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THE DEMOCRAT

FOR ST. KITTS

LAW & ORDER
 The Douglas Regime is making a mockery of LAW & ORDER in St. Kitts & Nevis
 Check it out !!

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Hurricane Georges Ravages St. Kitts And Nevis

Hurricane Georges, with all its fury, has come and gone. It will long be remembered by those families whose properties were severely damaged and will never be forgotten by those whose properties were totally demolished.

Its passage too would be most poignant to those families and friends of the unfortunate five persons, who lost their lives or are missing.

The natural elements which surround us can be equally friendly or hostile and Georges did his best to overshadow the destructive intensities of Hugo, Luis and Marilyn of 1989 and 1995 respectively.

Georges has provided a topic for our conversation, our preparedness, our shortcomings and the performances - or lack thereof - of the Labour Government and NEMA

Situated as we are by geography in a hurricane zone it is imperative as a people to hold ourselves in readiness for any imaginable outcome; to do less is folly, and a demonstration of disrespect for the variable elements of wind and water.

Our recent experiences with Hugo, Luis and Marilyn should have taught us that nature is no respecter of persons; and that adequate preparation and suitability of community shelters, health facilities and the calibre of administrators assigned to disaster preparedness must be accorded the highest priority and care.

George has given our citizens a rather disturbing wake-up call.

It has forcefully drawn our collective attention to the unsuitability and inadequacy of designated public shelters, as most were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable.

It has demonstrated that school buildings, church properties and even sports facilities as they now stand are very vulnerable and at best ill-suited to properly protect those rescued from private homes.

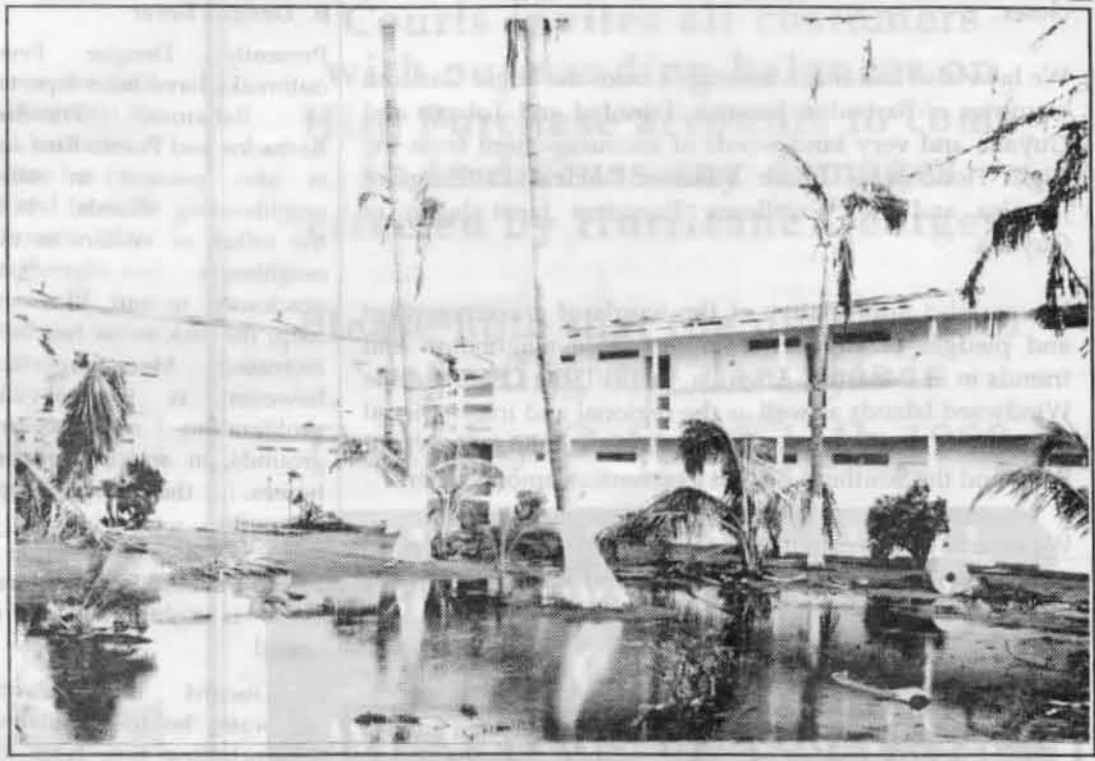
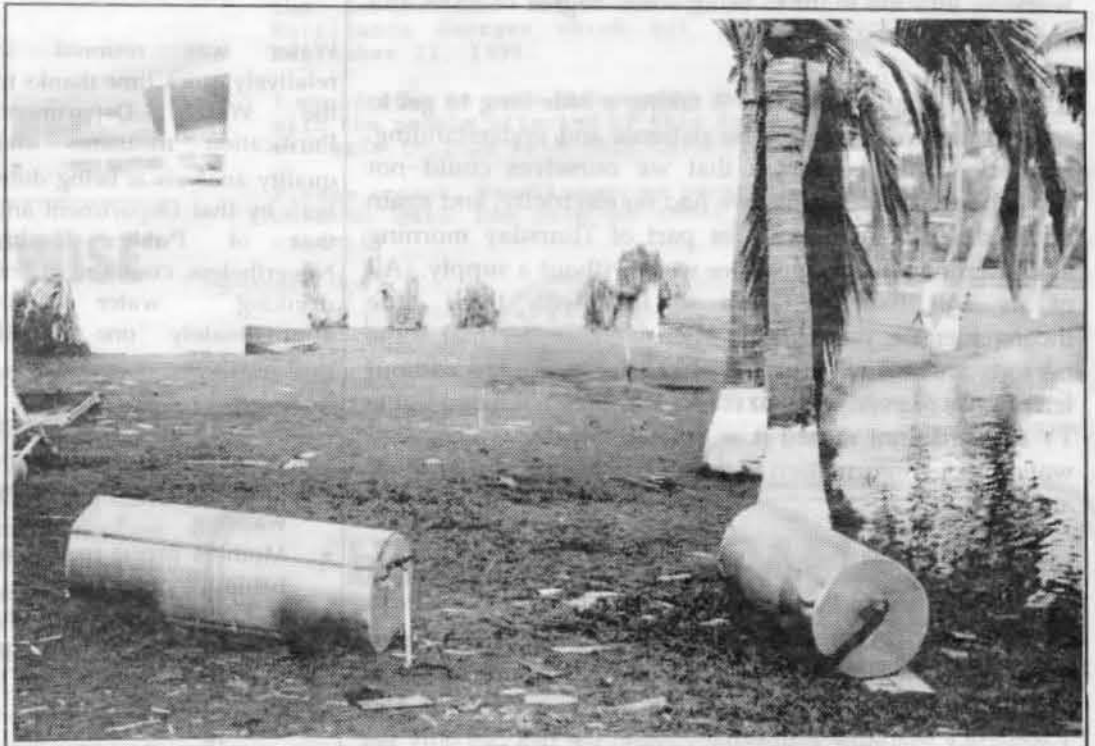
Georges has forcefully dictated that community facilities be built with a dual purpose, and that their architecture and integrity of construction need to exceed by far the present stipulations found in our building code.

With regard to our health facilities Georges has preached a similar message. J.N.F. Hospital, our main tertiary health facility, was ninety-five percent destroyed.

Hugo in 1989 inflicted substantial destruction of the same J.N.F. roof and other health facilities, and prompted the P.A.M. administration to seek expert advice from the Pan American Health Organisation on architectural and structural designs, and procurement of \$8.5 million in financial support from the European Development Fund. The rehabilitation of the J.N.F. Hospital in three distinct phases was to begin in the fall of 1995.

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Scenes from damage to the largest hotel property on St. Kitts



**THE 'COUNTDOWN' CONTINUES
 92 WEEKS BEFORE WE TAKE LABOUR OUT**

READ THE DEMOCRAT • THE FEDERATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Hurricane Georges Ravages St. Kitts And Nevis

(Cont'd From Front Page)

Phase One would have seen the complete rebuilding of Outpatients, Casualty, Emergency Unit, Operating Theatres, Laboratories and Administrative Facilities.

Phase Two was scheduled to deal with the Maternity, Medical, and Surgical Wards as well as an Intensive Care Unit.

Private Funding - in addition to the E.D.F. \$8.5 million - was already secured for phase three, and would have seen new construction of an ultra secured Special Block, designed to withstand winds of Georges' intensity and able to accommodate a maximum of sixty persons. Rehabilitation of the Alexandra Hospital and the Pogson Hospital was included in the \$8.5 million E.D.F. grant.

The end result of those rehabilitation efforts would have given our Federation quality-type health delivery plants capable of meeting modern health needs and providing much improved physical security against nature's violent elements.

It is against this backdrop that this publication strongly condemns again the obduracy, political chauvinism and blatant stupidity of the Douglas-led Labour Government for its blunt refusal to utilize the substantial \$8.5 million E.D.F. financing, left by PAM to improve our National Health Plant.

Readers of this publication and audiences at PAM's public meetings would recall the written and vocal pleadings to Dr. Douglas, Dr. Martin and Labour to move speedily to implement the rehabilitation project safely secured by PAM on behalf of the men, women, youth and children of our Federation.

The people of this Federation eagerly await to see what type of action Douglas and his

Labour Government will advance to make right the three long years of wrong they have imposed on them with respect to health care.

NEMA is yet another contentious entity which failed to function - or was not allowed to function - as it should.

Although the Agency has full legislative authority to act it is severely hampered by its politically appointed part-time administrators, poor planning and apparent lack of funding to procure vital supplies.

Countries which suffer as ours did from the ravages of nature are obliged to seek the proverbial "outside" assistance, but our national pride would be less wounded were we to wisely deploy our tax dollars on projects which could benefit all rather than spend them stupidly to fatten the pockets of the few.

The realistic - or otherwise - E.C. one billion dollars of damages sustained must force our citizens to pause and reassess the administrative capacity of those to whom our economic and political well-being are entrusted, and their prospective ability to pull us out of this financial pit.

At best the Labour ministers have exhibited mediocre performances, a sad inability to galvanise community participation, and a severe partisan approach to current relief efforts.

It was a very sad reflection on Dwyer's capacity to fully appreciate the Leader of the Opposition's public call to community effort in our current circumstance; Dwyer's thoughtless and partisan response instead of support, repelled those who were genuinely inclined towards community participation as occurred in 1989, after Hugo.

The widespread destruction of housing units and consequently shelter for



CABLE & WIRELESS

1. We are giving customers whose lines were downed by Hurricane Georges, the option of having their lines disconnected temporarily or to have us add voicemail to their service free of charge. In this way, persons will still be able to receive messages.

Further details can be obtained at our sales offices in Basseterre or Charlestown.

2. "Telephone customers are advised that service will be restored in the following areas wherever the situation permits.

WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER
Earle Mornes, Bird Rock, Harbour View, Pond's Estate,
Newtown, Taylor's Village, Pond's Extension.

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER AND SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
Sandy Point, Newton Ground, Half-Way-Tree, Lamberts,
Old Road.

Customers should note that following the extensive damage to our overhead cables in the area from St. Paul's to Conaree, it may be several weeks before service is fully restored to those areas.

Please check the local newspapers and radio stations for further updates."

scores of families must elicit a new outlook at the National Housing Corporation.

N.H.C. administrative personnel, its Board of Directors, the Minister with responsibility for Housing and the government must keep in the forefront of their individual and collective post-Georges recovery efforts the knowledge that every working individual in the Federation contributes by law to both the Social Security Fund and the Housing and Social Development Levy.

Yes! Every working individual! Every employer and employee! Each one makes his/her respective legislated contribution. Therefore political partisanship must be totally absent when assistance is being made available.

Already charges of political partisanship are rife as the enumerators appointed to invoice housing destruction are largely comprised of rabid Labour activists.

Intelligence, empathy and an absence of intense political exhibitionism are the characteristics needed in these enumerators.

Let them exercise understanding rather than an antiseptic attitude. Let them demonstrate a caring concern for all the injured parties rather than a selective concern for the politically favoured.

Social Security Funds and the Social and Housing Development Levy are the individual worker's investments designated for the welfare of each contributor as well as towards our National Equity.

In consideration of all of the aforesaid this publication urges the exercise of sobriety, a non-partisan approach, and a caring concern by all those who have been designated to implement the recovery effort.

This publication records its generous admiration and thanks to all individuals, civic, social and religious groups and commercial enterprises who have joined hands in the restoration of our Land of Beauty and the well-being of our citizens.

Let us all join hands and work with a united will for the good of our people and of our Federation.

CARIBBEAN BANKING AND FINANCE INSTITUTES FORMALISE (Cont'd from Page 11)

continuing to improve on the region's managerial and technical capabilities which are highly essential for enhancing the performance of banking and financial institutions.

Participating in the signing of this historic agreement were representatives from the five

member Institutes, namely Institute of Banking of Trinidad and Tobago (IBOTT), the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Banking (ECIB), The Jamaica Institute of Bankers (JIOB), the Barbados Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) and The Bahamas Institute of Bankers (BAIB).

LABOUR'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED PAM IS READY