

## Ministry of Health staff praised for support of Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

**Ninety Percent of Employees vaccinated, others urged to come on board**

Almost ninety percent of employees have been vaccinated against the Covid-19 pandemic since the Company launched an in-house Vaccination drive and Human Resources Executive Mrs. Sharon Nelson is urging other employees to come forward to be injected. The Management of Banks DIH Limited has been at the forefront of ensuring that employees are vaccinated to curb the spread of the virus.

“Since we started in April, to date we have vaccinated almost 90 percent of the workforce which is excellent. Employees have been very co-operative. I want to encourage the other 10 percent that are not vaccinated as yet to come on board because we have seen the number of cas-

es climbing around the country and their participation would help to curb the spread,” she said.

Mrs. Nelson said the Company was extremely grateful and express sincere gratitude to the management of the Ministry of Health and its workers especially those who worked tirelessly at Thirst Park during the vaccination programme.

Employees who are still interested are encouraged to contact Mrs. Nelson, Nurse Sharon Mansell or Communications Manager Troy Peters for details on how to secure their vaccines. They can also visit health centres in their respective communities or vaccination programmes organized across the country by the Ministry of Health.



Ministry of Health staff processing employees to be vaccinated.



A nurse administering the injection.



Fully vaccinated employees display their cards.



Fully vaccinated employees display their cards.

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Mail us your comments, suggestions, articles, poems, We would be delighted to hear from you.*



# 14 Diseases controlled thanks to **VACCINES:**

**Polio** **Tetanus** **Measles** **Flu** **Hib**  
**Hepatitis B** **Hepatitis A** **Rubella**  
**Whooping Cough** **Rotavirus**  
**Pneumococcal Disease** **Mumps**  
**Chickenpox** **Diphtheria**



**Let's add  
COVID-19  
to the list.  
Get Vaccinated.**



Committed to Excellence

# Dr. Mahendra Carpen promotes Safety of Covid-19 Vaccines at Interactive Session with employees



Dr. Mahendra Carpen

Dr. Mahendra Carpen, Head of Medical Services and Cardiology at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation says the Covid-19 vaccines that are being distributed are safe for the prevention of severe illness and should be taken build resistance to the virus.

Speaking at a Vaccination Awareness Interactive Session at the Sports Club recently, Dr. Carpen stated: “Research show that the vaccines are safe for prevention of severe illness. It does not prevent you from getting ill but most people will recover instead of having to go to the ICU and be placed on ventilators which may eventually lead to death.”

*(Please turn on page 6)*



Mr. Carlton Joao



## Effective Housekeeping helps to eliminate Workplace Hazards

Employees are reminded to keep their working area clean

One of Banks DIH Limited’s key objective is to ensure a sustainable Integrated Management System through the implementation of effective ISO Management Standards. In order to achieve this, the company has made a commitment to continual improvement. This is validated for effectiveness using performance metrics in areas of Quality, Food Safety, Health Safety and Environment.

One major obligation is Housekeeping. Housekeeping is sometimes misconceived as “just cleanliness”. However, inspection includes examining the cleanliness of the environment at Banks DIH Ltd and it is also inclusive of many other Environment, Safety and Food Safety aspects.

Inspections are focused on a Department’s actions or lack thereof to ensure the maintenance of the premises, pest control, surrounding envi-

rons, fire safety, safety and security of employees and visitors.

The Environment and Safety Department is responsibility for monthly Housekeeping Inspections. However, daily inspections are the responsibility of the assigned supervisors and employees of each department. Workers are responsible for inspecting their workspaces and personal protective equipment (PPE) before completing assigned task.

It is almost a guarantee that daily cleaning, safety practices and environmental consciousness will be reflected by the Department attaining the benchmark score of 95% or above.

Let us not forget that it is also each Department’s responsibility to ensure that the required procedures such as creating work orders and assigning timeline for completion is completed, if there are housekeeping



findings relating to property maintenance.

Effective housekeeping helps to control or eliminate workplace hazards. Effective housekeeping is an ongoing process; it is not a one-time cleanup. Periodic “panic” cleanups are costly and ineffective in reducing incidents and maintaining high housekeeping standards.

So let us all work together to make Banks DIH Limited a Safe Workplace for all by promoting Excellent Housekeeping!

## MENTAL HEALTH IN FOCUS



Ms. Michelle Amsterdam

Recently appointed Therapist Ms. Michelle Amsterdam is urging employees who are feeling depressed or having anxiety to seek help as these symptoms may be a sign of mental health problems.

Ms. Amsterdam is of the opinion that the Covid-19 pandemic has added another level of pressure and negative side effects as it relates to how employees cope with their mental health.

“I expect to find a lot of pent-up emotions because I think it is the

## Newly appointed Therapist Michelle Amsterdam Urges Employees to Seek Help

norm and with the addition of the Covid-19 pandemic which has added another level of pressure a lot of people have been going through their lives with issues that they have left pent-up inside, Ms. Amsterdam disclosed.

She said that one of her goals is to have employees come to a place where they are comfortable to express how they feel and to talk about their experiences and that they are going through so they can get the support that is needed.

Ms. Amsterdam’s office is located at the Training Centre at Thirst Park.

“There is a culture of silence, people don’t talk about how they feel especially men so I am encouraging them to come forward and speak out about their traumatic experiences. They need to resolve those emotions and feelings and look at correcting them since trauma has a tangible effect on the brain.” She noted.

Ms. Amsterdam conducts sessions once a week at the Training Centre

and employees can make appointment to visit her directly or through The Human Resources Executive Mrs. Sharon Nelson or Mrs. Sharon Mansell, Industrial Nurse.

Ms. Amsterdam has over four years of counsel adults, children, men, women. Most of the issues that she has dealt with include anxiety, trauma, depression and recent loss. She holds a Masters’ Degree in child and adolescent psychology, a degree in social work. She also provides counselling supervision to trainee counsellors through the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Ms. Amsterdam has started to gather information based on her sessions with employees which would assist her in identifying some of the most common issues affecting employees. She said the current Covid-19 pandemic has restricted her from hosting open forums but sessions would be held once the restrictions are lifted.

## Dairy Plant commissions new Industrial Crate Washer

The Dairy Plant has commissioned a new Industrial Crate Washer which became operational in April 2021.

Plant Executive Mrs. Resha Nedd said the entire system is hygienically designed using 304 stainless steel.

“The equipment is separated into two (2) zones: Wash and Rinse. The crates are loaded into the wash tunnel via synthetic chain. In the main wash zone, the crates are cleaned by powerful spray nozzles which apply cleaning solution. This solution is recycled to allow for efficient use

of cleaning agent and water,” she added.

According to Mrs. Nedd, the use of steam allows for the removal of heavy soil from crates while the rinse zone utilizes treated water to remove residual cleaning solution. The water supply is controlled by a sensor and the valve will remain closed in the absence of crates.

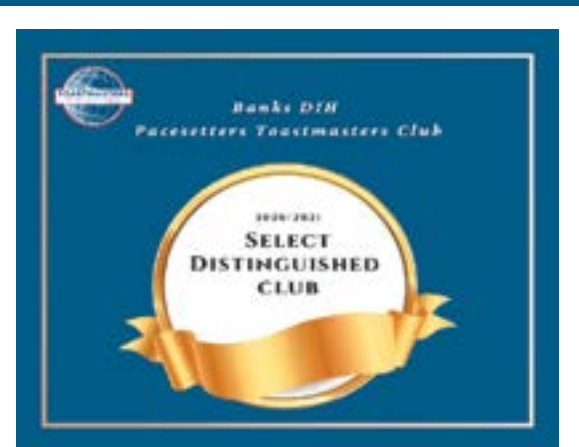
“The addition of the Crate Washer to the Dairy Operation ensures that all crates are effectively cleaned prior to use. The system was designed as a one-man operation and the



Neil Fraser

process conditions can be easily adjusted to achieve optimum results.” Mrs. Nedd added. The Washer operator is Neil Fraser.

# Banks DIH Pacesetters Toastmasters Club attains Select Distinguished Status in its Inaugural Year, 2020/2021



**B**anks DIH Pacesetters Toastmasters Club attains Select Distinguished Status in its Inaugural Year, 2020/2021

Banks DIH Pacesetters Toastmasters Club has attained Select Distinguished Status just one year after being chartered.

Select Distinguished Club Status is a prestigious achievement and is earned after partaking in an array of criteria including Members Pathways educational progress, the Club's ability to attract new members, Club Officers Training and Administration.

Outgoing President, Sonya Forrester DTM, one of the original sponsors of

the Club attributed the excellent performance to the commitment of the members to their respective Pathways educational program as well as dedicated and reliable leadership from the Club's Executive Team.

She expressed confidence new year of the Club, under the leadership of the recently elected Executive Team headed by TM Deanna Walcott of the Environment & Safety Department, will continue to set the pace and take the Club to the President's Distinguished Status, the premier Toastmasters Club achievement.

In the meantime, Kadesiya Adams and Kevin Cornette both of the Trisco Department have completed

three (3) levels of their respective Pathways programmes. Adams always had a passion for Public Speaking and decided to pursue the Presentation Mastery Path, designed to build a Toastmaster's skills as an accomplished Public Speaker.

Cornette, a manager of Trisco chose the Dynamic Leadership Pathway, a route tailored to develop a Toastmaster's skills in becoming a strategic leader through effective communication.

*Submitted by TM Mohamed Zaman, immediate past Vice President - Public Relations*

## Walcott new President of Pacesetters Toastmasters Club



**T**oastmaster Deanna Walcott was recently elected President of the Pacesetters Toastmasters Club.

There are three Vice Presidents: – Tatyana Abrams holds the Education portfolio, Nasoya Chapman (Membership) and Kevin Cornette (Public Relations).

Milessa Daniels is the Secretary, Afesha Burke (Treasurer) and Rawle Nedd (Sergeant-at-Arms). The immediate Past President is Sonya Forester.



## New Motorised Truck Washing Facility is fully Operational

The recently installed Motorised Truck Washing Facility at Thirst Park is fully operational and is catering for the cleaning of the Company's Sales vehicles.

Mr. Romel Edmonson, BASI Manager said the Washer was manufactured by Istobal Manufacturing Co. in Spain while the building foundation was constructed by Home Designs and Engineering Associates and the erection of the shed by Industrial Fabrications Ins. Mechanical assembling of the ma-

chine was done in the Vehicle Workshop and subsequently transported to the site where it was installed by employees of the workshop. The welding, plumbing and electrical components were done by staff of the General Workshop.

Mr. Juan Antonio Romero Ruiz de Castro, Engineer attached to Istobal visited Guyana for one week to ensure all works were done in accordance with specification, after which the commissioning was done, Mr. Edmonson disclosed.

"The Truck Wash is able to wash the vehicle exteriors within 6-7 minutes where it entails two cycles. The first cycle being the washing cycle using a special shampoo chemical while the other cycle the truck is rinsed, with a drying wax being applied simultaneously. Each truck's physical structure is specially programmed into the system thus making it easier for the operator when washing the various truck types.

Mr. Tevance Garraway has been trained as the Wash Operator.

*Continued from page 3*

## Dr. Mahendra Carpen promotes Safety of Covid-19 Vaccines at Interactive Session with employees



Employees listen attentively during the interactive session.

He said the benefits of being vaccinated outweighs the risk of not being injected. "We see a clear pattern that the deaths are among the people who did not have vaccines. The numbers don't lie," he added. Dr. Carpen said the vaccines are safe and effective in patients increased risk of severe diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, HIV, heart disease and other ailments. He said however that persons at high risk of being vaccinated are people with a history of severe allergic reaction to vaccines.

Employees raised many questions about being vaccinated including the safety of the injections, pregnancy, fertility issues, and lactating mothers. The programme was chaired by Mr. Carlton Joao, Sales and Marketing Executive who was hospitalized with the Covid-19 virus last year. Mr. Joao related his experiences and urged employees to be vaccinated.

# 400m National Champion is new Powerade Brand Ambassador



Arinze Chance

Guyana's Indoor 400 metres record holder United States-based Arinze Chance has been named Powerade Brand Ambassador. Chance, a student of the University of South Carolina in the United States signed an agreement to represent the international sports drink, Powerade which is produced by Coca-Cola and distributed locally by Banks DIH Limited.

Ms. Jennifer Khan, Banks DIH's Coca Cola Brand Executive said Chance is the ideal role model to represent the brand.

"This agreement took some time to materialize but we are extremely happy to have Arinze on board he is an exemplary athlete and we expect great things from him," Ms. Khan said.

Chance has excelled both in athletics and academics. He holds the National Indoor 400 metres record Academically, the former Queen's College and Bishop's High student was made the 2019 and 2020 Google Cloud Academic All-American and was on the University's 2019 and 2020 SEC Academic Honour Roll. He also made the 2017-18 SEC First-Year Academic Honour Roll.

Also present at the signing were Chance's father Philip, Banks DIH Limited Company Secretary/Corporate Legal Officer Kavnorn Kyte-Williams, Communications Manager Troy Peters and Brand Manager Marissa Moonsammy.



## Designer of the Rotunda Marian Dorr-Dorynek has passed on

Polish architect Mr. Marian Dorr-Dorynek who designed the Company's iconic Rotunda (Head Office) at Thirst Park has passed on. The Rotunda which is popular to visitors to the Company was built in 1969 and designed to bear the resemblance of the head and shoulder of a beer bottle.



## Coca-Cola Excellence Cup on display in the Rotunda



The Coca-Cola Excellence Cup won by Banks DIH Limited is being displayed in the Rotunda following its arrival in Guyana.

The Company won the prestigious 2020 Award for small markets within the Coca-Cola Latin Centre Business Unit at the annual competition.

It is the second time that Banks DIH Limited copped the Award having won previously in 2016.



Cabina Adams

# Idiho Health Bar Wins Outstanding Customer Experience Award for July-August



Yeaolanda Niles



Olivia Rahaman



Ms. Olivia Rahaman receives the Trophy on behalf of Idiho



Tolleica Odle



Pamela Albert



Onica Hendricks



Paula Richardson



Mandy Wright

Idiho Health Bar has won the Demico Outstanding Customer Award for the period July-August 2021. Eight Customer Service Representatives were recognized for excellent customer support during the awards presentation held on July 2nd at the Sports Club at Thirst Park.

Olivia Rahaman of Idiho Health Bar, Tolleica Odle (Stabroek Qik Serv), Yeaolanda Niles (Main Street Qik Serv), Mandy Wright of (Crème Select) and Onca Hendricks (OMG! Arawak Steak House).

The presentations were done by Training Officer Ms. Nebiola Gittens-Toppin. Ms. Rahaman received the Trophy on behalf of Idiho Health Bar.

The individual awards went to Cabina Adams of New Amsterdam Qik Serv, Pamela Albert of Caesar's Palace,

**Demico**  
PREMIUM ICE CREAM

**BANKS**  
**COH**  
OF TRINIDAD, TOBAGO, GUYANA & SURINAM

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