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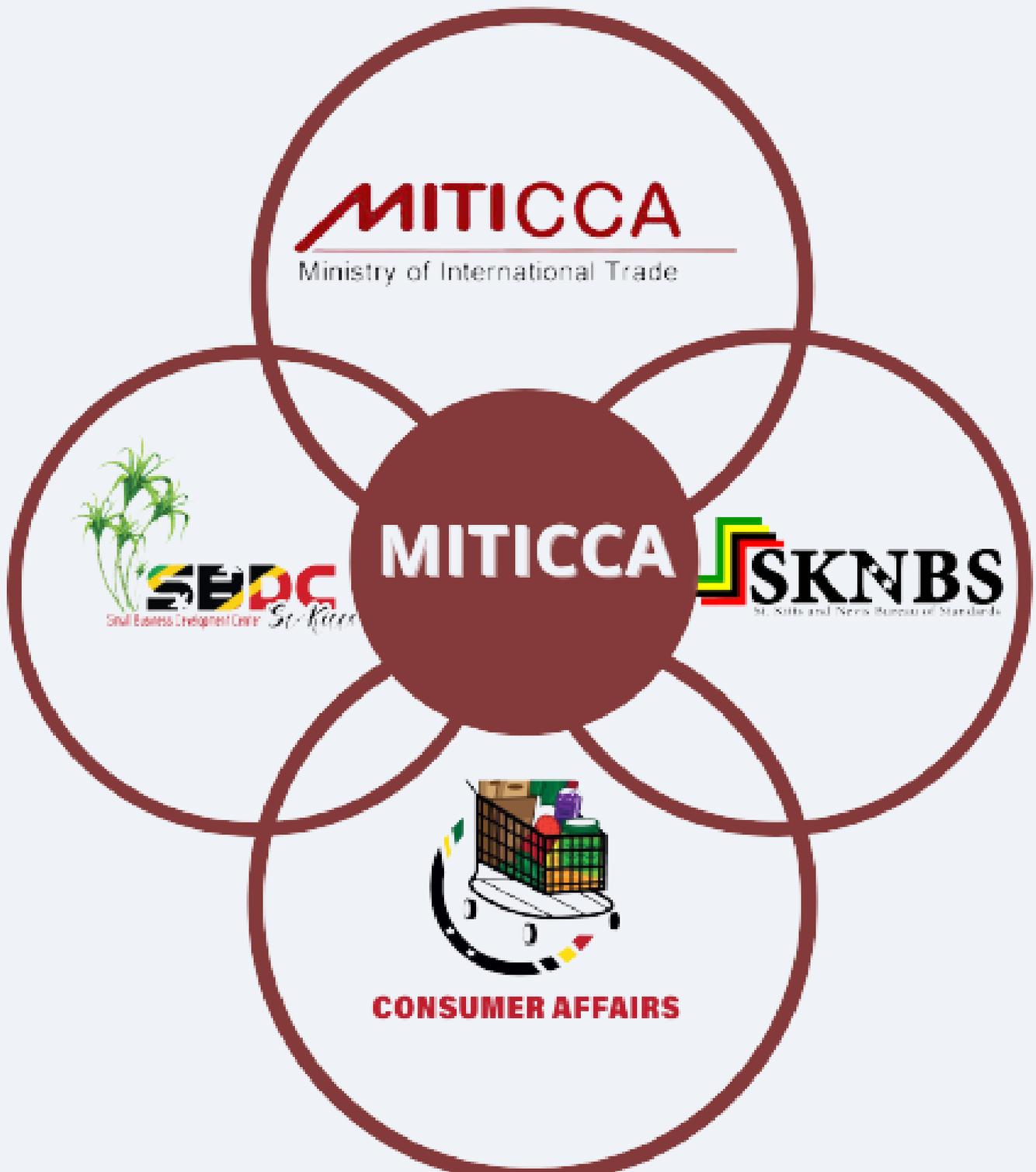
The official quarterly newsletter of the
MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INDUSTRY,
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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TRADE AT A GLANCE



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Quotes

"It always seems impossible, until it is done."

~ Nelson Mandela ~

"It's important to focus on how we can strengthen international trade."

~ Maggie Hassan ~

"The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them."

~ Ellen Johnson Sirleaf ~

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

~ Colin Powell ~

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

~ Dale Carnegie ~

"High gas prices are eating away at consumer's disposal income and could lead to a further economic downturn, especially for those whose livelihood depend on gasoline and diesel fuel."

~ Major Owens ~

"We have to be bold in our national ambitions. First, we must win the fight against poverty within the next decade. Second, we must improve moral standards in government and society to provide a strong foundation for good governance. Third, we must change the character of our politics to promote fertile ground for reforms."

~ Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and standards. ~

"Our heritage and ideals, our code and standards - the things we live by and teach our children - are preserved or diminished by how freely we exchange ideas and feelings."

~ Walt Disney ~



Immaculate Conception Catholic School (ICCS) Presentation on International Trade

On Thursday 19th May 2022, the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, was invited by the Immaculate Conception Catholic School (ICCS) to do a presentation on the subject of International Trade. The presentation was delivered to the entire Grade Four class, which consisted of approximately twenty-five students.

The first part of the presentation commenced with an icebreaker and introduction by Trade Policy Officer, Ms. Ralseia Glasgow. For the icebreaker, Ms. Glasgow requested that the children use the letter of their first name and provide a product that St. Kitts and Nevis imports or exports. This part of the presentation demonstrated that the children



were ready and thrilled to be informed on the subject of international Trade.

The body of the presentation was delivered by Mrs. Tonya Kelly, Trade Policy Officer. Mrs. Kelly's presentation covered several key areas in international trade, such as; what is international trade, the importance of trade, the difference between import and exports, countries that St. Kitts and Nevis trade with, international and regional trade agencies, and common trade terms.

The presentation was facilitated using a very interactive powerpoint presentation, which captured and maintained the attention of the students throughout. Cleverly, on occasions during the presentation, the students were asked key questions to ensure that they were paying attention and that they were following along.

Finally, Ms. Shameda Pemberton, the Administrative Support Officer, concluded with fun and engaging trade games; this served as the review activity. The students were very receptive and displayed their understanding of the information covered. The presentation ended with a vote of thanks delivered by one of the students.



WTO Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC) in Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Ralseia Glasgow, Trade Policy Officer within the Ministry of International Trade et al. is currently undertaking a WTO Advanced Trade Policy Course organized by the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation in Geneva, Switzerland from June 7th to July 29th 2022.



The ATPC, a Level 3 training activity implemented within the WTO progressive learning framework, represents the highest level of learning among WTO training activities. At the end of the ATPC, participants are expected to have enhanced their autonomy in relation to WTO matters by having:

- consolidated their knowledge of the WTO rules and disciplines and how these might relate to their countries' trade policy formulation and implementation;
- improved their analytical and negotiating skills to analyze trade information, monitor trade policy developments, explore policy options, manage trade disputes and participate actively in WTO negotiations;
- reinforced their capacity to find information and documentation on trade-related issues, and to use WTO databases and analytical tools;
- strengthened their ability to work individually, in teams and in an international environment;
- established and/or strengthened a network of contacts with each other and with trainers/experts.

Both legal and economic aspects of WTO rules and disciplines will be examined in a series of interactive sessions focussing on case studies, simulations and exercises, including hands-on use of WTO databases and analytical tools available online. Roundtable discussions will provide a platform for practical exchanges, sharing of experiences and best practices as well as debating present-day trade topics. Participants will be given individual/group assignments.

The course also includes visits to other international organizations active in trade-related matters as well as attendance at selected meetings of WTO bodies and briefings on WTO work-in-progress. Contacts with WTO Secretariat officials and delegates and representatives from Missions and other international organizations are also a common feature.

The Ministry of International Trade et al. and by extension, the Government of St Kitts-Nevis wishes to extend all the best to our colleague and Trade Policy Officer, Ms. Ralseia Glasgow throughout the course and her professional experience.





EPA UNIT



ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

On Wednesday 22nd June, 2022 at 9:30am, the EPA Implementation Unit of the Ministry of International Trade et al. hosted its first sensitization session in the Ministry's Conference Room with the junior staff of the Ministry's Administration Team. The presentation commenced with an icebreaker, a game of Find the 12 Differences as well as participants being asked to indicate their knowledge level of the EPA. The main objective of this session was to bring awareness about the EPA and what it undertakes as a Unit.

Ms. Shenille Smithen, Head of the EPA Unit presented on the following subtopics:-

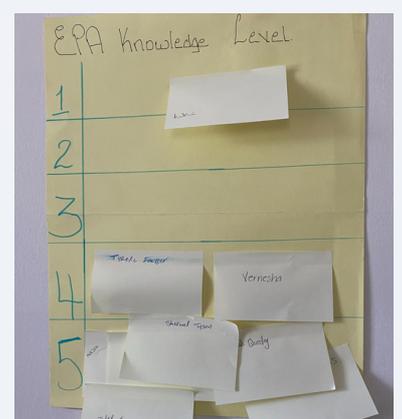
- The Main Objectives of both the EPA and the Unit
- The Main Stakeholders
- CARIFORUM Member States
- The Structure
- Beneficiaries
- Benefits & Opportunities
- Challenges Faced
- Success Stories: Sugar Town Organics, Kollision Band, DJ Tero & Small Axe Band



Overall, the session was very informative and interactive.



**SUGAR TOWN ORGANICS- EXPORTS
BEAUTY SUPPLIES TO
SWITZERLAND
KOLLISION BAND – EU Tour
DJ TERO- EU Tour
SMALL AXE BAND -Travel to the EU to
provide a service**



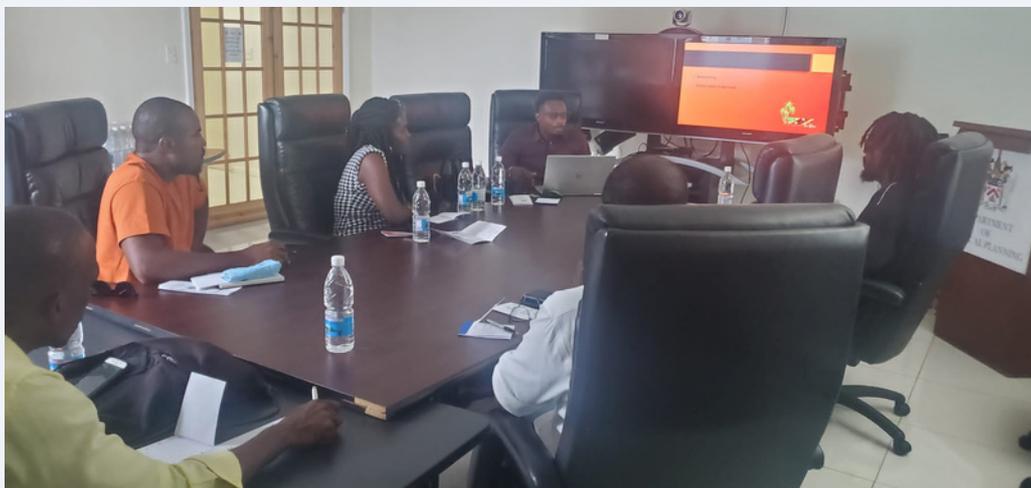
Business Best Practices Training Session

Entrepreneurs of small businesses are better equipped to handle the operation challenges and the basic internal systems that they use which is integral for the continual growth of any business. This knowledge is reiterated in our many basic trainings; and as it relates to one's business goals then, only by using the best professional business practices can success be ensured.

A training session was held on Tuesday, 24th May 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs located in the Nagico Building, Bladen's Commercial Development, Basseterre, St. Kitts, entitled "Business Best Practices". The training focused on employing scalable practices and systems for organizing, financing, and marketing that will enable entrepreneurs to better handle the uncertainties of the current global economic climate.

The training was the latest in a series of monthly training sessions and workshops organized by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) St. Kitts. Senior Business Advisor and Training Coordinator, Mr. Delwayne Delaney, praised the high level of interaction of the session with many of the entrepreneurs sharing their personal challenges and, in turn, learning of ways to overcome them. He noted further that, "Too often entrepreneurs try to re-invent the wheel instead of learning from the established best practices of each other."

Training sessions and workshops are offered monthly by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) St. Kitts; in addition to the daily one-on-one counseling sessions offered by the Business Advisors. Entrepreneurs, both prospective and established, are encouraged to visit the SBDC-St. Kitts' office at Bladen's Commercial Development or call 1 869 465 2521 ext. 1203 or 467-1203, Whatsapp 869 669 3358, and follow on www.facebook.com/sbdcskb to be a part of the next session or to find out more about the technical assistance and fiscal incentives offered.



**Submitted by: Mr. Irvine Daniel
Business Development
Coordinator**

Determination of an Appropriate FoPNL Scheme & the Identification of a Harmonized Approach for Implementation

May 25th, 2022- Senior Industry Officer and SBDC- St. Kitts Business Advisor, Mrs. Daniele Richards, participated in a Validation Session for the Study - “CARICOM Impact Assessment: Determination of an Appropriate FoPNL Scheme and the identification of a Harmonized Approach for Implementation”.

FoPNL or Front of Package Nutritional Labelling has been at the forefront of discussions among CARICOM Member States and key Stakeholders, over the last three and a half years. Stakeholders have been focused on the need to implement a FOPNL model that assists CARICOM consumers to make more informed decisions about the healthy purchasing of pre-packaged foods. Mrs. Richards noted that, "the study disclosed that consumers are more likely to choose healthier alternatives when front of package nutritional information is displayed. This presents an opportunity for local small manufacturers that often provide a healthier alternative to many of the imported products in our stores."

Business Development Coordinator in the SBDC, Mr. Irvine Daniel, who also participated in the session added that, "any boost that can be given to our small local manufacturers that will promote import substitution will go a long way in not only providing local jobs; but also, in reducing local vulnerability to supply-chain shocks on prices and the supply of goods due to global externalities."

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC-St. Kitts) remains committed to ensuring that all our small local manufacturers will be informed and ready to take advantage of changes that can enhance their growth. For more information on the implementation of FoPNL or any other issue affecting small business in St. Kitts visit the SBDC offices at Bladen's Development, call 467-1203, Whatsapp 669-3358, or interact on facebook @SBDCSKB.

On Wednesday, June 15th, 2022, the SBDC St. Kitts department hosted a *Business Get Ready Summit* at Carambola Beach Club. This event was sponsored by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Social Security Board. There were presentations made by members of the Chamber of Industry & Commerce, the Social Security Board, and the Inland Revenue Department and the keynote speaker was Dr. Tamu Browne. Introductions of each presenter were made by our Project Officer, Mr. Delwayne Delaney and the Opening Remarks and Overview of SBDC St. Kitts was done by Mr. Irvine Daniel.

The entrepreneurs expressed their enthusiasm as they were engaged in this event. They also expressed that they will be looking forward to any other training sessions that the SBDC department will be hosting in the future.

Some snippets from the **Business Get Ready Summit** are highlighted below:



Stay tuned to our Facebook and Instagram pages for more information on upcoming events!

**Submitted by: Ms. Chedingh Brookes
Junior Industry Officer**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SBDCSKB>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sbdc_st.kitts/



**CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT**
ST. KITTS & NEVIS

Consumer Affairs Department

As part of our consumer awareness outreach campaign, the Consumer Affairs Department visited the Dr. William Connor Primary School on Friday 13th and Tuesday 17th May to facilitate educating students of grades four and five on topics which included:

- The concept of consumer protection
- Consumer Education
- The rights and responsibilities of a consumer
- The danger of consuming expired foods
- The functions of the Consumer Affairs Department
- How to file a complaint with the Department



The Department remains committed to its educational outreach initiative hereby ensuring that all consumers within the Federation are made aware of their rights as consumers and the avenue for redress when these rights are infringed upon.

The Department remains available to conduct presentations at schools or your place of business and may be contacted via -

Telephone: 465-2521 Ext 2616/2640/1550/1641;

Email: consumeraffairs@gov.kn or Facebook: St Kitts Consumer Affairs Department



How to stay CYBER SAFE

Five tips to help protect your online transaction information



1. PROTECT YOUR DEVICES:

Install high-quality, anti-virus software and update it regularly.



2. SECURE YOUR NETWORK:

Password protect and ensure that security is enabled on your Wi-Fi or home networks to deter hackers from uncovering your personal information. A strong password on your home network is an especially important step before you enter your credit card information on retailers' websites. Technical assistance is available from your Internet provider.



3. PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION:

Take time to monitor your accounts and identity for unauthorized charges during busy holiday shopping season. Be sure to report suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately as banks or companies might require a police report before agreeing that you're not responsible for any fraudulent charges.



5. SHOP SAFELY:

If you're using a site that you're unsure of, consider using an alternate form of payment such as a prepaid debit card for your online shopping. This can offer protection but may also charge a small fee, usually around a dollar per transaction. A similar option is to use a third-party company such as PayPal. You may be required to create an account, but can sometimes register as a guest. Remember: Always choose a strong password with a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols. Make passwords unique, and don't use the same password for multiple websites or accounts.



4. BROWSE SAFELY:

Look for the security information. Check for the letters, "https" in the website address at the top of your screen. That "s" in the address stands for "secure." You might also see a little padlock symbol in the same line, meaning it's safe. Be careful and avoid using public Wi-Fi or hotspots that might reveal your personal information.

On May 25, 2022, representatives from the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) on 'Working For You' with host, Mr. Lesroy Williams, spoke about Accreditation and Certification, and Standards, simultaneously with Dr. Marcus Natta, Science and Research Manager/Quality Manager and Mr. Jermine Mike, Head of Standardisation and Air Quality who gave a powerful overview of their respective responsibilities at SKNBS, as it relates to the safety of the general public, and while keeping in mind 'World Accreditation Day' which was slated for June 09, 2022.

Dr. Natta explained the difference between accreditation and certification and explained that the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards is working assiduously towards accreditation in Chemistry and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ). In chemistry, the SKNBS is seeking accreditation in pH, while in IAQ, it is indoor gases, some of which are toxic.

Mr. I-Ronn Audain, Head of Metrology, another prominent Official of SKNBS joined his colleagues on Studio 327 'Good Morning SKN' on June 09, 2022, to discuss 'World Accreditation Day' and the theme: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment.

Mr. Jermine Mike spoke about the importance of Standards and the development of a Vehicle Standard which speaks to the roadworthiness of vehicles. He announced that so far, SKNBS has held two (2) stakeholder meetings with the most recent one being on June 20, 2022. The purpose, he further stated, was to form a technical committee to begin the development of the abovementioned vehicle standard. Invitees, he was proud to note, were from the following public and private sectors: Vehicle inspectors, mechanics, Police (Traffic), Bus Association, Taxi Association, Academia - CFBC, PWD and any other interested parties – drivers.

It was also mentioned that SKNBS had sent invitation letters to the abovementioned invitees, as well as a bulletin, to all media houses in an effort to disseminate the information to many prospective interested parties. Mr. Mike further alerted that the next meeting (3rd meeting) will be held on July 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. and the venue will be the Ministry of International Trade's Conference Room in the Nagico Building at Bladens Commercial Development.



*Conference of the Parties to the
Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants*

Mr. Stuart Laplace, Director of the St. Kitts - Nevis Bureau of Standards, travelled to Geneva, Switzerland from the 6th-17th of June to attend the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention as it relates to the listing of chemicals under Annex A, B and C are:



ii) DDT; (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) - is an insecticide used in agriculture. The United States banned the use of DDT in 1972. Some countries outside the United States still use DDT to control of mosquitoes that spread malaria. High amounts of DDT exposure can lead to problems with the nervous system and liver. Animal studies conducted with DDT indicate very high doses may cause effects on the nervous system, kidney, liver and immune system, but it is not known if humans are affected in the same way as animals.

(iii) Polychlorinated biphenyls - are a group of manmade chemicals. They are oily liquids or solids, clear to yellow in color, with no smell or taste. PCBs are very stable mixtures that are resistant to extreme temperature and pressure. PCBs were used widely in electrical equipment like capacitors and transformers. They are highly toxic industrial compounds. They pose serious health risks to fetuses, babies and children, who may suffer developmental and neurological problems from prolonged or repeated exposure to small amounts of PCBs.

(iv) Brominated Diphenyl Ethers - are a group of man-made Organobromine compounds. They have been used as flame retardants in polyurethane foams in upholstery and in polymer resins and plastics used as components in electrical equipment.

These chemicals above-mentioned were listed to be banned because they are toxic, a danger to the environment and they can bioaccumulate. They also looked at listing some more new chemicals under Annex A, B and C. The parties discussed technical regulations, financial resources, reporting format, evaluation & how they are going to measure the compliance of each party. The next Stockholm Convention will be continuing in 2023. It usually would take place every 2 years but due to not hosting one last year (2021) as a result of Covid, there will be a back to back convention.

----- THE END -----