

Barbados shines globally, joins ranks of 'developed' nations > >
NEW YORK--Without the riches of the United States, Canada or
Britain, > Barbados has joined the ranks of the world's
"developed" nations, > albeit only in terms of providing people
with an excellent quality of > life. > > Often called the "Singapore
of the Caribbean", Barbados, according to > the United Nations,
joins such countries as Israel, Hong Kong, > Singapore, Slovenia,
Cyprus, Malta, Lichtenstein, Bahrain, oil-rich > Qatar, Andorra,
San Marino, Brunei Darussalam, Monaco, United Arab > Emirates
and Estonia on the list of "developed" countries, based > purely on
the Human Developed Index (HDI). > > The HDI, now in its 20th
year, measures performances in health, > education, income and
other quality of life indices. The > classification was contained in
the 2010 UN Human Development Index > released worldwide a
few days ago. > > > But that wasn't all about Barbados. With the
exception of the Bahamas, > it outspends all of its Caribbean
neighbours when it comes to > providing health care for each
resident and it has one of the lowest > murder rates in the
Caribbean and Latin America. > > Barbados was the only
Caribbean and Latin American state to be > labelled "developed".
It's among 16 states which don't belong to the > rich nations' club
in Paris, the Organisation for Economic > Co-operation and
Development (OECD), but which were placed in a > grouping set
aside for "developed non-OECD members". > > Mexico, the lone
Latin American and Caribbean country which belongs to > the
OECD, wasn't included in the ranks of the "developed" states but
> was placed among the 32 "developing" nations in the Western >
Hemisphere. Barbados had previously articulated its desire to be >
classified as a developed country, but it didn't set an exact
deadline > for achieving that goal. Trinidad and Tobago says it
wants to reach > that level by 2020. > > In the latest report,
Barbados was listed among the nations worldwide > with a "very
high" level of human development. It was third on the > list of
members of the OAS that had attained that ranking. > > The others

were the United States, fourth, and Canada, eighth. > Barbados was ranked 42nd. Narrowly missing the top classification was > the Bahamas, which was 43rd. > > > All of Barbados' Caricom neighbours, including energy-rich Trinidad > and Tobago, the Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, St Lucia, St > Vincent, Suriname, Haiti, Guyana, Suriname and Grenada were listed as > "developing" states. > > > So too were such emerging economic giants as India, Brazil, Chile, > South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation and China. > > As the UN Development Programme's top administrator Helen Clark saw > it, success wasn't simply about money. > > "On one crucial point the evidence is compelling and clear: there is > much that countries can do to improve the quality of people's lives > even under adverse circumstances," she said, "Many countries have made > great gains in health and education despite only modest growth in > income, while some countries with strong economic performance have > failed to make similarly impressive progress in life expectancy." > > In the vital area of health, the UN report puts Barbados' per capita > expenditure on health care at US\$1,265 in 2007, a figure that was only > surpassed in the region by the Bahamas with US\$1,987. Trinidad and > Tobago had a per capita expenditure of US\$1,178. > > Barbados' per capita spending on health was at least three times > greater than Jamaica's (US\$357); about six times higher than Guyana's > (US\$197) and at least US\$400 per person more than Chile, Kuwait, > Mexico and Brazil. > > Barbados invested more per capita in the provision of care for > individuals than such rich countries as Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, > Libya, Kuwait and Algeria. And its outlay was ten times greater than > India's and about US\$300 more than Poland. >

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