



Association of Caribbean Mediaworkers

Unit 1, Upper Level, Elan Place, 137 Eastern Main Rd,

St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

T: 1 (868) 296-8009

E: acmmail@gmail.com

W: www.acmediaworkers.com

Media workers in Grenada are observing media week, June 18-24, 2006 under the theme, "Media Workers striving together to build a dynamic and vigilant group of practitioners".

The week of activities included a church service on Sunday and an address by the President of MWAG, Michael Bascombe and a media luncheon with a guest presentation by the President of the ACM, Dale Enoch.

Address by MWAG's President: Michael Bascombe

Dear Colleagues,

We are once again observing Media Week after another year of challenges and achievements, and at a time of hope that deserves our continued vigilance.

Our colleagues continue to work in media organizations that are under-funded, under-resourced and still too susceptible to political and advertiser pressure.

Our organization will continue to seek ways to ensure that our members – the practicing journalists – are exposed to more training and other career-enhancing activities.

However all those will be either stunted or undermined, if the practicing journalist do not get the continued encouragement and support from their various work places.

We are worried about the guidance – or lack of it – that our members get on their jobs to ensure that they become better professionals.

That having said, each member must ensure that they push against these odds and be responsible for their own professional development.

There must be a greater yearning to do it right – and to do it better.

Even in the best situations, there is so much your management can do; and there is so much our organization can do.

In the coming year, MWAG will push to get more training opportunities for its members.

MWAG is collaborating with local and regional tertiary institutions to secure training for members. Our Education Committee is nearing the completion of negotiations with The T.A. Marryshow Community College (TAMCC) on the establishment of an associate degree programme.



Association of Caribbean Mediaworkers

Unit 1, Upper Level, Elan Place, 137 Eastern Main Rd,

St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

T: 1 (868) 296-8009

E: acmmail@gmail.com

W: www.acmediaworkers.com

We hope that by the next Media Week, the programme will indeed be up and running.

We are also pleased to announce that CARIMAC – the media training department of the University of the West Indies – has included MWAG on its programme of specialized training initiatives for next year. It means therefore that CARIMAC could provide tailor-made training in various areas for media practitioners in Grenada.

Indeed we look forward to the coming period with expectation and hope.

MWAG's members will have organization-issued ID cards that will not only identify them as members of our organization, but will be used for special discounts and privileges at participating businesses and associations.

The first batch of ID cards should be available at the end of the month.

Grenada is expected to be among Eastern Caribbean countries joining the Caribbean Single Market at the end of the month.

The developing single market and economy provides its own challenges and opportunities.

We are however disappointed that our members have not taken advantage of the Skills National Certificate, which has been designed to facilitate media workers who might want to go to other CARICOM countries to seek employment.

We invite our members to ensure that they get one of those certificates.

In the last few years we have made some significant gains, but there is still a long way to go.

Our journalists are gaining more respect, but there is still a gap, because, even within the limitations we can operate, we can sometimes produce more-researched and informed and more balanced work.

The threats, against which we have sometimes fought so openly against, are still lurking out there. They have not gone away. Only that in some cases they have become more subtle and more sophisticated.

The same forces that have been seeking to control the news flow, are still working at it. It does not come in open confrontation anymore.

Instead it comes in the form of license and economic pressures. It also comes in the form of these forces who hire their own journalists, paying them from their



Association of Caribbean Mediaworkers

Unit 1, Upper Level, Elan Place, 137 Eastern Main Rd,

St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

T: 1 (868) 296-8009

E: acmmail@gmail.com

W: www.acmediaworkers.com

own pockets, and having them planted in our respective newsrooms to ensure that certain sides of any national argument is not heard.

This state calls for even more vigilance.

In an open confrontation, we know the various sides of the battle. In this new dispensation, the lines are more blurred.

With the explosion in radio stations operating in Grenada, it appears as if there is a new era of expression and freedom mushrooming at home.

We cannot let the basic statistic make us drop our guards, because in many cases it is the same forces at work.

The government still does not have a transparent and understandable system for issuing or denying radio and television licenses, and there has been a strong suspicion that political patronage – rather than any media and broadcast standards -- is what guides those decisions.

Indeed for the media in Grenada to remain free, we call on the government to set up an independent body to review and issue radio licenses, based on a broad policy that is published and understood by all the players.

Anything short of that will leave licensed stations susceptible to the type of pressures that undermine the freedom of the media

What we do need is not just more media houses – but more media houses that are free of all the inherent pressures they have now.