

## Nursing Council relocated

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL has been relocated to the first floor of the west wing of the Warrens Office Complex, Warrens, St Michael. The public is advised of the change of address and can reach the council at 310-4080 or 310-4081. It was previously located at the Weymouth Complex, Roebuck Street, St Michael. (BGIS)

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## THE INSIDE COVER

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DOZENS OF APPLICANTS during the first day of the Cost U Less job fair at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre yesterday. (Pictures by Nigal Browne.)

# Rush on for jobs

## Hundreds apply to Cost U Less

HUNDREDS OF BARBADIANS flocked to the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre yesterday in an attempt to get a job with megastore Cost U Less.

The international franchisee opened a three-day job fair on Monday in an effort to recruit over 100 people to fill available positions when the store opens early next year.

Vice-president of human resources, Kina Perez, said 800 people were expected on the first day of the recruitment, which began at 9 a.m. By 10:30 there were already over 300 applicants. Today and tomorrow the job fair opens at 10 a.m.

"So the reception is great. I was thinking that the first day we were going to end up with anywhere from 800 to 1 200 people

and if we keep up we will end up with 800 for the day for sure. We believe the biggest push would be Monday [yesterday]," she said.

Cost U Less' recruitment exercise comes as Barbados' unemployment rate continued its upward trajectory. At the end of last month, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Chris Sinckler in a statement revealed that male unemployment stood at 12.3 per cent, while for females it was 12.7 per cent.

### Wide range of applicants

Perez told the DAILY NATION that a wide variety of applicants, including "some individuals in school uniform and some retirees", attended the job fair.



VICE-PRESIDENT of human resources at Cost U Less, Kina Perez, and vice-president and general manager Tom Kallio.

"What will set Cost U Less apart from the others is going to be our high level of customer service, friendliness and family atmosphere community. Our human resources are what's key," she said, stating that a number of people were asking about applying for more than one position.

Cost U Less is seeking to fill about 105 vacancies, which include customer service managers, supervisors and a number of entry-level positions.

"We could also expect to bring on some temporary employees over time," added Perez.

The \$30 million retail store, located in Welches, St Thomas, is expected to open in the first week of February. (MM)

## Properties triple market value

ALL THE PROPERTIES auctioned off by the Land Tax Department due to arrears have been fetching way more than market value and in some cases, triple the price that opens bidding.

This was disclosed by Wayne Forde, commissioner of land tax.

He was speaking to members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors during one of their monthly sessions.

Forde said usually when the department put a property on the block, he found that "people... bid and bid like there is no tomorrow".

Responding to questions from the audience, Forde said selling properties was a last resort and he did not necessarily sell at market value. A lot of them, he noted, go up for sale "around Crop Over time".

The commissioner of land tax has three ways to recover monies owed to the department if the land owner fails to pay taxes following the three-month grace period after the due date - warrant of distress, garnishment and sale.

"What we do basically [is add up] what is owed to us, expenses that we would have incurred selling the properties and if any of our sister agencies are owed, we usually put in that - VAT, inland revenue and National Insurance [Scheme].

"And then we sell," he explained. (MM)

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- Sheraton Mall, Upstairs Annex 1 (437-8707)