

Oistins Waste Station gets facelift

Efforts on to curb illegal dumping

ONCE an eyesore, a beautiful mural now wraps the Oistins Bay Garden Waste station, a visual representation of the beauty that can come out of waste and a reminder to keep the environment clean.

Yesterday Eco Rebel in partnership with ProSource launched a community beautification project in Oistins to bring awareness to the challenges associated with waste management and how it can be better managed in the community.

This beautification project is supported by the Sanitation Service Authority, the National Conservation Commission, and Bay Gardens Inc and included Oistins Bay Garden staff and vendors.

In time for Father's Day, the initiative which was dubbed the Daddy and Daughter Waste Warriors event also included a group of fathers and daughters who worked together on the interactive mural painting and tree planting exercise.

Dominique Tudor, environmental ambassador for ProSource and founder of Eco Rebel, local Barbadian social enterprise, explained that Eco Rebel has been in the community over the years and has undertaken a number of projects with schools, helping people to change the way they think about our waste.



Dominique Tudor, environmental ambassador for ProSource and founder of Eco Rebel with Innotech chairman Anthony DaSilva.

"So today, we're working with the Oistins vendors and daddies and daughters who came up to help us paint a mural. ProSource has renovated the waste station, this is the area where the Skips would be stored that the Sanitation Service Authority would come to clear. The gates were off and the Skips had to be placed outside. So what was happening was a lot of private entities were coming in and illegally dumping their waste."

Tudor noted that the waste would subsequently overflow into the streets, which she recog-

nised is a major tourist area. "We felt it necessary to have it here as our inaugural project so that we could start to build a vibrant community, you know, and we wanted to create a beautiful space to plant trees. And everybody that has been a part of this has really been excited. They had a fun time."

She said with tree planting also planned for the area it is hoped that this project could be replicated in other parts of Barbados. Innotech Chairman Anthony DaSilva while commending the project said he sees the need for this concept to be

replicated in public spaces across Barbados." "We can do more," he said noting that there are many opportunities that can be developed and planned through engagement with the public for public spaces across the island.

Residents from the surrounding communities were included in the project including Maria Phillips and her daughters Milan and Ama who expressed gratitude for the project and encouraged Barbadians to keep the environment clean. The mural was drawn by artist Troy Burgess.

Mottley: Chance for cap on fuel prices in future

By Cara L. Jean-Baptiste

WHILE the fuel tax cannot be removed, a cap on the VAT going forward will be introduced.

During a recent address to the nation, Prime Minister, Mia Amor Mottley emphasized with persons who were agitated and were calling for a reduction in fuel prices and noted that, unfortunately, this was not something the current administration could facilitate at this time.

"Let me also explain and contextualize it because Barbados isn't only made up of persons who drive cars. And one of the things that we did back in 2019, was that we reduced income taxes. And for the first time persons, earning between \$1500 and \$2,000 were allowed to be able to get a reverse tax credit for the first time of \$1300 a year, and we've been able to carry them," she said.

Some getting ease

"Similarly, persons, earning between \$2,000 to \$3000 month, between \$25 000 and \$35 000 year, you now, also, don't effectively pay taxes, because when you pay the taxes we give you back the equivalent of all that you have paid at the end of the year, and a compensatory income credit.

"And at the same time. We are also making sure that persons who are literally taken advantage of the other things that we've put in place in terms of tax reform would tell you that we can't easily, easily go back to a situation where we can therefore reduce the taxes on assets, reduce the taxes on transactions.

"What I am prepared to tell you, as well, is that we will cap, and I have started to discuss it with the Ministry of Finance officials that we will put a cap on the VAT, that we collect going forward."

The Prime Minister explained that if oil prices continued to go beyond a certain point, the Government would be in a position to then cap the VAT on the taxes there so that it was not passed on to the average Barbadian.



Persons of all ages came together to beautify the Oistins Waste station yesterday.