

Sunday March 6, 2011

PROTECTING INFORMATION

IN recognising the need to safeguard computer networks from outside threats, Government is continuing to implement relevant legislation to provide the necessary protection.

At the launch of the Barbados Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) on Friday evening, Minister of Commerce and Trade, Senator Haynesley Benn, said that Government is conscious of the need to protect computer networks from unauthorised access, an individual's personal data and to provide for the dissemination of information from the public sector, therefore several acts were created for this purpose.

These include: the Computer Misuse Act; the Electronics Transactions Act; and the proposed Data Protection Act.

"This act will seek to make provisions for the protection of the privacy of a person in relation to personal data [as well as] for the processing and retrieval of the said data."

In addition, the senator outlined that Government is now actively implementing a digital certificate system, which also includes some entities from the private sector.

"These certificates would be used to authenticate the sender of an email message, and ensure that the information contained in that email [is] not accidentally or maliciously altered or destroyed during transmission," he continued.

Benn further noted that Government hired a consultant to develop an information security policy through the Data Processing Department.

"It is important that developing economies such as ours pay special attention to the vulnerability of our information systems in the face of deliberate and malicious attacks. Information security must aim to protect all types of data and their underlying

applications, networks, equipment and processing facilities and as such it is important that both the public and the

private sectors implement good security practices and policies," he stated.

The minister also urged the ISSA to

join forces with Government to help mitigate the threats that ICT systems can be subject to. (JMB)



SCENT OF A STAR! Representative from Cave Shepherd, Jewel Bannister (right), presenting Rihanna's mother Monica Fenty with a bottle of Reb'l Fleur which was officially launched at Cave Shepherd, Broad Street yesterday. (See Page 6)

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