

WAITIKUBULI

Nyhetsblad från Vänskapsföreningen Sverige-Dominica
Årgång 13, Nummer 3

Plusgiro 94 28 31-9
Redaktör Berith Granath, tel 08 643 26 80, berith.granath@telia.com

www.swedom.org
Oktober 2009



Ordföranden har Ordet Hej alla medlemmar!

Hoppas att ni haft en fin sommar med allt vad det innebär. Hösten är på ingång. Trots att vi får uppleva fina höstdagar är det inget mot värmen på Dominica. Tyvärr blir det ingen höstmässa i år. Vi fick reda på datumen med alldeles för kort varsel för att kunna planera ett deltagande. Vi får satsa på Göteborg nästa år.

På Dominica är orkanperioden snart förbi. Det verkar som att Dominica blir skonad från orkaner i år. Tvärtom är det fint väder och väldigt varmt. Det är fyra år sedan det var allmänna val på Dominica. Nästa val blir i början av 2010. Regeringen har inte utlyst datum ännu men det ska bli spännande att följa valet. Det blir alltid heta diskussioner. Inte bara i regeringen utan även i hemmen, på barerna och på andra ställen där befolkningen träffas. I St Joseph är man inte nöjd med kultur- och idrottsministrarnas insats. Kanske blir han inte

nominerad till nästa val. Det är hårt att vara politiker!

Avslutningsvis vill jag passa på att tacka Bosse och Gunnel för all god mat och dryck i samband med medlemsmötet på Stora Saxaren i juni. Trots regn och rusk blev det ett trevligt och givande möte. Jag hoppas vi ses snart. Kanske på Dominica. Jag kommer garanterat att vara där på karnevalen i februari.

Ruthine



Medlemsmöte på Stora Saxaren

Den 14 juni i regn och rusk var det medlemsmöte på Stora Saxaren i Stockholms skärgård.

Det blev långbord i huset hos Gunnel och Bosse med vågornas skvalp som bakgrundsmusik. Doris och Rolf hade flugit upp från Trollhättan och Gun-Britt kom ända från Värmland enbart för att vara med, vilket uppskattades mycket av övriga närvarande.

När 12 Dominicavänner träffas och pratar Dominica under trevliga former blir det alltid lyckat.

Samtidigt hölls styrelsemöte varvid två förslag diskuterades.

- Att inrätta en fond för punktstöd till Karib-reservatet.

- Att stödja kvinnorörelsen på Dominica.

Styrelsen kommer att diskutera förslagen vid nästa styrelsemöte, lördagen den 21 november.

Vad tycker du? Vilka projekt ska SWEDOM stödja i Dominica?

Skicka en e-post till Berith Granath,
berith.granath@telia.com

Barnkonventionen 20 år

unicef

FN:s konvention om barnets rättigheter antogs av FN:s generalförsamling den 20 november 1989, snart 20 år sedan. Dominica ratificerade konventionen den 13 mars 1991 utan att undanta några artiklar. Regeringen lovade alltså att följa konventionen fullt ut.

FN:s barnfond UNICEF har ett kontor i Barbados för de karibiska länderna. UNICEF:s uppdrag är att bistå regeringarna i deras arbete för att stärka barnets rättigheter. Artikeln nedan berättar om ett sådant initiativ.

'Roving Caregiver' helps give children a strong start in life



Christian Darroux, 19, uses sport to help children's development in the Roving Caregivers Programme in Dominica.

Christian Darroux, 19, has chosen a profession unusual among men in Dominica and most other countries: He works with young children and their families as a caregiver.

"I love children," says Christian, who is a descendant of the Caribbean indigenous group known as the Caribs. He works with 14 children from different families in the Carib Territory in the parish of St. David, which has no day-care centres and is one of the poorest in Dominica.

Christian has been involved with the UNICEF-supported Roving Caregivers Programme for six months. "What is most rewarding is when I see parents putting the stimulation activities that we teach into practice with their children," he says.

Supporting parents

His work with the Roving Caregivers is made possible by the Dominican branch of the Christian Children's Fund, with support from the Caribbean Support Initiative of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation and UNICEF.

The programme is being piloted in the six

communities in St. David's parish. It works with 206 children, including 117 from the Carib Territory.

The Roving Caregivers support and train parents to provide a better life for their children, especially those who don't have access to day care or pre-school.

"The boys especially like the sporting activities I do with them, and I would like to see more males from the Carib Territory involved in the programme," notes Christian, who is currently the only male Roving Caregiver in his territory.

This view is shared by the Senior Programme Officer for UNICEF in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Niloufar Pourzand, who recently visited the Carib Territory with UNICEF Special Envoy to the Caribbean, Karin Sham Poo.



UNICEF Special Envoy to the Caribbean Karin Sham Poo (left) plays with children at the Roving Caregivers Programme.

Male role model

"The programme has both boys and girls and seeks to involve both fathers and mothers in the early stimulation of their children," says Ms. Pourzand. "The presence of someone like Christian is important because it is necessary for boys to have a male role model. It is also important for fathers to see that males, too, can play a role in their children's development."

Christian Children's Fund Coordinator Nisbertha Buffong adds that caregivers like Christian counter the traditional view that dealing with young children is 'women's work'.

"The presence of young males in the programme sends a strong message that caring for, and being involved with, our children from birth can be very noble," she says.

Lisa McClean-Trotman



Kvinnokonventionen 30 år

Även FN:s konvention om avskaffande av diskriminering av kvinnor fyller jämna år i vinter, 30 år den 18 december. Dominica ratificerade konventionen den 15 september 1980.

Stater som har ratificerat konventionen ska rapportera till en FN-kommitté om situationen för kvinnors rättigheter i landet. Sådana rapporter ska skickas in vart fjärde år.

I år var det Dominicas tur att rapportera. Men regeringen hade inte gjort någon rapport. Det hade däremot the National Coalition of Dominican Women gjort. Såväl en regeringsrepresentant, Ruth Allport, som en representant för den "parallella rapporten" utfrågades av FN-kommittén. Nedan följer ett utdrag ur en pressrelease från FN-kommitténs utfrågning av regeringsrepresentanten.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women today, 21 January 2009, considered the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in Dominica, in the absence of a report.

Ruth Allport, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Culture, Gender Affairs and Information of Dominica, said the Government of Dominica was very conscious of the fact that it had not met its reporting obligations to the Convention since ratification. It had analysed the many challenges and reasons for this short-coming, and was pleased to use this opportunity to demonstrate to the Committee that much progress had been achieved since ratification. The commitment to fully addressing and redressing gender discrimination and achieving the objectives of the Convention was evident in the prioritisation of the development of a National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality. This policy reaffirmed the Government's commitment to gender equality and social justice, providing a framework to guide and inform the transformation of existing inequitable gender relations; to facilitate social and domestic peace; to reduce the levels of violence in society; and to improve the quality of life at all levels of society. The underlying premise of the Government's gender policy was that the status of women affected the status of the household and of children.

The Constitution of Dominica prohibited discrimi-

ination on the basis of sex, and guaranteed equality under the law and the equal protection of the law. In relation to gender-based violence, emphasis had been given to law reform, police training, social services for survivors of domestic violence, the development of data collection protocols, and public education through the media, popular theatre, and workshops. This work was done in collaboration with women's non-governmental organizations, trade unions, and faith-based institutions. There was still much work to be done to strengthen the laws relating to the prevention of gender-based violence. A major area of concern was the inadequate enforcement mechanisms in these areas of legislation.

Employment and the occupational structure in Dominica showed that men and women participated in the economy along established gender roles; in general, the sectors in which women participated and their position in these sectors had always placed them at a lower earning potential to men. Women's poverty was linked to the burden of care for children, the aged and sick, and limited economic and labour market options. A number of policies had been pursued, including boosting women's participation in the labour force and increasing both productivity and earnings. Women had full and equal access to health services. There were no institutional barriers in access to education - women generally pursued tertiary education to a higher degree than men. The higher levels of attendance and academic achievement by girls had not however translated into equal labour market opportunities. There was no legal impediment to women's equal participation in political life; cultural attitudes and gender stereotypes explained the continued low representation of women in elected positions at the highest levels.

Dominica was, despite an adverse economic situation, committed to the immediate enforcement of non-discrimination norms and the progressive realisation of economic and social rights. It was within this framework that Dominica undertook to prepare a complete initial and periodic report on compliance and implementation of the Convention to be presented to the Committee in 2010.

Lån till Dominica

i orkanernas och finanskrisens spår

Internationella Valutafonden IMF är den globala finansinstitution som ska bidra till att ha ordning på världens finanser. IMF kritiseras av många för att ställa för stora krav på länder som ska låna pengar från fonden. I samband med finanskrisen säger sig IMF ha lättat på kraven.

I juli beslöt IMF:s styrelse om ett lån på 5,1 miljarder US dollar till Dominica. Se pressrelease nedan.

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund on July 10, 2009, approved a disbursement in an amount equivalent to Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 3.28 million (about US\$5.1 million) to Dominica.

Following the Executive Board discussion, Mr. Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, issued the following statement:

“Following the damage to crops and infrastructure from two hurricanes in 2007–08, the Dominican economy has been further affected by the global downturn. Tourism earnings, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, and remittances have been reduced significantly, leading to slower growth and a weaker external current account.

The authorities are dealing with the effects of the exogenous shocks on several fronts. These include post-hurricane rehabilitation, accelerated implementation of capital projects to contain unemployment, and increased social spending to protect the most vulnerable groups. A temporary increase in public expenditure was needed to ease the economic effects of natural disasters and, more recently, of the global slowdown.

The authorities are responding appropriately to this deterioration in the fiscal position. They plan a modest recovery in Fiscal Year 2009/10, and have reiterated their commitment to target, in subsequent years, annual primary surpluses of at least 3 percent of GDP so as to place the still-high public debt on a robustly downward trajectory. This can be achieved by further prioritizing capital projects and financing these projects largely with external concessional resources. The government intends to continue to move towards adopting a medium term expenditure framework to improve the predictability of capital expenditure and its consistency with the medium-term fiscal objectives. Efforts to reduce debt-related vulnerabilities and weaknesses in the nonbank financial sector are also planned to continue.

In the near term, Fund financing will help reduce the decline in external reserves and catalyze support from the international donor community to help mitigate the exogenous shocks. Over the medium term, the government's economic recovery strategy will improve the business climate and critical infrastructure, so as to place the economy on a path of higher growth and poverty reduction,” Mr. Portugal said.



Notiser från Dominica

Advanced electricity meters coming

Posted on October 06, 2009 at 01:24 PM

Consumers of electricity will benefit from a 'new wave' in advanced ('AMI') metering. \$11 million will be spent on the project over 3 years. There will be no more meter readers, and power outages will be immediately recognised at head office.

Swine Flu vaccine?

Posted on October 06, 2009 at 01:19 PM

The 'Swine Flu' vaccine may be available in Dominica. So says the Ministry of Health, which follows the confirmation of 9 new cases recently. A spokesman said they were 'feverishly' exploring options!

PM: stepping down won't affect him

Posted on September 24, 2009 at 01:29 PM

PM Skerit says that despite 6 of his party's MPs stepping down before the next election, it will not affect his chances of winning the election.

'Begging skills' lands \$22m for new road

Posted on September 24, 2009 at 01:22 PM

Work on a new road joining Rosalie - Petite Soufriere will begin soon, announced Minister Blackmore in a town hall meeting in La Plaine yesterday He applauded the 'begging skills' of the Prime Minister, who got the money from the Venezuelan Petro Caraibe organisation.

New airline 'step in right direction'

Posted on September 23, 2009 at 01:23 PM

President of the DHTA Simon Walsh says that the announcement of a new jet service serving Dominica was good news, given problems with air access. Regional Jet Express is due to start service October 18th.

38 years of dance

Posted on September 18, 2009 at 01:29 PM

The Waitukubuli Dance Group is celebrating 38 years of dance with an event which will celebrate dance and music. The show will take place Saturday and Sunday evenings at the Arawak House of Culture.

Community Tourism websites launched

Posted on September 17, 2009 at 02:00 PM

As part of an EU-funded Community Tourism development project, websites were launched yesterday. The sites, accessible from the related portal at CommunityTourism.dm showcase the tourism products of the communities of Portsmouth, Mero, Layou, Wotten Waven, Bellevue Chopin and Eggleston & Giraudel.



SWEDOM:s styrelse 2009

Ruthine Strindholm, ordförande.

Tel 08 774 43 32, e-post rstrindholm@yahoo.com.

Jan Ekholm, kassör. Tel 08 774 43 32, e-post 0708233340@euromail.se.

Lars Berg, medlemsansvarig, Ingalill Berg, sekreterare
Tel 08 560 324 35.

E-post lars.berg@spray.se, lill.berg@spray.se.

Rosa James och Berith Granath är också ordinarie ledamöter.

Ulla Sundberg, Gunnel Tollmar, Liz Wretling, Lars Örtemark, Bo Hallberg och Annika Stolk är suppleanter.