

The Gleaner
Hospitality Jamaica

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020



Stay home; don't put Jamaicans at risk

A long-term tourism response will be required once the coronavirus passes

What is the rest of the Caribbean doing?

Kingston Creative sets downtown Kingston on musical fire



FILE PHOTOS

Workers in the tourism subsector doing a beach clean-up.

Tourism subsectors await fate in aftermath of COVID-19

WITH THE downturn in tourist arrivals to Jamaica due to the global COVID-19 virus outbreak, the tourism industry's subsectors are pondering what the rest of the year might bring for them and their respective businesses, as they prepare for the worst but hope for the best.

Founding president of the Jamaica Union of Travellers Association (JUTA) Lucea Chapter, James Thompson, told **Hospitality Jamaica** that the ground transportation sector is bracing for a fallout, particularly if

a travel ban is imposed on North America, which is Jamaica's largest source market. He said, however, that although the restrictions have not begun to impact the ground transportation sector in a severe way, he was expecting to feel the effects in a matter of weeks.

"Because of the importance of the North American travel market to Jamaica, I believe the Government is going to not hastily take a decision to – apart from the cruise ship sector – close the airspace to that market,"

Thompson said.

"However, we are having cancellations from North America. And I am sure, within the next two weeks or so, we will see the impact of those cancellations, and if there are going to be any new restrictions on travel from North America to Jamaica; but at the moment it has not affected us severely as ground transportation operators," he added.

Thompson said that if the current situation continues for another month and there are new restrictions, especially on the USA and



Dwayne Clayton speaking to Hospitality Jamaica during an interview in 2016.

Canada, it will have an impact on drivers, especially their ability to service their loans, pay vehicle insurance, and fulfil other personal expenses and commitments. As a consequence, mitigation measures are being

PLEASE SEE **FATE**, 3

Bartlett appoints Coordinator of Pandemics for global resilience centre

MINISTER OF Tourism, Edmund Bartlett has appointed Dr Elaine Williams as Coordinator of Pandemics at the Global Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCM). Dr Williams, who is the former head of the Oncology Department at the University of the West Indies, will be working with key stakeholders in health to build clinical resilience in the industry.

Minister Bartlett made the announcement Wednesday, March 11, during a Forum on Disruptive Forces in Tourism which was put on by the Knowledge Network of the Tourism Linkages Network and the GTRCM

at The Knutsford Court Hotel.

“The move comes at a period where global pandemics, such as the coronavirus, threaten the lives and livelihoods of so many and there is need to build capacity for clinical resilience to mitigate against them.

Dr Williams will be collaborating with health authorities locally and internationally to assist in building this capacity especially as it relates to our workers,” said Minister Bartlett.

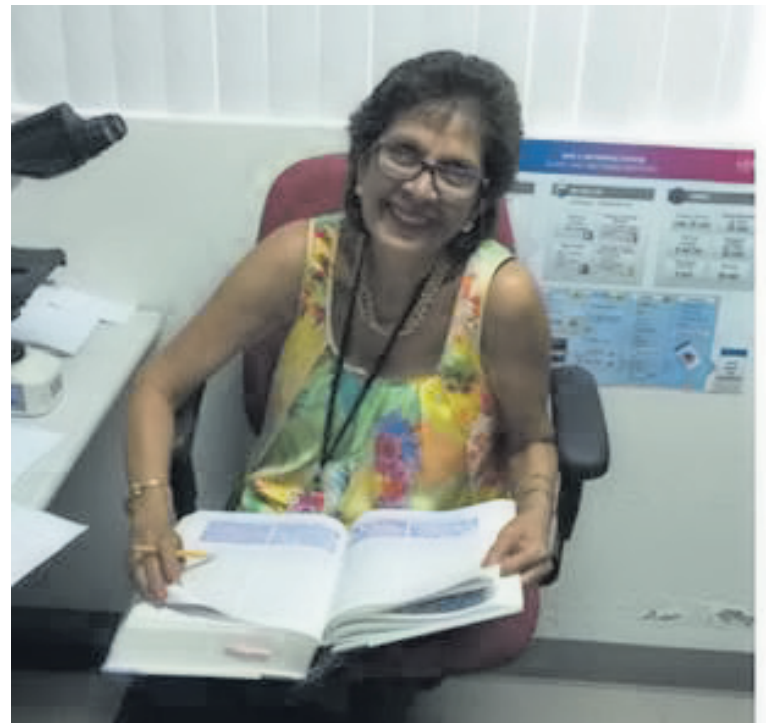
The World Health Organization’s Emergency Committee recently declared the coronavirus a global pandemic.

“The need for clinical resilience

is not just about this current virus but for all other epidemiological issues that will affect us all. Dr Williams will now be connecting with WHO and other agencies but primarily with countries that are highly tourism dependent such as the Caribbean, to build new arrangements that can mitigate the impact,” added Minister Bartlett.

Dr Williams has been a consultant in the field of anatomical pathology in the areas of surgical pathology, autopsy pathology, cytology and immunohistochemistry for several years. She is currently consultant pathologist to the University Hospital.

First announced during the



WILLIAMS

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Global Conference on Sustainable Tourism in St James in November 2017, the Centre, which is the first of its kind, will be tasked with creating, producing and generating toolkits, guidelines and policies to handle

the recovery process following a disaster.

The centre will also assist with preparedness, management and recovery from disruptions and/or crises that impact tourism and threaten economies and livelihoods.

FATE

CONTINUED FROM 2

put in place.

“We are planning to talk with the banks in terms of those of us who have loans and insurance companies to let them know that the industry may be affected more severely in the next month ... then they will have to put some measures in place to kind of allow us to defer payments as they would fall due, so that we are able to stay in business,” he explained.

Dwayne Clayton, proprietor of Beach Pro-Tech, a beach maintenance company based in western Jamaica, says he envisions that his business will not be too adversely affected, but nevertheless was a bit wary due to the uncertainty surrounding the future of the accommodations sector for which he provides his services.

According to Clayton, his services, which includes maintaining of natural beach elevations for erosion prevention; grooming and beautification, removal of foreign objects, raking and distribution of sand, are essential to hotels whose selling points happen to be having spectacular beaches.

“With the stopping of some flights, it is gonna bring down the business for the hotels. My job is not dependent on how many guests are in the hotel. But if my clients lose



GRIZZLE

business, it’s a potential damage for my company, because then they will not have enough money to pay everybody including my service,” Clayton told **Hospitality Jamaica**.

Proprietor of the Charela Inn hotel in Negril, Daniel Grizzle, told **Hospitality Jamaica** that his property was in reparation mode and will use the same strategies employed in the aftermath of natural disasters, including staff rotation as a mitigation measure.

Describing the situation as ‘very troubling’, Grizzle said he was particularly



THOMPSON

concerned about the fate of staff members and small farmers who supply the property with goods.

“We have staff; we have our suppliers and these are very small people who rely on that weekly or monthly sale of fresh fruit and vegetables to send their kids to school. Now with no tourists, the sales will be down,” Grizzle said.

“We will always try, as we have done during the hurricane and other seasons, to keep our staff, if it’s even on a part-time basis, so they are able to eat. But, there again they

have other expenses which they may have difficulty in keeping up whether it be hire purchase or mortgage. There is great concern and I hope the banks and other financial institutions will find a way to have a softer cushion,” he added.

The veteran hotelier said some hotels, including his, have also adjusted their cancellation policies to facilitate guests who had booked their stays before the recent events in a bid to “not sow seeds of discord between customers and the business”.

“The way I see it we are very fortunate that this thing did not happen in November or December. It’s near coming to the end of the winter season, so I think in our case if it comes to us closing down, we will use that period to do the usual end of year fixing up a few months ahead,” Grizzle said.

In the meantime, Grizzle said he was hoping that after the spread of the pandemic dissipates, the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) will collaborate with the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) to undertake a marketing campaign to indicate to the rest of the world, that the country was “back and ready”.

“It’s funny because when we heard about this thing in China we really didn’t think it would arrive here, and would have taken over the world, and so quickly. So I think everybody is caught a little bit unprepared ... We just have to prepare to bounce back and keep our people safe from this terrible virus,” he said.

A long-term tourism response will be required once the coronavirus passes

David Jessop



PUBLIC HEALTH is a matter for governments. It is an issue which requires populations to trust those who are delivering solutions. It is a matter about which industries, no matter how economically significant, cannot immediately do much, other than to engage in a careful dialogue with Government and health partners on the measures necessary to first protect a country, and then the industry that now dominates much of the Caribbean economy.

After a slow start, Caribbean governments are now taking the difficult decisions necessary to stem the spread of COVID-19, the coronavirus. They have agreed a common protocol, but the reported incidence of the virus in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, French Guiana, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St Barths, St Martin and St Vincent suggests that the region may be unable to avoid the broader short-term public health consequences.

In an indication of how serious COVID-19 could be for Caribbean tourism, St

Lucia's Prime Minister, Allen Chastanet, has said that his government is modelling various scenarios, including a potential fall in arrivals of between 50 to 80 per cent. In addition, commenting recently on the known impact of the virus on arrivals, Omar Robinson, the President of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA), recently told **Hospitality Jamaica** that the industry was in for "a rough ride", with a possible 40 per cent decline in visitor numbers this summer. He also indicated that it was likely that many incentive group visits and events would also be put on hold.

At the same time, Prime Minister Andrew Holness has indicated that some thought has been given to halting flights from the United Kingdom (UK), given the rapidly rising incidence of cases in Britain: a politically complex decision, if taken, in the light of the regular travel 'home' by the island's large older diasporic community, and the country's growing UK visitor market.

STIFLED PROGRESS

For her part, Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, has warned that the impact on arrivals and the economic consequences will be difficult to contain and may affect the positive

progress the island has been making with its International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

In a further indication of the problems ahead, the US government has suggested that its citizens should avoid all cruises and overseas travel, and the airlines and the cruise companies have begun to dramatically reduce their services. In addition, the US president announced unilaterally that the "foreign virus" meant that air travel from the EU Schengen zone by "most foreign nationals" will be halted.

It is a decision that will not only impact directly on the tens of thousands of European visitors who daily transit the US to Caribbean destinations, and ignores the evidence of how rapidly the virus is spreading in the US, but bodes ill for any other nations that President Trump regards as posing a risk.

Although the industry in the Caribbean and elsewhere is preoccupied with the immediate economic impact, the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), an industry body representing some of its biggest

global players, has begun to think about the positive responses when the immediate threat has passed.

Observing that global travel could be hit by a 25 per cent decline in 2020 and that between 12 and 14 per cent of industry jobs are at risk, it suggested several measures that could help recovery. These, it said, might include facilitating travel by making it seamless and secure; alleviating pressure at ports and airports; reducing or removing taxes on travel, including airport, port and other related taxes; and providing fiscal relief and incentives that support smaller tourism-related businesses negatively impacted by the virus.

The WTTC also proposes, in due course, that destinations and the industry increase their budgets and resources for promotion, marketing and product development, and develop stronger public-private partnerships and greater international cooperation as the industry recovers from the impact of COVID-19.

At the moment, all Caribbean governments and the industry are trying to assess the immediate threat, but when the moment comes, these are all ideas worthy of consideration. In addition, the Caribbean is already in dialogue with the major international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the IMF, about possible responses and support.

However, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the impact of COVID-19 on tourism, and the probability, in a world rapidly moving towards a recession and a loss of global confidence, the Caribbean is about to experience an economic shock. Recovery will require significant adjustments of exactly the kind the WTTC is proposing if the region is to retain its role as a major tourism destination.





Stay home; don't put Jamaicans at risk

Multiple repeat visitors urge tourists

Janet Silvera

Hospitality Jamaica Coordinator

MANY MULTIPLE-REPEAT tourists to Jamaica are pleading with their fellow nationals to stay away from the island not because of fear of being infected with the COVID-19 virus during their visit, but for fear that more tourists will inadvertently bring the virus to the island and infect more Jamaicans.

THE PLEA was particularly robust on the Facebook group Negril Jamaica Uncensored, which was created by Gerry Gilletson, an American national for multiple-repeat visitors and for lovers of the resort town. Some of the group's 28,000 members said persons who have trips planned should re-schedule their itineraries immediately.

"Let's not be selfish right now, people!" Sandy Elliott of Ontario, Canada, wrote on Monday in response to a tourist who was seeking suggestions as to whether she should travel to the island at this time. "I hear people saying, 'It's just a virus. It will run its course'. The World Health Organization

is telling people not to travel, or if you have travelled and could be carrying this virus, to self-isolate!"

The Canadian added that she had plans to visit the island but had shelved them for the moment out of concern for the health and safety of citizens and hotel staff members.

"We were supposed to come to Negril in April, but because this is spreading so rapidly, we are choosing to do the right thing. As much as it disappoints us, we are thinking of others in Jamaica and at home. If anyone is already compromised health-wise, this virus could be a death sentence! We need to be considerate of others at this time," she said.

Elliott stated, "I don't know about you, but I would not want to think that I infected someone's child or grandparent or anyone for that matter who could potentially die because they have other health issues!" she added.

Another North American tourist, Brad Roosevelt, contended that as a Small Island Developing State, Jamaica does not have the resources that its counterparts in developed countries would have, and as a consequence,

tourists should also be concerned with their ability to access health-care, and should also stay away from the island as a show of respect for its people.

"As this crisis develops, I would encourage others to think about and respect our friends and family in Jamaica as we make and commit to our travel plans. Jamaica does not have the capacity to handle medium- to large-scale outbreak of serious viral infection. Please, if you plan on keeping your travel plans, make every attempt to stay healthy before you go. Get tested if you can, then self-quarantine until you leave," he implored.

'STAY MORAL'

"Do everything you can to keep the great people of Jamaica safe. Set selfishness and finances aside. Get educated. Stay vigilant. Stay moral. Above all, think of other people's well-being," he added.

One lover of the island, Jenna Renae, also said that even though a downturn in tourism would be detrimental to the island's economy, it would be preferable to having an

outbreak of the COVID-19 on the island.

"My concern is this virus coming to Jamaica. Sure, a slowdown in tourism is detrimental but so would this virus. Is the healthcare system there equipped to handle what is going on in other parts of the world? How many ICU beds and vents are in Jamaica? There is no way they can handle a pandemic. Stay home and don't bring them anything," she declared.

Another multiple-repeat visitor from Washington also urged tourists who truly loved Jamaica to cancel their travel arrangements to the island as asymptomatic visitors could inadvertently spread the virus, and in addition, a vacation at this time would also be boring as Negril was becoming desolate.

"Even if some hotels are open, it is not going to be the same Negril with all restaurants closed, and stuff. You will be trapped in your rooms with just the water to look at. Keep Jamaica safe, please. Again and again, they do not have the same medical facilities we do. Don't be selfish," she said.

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Protocols for managing novel coronavirus

The following protocols, regarding sanitation and other procedures towards preventing the spread of Coronavirus.

AT THIS time, the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOH) has reported that there are now eight (12) confirmed cases of the coronavirus (covid-19) in Jamaica. The following measures should be adopted by all tourism entities to prevent the spread of covid-19. We encourage continuous monitoring of the advisories issued by the Ministry of Health and Wellness. This document will be updated periodically as more information becomes available.

GENERAL PRACTICES

All Stakeholders Each tourism entity is to establish a covid-19 Coordinator who will be the point of contact with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and Ministry of Tourism. The covid-19 Coordinator should keep abreast of health protocols and preventive measures. Each entity should maintain communication with booking agencies to ensure that information on travel precautionary measures are observed. Ensure that all contact surfaces are cleaned on a regularly with clean cloth and sanitising solution, for example, doorknobs, handles, rails. Ensure service staff use proper protective gear when cleaning guest rooms/ common areas while observing proper sanitary practices.

Ensure single-use gloves are worn while conducting any sanitary cleaning procedures. Discard torn gloves in a garbage receptacle, wash hands thoroughly and replace with a fresh pair. Minimise personal contact and avoid hugging and shaking hands. Wash hands frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching face – nose, eyes, mouth. Cover mouths and noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and then discard tissue after use. Persons who work in the receivals or high contact areas are required to wear gloves.

Employees Maintain a distance of at least one (1) metre from persons who are coughing or sneezing. Contact first aid station while on duty if having any respiratory symptoms. If at home, see your personal doctor as soon as possible. All employees are to exercise good hand hygienic practices by using alcohol-based sanitisers and/or liquid soap with frequent hand-washing for 20 seconds. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing, sneezing and/or runny nose.

If you observe a co-worker or guest with respiratory symptoms, please report this to your Supervisor or Manager for their follow up. Upon being advised, the Supervisor or Manager should isolate the employee or guest and immediately notify the Medical Officer of Health for the parish.

PROTOCOLS FOR AIRPORTS

- I. All arriving flights must be Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) compliant – this allows the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) and the Airport to receive and interrogate the flight manifest for possible high-risk passengers. Non-APIS compliant flights or airlines should be notified that their passengers will be either subjected to MOH pre-screening or ultimately have their service denied entry.
- II. All attempts should be deployed to encourage all inbound passengers to complete the online C5 forms before boarding. This serves several good purposes in this period – (a) it allows PICA one more prescreening point for the passengers before arrival (b), reduces the wait or congregation time in the immigration hall.
- III. Any passenger aboard the flight who has travelled to and from any of the listed high-risk countries or regions may be subjected to either being refused entry by PICA or to be subjected



Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett

- to be tested by the MOH officials or quarantined for a minimum period of fourteen (14) days. Non-nationals from countries of restricted travel will be denied entry.
- IV. The MOH reserves the right to deny arrival of the entire flight as they see fit.
- V. Quarantine stations (located in the incoming immigration hall) which facilitates a constant presence of public health nurses should be implemented. Passengers with a suspect travel history or showing signs or systems will be quarantined and transported to an off sight MOH facility.
- VI. All airport staff facing

- passengers must be adequately equipped with protective gear.
- VII. All passengers may be subjected to thermal scanning by public health officials to detect high body temperature.

PROTOCOLS FOR TOURISM ENTITIES ACCOMMODATIONS

- I. If the guest comes to the Nurses/ First Aid station meeting the case profile for coronavirus (high temperature, malaise et cetera) then the duty personnel should immediately isolate the guest. Isolation should be preferable in an enclosed space close to the nurse's station. The MOH is to be immediately notified to remove the guest.

- II. During the quarantine period, it is important that staff take precautions to prevent the spread of the virus. Staff should avoid close contact with these guests unless duly authorised by a trained medical professional. The MOH will provide additional guidance.
- III. Accommodation Nurse/First Aid staff to take all necessary precautions to protect themselves as it relates to a suspected case.
- IV. If the guest falls ill or requests assistance from their room, the guest should be isolated in-room. Companions travelling with the affected person(s) should also be isolated until the Public Health officials arrive on property.



Massage therapists want spas closed

THE CORONAVIRUS has masseuse operating in spas in the island's hotels in panic mode. Madge*, a 15-year veteran in the profession, cannot recall being this scared since entering the flourishing tourism sector.

However, owing to the fact that she and her colleagues are prohibited from using gloves when giving a massage, they have become scared.

"It is the most-requested service offered in the spa. Guests come from all over the world. The service has to be delivered with bare hands. There is no way of knowing who is carrying the virus."

She is recommending that the spas be closed, similar to how schools have been closed.

In addition, she said a few of her teammates would prefer to stay home. "We want to go home, but unless the human resource department sends us, we have to stay put," another aesthetician by the name of Angella* tells **Hospitality Jamaica**, adding that they would lose

their jobs if they refused to carry out massages, because it will be considered the same as walking off the job.

Madge, the more senior of the two, related an experience she had last week.

"A guest came into the spa for a massage. She had a heavy cough. I went to management, who instructed her that she could not get the massage. In a massage, the client is breathing in your face. A facial is different because a magnifying glass separates the breathing."

She said the guest became angry, stating in a matter-a-fact tone, "I booked and paid for a package to include

"The service has to be delivered with bare hands. There is no way of knowing who is carrying the virus."

services from the spa. Now you are telling me I can't get what I paid for."

As if that was not enough, Madge told **Hospitality Jamaica** that all aspects of tourism are being affected negatively.

During this period she would have an average of seven guests daily; however, she says she is now lucky if she gets three.

She gets paid on commission, so she is losing money. According to her, life is more important than money; so she is recommending the closure of all spas until the COVID-19 virus passes.

* Name changed



'Satisfy my soul,' is what Alesa Nicholson (right) seems to be saying to the 'Ras' at Ibo Spice Portal as reggae music throbbed during Kingston Creative's 'Meet me at Beat Street' event on Sunday, February 23, along Orange Street, downtown Kingston.



The music sweet!



Dancehall legends U-Roy, Big Youth, and Buju Banton are immortalised in this mural at the corner of Charles and Orange streets.

Kingston Creative sets downtown Kingston on

MUSICAL FIRE

Paul H. Williams
Hospitality Jamaica Writer

IT WAS billed as a weekend of music, "a musical weekend like no other", and in a significant way, Kingston Creative outdid itself. It delivered.

On Friday, February 21, the 'Kingston Creative Meet-up' focused on the 'Migration of the Music' inside F & Downtown, at 107 Harbour Street. The link-up featured a panel discussion with music experts Earl Chinna Smith, Ewan Simpson, Herbie Miller, Nadine Sutherland, and Professor Deborah Hickling. In addition, eight genres of Jamaican music echoed from the mouths and instruments of DJ Fenix, live band Ozou'ne, and Pon fYAH.

The 'Meet Us on Beat Street' portion took over the intersection of Charles and Orange streets. The segment, in keeping with the observance of 'Reggae Month', was staged by Sounds and Pressure Foundation, in association with

Kingston Creative, and funded by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and the European Union.

Expected to dazzle 'Beat Street' throughout the day, with their own brand of music, were artistes such as One Famous, I Higher Tone, Isee Jah High, Earth Warrior, Ras Kelly, Iya Tear, DJ Journalist, Bongo Herman, Johnnie Builder and Earl 'Chinna' Smith, with music provided by DJ Talia and Whitty's Soul Town.

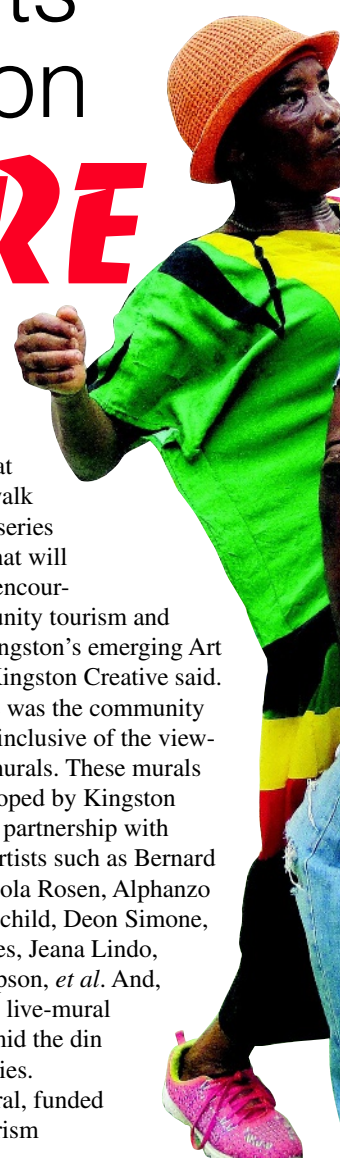
MUSICAL EVOLUTIONS

The area was one of the watersheds of the evolution of Jamaican music, and so tours of historic sites, such as Leggo's Recording Studio, were conducted. Patrons listened in rapt attention as the veteran producer, Trevor 'Leggo' Douglas, narrated engaging stories of the start-up and evolution of his studio, once a stomping ground for reggae icons Dennis Brown and Gregory Isaacs, and which is still operating. Other places of interest were Big Yard, Beverly's (the first record

shop in Jamaica), and Jimmy's Jazz Hut.

"The Beat Street Artwalk is one in a series of events that will be held to encourage community tourism and develop Kingston's emerging Art District," Kingston Creative said. Thus, there was the community 'Artwalk', inclusive of the viewing of 45 murals. These murals were developed by Kingston Creative in partnership with Jamaican artists such as Bernard Hoyes, Nicola Rosen, Alphanzo Blake, Lifechild, Deon Simone, Javier Dayes, Jeana Lindo, Dan Thompson, *et al.* And, there was a live-mural painting amid the din and festivities.

That mural, funded by the Tourism





les and Orange streets. Patrons assemble around Mystic Revelations of Rastafari as Artwalk comes to a close. PHOTOS BY PAUL WILLIAMS



In the spirit of Kumina these two have found themselves.



Two young artists displaying their musical notes.

Enhancement Fund, was being painted by Errol Reid. It depicts Studio One musicians such as the Skatellites, Jackie Mittoo, Cedric Brooks, Richard Ace, Lennie Hibbert, Ernest Ranglin, Winston Grennan, and Tom of 'Tom the Great' Sebastian Sound System.

In recognition of the part they played in the history of Jamaican music, plaques recognising the work of Vincent and Pat Chin, Winston Ridley, and Sonia Pottinger were unveiled at the corner of Orange and Heyward streets by Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange and Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Delroy Williams.

And while the music was

thumping at 'Beat Street', Mutabaruka and DJ Fenix were driving the energy at the turntable at Artwalk, along Water Lane, which was the epicentre of eclectic performances from artistes such as Mystic Revelation of Rastafari, Manifesto Jamaica's Purpose, GiHRL, dancehall veteran Papa Michigan, the Energy Plus Mento Band, Bongo Shem and the Roots & Culture Drum Band (Kumina), Andre France, and Ziah Push. The jam session saw some aspiring artistes giving a taste of what they have to offer in the future.

The children were not left out of the musical mix as there were art and craft music-themed activities for them at Artwalk at Water Lane, the 'Market Street' venue,



Tom the Great Sebastian – One of the popular sound system operators of yesteryear.

sponsored by Sagicor Bank. The package also included the annual Black History Month lecture series put on by the Institute of Jamaica's Jamaica Music Museum. This year's theme, 'Black Head Chiney', is about the role that the Chinese played in the evolution and development of Jamaican music.

At the National Gallery was Notis Heavy Weight Rockaz, rocking away on the Gallery's last Sunday roster. Not far from the Gallery, the Dennis Brown tribute concert on the 'Waterfront' brought the weekend to a fitting climax, Jamaican music at its very best.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
 Chef Herman Kemis (second right) of Likkle More Jerk with his team at Fox 5 as they prepare to showcase Jamaican dishes on Good Day New York on WNYW. Many foodies have travelled from far afield to the island to imbibe sumptuous treats. Likewise, many food aficionados have packed dining halls and five-star restaurants to indulge in the unmistakable flavours.



Destination Jamaica featured in top New York morning show

DESTINATION JAMAICA took centre stage on the popular New York morning show ‘Good Day New York’ on WNYW, the flagship station of the Fox television network.

In a segment on March 3, with co-hosts Lori Stokes and Rosanna Scotto, the Jamaica Tourist Board’s Philip Rose, regional director, Northeast USA, highlighted Jamaica’s popularity as a spring-summer vacation destination. Apart from the island’s year-round balmy weather, variety of music festivals and events, daily non-stop flights to Kingston and Montego Bay, the island boasts a world-renown cuisine.

Jamaican Chef Herman Kemis of Likkle More Jerk, the modern casual Caribbean eatery at the Dekalb



From left: Philip Rose, regional director, Northeast USA, Jamaica Tourist Board; Chef Kemis of Likkle More Jerk in New York shares his signature Jerkitto Burrito on a Fox 5 Good Day New York segment with co-hosts Lori Stokes and Rosanna Scotto.

Market Hall in downtown Brooklyn, wowed the hosts and viewers with his signature Jerkitto Burrito while showcasing other traditional Jamaican dishes, including an oxtail stew, rice and peas, and escoveitch fish.

Industry trends are showing that food is now the new destination – that people are planning their vacation on locations that offer unforgettable gastronomic experiences, and thousands of Good Day New York viewers got a sneak peek into Jamaica’s enticing culinary offerings wrapped up in the island’s bold flavours and tasty notes.

Gastronomy is one of the formidable pillars of the tourism product and is one of the magnets that attract people to Jamaica’s culture, and, ultimately, to the island.



A section of the Grand Ballroom at Sandals South Coast during last week's Open House.

Sandals South Coast opens house

SANDALS SOUTH Coast has always enjoyed a great relationship with local stakeholders, business and community interests, and is constantly highlighting the numerous offerings attractive to the local clientele. This was even clearer at an Open House cocktail event held recently at the luxury-included resort.

The event, which was a first of its kind for the resort, showcased a diverse guest list from the business sector in Westmoreland, St Elizabeth and under environs to community members and representatives from various private-sector and government organisations.

Attendees had a first-hand look of the resort's different offerings available to host functions, including sample set-ups for meetings, cocktails, banquets, weddings, and more.

There were displays from the resort's various revenue outlets, which offered special deals targeting the local clientele and teasers from the resort's Red Lane Spa, which also offers a local rate.

The resort's Five-Star Global Gourmet culinary team tantalised taste buds with delectable *hors d'oeuvres* and in-house specialities.

Luxury resort accommodations were also available for viewing for those wishing to explore future bookings.

ENLIGHTENING PARTNERS

"The purpose of this event was to enlighten our local business partners and stakeholders in and around the parish about our offerings here at Sandals South Coast specific to group events," said the resort's director of sales, groups and conventions, Simone Grey. "Due to the nature of our business, persons often assume that we only accommodate visitors looking for a vacation

experience; however, there are a number of other offerings here at the resort."

Grey noted that the resort has seen a definite increase in the demand for a place to relax and be pampered among residents of the local community. She also noted that with the continued growth and expansion of the business community within the region, there is greater demand for meeting and function spaces. "We want the business community to know that when planning events and retreats to motivate and recognise their teams, we offer one-stop, luxury-included and hassle-free services to assist them with all their needs."

When Sandals South Coast first opened its doors back in 2005, the Whitehouse community, where the resort is located was little more than a quaint fishing village. This has changed immensely over the years as more and more returning residents and expatriates invest in homes, guest houses and attractions along the picturesque coastline, which is evident in a number of high-end, exclusive housing developments within the area.

Grey noted that while visiting the resort for retreats, meetings and the like, individuals from Westmoreland and St Elizabeth, and certainly further afield, can stop by Scott's Cove for fried fish or the jerked chicken man out in Bluefields, to name a few and they will see that this area is a viable option for their investment.

"Whitehouse and its environs are developing, and it is our hope that this initiative will help to not only drive business for our resort, but also bring awareness to this beautiful and relatively untouched region and the community at large," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Representatives from the National Housing Trust (from left) Snova Farqhharon, Tivenny Spence, Shellyann McMahon and Andre Brown discuss a table setting while doing their walk through inside the Grand Ballroom at Sandals South Coast's Open House last week.



Tanesia Tomlinson (right), hospital administrator for the Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital, and her colleague, Patma Williams (left) pause for a photo with Sandals South Coast Director of Sales, Groups and Conventions, Simone Grey, at the resort's Open House cocktail event.

WHAT IS THE REST OF THE CARIBBEAN DOING?

Covid-19 forces postponement of CTO conference

THE CARIBBEAN Tourism Organization (CTO) is advising stakeholders of the postponement of the 10th Tourism Resources Conference, which was scheduled to take place in May. The new date for the event, being organised in collaboration with the Nevis ministry of tourism, is November 25-27, 2020.

“In light of the constantly changing nature of the coronavirus crisis, and in the wake of the decision by the World Health

Organization to declare COVID-19 a pandemic, the CTO and the government of Nevis have decided that postponing the conference is the best course of action,” said Sharon Banfield, the CTO’s director of resource mobilisation and development.

The CTO will continue to diligently monitor the situation and pay close attention to guidance from regional public health officials.

For more information on what the CTO and member countries are doing to limit the spread of coronavirus in the region, visit www.onecaribbean.org. For the regional health response, visit www.carpha.org.

ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION

The Caribbean Tourism Organization, which is headquartered in Barbados, is the

Caribbean’s tourism development agency comprising membership of the region’s finest countries and territories, including Dutch-, English-, French- and Spanish-speaking nations, as well as a myriad of private-sector allied members. The CTO’s vision is to position the Caribbean as the most desirable, year-round, warm-weather destination, and its purpose is ‘Leading Sustainable Tourism – One Sea, One Voice, One Caribbean’.



British Virgin Islands limits ports of entry, enacts stringent screenings

ON MARCH 14, citing the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, the government of the Virgin Islands announced the immediate closure of the Tortola cruise port, allowing no cruise ships to call on the territory for a 30-day period in an effort to protect the Territory from potential contamination. At present, there are no confirmed cases in the islands.

Also, the number of international ports of entry into the British Virgin Islands (BVI) has been limited to facilitate the effective screening of passengers. The three ports that remained opened up the printing of this publication were Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport, Road Town and West End Ferry Terminals, and one cargo port of

entry – Port Purcell.

The entry of passengers and crew members who had travelled to, from or through COVID-19 affected countries as specified in a list of countries of special interest, within a period of 14 days or less, were not being allowed. Additionally, the entry of passengers and crew members who had travelled to, from or through COVID-19-affected countries classified as a high-risk country within a period of 14 days or less, immediately preceding their arrival in the territory, were subjected to advanced screening procedures and were opened to be being quarantined for a period of up to 14 days, based on the outcome of the risk assessment.

Locally, mass gatherings or festivals that were scheduled to take place in the BVI

during the next month have been postponed until further notice. This includes the 2020 BVI Spring Regatta, scheduled for March 30-April 5, and the Virgin Gorda Easter Festival scheduled for April 11-13.

“After extensive consideration, the British Virgin Islands made the prudent decision to put stringent measures in place to temporarily enhance the protocols for entry into the Territory until April 13,” said Andrew A. Fahie, premier and minister of finance and the minister responsible for tourism. “It is imperative that we prioritise our limited resources to safeguard our residents and our guests. Tourism is our mainstay and it is important that we take measures to ensure our long-term sustainability.”

Premier Fahie continued, “Our tourism

industry has faced many crises before, from natural disasters to epidemics, and we have always come out strong on the other side. After much anticipation, we are at the start of a big celebratory year, as many of our beloved resort products are finally reopening following extensive rebuilding. We also expect this summer to be busy in the BVI with rerouting of cruises and airline service in and out of the Caribbean.”

The public is reminded to take all necessary precautions against contracting the coronavirus. The risk can be reduced by implementing personal protective measures, such as frequent handwashing, covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, and avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory illnesses.

WHAT IS THE REST OF THE CARIBBEAN DOING?

The Bahamas working to execute response plan following first covid-19 case



Minister of Tourism of The Islands of the Bahamas, Dionisio D'Aguiar

THE BAHAMAS Ministry of Health is working closely with all pertinent Government agencies throughout the destination to execute the Bahamas National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19.

At this time, there is one confirmed case of coronavirus in Nassau, The Bahamas. The patient is in isolated quarantine following the guidelines outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Ministry of Health is currently conducting full contact analysis and more details will be shared as they become available.

The Ministry of Health is encouraging preventive measures and protocol to minimise the potential spread of the illness, and The Bahamas implemented new border control and quarantine measures for persons travelling from highly infected areas. Given the growing public health concern and to

protect the health and well-being of the population of The Bahamas, effective Thursday, March 19, expanded travel restrictions will be introduced. Foreign nationals and foreign individuals who have travelled within the last 20 days from the United Kingdom, Ireland and Europe will be prohibited entry into The Bahamas. This is in addition to restrictions already in place for China, Iran, Italy and South Korea. This restricted travel list of countries will be continuously monitored and updated as necessary.

The Bahamas is conducting COVID-19 testing and is actively employing several measures used globally to screen visitors and residents and to manage the response to individuals of concern, in line with international health best practices. Traveller health questionnaires and a screening protocol are used at ports, hotels and rental properties to identify guests who may require surveillance or treatment. In addition,

all Bahamian nationals and residents returning to The Bahamas through any point of entry from any of the restricted countries or an area where community infection and spread is present will be quarantined or be placed under self-isolation upon arrival and are expected to follow the protocols of the Ministry of Health.

A destination-wide education campaign is under way to remind the public of the basic hygiene practices that can be used to prevent the spread of the virus including frequent, proper hand washing, use of hand sanitisers, frequent disinfection of surfaces and avoiding close contact with those exhibiting signs of respiratory illness.

All COVID-19 inquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Health. For questions, or concerns, please call the COVID-19 hotline: 242-376-9350 (8am – 8pm EDT) / 242-376-9387 (8pm – 8am EDT).

St Kitts & Nevis takes further action against COVID-19

TO DATE, St Kitts & Nevis still has no confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, in response to the rapid international spread of the disease and the fact the (a) the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the virus has now become a pandemic and (b) several CARICOM member states have now reported cases – all of which have been imported into the region, The Federal Government of St Kitts and Nevis announces the following:

At St Kitts' Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport, all incoming air passengers to the Federation will continue mandatory completion of question #17 of the Customs/Immigration Form, which requires a listing of "countries visited during last six weeks."

- Travel advisories remain in effect for any and all incoming passengers who have travelled to or from any of the following countries within the last six (6) weeks before

arrival in the Federation. Those travellers will continue to be asked to provide travel history, history of exposure to the virus and contact information: China, Italy, Iran, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Japan

- Travel advisories have now been issued for The United Kingdom (UK), France, Germany and Spain.
- Passengers travelling to/from these destinations within the last 14 days are asked not to travel to St Kitts & Nevis at this time. Persons who do travel to St Kitts & Nevis from these destinations will be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine period following screening at the port of entry. Such quarantine of passengers means that their movements will be confined to a designated facility.
- The Federal Government advises all citizens and legal residents returning from any of the aforementioned countries that they too

will be placed on a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine regimen, wherein their movements will be restricted.

- The Federal Government reserves the right to screen any individual arriving into the Federation, particularly during this WHO declared pandemic. This advisory remains in effect for citizens, residents and travellers until further notice and as previously stated, the Federal Government reserves the right to amend its travel advisories to include other countries.
- At the cruise port, inspectors from the Environmental Health Department continue to board each vessel that docks to review the passenger travel manifest and all medical reports for any passengers exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Any passenger displaying such symptoms is not permitted to disembark.

St Kitts & Nevis is complying with International Health

Regulations and reporting to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / the World Health Organization (WHO) as appropriate. Following the WHO's declaration on March 11, 2020 that the global spread of COVID-19 constitutes a Pandemic, the Government of St Kitts and Nevis advises citizens and residents to restrict travel to the aforementioned destinations until the WHO gives the all clear in relation to COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health is working closely with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and all appropriate Government agencies to execute national disaster preparedness and response plans so as to prevent, monitor and manage the spread of the virus if and when a national or visitor tests positive for the virus. The Disaster Mitigation Council is in place to handle the response to the disease and the Ministry

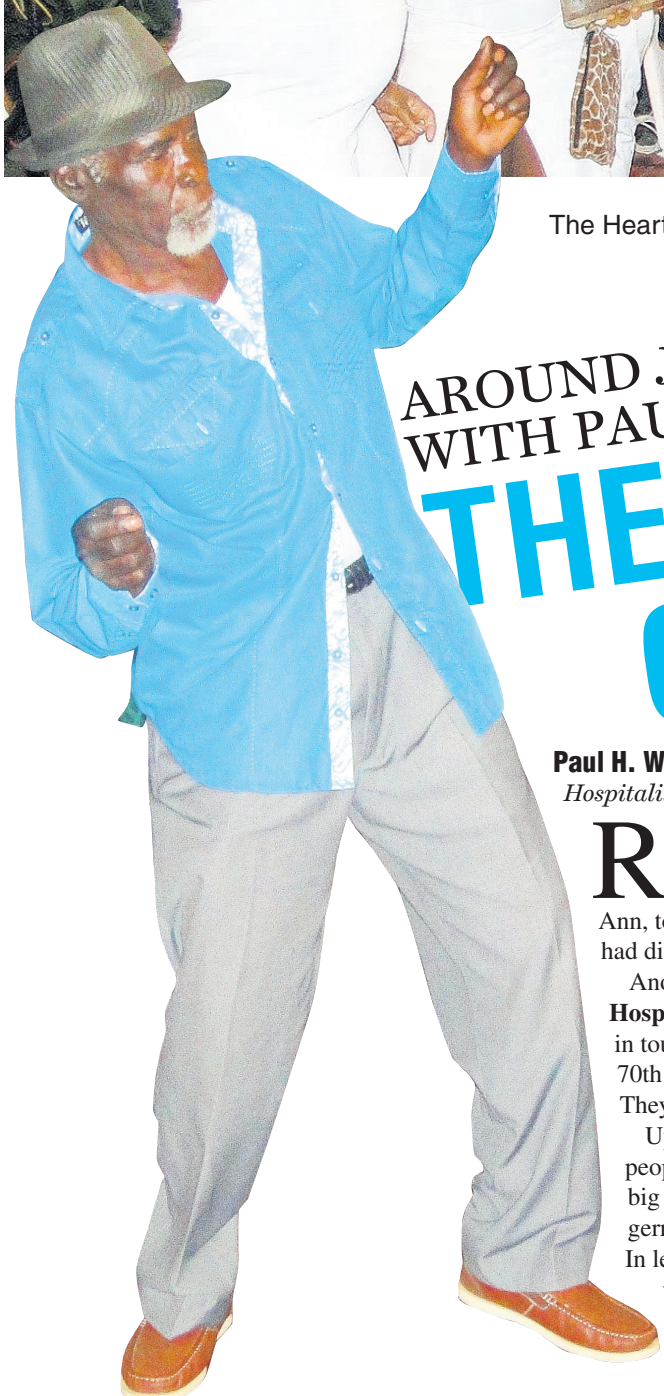
of Health has conducted training exercises with front line workers including police and immigrations and customs officers.

A destination-wide awareness and education campaign is being implemented within schools, the workplace and communities to remind the public of everyday preventive actions including basic hygiene best practices to help stem the spread of the virus. These include frequent handwashing with soap and water or 60% alcohol-based hand sanitisers, frequent disinfection of surfaces and avoiding close contact with people who exhibit signs of respiratory illness. The Federal Ministry of Health and the Government of St Kitts & Nevis advises citizens to remain calm, follow all of the advisories that have been issued, and rely only on official sources of information on COVID-19 rather than subjecting themselves to fear and propaganda.



PHOTOS BY PAUL WILLIAMS

The Heart of Stone gerreh band putting their spin on things.



AROUND JA WITH PAUL H. | TIPSY IN THE VILLAGE GREEN

Paul H. Williams
Hospitality Jamaica Writer

RAYMOND KIRLEW and his wife, Grace, are two of the most hospitable people I know. I met them years ago when I went to their home in Discovery Bay, St Ann, to interview them about a 'cave' that some workmen had discovered in their backyard.

Another story evolved out of the initial one, which **Hospitality Jamaica** reported on several times. We kept in touch, and, recently, Raymond called to invite me to his 70th birthday party. He said I had to be there, and I agreed. They are really nice people.

Upon arrival at their home, the place was buzzing with people, some of whom had flown down and across for the big milestone. Pots were on fire, and the Heart of Stone gerreh band from Westmoreland was resting in a corner. In less than an hour we started to leave for the actual venue, The Village Green country club in St Ann's Bay. I have been there once.

But our vehicle missed the spot and we ended up in Drax Hall. After we arrived back in St Ann's Bay,



The birthday cake for Ray Kirlew.

some people struggled to tell us where it was. When we eventually found it, we could not imagine it was so near the main road.

Things were not swinging as yet when we arrived, but shortly after, I saw movements towards the bar. I ignored it, but I was really thirsty. I had something soft and light, but as the evening progressed I was imbibing beverages that were not so soft and light. There was a lot of it, for the Kirlews did not hold back their hands. Yet, I had to be alert for the pictures and formalities, and I was.

I particularly liked the music of the gerreh band, lively dancing music. I was seeing them for the second time. The first was at a six-hour funeral at Whithorn district in Westmoreland. Yet, I was more interested in taking pictures. I could not get the angles that I wanted, and there was a member of the band who turned her side or back to the camera when it was pointed at the band. I spoke to her about it, but she could care less.

The band was not on fire, as was the case the first time I saw



Captain Everton Phillips (centre) steering the party people into the r direction on the dance floor.



Ray Kirlew and his wife, Grace, enjoying his big night.

them, but they delivered, providing a different type of music. I was hoping that they would have played a second time. And I had gone to the bar more than once. One time it was for “something bubbly”. The waiter told me I could not get the whole bottle. That’s odd! I didn’t want it. He opened the bottle, and filled me a cup. It turned out to be sparkling wine.

And did it sparkle? It tasted really nice, so the periods between my sips were very brief, and so was the time the bubbler took to send me tipsy. I was fully aware of who I was and where I was, but I just wanted to recline.

There was no space for that, so I spent the rest of the night, even when I was making a presentation



The March birthday celebrants cutting their cake.

to Kirlew, pretending that I was OK. And I really think I did well, to the extent of the frenzy my head was in. I was not drunk, but

somewhat tipsy. So, I wowed there and then, no more sparkling wine, unless I am near my bed. That was perhaps my hundredth vow.



Ray Kirlew’s immediate family. From left: Stepson Dwight, daughter Jina, wife Grace, and son CJ, and his step-granddaughters.

Outside of these social events, I’m not a drinker. I know what alcohol could do to my systems, so we are not friends. But, from time

to time I take a sip of my ‘enemies’. Some of them are quite tantalising, especially the one that made me tipsy in The Village Green.

WANDA VÁZQUEZ GARCED, governor of Puerto Rico, signed into effect Executive Order 2020- 023, which seeks to contain and manage the impact of COVID-19 in Puerto Rico.

What follows is a guide on the applicability of the Executive Order on specific tourism operations.

Airports: Remain open for inbound and outbound travel.

Adjustments in travel itineraries are at the discretion of each airline, in accordance with travel restrictions, as determined by the government of the United States. Usual operations at the airport are not affected by the curfew. Passengers arriving or departing from the airports after curfew will be able to transit to and from their respective destinations. Retail operations inside the airport will be subject to the same regulations as those in the rest of the island, allowing for only essential businesses to remain open.

NO HOSTING GUESTS

Restaurants and food-service establishments will remain open, but limited to those that can offer their services by way of carry-out or delivery. Said restaurants will be able to offer their services only in the above-described manner, and will not host guests in their facilities.

Industry workforce: The Executive Order provides for employees that must transit from their places of residence to their place of employment, after curfew, to be able to do so.

We strongly recommend employers provide a certification to staff whose shifts extend past curfew which may be presented to law-enforcement personnel, should

Puerto Rico's governor imposes curfew to combat coronavirus



AP

Puerto Rico Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced.

need be. These employees will abide by the dispositions of Section 3 of the Executive Order.

Cruise operations: The San Juan Bay is currently closed for cruise ship vessels.

Hotels: Remain open. Public areas and amenities in hotels, such

as spas, pools, and recreational areas must remain closed. Room service can and should remain available for guests. Back-office support to maintain essential hotel operations running are permissible. All hotels must take extraordinary measures and precautions to

safeguard the health and safety of all guests, ensuring that adequate prevention and containment protocols are in place. Hotel management shall inform their employees that particular emphasis should be given to the dispositions of Section 3 of the Executive Order.

Casinos: Will remain closed from 6 p.m. today until March 31, 2020.

Restaurants: Will remain open but, limited to those that can offer their services by way of drive-thru, carry-out, or delivery. Said restaurants will be able to offer their services only in the above-described manner, and will not host guests in their facilities. Bars inside restaurants will be closed.

Restaurants inside hotels: Will remain open, but limited to those that can offer their services by way of carry-out or delivery. Said restaurants will be able to offer their services only in the above-described manner, and will not host guests in their facilities. Bars inside restaurants will be closed.

Attractions: All businesses should close, with the exception of pharmacies, supermarkets, banks, or those related to the food or pharmaceutical industries. This applies to shopping malls, movie theatres, concert halls, casinos, bars, liquor stores, or any other place that facilitates citizens gatherings. Considering the aforementioned criteria, attractions must remain closed.

Tours: Considering the aforementioned criteria, tours must not operate.

Transportation providers: Transportation is an essential service. Uber and taxi drivers will be allowed to operate, subject to the limitations in Section 3 of the Executive Order.

Travel agencies: Storefront operations of travel agencies must remain closed. The Puerto Rico Tourism Company authorises travel agents to be able to work remotely until further notice.



Karolin Troubetzkoy, president of the St Lucia Hotel and Tourist Association.

St Lucia's tourism sector takes proactive approach amid covid-19 concerns

THE MINISTRY of Tourism and the St Lucia Tourism Authority (SLTA), recognising the challenging environment of the travel and tourism industry, convened with the board of directors of the St Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA) on Friday March 13, to discuss the global impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector.

Led by Tourism Minister Dominic Fedee, the meeting focused on gaining first-hand information on the overall status of the industry over the next 90 days.

"This is part of our national strategy to make informed decisions to ensure the ultimate rebounding of the tourism industry. Considerations are already being undertaken for the recovery phase, as we must ensure that St Lucia is positioned to regain its market share when the travel landscape changes," said Minister Fedee.

Approximately 50 per cent of the accommodation sector and ancillary services were represented at Friday's meeting. President of the Saint Lucia

Hotel & Tourism Association (SLHTA), Karolin Troubetzkoy speaking on Friday's meeting, said; "The SLHTA is committed to collaborating closely with the SLTA and the Ministry of Tourism to safeguard the tourism industry and our economy, but most importantly, safeguard the country and do what is best for our citizens and visitors alike in these difficult times."

Similar dialogue has taken place with travel trade partners, airlines and the media.



FILE PHOTOS
Minister of Tourism Dominic Fedee



'Satisfy my soul', is what Alesa Nicholson (right) seems to be saying to the 'Ras' at Ibo Spice Portal as reggae music throbbed during Kingston Creative's 'Meet me at Beat Street' event on Sunday, February 23, along Orange Street, downtown Kingston.



The music sweet!



Dancehall legends U-Roy, Big Youth, and Buju Banton are immortalised in this mural at the corner of Charles and Orange streets.



Patrons assemble around Mystic Revelations of Rastafari as Artwalk comes to a close. PHOTOS BY PAUL WILLIAMS

Kingston Creative sets downtown Kingston on **MUSICAL FIRE**

Paul H. Williams
Hospitality Jamaica Writer

IT WAS billed as a weekend of music, "a musical weekend like no other", and in a significant way, Kingston Creative outdid itself. It delivered.

On Friday, February 21, the 'Kingston Creative Meet-up' focused on the 'Migration of the Music' inside F & Downtown, at 107 Harbour Street. The link-up featured a panel discussion with music experts Earl Chinna Smith, Ewan Simpson, Herbie Miller, Nadine Sutherland, and Professor Deborah Hickling. In addition, eight genres of Jamaican music echoed from the mouths and instruments of DJ Fenix, live band Ozou'ne, and Pon fYaH.

The 'Meet Us on Beat Street' portion took over the intersection of Charles and Orange streets. The segment, in keeping with the observance of 'Reggae Month', was staged by Sounds and Pressure Foundation, in association with

Kingston Creative, and funded by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and the European Union.

Expected to dazzle 'Beat Street' throughout the day, with their own brand of music, were artistes such as One Famous, I Higher Tone, Isee Jah High, Earth Warrior, Ras Kelly, Iya Tear, DJ Journalist, Bongo Herman, Johnnie Builder and Earl 'Chinna' Smith, with music provided by DJ Talia and Whitty's Soul Town.

MUSICAL EVOLUTIONS

The area was one of the watersheds of the evolution of Jamaican music, and so tours of historic sites, such as Leggo's Recording Studio, were conducted. Patrons listened in rapt attention as the veteran producer, Trevor 'Leggo' Douglas, narrated engaging stories of the start-up and evolution of his studio, once a stomping ground for reggae icons Dennis Brown and Gregory Isaacs, and which is still operating. Other places of interest were Big Yard, Beverly's (the first record

shop in Jamaica), and Jimmy's Jazz Hut.

"The Beat Street Artwalk is one in a series of events that will be held to encourage community tourism and develop Kingston's emerging Art District," Kingston Creative said. Thus, there was the community 'Artwalk', inclusive of the viewing of 45 murals. These murals were developed by Kingston Creative in partnership with Jamaican artists such as Bernard Hoyes, Nicola Rosen, Alphanzo Blake, Lifechild, Deon Simone, Javier Dayes, Jeana Lindo, Dan Thompson, *et al.* And, there was a live-mural painting amid the din and festivities.

That mural, funded by the Tourism



In the spirit of Kumina these two have found themselves.



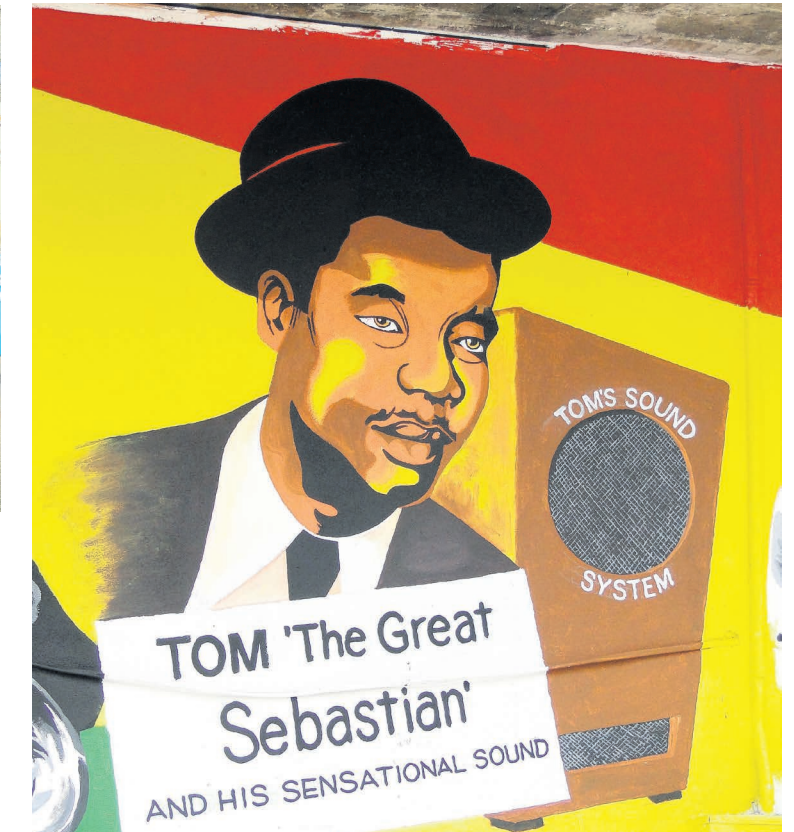
Two young artists displaying their musical notes.

Enhancement Fund, was being painted by Errol Reid. It depicts Studio One musicians such as the Skatellites, Jackie Mittoo, Cedric Brooks, Richard Ace, Lennie Hibbert, Ernest Ranglin, Winston Grennan, and Tom of 'Tom the Great' Sebastian Sound System. In recognition of the part they played in the history of Jamaican music, plaques recognising the work of Vincent and Pat Chin, Winston Ridley, and Sonia Pottinger were unveiled at the corner of Orange and Heyward streets by Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange and Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Delroy Williams.

And while the music was

thumping at 'Beat Street', Mutabaruka and DJ Fenix were driving the energy at the turntable at Artwalk, along Water Lane, which was the epicentre of eclectic performances from artistes such as Mystic Revelation of Rastafari, Manifesto Jamaica's Purpose, GiHRL, dancehall veteran Papa Michigan, the Energy Plus Mento Band, Bongo Shem and the Roots & Culture Drum Band (Kumina), Andre France, and Ziah Push. The jam session saw some aspiring artistes giving a taste of what they have to offer in the future.

The children were not left out of the musical mix as there were art and craft music-themed activities for them at Artwalk at Water Lane, the 'Market Street' venue,



Tom the Great Sebastian – One of the popular sound system operators of yesteryear.

sponsored by Sagicor Bank. The package also included the annual Black History Month lecture series put on by the Institute of Jamaica's Jamaica Music Museum. This year's theme, 'Black Head Chiney', is about the role that the Chinese played in the evolution and development of Jamaican music.

At the National Gallery was Notis Heavy Weight Rockaz, rocking away on the Gallery's last Sunday roster. Not far from the Gallery, the Dennis Brown tribute concert on the 'Waterfront' brought the weekend to a fitting climax, Jamaican music at its very best.