

2019-03-06

NO: 282/19

### **MAGISTRATES' COURTS OFFICES CLOSED**

The offices at the Holetown Magistrates' Court and the District 'E' Magistrates' Court will be closed tomorrow, Thursday, March 7, and Friday, March 8, to facilitate staff training.

In addition, the offices at the District 'C' Magistrates' Court and the Domestic Court District 'A' will also be closed for staff training on Friday, March 8.

Persons are asked to note that the Magistrates will still be sitting during this period.

The court offices will reopen to the public on Monday, March 11.

Any inconvenience caused is regretted. **(JRB/BGIS)**

NO: 283/19

### **TANGO AT THE FORT THIS SATURDAY**

Members of the public will get an opportunity to show off their dancing skills or learn new ones this weekend when **Argentina meets Barbados: Tango at the Fort**, takes place.

It will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Barbados Defence Force (BDF), St. Ann's Fort, Garrison, St Michael.

This event, which is being held in commemoration of the BDF's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and in celebration of more than 50 years of friendship between Argentina and Barbados, will be hosted by Ambassador Gustavo Martinez Pandiani and the Chief of Staff, Colonel Glyne Grannum.

**Argentina meets Barbados: Tango at the Fort** will feature tango workshops for beginners and advanced dancers, and will include a variety of other artistic expressions from both countries, such as music, painting, sculpture, film and the best of Argentine wines with Barbadian cuisine.

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**ADD: TANGO AT THE FORT THIS SATURDAY-1**

The cultural highlight of this exchange will be the live performance of the BDF Band playing sensual rhythms of the Argentine Tango to create a unique ambience for dancing. The dress code for the evening is formal. **(SA/BGIS)**

**ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR:**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER ARGENTINA MEETS BARBADOS: TANGO AT THE FORT, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE BARBADOS DEFENCE FORCE, ST. ANN'S FORT, GARRISON, ST MICHAEL.**

**EDITORS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE NAMES OF PERSONNEL COVERING THE EVENT ON THURSDAY, MARCH 7, TO BDF'S MEDIA OFFICER, LIEUTENANT SHÍMAR GOLLOP, BY EMAILING [GOLLOP.S@BDF.GOV.BB](mailto:GOLLOP.S@BDF.GOV.BB), OR CALLING 536-2992.**

NO: 284/819

**FRENCH POSTER COMPETITION OPEN TO STUDENTS**

Primary school pupils between ages three and 11 are invited to enter the Language Fun Barbados' French Poster Competition 'Petits Picasso de la Barbade'.

The competition is meant to celebrate Francophonie Week, a worldwide celebration of all things French, which takes place annually in the week that March 20 falls.

The aim is to raise awareness locally about the importance of learning French from a young age and the opportunities it will open up for Barbadian children now and in the future. No previous exposure to French is required to enter the competition.

It closes on Wednesday, March 13, and the winning artworks will be displayed at participating stores and organizations from March 20 to 30.

**ADD: FRENCH POSTER COMPETITION OPEN TO STUDENTS-1**

There will be prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. These prizes will be a mix of French class gift certificates, monetary awards, French books, trophies and assorted gift certificates from sponsors. There will also be prizes awarded to schools of 1st place students, as well as a school prize for the most students entered in the competition.

All competition details and terms may be found by visiting the following webpage: <https://languagefunbarbados.com/pp2019>. (MR/BGIS)

**ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR:**

**BARBADOS' AMBASSADOR TO CARICOM, DAVID COMISSIONG WILL HOST A PRESS BRIEFING TOMORROW, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE, CULLODEN ROAD, ST. MICHAEL, BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M. IT WILL FOCUS ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF CARICOM, WHICH WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 26 AND 27 IN SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS.**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THIS EVENT.**

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**ATTENTION NEWS EDITOR:**

**THE COASTAL HAZARDS AND EARTHQUAKE PUBLIC SECTOR WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, AT THE LLOYD ERSKINE SANDIFORD CENTRE, HAS BEEN POSTPONED, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

NO: 285/19

## **CXC TO ISSUE E-CERTIFICATES ACROSS THE REGION**

After a successful trial period, the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) has announced that it will continue to provide students with e-certificates across the region.

While CXC will still be offering the traditional paper-based certificate, students who have registered unique and valid email addresses will now have the option to acquire their official certification through Blockcerts or blockchain based credentials, as a free downloadable e-Certificate in a digital format. It will be immediately available to students on their electronic devices once the certificate is ready and available.

CXC started the first regional blockchain-based credential project last October, by issuing e-Certificates to a select group of 24,000 students from Barbados and Trinidad who sat the 2018 May/June examinations.

CXC Registrar/Chief Executive Officer, Glenroy Cumberbatch said: “Serving 19 countries, this is the first ... multi-national implementation of digital credentials designed specifically to maximize cross-border employability and transferability of skills in the region. From inception, our primary goal was to empower students to have ownership of their records and be able to share them in a secure way, with whomever they choose.

“The move was also to boost security and transferability of official examinations records. It also helps to prevent loss of official records. The blockchain, combined with strong cryptography, provides a new security infrastructure that guarantees the authenticity of these records and enables convenient verification.”

CXC e-Certificates will be offered for the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Exam, Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate and the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence.

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**ADD: CXC TO ISSUE E-CERTIFICATES ACROSS THE REGION-1**

Mr. Cumberbatch said e-Certificates add value to students and to the recipients of the e-certificates: "Students can now have their original record in their possession and control how it is used. They can choose to share their CXC e-Certificate publicly, like on social media, or send it privately by email or text message. They can even link it to their résumé, public portfolio, or applications, so that people like potential employers can verify their qualifications with the click of a button.

"E-Certificates are tamper-proof and registered on the Bitcoin blockchain, so they can be shared to colleges, universities, and clearing houses as well. Once received, the recipients of the e-Certificates can independently verify it anywhere. This is all free to students receiving their e-credentials as well as to colleges, universities and potential employers who can now verify certificates immediately. Verification only requires a mobile device or web browser."

CXC partnered with Learning Machine in June 2018 to collaborate and develop this open source standard for blockchain based records for Caribbean students.

Learning Machine Senior Vice President of Global Services, Kausar N. Samli, said: "CXC is among an elite group of institutions that are leading the charge globally for the issuance of secure, portable, and shareable digital credentials. CXC is now building upon last fall's successful launch of Blockcerts for issuance of official student records. From this March, the next batch of students will be receiving Blockcerts that will empower them with individual ownership of their official records in a digital format that is portable and easily shareable." **(CXC/BGIS)**