

BHTA funds for RBPF's CCTV project in the north

IN its continuing support of the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) and with the increasing concerns about safety, the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) is providing funding to enhance surveillance on the island.

To this end The Association recently presented a cheque to the Police Force to be used for the purchase and installation of additional cameras in the north of the country as part of the Hometown CCTV Project.

During the presentation at the RBPF Headquarters, Chairman, Stephen Austin, said the BHTA was extremely

pleased to be able to lend a hand in this project and hoped the funds would go a long way in assisting the Force to bolster security across the country.

He explained, "This is not a one-off collaboration, as we work with the members of the Force on a daily basis and have made similar contributions in the past, including the donation of segways. We, therefore, want to continue in this vein and wherever we can support the RBPF in other areas or ventures. We encourage you to keep us informed so that we can continue to work together."

BHTA's CEO, Senator Rudy Grant, also took the opportunity to reinforce the

Association's commitment to working with the RBPF. He said, "It is important that we continue to support one of Barbados' brand elements, safety and security. The BHTA gives its commitment to continue supporting the Force not only as it relates to the installation of CCTV cameras but in other areas as well.

He noted, "The RBPF has been very supportive of the BHTA, in particular Tourism Liaison Officer, Inspector Pearson McConney, Acting Senior Superintendent Bruce Rowe and Acting Senior Superintendent Margaret Stephens. We always get a quick response t o

our concerns which we appreciate. We want to continue to strengthen this relationship and ensure that Barbados overall is always seen as a safe place for residents and visitors alike."

Accepting the funds, Commissioner of Police Tyrone Griffith said, "I want to thank the BHTA for its generous donation which will go a long way in helping us in our fight against crime. We all recognise that crime has taken on new dimensions, not only in Barbados but the region as well. So these types of projects will definitely assist us in our mission and the cameras will be of significant benefit to us in our work."



BHTA's CEO and Chairman, Senator Rudy Grant and Stephen Austin (left) in discussion with Commissioner of Police Tyrone Griffith (right) and Assistant Commissioner Oral Williams (second from right), during the presentation of funds to assist with the RBPF's CCTV Hometown Project.

Push for programme or plan to treat persons with epilepsy

PEOPLE who have epilepsy but do not receive treatment suffer recurrent episodes.

That is according to Regional Advisor on Mental Health at the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO's), Claudina Cayetano of the chronic neurological disease affecting approximately 50 million people, five million of whom live in the Region of the Americas. It is estimated that the treatment gap in Latin America and the Caribbean is over 50 per cent, which means that more than half of people with this disease do not receive health services.

Hence, to help countries design

programmes to detect cases and increase access to appropriate treatment for this disorder, PAHO recently published "The Management of Epilepsy in the Public Health Sector 2018". Currently, two out of every three countries do not have a programme or plan in place to treat people with this disease.

"This can affect their studies, their work, and quality of life for both them and their families."

"Timely diagnosis, adequate treatment, healthy diet and stress management can ensure that up to 70 per cent of those affected have reduced episodes and can lead full and active

lives," she added.

The report shows that the provision of basic antiepileptic medicines at the primary care level is a crucial, effective and low-cost way of addressing the issue, particularly given that in most cases, episodes can be controlled through treatment with just one of the basic medicines (monotherapy).

PAHO, which is also the World Health Organisation's (WHO) regional office for the Americas, considers the disease to be a priority public health problem, and supports improvements in health sector response, particularly regarding the identification, management and monitoring of epilepsy at the primary

health care level.

WHO recommends "integrating the management of epilepsy into primary health care, as the diagnosis of the disease is essentially clinical and can be performed by non-specialist doctors trained in the identification and management of non-complex cases, which account for the majority".

The guide also offers recommendations for the implementation of epilepsy prevention strategies, such as the promotion of safe pregnancy and birth, the prevention of traumatic brain injuries and stroke, as well as increased public awareness and education.