



Craig Cameron and partner Alise are greeted by Sandals Barbados General Manager Ramel Sobrino (right).

Sandals B'dos re-opens in grand style

SANDALS BARBADOS officially welcomed its first guests on Thursday, September 10, following a near six-month closure.

Just after 4 p.m., the first Rolls Royce glided through the resort's entrance with an excited UK couple who were visibly blown away by the reception they received from management and team members, all of whom adhered to the physical distancing protocols.

General Manager of Sandals Barbados and Royal Barbados, Ramel Sobrino, commented that after much anticipation, he was extremely pleased for this moment. "Today is a celebration not only for Sandals, but also for

Barbados as a whole because we are saying to the world that we are ready and open for business. These are new and different times and we have several new health and safety protocols in place, but the guest experience and warmth of the Barbadian people will never change."

The arrivals continued into the evening as all the guests were accommodated at Sandals Royal Barbados and anxious to begin their stay. Sobrino added that team members were also delighted with the reopening, as many of them were thrilled to be back on the job and ready to welcome some familiar repeat guests.

"We are even more pleased to welcome back about 85 per cent of our team members with more expected as we continue to be guided by the demand. The team members have been trained in the Sandals Platinum Protocol of Cleanliness, which are in keeping with the Government protocols of Barbados," he said.

The Sandals Platinum Protocol of Cleanliness was established in collaboration with both local and international health agencies including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), and cover a myriad of

touchpoints from arrival to departure.

In keeping with this, Sandals Chairman and founder, the Hon. Mr. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, noted that it was critical for tourism stakeholders to find ways to innovate and adapt in the new normal that exists today.

He noted, "I believe all stakeholders must do what is necessary to help revive the tourism sector, so that the entire community – farmers, tour operators, taxi drivers and service providers, to all those who depend on it are able to earn and take care of themselves and their families. We are proud that Sandals is once more helping to lead the way to recovery."

US officials congratulate new IDB president

THIS past weekend, Mauricio Claver-Carone was elected President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) during an electronic meeting of the Board of Governors of the bank.

Claver-Carone is due to take office on October 1, 2020, for a term of five years and as president, he will oversee the operations of the IDB Group, which comprises the IDB, IDB Invest and IDB Lab.

To be elected president, a candidate must receive a majority of the total voting power of the IDB's member countries as well as the support of at least 15 of the 28 regional member countries (26 borrowing member countries, plus Canada and the United States). A total of 30 governors voted for Claver-Carone, including 23 from the region.

'This victory is for Latin America and the Caribbean'

In a statement after the announcement, the newly elected president said that the victory was for the region.

"This victory is for Latin America and the Caribbean. I want to thank all of our partners in the region for maintaining the integrity of this electoral process and sharing in our common vision of a stronger and more responsive IDB," said Claver-Carone.

The president also explained that he was ready for the hard work which would be needed to build a strong team charged with taking action for the region and was committed to the goals outlined in his candidacy.

"My commitment remains the same: to work with the IDB member countries to outline a strategy to strengthen the Bank, respond to the needs of the region, and create opportunities for shared prosperity and economic growth. We will embark on a challenging but worthwhile endeavour and I will work tirelessly on behalf of our shared goals. Our work begins on October 1st at 12:01 a.m.," he said.

The United States (US) Treasury Secretary, Steven T. Mnuchin, issued a statement on the election of Claver-Carone, congratulating him on the victory and also thanked outgoing president Luis Alberto

Moreno for his service to the banking institution. He also stated that he looked forward to working with the partners within the region.

"The Western Hemisphere is bound by a set of common principles based on shared prosperity, democratic governance, and open markets. I look forward to working with the IDB and our partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to support the recovery from COVID-19 and promote economic growth and development across the region," stated Mnuchin.

Claver-Carone lauded

The United States Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo, also released a statement to congratulate the new IDB president on behalf of the US, lauding Claver-Carone for his leadership in his role at the National Security Council.

"In his role at the National Security Council, Mr. Claver-Carone has been a visionary leader in advancing prosperity in the Western Hemisphere and a strong advocate for the democratic institutions and security co-operation that underpin economic growth and development. In partnership with other countries in the region, the United States looks forward to working closely with him during his tenure as president of this essential organisation as it revitalises economies throughout Latin America and the Caribbean," stated Pompeo.

National Security Advisor, Robert C. O'Brien, said that Claver-Carone was the embodiment of an energetic and innovative financial leader who will take the IDB to the next level.

"His nomination represented a historic commitment by the United States to help our neighbours in Latin America and the Caribbean recover from the coronavirus pandemic and return to the path of economic growth. The strong backing of shareholders today is a testament to the confidence the region has in Mauricio's commitment to re-energize the IDB as a critical hemispheric institution, and in his strategic vision for accelerating best-in-class private investment in the region," stated O'Brien. (AS)



Mr. and Mrs. Riddell were among the first arrival guests to Sandals Royal Barbados and were welcomed by Sandals Barbados General Manager Ramel Sobrino (right).