

Damage assessment done at the MCMH

OFFICIALS OF THE REGIONAL Health Response Team have estimated the cost of damage at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, as a consequence of the passage of the trough on December 24 and 25, 2013, to be approximately US\$314, 210.85.

This is according to information released by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment earlier this week.

According to the release, the assessment was conducted between December 29, 2013, and January 2, 2014, by the relevant staff of the Ministry and representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

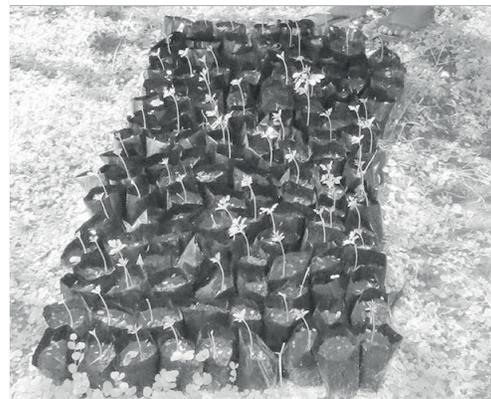
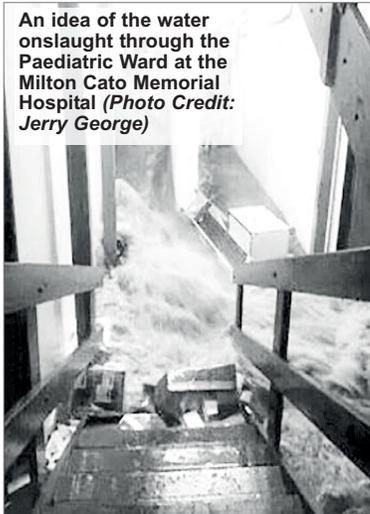
The assessment team outlined that the Administrative Block suffered damage to records, electrical systems and furniture. Maternity A received damage to electrical beds, outlets, transformers, furniture, as well as the power supply to the

cardiotocography (CTG) which is used to manage contractions during labour and delivery.

Patients' records prior to 2012 were also damaged by water, while the transformer and refrigerator in the lecture room were both damaged. Meanwhile, the Male Medical Ward and corridors were completely washed out, resulting in loss of equipment and supplies that were housed at those locations.

Additionally, the CT scan machine at the Physiotherapy Unit, which received 12-15 inches of water, is currently being assessed to determine the extent of the damage. The oxygen plant has also been severely affected and is currently not operational owing to damage to the compressor. *(Contributed)*

An idea of the water onslaught through the Paediatric Ward at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (Photo Credit: Jerry George)



The Moringa plant under propogation at the Richmond Vale Academy.

Look out for the Moringa trees

by KENVILLE HORNE

ON THE 25TH OCTOBER 2013, THE VINCENTIAN newspaper published a story entitled 'A Moringa drive is on'.

The story focused on the Richmond Vale Academy's (RVA) plan to distribute some 10,000 Moringa trees, a tree said to possess substantial health benefits, to 20 different communities across the country.

And though the nursery at the Richmond Vale Academy sustained heavy damage during the recent rains and floods, Kata Lovassy, team leader for the Climate Compliance Programme under which the Moringa project is managed, assured THE VINCENTIAN that there is enough of the tress to allow for a continuation of the distribution programme.

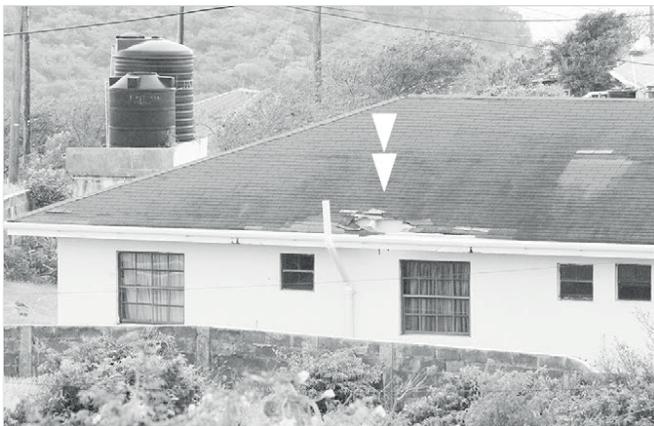
In fact, Academy personnel will take to the road on Monday 13th January to distribute plants in Sandy Bay and Georgetown.

The exercise will continue on Tuesday 14 in Mesopotamia, Calliaqua, Arnos Vale and Sion Hill. On Wednesday, it will be the turn of residents of Edinboro, Rose Place, Campden Park, Clare Valley and Vermont.

Buccament, Layou, Barrouallie and Keartons will be served on Thursday 16, and this phase of the distribution will conclude on Friday 17 in Coulls Hill, Rose Hall, Rose Bank, Petit Bordel, Chareaubelair and Fitz Hughes.

The Moringa plant is purported to have had some degree of positive effect in the treatment of some cancers, ulcers, arthritis and common influenza.

Health woes for Mayreau



The clinic and nurse's residence in Mayreau showing damage to roof.

DESPITE HAVING COLLECTED 100 signatures from adults on Mayreau to petition the Minister of Health for a resident nurse since March 2013, nothing has happened. Since January this year when the resident Registered Nurse went for training as a midwife, no-one has replaced her.

Early in December, a woman gave birth in a speedboat taking her to Union Island for professional care. Fortunately the baby girl survived and is alive and healthy. If there was a resident midwife, a situation like this could have been averted and risks associated with child birth minimised.

One person died owing to the absence of a professional health care worker. This prompted the petition mentioned earlier.

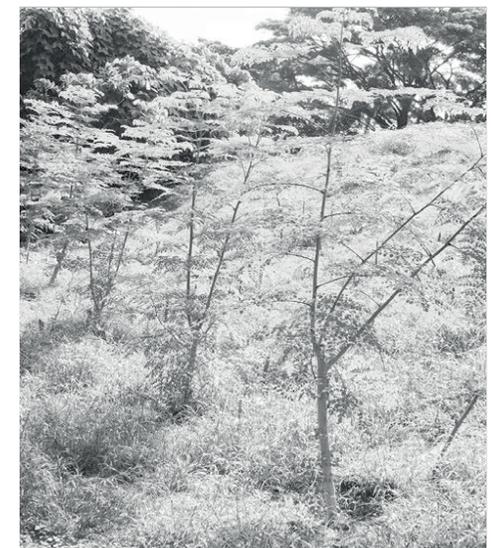
Another incident involved a wound that was too serious for first aid only. The victim had to travel by speedboat for advanced medical care in Union Island.

Residents claim that a nurse from Union visits the small Grenadine Island on Mondays, while the district doctor visits Mayreau once per month, usually on the first Monday.

Diabetics are at a disadvantage, as well as persons with heart problems.

The feeling of despair is understandable, as the condition of the clinic that should also house the resident nurse has cracked walls and a damaged roof. With those conditions, no nurse would feel secure.

It is hoped that this matter is addressed soon.



A field of mature Moringa trees.

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