

St. Kitts and Nevis Govt. gives double salary bonus

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts and Nevis--Government is spreading some Christmas cheer in the public service this month.

It announced that after lengthy deliberations Thursday, Cabinet agreed that all civil servants of the Federal and Nevis Island Administration, pensioners, Government auxiliary employees, Skills Training and Empowerment Programme employees and workers at all statutory corporations would get double their salary in Christmas bonus.

"The bonus payment is indeed expected to bring cheer to all families in St. Kitts and Nevis and

can be considered as the Government's Christmas gift to our hard-working and deserving citizens," Cabinet said in a statement.

Cabinet said it took account of the many challenges still being experienced by several households following Hurricanes Irma and Maria and of Government's continuing efforts to bring relief to people.

"The fiscal performance of the Federal Government was also taken into consideration. Up to September this year, the fiscal accounts reflected a surplus on the recurrent account, the overall account and the primary account. All economic

indicators also point to robust growth for 2018. Several capital projects are expected to come on stream and various private developments are anticipated.

"In light of the above, the Cabinet took a decision to approve the payment of a double salary for the second consecutive year," it said.

Recipients of the extra salary were encouraged to spend their money wisely, with a suggestion that those who still have repairs to make to their homes should take advantage of the duty-free concessions being offered by Government.

~ Caribbean360 ~



World AIDS Day was marked by Gwendoline van Putten School with an assembly on Friday. Mentor Froukje Spoelma and Class A3 organised the event with Anastacia Korstanje as mistress of ceremonies. The programme included a dance guided by Ceclia Gittens-Roosberg. The class staged a skit about the ever-present danger and risk of HIV/AIDS. Motivational speaker Olton Berkel gave lessons to the audience about the disease. Shanna Mercera-Gibbs, STI/AIDS coordinator for the Public Health Department, coordinated the programme.

Isla insists that oil refinery safe

WILLEMSTAD--The situation at Curaçao's Isla refinery is secure, says management following statements of MFK-leader Gerrit Schotte based on a research report.

American E&D Technologies conducted a technical audit of the refinery leased by "Petroleos de Venezuela" PdVSA, at the request of government-owned holding "Refineria di

Kòrsou" and the Multi-Disciplinary Project Team (MDPT) working on the future of Isla. The company is working on its response to the report.

Management points out that they have built a reliable track record in 32 years renting the refinery. In the past 10 years the operator invested NAF. 2.3 billion in maintenance, an average of NAF. 230 million annually.

E&D said there is room for improvement regarding inspection and reliability, such as introducing management systems. The inspection team is good, but its efforts and progress are considerably hampered by the lack of adequate modern databases. The latter are essential to comply with modern-day requirements in the oil industry.

SONA ordered to pay Ballast Nedam

WILLEMSTAD--SONA, the development foundation managing Curaçao's "Hospital Nobo Otrobanda" (HNO) project must pay contractor Ballast Nedam US \$1.4 million for not making the building site available in time.

The court granted provisional damages in a lawsuit, pending execution of an earlier ruling by the Dispute Adjudication Board (DAB) stating financial compensation was in order. SONA had refused to accept this and initiated

a regular civil legal procedure.

However, the judge said the payment ordered by DAB must still be made pending that process. This is also seen as important for completing the new hospital.

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