

GOAT RACE FESTIVAL A 'SUCCESS'

The people of Tobago are the ones who made the 90th Annual Goat and Crab Race Festival a success.

That's the belief of Buccoo/Mt Pleasant Representative to the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), Ancil Dennis, who attended the event on Tuesday (April 8) at the Buccoo Integrated Facility.

The event was filled with fun and excitement as patrons witnessed 15 goat races and two crab races, and were also treated to local entertainment from Kulture

Club, the Scarborough RC Speechettes and Junior Calypso Monarch 2015, Garvé Sandy. Dennis, who is also Assistant Secretary of the Division of Community Development and Culture, said the people's support has allowed the festival to continue to thrive.

"It's not about whom you know in the Tobago House of Assembly or any private entity sponsoring these events but the real power and the dynamism of this event has to do with the togetherness and the unity of the people," Dennis said.



GOAT RUN: Action in one of 15 goat races during the 90th Annual Buccoo Goat and Crab Race Festival. Patrons enjoyed a day for fun family and entertainment at the Buccoo Integrated Facility.

FINANCE DIVISION TO CONDUCT LABOUR SURVEY

A survey will soon be conducted by the Tobago House of Assembly to determine the best approach to address the current labour shortage on the island.

Secretary of the Division of Finance and Enterprise Development, Joel Jack, said information collected by the survey will give a better picture of the issue, with a view to possible solutions.

The Secretary recently met with the Tobago Chapter of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce and the Tobago Co-operate Credit Union League to discuss this and another matters involving the business community.

Jack said: "The Division has mobilised resources and will also be undertaking a study to inform how we can address labour and productivity issues here on the island," Jack said. "We've also assured the business sector that we'll also continue to engage

business groups with the intent of increasing performance in both areas."

Another topic discussed at the meeting is Government's proposed Credit Union Bill 2014 and Co-operative Society Bill 2014, which will replace the Co-operatives Society Act of 1971. The new bills will transfer the power to oversee credit unions from the Commissioner for Cooperative Development to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Secretary stated that his Division will address the concerns of the Credit Union League, which believes the bill will have a negative impact on them.

Jack said: "The Division has agreed to further consultation with the movement of an established working group to develop strategies for addressing the movement's concerns in relation to the proposed Credit Union Bill, in relation to the proposed operations of the credit unions."

CULTURAL GROUPS GET FUNDS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Community and cultural groups in Tobago recently participated in a series of workshops geared at bringing the island's Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) up to international standards.

Among the training sessions were courses such as management of government funds and grant proposal writing. The workshop series, an initiative of the Division of Community Development and Culture, was designed to help change the way NGOs look at the industry, said Glenda-Rose Layne, a co-ordinator at the Division.

"People need to understand what the global standards

are," Layne said, "because the cultural and creative industry doesn't only speak to us, it speaks on a global level how do we participate on a world stage if we are speaking industry, we're speaking world stage."

The Division, she stressed, is committed to ensuring that groups account for their use of public funding.

"(The training) doesn't speak to any weakness; it's about ensuring that organisations know, it's about ensuring that (their accounting is) done right."

The Division will offer organisation various other training opportunities throughout 2015.