Aquaculture project coming

A number of Barbadians stand to benefit from a major aquaculture programme facilitated by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy, Adams Aquafarm and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

The project entails a five-day training exercise for 30 entrepreneurs interested in developing an aquaponics business. Training will also be provided for ten school teachers, who can use the principles of growing food by this method to teach STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects.

The training will be done at Adams Aquafarm in Hopewell, St Thomas. Owner Kristina Adams recently received funding from the FAO to help train and develop a demonstration farm.

Ghanaian nurses now arriving July 28

The 100 Ghanaian nurses who were scheduled to arrive in Barbados today will now be coming on July 28.

The arrival was put back because of the impending Tropical Storm Gonzalo, which is expected to affect Barbados today.

The Ghanaian nurses, recruited to alleviate Barbados’ nursing shortage, will be flown in on a chartered aircraft and placed on 14 days’ quarantine, after having undergone a COVID-19 test before leaving Ghana.

When cleared, 54 will be attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and the remainder to the district hospitals and polyclinics.

QEH executive chairman Juliette Byne-Sutherland said the Ghanaians, who are all English-speaking, “have good hospital experience” and would be welcomed particularly in areas where there was a shortage of specialist nurses.

“We have not been able to open some of our beds and services because you need a particular nurse-to-patient ratio to be safe,” she explained, pointing out there were six beds in the Cardiac Suite which were “not open” and another two in the Intensive Care Unit.

Byne-Sutherland also echoed a call from the Barbados Nurses Association for a register to be set up for specialist nurses here. She said because such specialist registers existed in Ghana, Barbados was able to benefit from the kind of services being brought in.

It did not mean Barbados did not possess the same competencies among its nurses, the executive chairman pointed out, as throughout the hospital system here there were nurses carrying out the same duties.

Two more Covid-19 cases

Two more people have tested positive for COVID-19 after undergoing a second test.

The latest patients, a 38-year-old woman and a 14-year-old boy, are the mother and brother of the ten-year-old who tested positive on Monday.

They were all in isolation at the Harrison Point, St Lucy facility since arriving at Grantley Adams International Airport last Sunday on an Air Canada flight.

The mother and son, who had previously tested negative, were among the 125 passengers on board. Others were retested Thursday and are awaiting results.

At the time of arrival, the ten-year-old boy was the only positive case among 69 people who were tested for the viral illness.

The Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory returned 106 test results yesterday with all the others returning negative.

Barbados has now recorded 108 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 94 recoveries and seven deaths.

Cruise ships head north

Cruise ships anchored in Barbados’ waters due to the coronavirus pandemic headed further out to sea yesterday to escape the path of Tropical Storm Gonzalo.

Rhapsody Of The Seas, Vision Of The Seas, Enchantment Of The Seas, Liberty Of The Seas, Serenade Of The Seas and Harmony Of The Seas are among several ships that have been accommodated by Barbados since COVID-19 brought a halt to the cruise industry.

Several countries closed their borders, leaving ships from several cruise lines stranded with passengers and crew.

Gonzalo’s co-ordinates place it south of Barbados, and an official of the Bridgetown Port said it was likely the cruise ships would head to the northern side of the island. (GC)

A&E relocation

Due to the passage of Tropical Storm Gonzalo, the Accident & Emergency Department (A&E) of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been temporarily relocated to the Antenatal and Haematology Clinics.

In a release, the hospital said that for the period of the shift, the A&E would be accessed through the glass doors of the Lion’s Caribbean Eye Care Centre. It added that security and traffic management arrangements would be effected by hospital security. (PR)