



ANTHONY N. SABGA AWARDS E-NEWS



THE
ANTHONY N. SABGA
CARIBBEAN AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE

Volume 12, Issue 5
September-October 2017

We Stand with Dominica and Barbuda

The ANSA Caribbean Awards stands in solidarity with the people of Barbuda and Dominica, and the other islands of the region, in their time of need after the passage of hurricanes Irma, Jose and Maria.

Our patron company, the ANSA McAL Group, has already begun to mobilize relief efforts and has sent aid to the islands. We realize this is just the beginning of the process of rebuilding those islands which have been ravaged, and we are committed to see it through.

We have all seen the heartfelt pleas by the Dominican Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit via social media and the response from Caribbean communities. On the last weekend in October, Caribbean entertainers participated in the Caribbean Strong telethon and concert in Port of Spain. The

Guyana government donated some 20,000 boxes of a new breakfast cereal, Morning Glory, worth GY \$8 million to relief efforts. The Morning Glory production is due to another of our laureates, Prof Suresh Narine; that story is featured in this issue.

In Trinidad, we hear stories of private citizens sending barges stocked with the essential supplies the relief effort depends upon. We salute them and all who have responded to the needs of our Caribbean family.

This disaster is an unfortunate reminder of the vulnerability of the region to these kinds

of shocks, which, in this era of climate change, are becoming more frequent. We hope that the work we do, finding and honouring exceptional individuals and helping them to continue to produce, can assist in the region's security and salvation.



Morning Glory in Guyana

Morning Glory rice cereal, a product of the Institute of Applied Science & Technology (IAST) in Guyana, has started commercial production in that country. The IAST is the brainchild of our 2015 Laureate in Science & Technology, Prof **Suresh Narine**.

The cereal is one of many initiatives being undertaken to use Guyana's massive hinterland resources to build a sustainable economy. It produces breakfast cereals and nutrition bars using local inputs: rice bran, sugar, molasses, and peanuts. The factory is located in Anna Regina on the



Essequibo coast. The company recently pledged 20,000 boxes of cereal to islands affected by the hurricanes. The establishment and productive agenda of this facility is a step toward using science and local inputs to create sustainable industries and reorient local economies into self-sufficiency and wean them from dependence on foreign exchange.

The production of the plant is the state of the art, since even its waste products can be used to feed livestock. Once the plant becomes profitable it will be divested or made into a public-private partnership. It

employs 10 technical staff and 16 people from the community.

The Rt Hon Sidney Allicock in Trinidad



Our 2010 Laureate in Public & Civic Contributions, The Rt Hon **Sydney Allicock**, now a deputy president of Guyana, recently visited Trinidad and Tobago to participate in the First People's week, which was held in October.

Mr Allicock was an environmental and First People's activist before he entered politics. He is a member of the Makushi Nation of Guyana. In his address, he spoke of all Guyana had to offer to the region, and his own extensive experience in politics and grassroots activism.

George Simon in Trinidad



George Simon, our 2012 Laureate in Arts & Letters has been in Trinidad &

Tobago for the last two months working as an archaeology consultant for the excavation works being done on the Red House in Port of Spain.

During the early excavation for the Red House restoration project, the remains of what appeared to be First Peoples were discovered on the site. Mr Simon, who is a member of the Lokono Nation of Guyana, and an archaeologist, was hired as consultant to determine the authenticity of the discovery and to advise on the most appropriate course of action.

Mr Simon discovered the agricultural mounds in the Guyanese hinterland, which caused revision of the extent of First People's farming and other practices in the pre-Columbian era.

Yao Ramesar speaks on artistic exclusion

Our 2006 Laureate in Arts & Letters, filmmaker **Robert Yao Ramesar**, now the director of the film programme at the UWI, St Augustine, spoke last September at a panel on the creative industries organized by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) in Port of Spain. The panel was titled: "Creative Industries and the Orange Economy."

He said the way to unleash the potential of the creative sector, now a buzzword as tourism and other traditional sources of revenue are drying up, was to make it more democratic. He said that too much of the creative sector in Trinidad & Tobago was restricted and seen as the preserves of small cliques based on class and geography.

This is a perennial complaint in the region — of class-based cliques trapping and exploiting artistic resources for their own gain.

Ramesar has been a filmmaker for more than three decades. He was trained at Howard University in the US, and has worked in public and private sectors in Trinidad and Tobago, and has made films throughout the region, including in Barbados and Haiti.

