

THA - 50 BUSES FOR TOBAGO'S TRANSPORT WOES

Tobago is currently facing public transportation woes with a shortage of buses on the island.

The issue is being addressed by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), which plans to purchase 50 new buses suited to the unique terrain of the island.

At last Thursday's plenary sitting of the Assembly, which debated a motion for improving

Tobago's public transportation system, Secretary of the Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Gary Melville, made the announcement.

Melville said he will be taking a note before the Executive Council this week requesting funds to acquire the fleet, which will include a total of fifty 28-seater, 36-seater and 50-seater buses from Brazilian company Marco Polo.

In addition to the regular travelling public, some of the buses will cater for differently-abled commuters, and serve as shuttles for tourists who visit the island.

Melville said: "It is the intent of the Assembly to advocate for the formalisation and expansion of the private Maxi Taxi body, with a view to buttressing the current scarcities in transportation."

TOBAGONIANS URGED TO MAKE FOOD SAFETY A PRIORITY

From farm to plate, make food safe.

That was the theme of Tuesday's World Health Day Summit hosted by the Tobago Regional Health Authority (TRHA) in conjunction with the Division of Health and Social Services. It is also the theme for World Health Day, which the world marks on April 7th.

The Summit was designed to foster public awareness of the importance of food safety, including the source of ingredients and the way

food is handled during preparation. The World Health Organisation wants producers, policy makers and the public to promote food safety.

In keeping with this objective, acting TRHA CEO Nathaniel Duke explained the consequences of ignoring food safety.

Duke said: "A safe and adequate food supply is needed in order to combat the issue of chronic diseases and also in the area of nutritional deficiencies—diabetes, cardiovascular deficiencies,

obesity—these are all linked to what we eat."

During the Summit, DHSS Secretary Claudia Groome-Duke urged Tobagonians to eat healthy and exercise.

"Now threats to food safety are constantly emerging," Groome-Duke stated. "Changes in food production, distribution and consumption, changes to the environment, and new and emerging pathogenic and anti-microbial resistance all pose challenges to national food safety systems."



EASTER SMILE: Safina Hovell, one of the young participants in the 2015 Easter Bonnet Parade at the Calder Hall Community Centre on Sunday (March 29, 2015).

TEMA, EMERGENCY AGENCIES TEST HURRICANE READINESS

Just a week after its National Emergency Exercise Day (NEED), the Tobago Emergency Management Authority (TEMA) was again testing Tobago's readiness for a natural disaster.

This time, TEMA partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force and other disaster relief agencies for "Operation Crusoe Returns", a brigade training exercise at the north eastern end of Tobago.

The exercise also tested the emergency services' ability to respond should Tobago be hit by a category III or category IV hurricane. The operation focused on Charlotteville, Speyside and Roxborough, with the command centre hosted at TEMA's Uptown Scarborough office.

Defence Force Colonel Rodney Smart explained what the session

was all about.

Smart said: "What we're attempting to do is provide some skills that would necessarily alleviate the kind of sufferings that one would find after a hurricane. So, for example, what we've done is to assess how do we help TEMA support the disabled in the community; that is one of the things we'd have to do (in the aftermath of a hurricane)."

The army also practiced transporting supplies and assisting with repairs to damaged buildings along with other emergency response agencies.

Last week, TEMA coordinated "Operation Dark Storm" along with other emergency response organisations to test Tobago's ability to respond if the island were to suffer an earthquake followed by a tsunami.