

Editorial

Disaster can strike anytime. Get ready!

A fire at the Frequente Industrial park on Monday February 12 which destroyed 6 businesses, should serve as an eyeopener when it comes to safety on the job and just how prepared we are for disasters. In an area where almost a hundred work places have hired almost double that number of people, who all work in proximity, it is good that the management of the Park has promised that a lot will be done quickly to ensure safety.

This also calls for attention to be given to the new housing developments and schemes where some of the homes are attached to each other while the others are very near. This newspaper congratulates the Government for providing those low-income houses, to afford the working class to own a home. It is good that the efforts of Sir Eric Matthew Gairy - our former Prime Minister continue to bear fruit as subsequent Governments continue to provide these homes. However, as one visits La Calome in Westerhall or even the settlement in Marquis, which by the way is a beauty to behold, the question stands out 'what is the safety procedure in the event of a fire, or any other disaster?'

Are there enough water hydrants, etc? Maybe the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) which is once again under an experienced head will see it fit to encourage simulation exercises so that everyone will be accounted for after the event; because as it stands, people may not even know that there is an emergency situation which requires them to move to safety. It may be too late when they do try to save themselves.

During last week, NaDMA launched a programme to outfit the shelters in a way to make them more accessible to persons living with a disability. This is a great move. It is our hope that when its all done, simulation exercises will be held for persons physically challenged to empower themselves as to what is required of them in a disaster.

Of great concern also are the malls which again, house many businesses in a concentrated area. Can anybody remember seeing emergency exits? Most of the stores have one main door which is being used for both entering and leaving. Then again, what about fire extinguishers? Can we say that they are conspicuous as we enter shops, stores and even schools and Government offices?

The Grenada Red Cross has put together first aid programmes that can be helpful in workplaces. Shouldn't managers take advantage of that and identify a few workers who, when so trained, can act as First Responders? This most likely will save a life or two. The idea of this editorial is to get us to avoid taking safety for granted, in a world where even 'climate change' can cause problems for us.

Our neighbours in Trinidad were recently surprised by the eruption of a volcano which last erupted in the 1800s.

There were also recent reports of over four earthquakes in the sea between Venezuela and Trinidad. Maybe we can do with the old adage 'When your neighbour's house is on fire, wet yours!' Here in Grenada there is Mt Saint Catherine which is most times sending up some kind of smoke. Then there is Grand Etang which is referred to as the sleeping volcano. Simulation exercises were held in the past for Tsunamis; there is also a sign on Grand Anse beach to run to higher ground if one suspects a Tsunami is coming. All these are good efforts. However, leaving the choice of higher ground to the public can be the source of confusion since the choices may vary.

With all the coastline development, Grenada is still a tiny island of roughly 134.6 square miles. It may make good sense to study the topography in a bid to identify official routes that can quickly take people to higher ground in an organised way. This should help to alleviate some of the confusion that comes with panic. NaDMA should be equipped with the information of how far inland the expected wave will break. This will avoid people being washed away by waves making their way back to the sea.

Maybe we can take a page from Japan where earthquakes are now part of the daily life of its people. One of our reporters were fortunate enough to attend a course there, to observe just how that country prepares itself for disasters. She pointed out that it starts with the schools where the students are taught ways to stay alive while very young. This creates a certain survival mindset as they grow older.

Such mindset is vital in avoiding panic and confusion and creating order when dealing with disasters.

Our Fire Department should also look into forging a relationship with the Ambulance service when dealing with a fire of such magnitude.

PPU: metal container users must seek permission for development

The Physical Planning Unit (PPU) is reminding people that the erection and establishment of metal containers as a place of business, and for the use of building ones' home must first receive permission from the Unit before engaging in such.

PPU Officer Kishore Fletcher in speaking to *The Grenadian Voice* about this issue said the action of erecting these metal containers is considered development and thus approval must be received from the PPU before anything can occur.

The reminder is part of the Unit's ongoing public education drive to keep citizens abreast about the Physical Planning and Development Control Act number 23 of 2016. He said, "even if you just rest the container on the land, it is development."

He further indicated that the erection of these metal containers across the island, is of concern to the Unit, as it can be in violation of legislation. Fletcher said, "You can have a container and you can violate the boundary setbacks, you can violate the road setbacks. If you are going to do it as a house, you may have to stay 6 feet from the boundary, plus your toilet facility in the container which you will need to have a septic system for."

Fletcher indicated that failure to conform to the rules, carries a fine of \$50,000. Additionally, he noted that the life span of these metal containers is another reason for concern. "When someone takes it and uses it for a dwelling house which they intend to establish for 20/30 years, we are not sure that this container is durable for withstanding weather conditions," he said.

The PPU Officer said the Unit has inspectors who are always out in the field, conducting regular checks and if anything is noticed, these offi-



Metal containers as a house

cers will first speak to the individuals erecting containers to verify that permission was given before further action is taken.

Fletcher also indicated that enforcement notices and warning letters have been issued in the past to people who were not

in compliance. These people in turn, most often will provide the necessary documentation to the unit within the stipulated time period and have gotten approval. He added that people have also been taken to court for engaging in illegal development. Nevertheless, he indi-

cated that generally many people have been in compliance by seeking permission first before engaging in any kind of development.

Additionally, he stated that owners of mobile caravans, also need to apply for permission.

FOR SALE BY MORTGAGEE UNDER IT'S POWER OF SALE:

There will be offered for sale by **Public Auction** at the Chambers of Lewis & Renwick, No. 11 Church Street, St. George's on Friday the 09 day of March, 2018 at 12: 00 noon. The following property:

Location of Property: Snug Corner in the parish of Saint George

Area of Property: The lot contains by admeasurement 6,160 square feet and is bounded as in the plan marked "D" annexed to an Indenture made the 2nd day of September, 1988 between Alban Chase & Others of the One Part and Dickson Lewis Paul of the Other Part and recorded in the Deeds and Land Registry of Grenada in Liber V14 at Page 552.

Use: Residential with a two storey dwelling house with a total floor area of approximately 1,645 sq. ft. The ground floor measures 925 sq. ft. and comprises of two bedroom self-contained apartment. The first measures 720 sq. ft. and comprises of three bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen, dining room and living room.

Access: The property is located at Snug Corner in the parish of St. George. Travelling from the direction of Spice Basket in Beaulieu towards Grand Etang, one turns onto the concrete road on the right after the shop painted yellow, continuing along that road, the subject property is the first on the left hand side after the barbershop/hair salon.

Topography: Sloping

Services and Amenities: Electricity, water, telephone and cable television

Reserve Price: (\$ 288,593.00) Two Hundred and Eighty-eight Thousand Five hundred and Ninety-three Dollars.

Conditions of sale: The sale which is pursuant to an Indenture of Mortgage made the 1st day of August, 2008 where recorded at the Deeds and Land Registry at Liber 32-2008 Page 74, will be subject to conditions to be read at the auction which include the payment by the successful bidder on the day of the sale of (20%) twenty percent of the sale price.

Dated the 09 day of February, 2018

Sgd:
Lewis & Renwick
Attorneys-at-Law for the
Grenada Building & Loan Association