate that our primary concern remains the health and safety of our employees, guests and Barbadians. We are cognizant that vaccines are crucial for a safe, productive and healthy working environment, as well as the future survival of this vital sector.

He added, "The BHTA fully supports and will continue to strongly encourage all employees in the industry to get vaccinated. It is our position that regular testing will not be required for those employees who are fully vaccinated and provide proof of an approved course of vaccines."

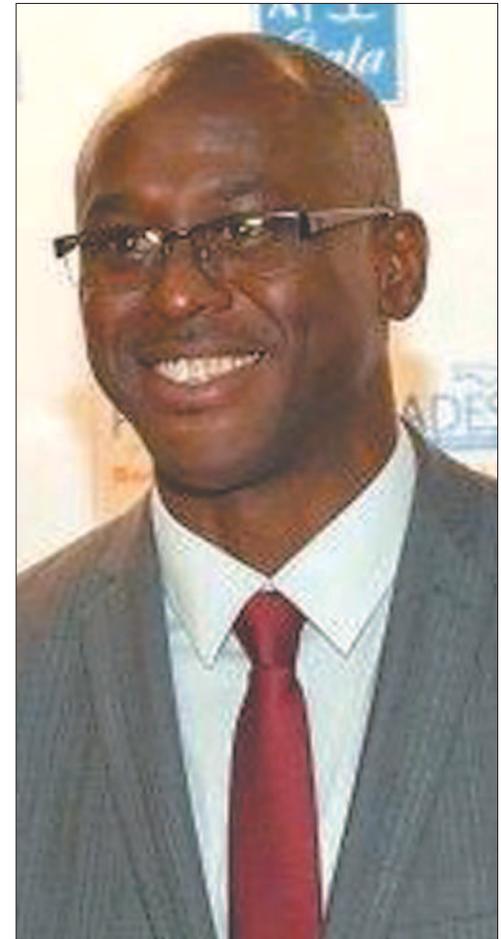
"Furthermore, the Association will be lobbying Government for unvaccinated tourism employees and those that are not fully vaccinated or who will not disclose their vaccination status, to be required to be tested weekly for COVID-19,

or otherwise as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. It is our expectation that these tests will be facilitated under the current arrangements through our public health system," he further remarked.

The BHTA says, to assist with this process, members have given the assurance that employees will be allowed the necessary time off to be tested. However, the BHTA's position is that any costs associated with testing, should be the full responsibility of the employees.

"The Association supports mandatory vaccination of employees, especially in critical sectors such as tourism, hospitality and health, however we also recognize that at present, there is limited access to the necessary quantities of approved vaccines for the entire country. We are also aware that some employees may choose not to be vaccinated for religious, medical and other reasons," the BHTA Chairman asserted.

"This reinforces the importance of frequent mandatory testing of unvaccinated employees, as part of our efforts to protect all workers and minimize against the spread of the ever-mutating COVID-9 virus. The Association also recommends that, going forward, members should request proof of full vaccination status from all new applicants to be considered for



Geoffrey Roach, Chairman of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA).

BHTA on Page 3

Fisheries Management Regulations headed to Cabinet

By **Cara L. Jean-Baptiste**

IT is the hope of the Ministry of Maritime and the Blue Economy to have the Fisheries Management Regulations passed as official regulations soon.

This was revealed by Joyce Leslie, Chief Fisheries Officer during a recent online consultation that discussed the Draft Fisheries Management Regulations. Leslie noted that they have received good feedback from the previous meetings that they have hosted so far.

"We have had quite good feedback from the meetings so far that has allowed us to look at some aspects of the regulations in different ways, and we can see one or two issues would have been drawn

out tonight so we will have to tweak those aspects of the overall regulations," she said.

"And as I said, then they will be presented through our Minister to Cabinet where we will get permission then to submit to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's Office for them to be written in legal language and however long that process takes with regulations, it isn't usually as onerous as if you're writing an app. So we are hopeful that that process wouldn't take too long and we will be able to come out with a product that can be in legal phrasing, and then we'll be seeking permission for it to be passed as regulations official regulation. So that would be in a nutshell the next steps in

relation to the fisheries management regulations."

With respect to the Draft Fisheries Management Regulations, Leslie noted that there would be a final Zoom meeting next Wednesday.

Additionally, the CFO noted that there will be a meeting, co-hosted with the Coastal Zone Management Unit as they look to improve the marine management areas with respect to our fisheries resources and explain what the management of these areas would mean for the average Barbadian.

"We need to recognize that there's some areas where you will continue to fish but other areas you may need to close off as nursery areas, etc," she said.