

STUDLEY PARK WON'T BE PRIVATISED

The people of Tobago have it within themselves to rise to the occasion and to treat with the issues that confront us."

That's the view of Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles, who made this statement during yesterday's Budget Debate (June 27, 2017). Charles said within Tobagonians there are "attributes of industry, of resilience, of honesty, capacity for hard work, self-reliance, and a sense of independence",

which he believes are prerequisites to surmounting the challenges the island faced.

In addition, the Chief Secretary, who came into office in February, highlighted the "potential" of the Studley Park Quarry for development.

"Given its current configuration and method of operation, it will never operate at the level that is required," he stated, adding that the quarry currently operates

"in a sub-optimal manner."

In responding to Minority Leader Watson Duke's suggestion that the quarry would be privatised, Charles said the special purpose company managing the quarry will act "under the purview of auspices of the Tobago House of Assembly".

Tobago's expenditure estimates for fiscal 2018 include a development request of \$1.7 billion and recurrent estimates of \$3.2 billion, for a total of \$4.91 billion.

HIV TESTING DAY

Know your H.I.V. status.

That's the message from the Tobago Regional Health Authority (TRHA), which will host HIV Regional Testing Day in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

The event takes place on Friday (June 30), and testing is free at the Scarborough, Roxborough and Canaan Health Centres from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The centres will also conduct interviews and counselling to those who need assistance.

H-I-V testing can help reduce the spread of the virus, and ensure those who have contracted the virus can seek the required treatment.

In particular, pregnant women who are unsure of their status are being urged to get tested, so they can help prevent mother-to-child transmission during childbirth, or even breastfeeding.

Testing is confidential, quick and practically painless, and the process takes less than 30 minutes.



IT'S OFFICIAL: THA Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles, left, congratulates Commissioner of Cooperatives Karyl Adams after officially opening the new Tobago Taxi Cab Cooperative Society building in Canaan (June 25, 2017). Also in photo, centre, is the Society's secretary Hilson Phillips.

CALLS FOR TOURISM YOUTH SYMPOSIUM DELEGATES

Tobagonian youth between the ages of 14 and 17 will have the opportunity to represent this country at the Caribbean Tourism Organisation's Youth Congress in Grenada in October.

The Ministry of Tourism, through its

Tourism Youth Outreach Programmes 2017, is inviting applicants to register to become part of Tobago delegation for the first ever Tourism Youth Symposium on July 4 at the Hyatt Regency in Trinidad.

Participants will learn about various topics from tourism professionals,

in areas such as new media, product development, and entrepreneurship.

Anyone seeking further information about registering for symposium can contact the Division of Tourism, Culture, and Transportation, or check the Division's Facebook page.