



ANIMALS RIGHTS ACTIVISTS on their way to Government Headquarters yesterday to deliver the petition. (Picture by Christoff Griffith.)

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Quake shakes up Bajans at Mona Campus

BARBADIAN STUDENTS at Mona Campus are shaken but remained unharmed following a major earthquake that rocked Jamaica on Tuesday followed by a second one yesterday.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported that an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 occurred near Jamaica, less than 24 hours after the island was rocked by a 7.7 magnitude quake Tuesday.

The first tremor was felt also in The Bahamas, Cuba and Haiti. Tuesday's quake occurred between Jamaica and Cuba triggering fears of a tsunami in several Caribbean countries.

President of the Barbados Student Association at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, Daniel Clarke-Whitehall said Tuesday had been a "wild day" for the approximately 100 students starting with a coronavirus scare.

"After that it was midday . . . when the earthquake hit. Some people were actually in class when it happened and some people ran out. Some people stayed, some people classes ended some didn't. Even with the tsunami warning in effect classes were still going on so nothing really stopped even though there was that element of fear because of a 7.7 magnitude earthquake," Clarke-Whitehall stated.



JOURNALISM student at UWI Mona Campus, Shadae Lewis. (GP)

Checking on members

The third-year economics student said the association has been trying to keep everyone calm and trying to check on members.

Journalism student Shadae Lewis admitted she is still a bit panicked.

"We saw videos of the nurses in a panic, people were wearing masks and saying they are leaving the school, leaving class, leaving Jamaica and others were totally calm. They were saying things 'like it's okay' and that 'nothing was going to happen' but, in my mind, I thought I was going to die. I honestly was so scared," she said.

Lewis said before she got a chance to relax then came the shaking of the ground.

"I was in a class which is very small and only had about ten people in it at the time. Now I've never in my life felt an earthquake so my first thought was that the girl behind me was shaking my chair or hitting it in some way, but then I realised the room was shaking. So, when I caught on, I shouted 'the ground shaking?' One of my classmates shouted 'yes' and I was the first person out of that room and out of the CARIMAC building," recounted Lewis. She then called her family with the news that there was an earthquake and secondly she wanted to come home.

"We went back to class after 20 minutes like nothing happened and I was so surprised 'cause in my head we should be going home or something. The earthquake happened around 2:10 p.m. and by 2:37 p.m. we had a tsunami warning. At 3:03 p.m. I saw an alert saying that there will be a possible tsunami by 3:20. So, I left the classroom and I headed to my dorm and honestly, I don't know why or what difference it would've made, but I just could not stay in the classroom anymore," recalled Lewis. (AC)

'Harsher' penalties for animal cruelty

ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS are sending a strong message to Government to deal with negligent pet owners.

Yesterday they delivered a petition to Government Headquarters in Bay Street, St Michael with the signatures of 1 600 people pushing for greater enforcement of penalties in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

President of Action for Animals Barbados Gail Hunte explained the action was organised by her and ROAR Barbados, both of which have members who are fed up of ongoing violations.

"There is a desperate need for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Cap 144A to be better enforced. . . because when animal abuse is reported at the moment it would only go so far and then for varying reasons it would go no further. I then ask the question what is the purpose

of having the Act?" Hunte queried.

Her points were echoed by chief inspector at the Royal Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Wayne Norville who stressed that too many people exceeded the maximum amount of dogs they are allowed to have.

"People have too many dogs with inadequate space and that is one of the biggest problems I am faced with now. This is a problem not only for the neighbours, it is also a problem for people who have invested in things like apartments.

"If you go over four dogs you must have a kennel licence and in order to get a kennel licence you must have your place inspected because there is no way you can put four or six dogs in a tiny space and expect them to be comfortable.

"If they are not comfortable they will whine and bark until

someone comes to see what is going on," Marshall said.

The petition stated that sections 1- 19 of the Act needed to be enforced with immediate effect, including, Section 5 (1) which states that any person who tethers or keeps an animal in a manner or in conditions that will cause the animal unnecessary suffering, could be fined \$5 000 or imprisoned for 12 months.

Founding trustee of K9 Friends, Karen Millen, said that would be needed because of some of the many ways animals are ill-treated, including malnourishment.

"The sites that we are seeing every day have probably not been seen since concentration camps in World War II. There are dogs that are walking skeletons, just days from death, and there are not enough places to put them because all the shelters are full," Millen said. (TG)

Praises for emergency protocol

THE SHAKING in the Cayman Islands continued yesterday as three strong after-shocks made their presence felt there after Tuesday's strong earthquake in the northern Caribbean.

The quake, measuring 7.3 on the Richter Scale, has caused some sinkholes and plenty of shaking in buildings, but no injuries were reported. Things returned to normal yesterday in spite of the tremors, the largest of which registered just over 4.0.

Jeifrene Ellis, a Barbadian who has been living in the Cayman Islands for the past 25 years, and is the managing director for the Village Montessori School on the outskirts of the capital Georgetown, is praising the emergency protocol which was brought into play on Tuesday.

It is mandatory for all schools to have an emergency management plan in place in order to get a government licence, and Ellis said it ensured teachers and students acted quickly and efficiently during and after the quake.

"It's huge how important the emergency protocol is," she told the DAILY NATION yesterday via telephone from the school's compound in Caymana Bay.

"We first felt a slight shaking, and then after a few seconds the shaking really intensified. Our kids remained calm, got under the desks, and followed

what they had been taught. A few were upset by the proceedings, but most did quite well. Children always feed off of the energy shown by the adults in their care, so that made a significant difference," she added.

Government schools were closed yesterday, due to some water provision issues.

Ellis, who has been on the island for two previous seismic shocks, said no one at her private facility panicked, and they smoothly exited the school to a designated assembly point when the shaking stopped. Teachers and students do simulations at least once every semester to keep the protocols fresh in their minds.

The students were treated to a special educational discussion on earthquakes and watched news clips about Tuesday's event before classes started.

Ellis said islanders had become accustomed to shocks in recent times, but it was clear Tuesday's was larger than usual. "Lucky for us, the epicentre was 30 miles off coast and at a significant depth."

She said a tsunami warning for a storm surge of three feet had been instituted, but that was removed yesterday, and the coastline remained calm. (BA)