

VIRGIN AIRLINES TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO TOBAGO

Starting next year that is in the week, Virgin Airlines will return to two flights once again service the Tobago route. The airline stopped its flights between ANR Robinson International Airport in Crown Point and London's Gatwick Airport in 2013, citing poor infrastructure at the Tobago airport. Upgrade works at the venue have since begun. During Wednesday's (March 26, 2015) post Executive Council media briefing, Secretary of the Division of Tourism and Transportation (DOTT) Tracy Davidson-Celestine gave details of Virgin Airlines' return, which she said is important to the island. "The first flight will return on Sunday March 29th 2015 and will start off with a weekly service and later in the

winter season, it will return to two flights per week," Davidson-Celestine said. The Secretary added: "You have another major international carrier traversing the London Gatwick Tobago route and of course you know that the London-UK [United Kingdom] market is a very important market for us and a traditional market. We have been seeing growth in that market over the last three years; it means that we have more than enough airlift coming out of the UK market to Destination Tobago." Davidson-Celestine urged Tobagonians to take an active role in the island's tourism product by offering visitors an experience that will make them want to return to Tobago.

SPECIAL ATHLETES SHINE AT NATIONAL GAMES



'HAPPY' ATHLETES: Students from the Happy Haven School and Tobago School for the Deaf, Speech and Language Impaired are all smiles after returning home from the Special Olympic and PowerGen Games with a haul of 26 medals. Third from left is Secretary of the Division of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport Huey Cadette, who greeted the team when they returned to ANR Robinson International Airport on Wednesday (March 25, 2015).

Tobago's Special Olympic athletes returned home with an impressive haul of silverware after attending the National Special Olympics and PowerGen Games in Trinidad. The athletes, from both the Happy Haven School and the Tobago School for the Deaf, Speech and Language Impaired, brought home 13 gold, seven silver and six bronze medals from their trip. The Games were held at the Jean Pierre Complex in Mucura-

po, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on Saturday and Sunday (March 21-22, 2015). The students competed in different events, including athletics, football, volleyball, bocce and swimming and impressed Happy Haven principal, Diane LeCointe. "We had Sergeno Marcelle. He was a beauty to look at in the relays because eight schools participated in the relays and Happy Haven came second," LeCointe said. The performance

earned five of Tobago's special athletes a spot on the national team for the international Special Olympic Games in Los Angeles in July. They are Dester Faustin and Rayann Hughes (volleyball); Colin Duncan and David Kerry James (bocce); and Rickie Quow (athletics) brother of star national quartermiler Renny Quow. Secretary of the Division of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport, Huey Cadette, said he was proud of

the team. "On behalf of the Tobago House of Assembly and all of Tobago, I would like to extend congratulations to the principal, staff and students of the Happy Haven and Tobago School for the Deaf on their recent success at the Special Olympics and PowerGen Games," Cadette said. "Their efforts and achievements have proven to be an inspiration to us all."

NEW TOURISM AWARENESS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Residents of Castara will benefit from a new training initiative aimed at educating Tobagonians about the opportunities they can derive from the island's tourism sector. The Tourism Awareness and Education Programme is being put on by the Product Development Unit of the Division of Tourism and Transportation (DOTT). It will run alongside the Divi-

sion's community tourism programme, which was launched last week. The Secretary said her Division is keen on this niche market, because research has shown that increasingly, tourists want to travel to destinations that are environmentally friendly, and that offer an authentic local experience. Davidson-Celestine said: "An

increasing number of travellers want to be a part of responsible tourism initiatives. They want to be a part of the communities within respective countries and the community of Castara is a good place to start in that regard." Apart from Castara, Black Rock is also being targeted for a similar programme.