

# THE VOICE

*Weekend* January 16, 2021



## Tribute To Gordon 'Butch' Stewart 1941-2021



*Tourism trail blazer » Innovator » Visionary*

# Gordon 'Butch' Stewart

## His Life And Legacy

GORDON 'Butch' Stewart who pioneered the all-inclusive concept of tourism hospitality in the Caribbean, from which Saint Lucia benefitted tremendously, was in many respects a true "giant of a man".

In fact, there has been no end to the accolades and taglines that were attached to Stewart during his lifetime and with his death last week, only months short of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, his persona has blossomed even larger.

Stewart's life and accomplishments are the stuff of which legends are made, the kind one reads about in novels or sees in movies. Not surprisingly, his early beginnings as a business person included an association with the late Sean Connery who came to Jamaica in 1962 to film the first James Bond movie "Dr. No". The story is that Stewart borrowed a boat owned by his father to take Connery and the rest of the film crew to sites where the filming was taking place.

Before venturing full speed into tourism, Stewart was a successful sales manager for the Dutch-owned Curacao Trading Co. Later, in 1968, he established his own company, Appliance Traders Ltd., selling air-conditioning units, fridges and freezers. The company went on to become one of Jamaica's largest appliance retailers. Soon, he bought a small beachfront hotel in Montego Bay and within the year reimagined it to create the Sandals Montego Bay. And so began the Caribbean's venture into the era of all-inclusive accommodation for tourists that combined accommodations, meals, entertainment and activities, often packaged with an air component, for a single price.

It was not long before the Sandals brand was successfully transported to Saint Lucia, revolutionizing the island's bustling tourism sector but in the process ruffling the feathers of some traditional hoteliers who feared the new competition.

Today, there are four Sandals properties in Saint Lucia employing hundreds of locals and contributing handsomely to the national treasury and economy through taxes and purchases of goods and services. Through its training programmes, in Saint Lucia and the other locations, Sandals has helped developed a cadre of industry professionals whose service and dedication have earned the company 23 consecutive "World's leading all-inclusive Family resort brand" titles at the World Travel Market Awards held in London annually.

Sandals Resorts International has 16 properties throughout the Caribbean islands of Jamaica, The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Antigua, Turks & Caicos, and most recently Barbados, and Grenada. Just last year Sandals entered into

agreements to build resorts in St Vincent and the Grenadines and Curacao. There is now a "sister" brand, Beaches Resorts, with two properties in Jamaica and one in Turks and Caicos.

In taking the Sandals brand to Saint Lucia, Stewart breathed new life into a lethargic tourism sector. With its massive advertising campaigns in the major source markets, Saint Lucia was able to attract visitors in numbers that its limited promotional budgets did not, by piggy-backing on many a Sandals media blitz.

Brian Major, Managing Editor for Digital Publications & Guides/Caribbean, writes that many saw Stewart's personality as being instrumental in the company's success. He regularly imparted the friendly, outgoing character of Jamaica's people to his guests through his employees. Also Stewart

was constantly seen at the Sandals properties chatting, laughing and interacting with every level of staff in a genuine manner and he encouraged employees to behave similarly with guests.

Yet, Major adds, Stewart was also a shrewd businessman who combined his trademark outgoing friendliness with a tough-minded, uncompromising emphasis on high-quality accommodations, facilities, amenities and services.

Although a white Jamaican with European roots, Stewart was born and bred on the island and retained his Bob Marley-like Caribbean accent. He started the daily Jamaica Observer to compete with the island's oldest newspaper, the Gleaner which had been around for more than a century and a half.

With a group of investors, he also bought the national airline Air Jamaica in 1994, expanding its routes beyond the Caribbean to destinations including the United States and the United Kingdom. The airline continued to lose money, however, and after Stewart and his group pulled out in 2004, it bounced between state and private control until it went out of business in 2015.

Stewart was also well known for his philanthropy much of which was undertaken through the Sandals Foundation which supported a wide range of causes in all the islands where his company operated. In May last year he donated \$31.5 million to Jamaican authorities to help families suffering from Covid-19.

"He was a marketing genius and talented showman," says Stewart's son, Adam, who has taken over as head of the Sandals organization. "But those who knew him best



recognized that he was a dreamer who could dream bigger and better than anyone. It was often said 'the best thing for people around him to do is be dream catchers.'"

Butch Stewart also believed in dreaming the impossible dream, but even he could not have envisioned how big his dreams would become. Affectionately referred to also as the 'King of All-Inclusives', a visionary, innovator and humanitarian, he lived life to the fullest by "loving what you do so you never have to work a day in your life."

A man of humble beginnings, his story continued over the course of four decades as he created the world's most iconic brand that has changed the way visitors experience the Caribbean.

Stewart received several accolades and awards including Jamaica's highest national distinctions: Order of Jamaica, and Commander of the Order of Distinction. He received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of the West Indies (2001) and from the University of Technology, Jamaica (2009). He also received an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree from Johnson & Wales University in 2011.

Stewart was presented with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Jamaica-America Society in 1992. Ernst & Young voted him Master Entrepreneur of the decade of the 90s. At the 2000 World Travel Awards, he was voted 'Travel Man of the Millennium' for his work in promoting Caribbean tourism. The Caribbean American Foundation presented Stewart with the Golden Eagle Humanitarian Award in 2011 in recognition of his philanthropic contributions to education and entrepreneurship in the Caribbean.

There were several other industry awards as well. In 2014 Stewart was honoured as "the Most Innovative All-Inclusive Resort Executive" by the Travalliance Travvy Awards and he also garnered a number of Lifetime Achievement and Travel awards.

But even with all the attention he attracted, Stewart remained a modest person throughout to the point where he kept the illness that took his life within his family circle. Eight years ago, in an interview with the Jamaica Observer, Stewart commented: "As long as most people think I've done something good with my life, that's plenty good enough for me."

**C & T ENTERPRISES LTD.**

The Management and Staff of C&T Enterprises Ltd. extend heartfelt condolences to the Family of

*Mr. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart.*

who will be remembered as a pioneer in the development of the Caribbean Hospitality product over the years.

May he Rest In Peace.



Tourists enjoying Sandals watersports in St. Lucia.



THE HON. GORDON 'BUTCH' STEWART, OJ, CD, Hon. LLD -  
SANDALS' CHAIRMAN & FOUNDER  
(1941 - 2021)

Photo Credit: EYEWITNESS NEWS

## GORDON 'BUTCH' STEWART Visionary and Business Icon

Out of his rich imagination sprang a luxurious and captivating way to vacation and, for forty years, he invited the world to enjoy the slices of paradise he created in the region he called home.

Mr. Stewart's life was a shining example of the tenets of hard work, foresight and creative thinking. His decades-long career as a hotelier saw him balance a boundless passion for creating new and thrilling experiences with a shrewd approach to business.

Where others saw risks, he saw opportunities. His inventive mind and tenacious spirit allowed him to turn a rundown beachfront property in Montego Bay into a stunning, award-winning, luxury-inclusive resort that became the flagship for his world-renowned chain of resorts located across the Caribbean.

Mr. Stewart was deeply invested in the development of the Eastern Caribbean (EC) and held an unparalleled appreciation for the region's unique value and potential. His hotels brought employment, growth opportunities and countless visitors to the shores of Antigua, Grenada and Saint Lucia, with plans for even further expansion to the benefit of the EC's economies and its people.

His was a life of service to the region and the industry he loved, which earned him several accolades and distinctions including Jamaica's highest national distinctions: The Order of Jamaica (O.J.), and Commander of the Order of Distinction (C.D.).

**The Management and Staff of Republic Bank extend sincere condolences to his family, friends and the Management and Staff of Sandals Resorts International.**



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**Republic Bank**  
We're the One for you!

CELEBRATING A LEGEND

# Tributes from Jamaica, CHTA



Sandals celebrating success.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) has extended condolences to the immediate family of Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart and thousands of extended family members in the Sandals organization.

In a statement following news of his death, the CHTA said that the regional tourism industry will be “forever indebted to ‘Butch’ for his continued passion for excellence and legendary Caribbean hospitality.”

It said: “His vision has bestowed to the global industry a Caribbean organization that adheres to the highest standards of excellence, celebrates and promotes the region’s uniqueness, and invests in the development of our people and communities.”

Stewart was one of the first recipients of the Caribbean Hotelier of the Year award.

The organisation noted that he was a great supporter of the CHTA “and an inspiration to so many of us in the region.”

Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness hailed the legendary Jamaican hotelier and businessman Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart saying that he was man way ahead of his time, with “an eye for detail, and [an] ability to market and deliver world class service in any endeavour”.

Holness said Stewart was an extraordinary human being with an unwavering commitment to the social good.

“It is with deep sadness that I learnt of the passing of one of Jamaica’s most brilliant, innovative and transformative business minds,” Holness said in a post on social media.

“He has left his unmistakable mark across the region and the world and we shall miss him dearly. I send heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and

“My condolences to the Stewart family and the extended work family. Rest in peace, Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart. We will never forget how you changed Jamaica for the better and positively impacted so many lives,” said Golding.

“Jamaica has lost one of its most innovative and successful business leaders, and a truly immense figure on the national and international stage. Walk Good ‘Butch’,” he shared.

Former Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, hailed Stewart as one of Jamaica’s finest sons.

“His family has lost a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. His workers have lost their leader and motivator, and so many of us have lost a friend,” Simpson Miller said. Former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding also praised the late tourism mogul saying that his “legacy is monumental” and will undergird Jamaica’s efforts at nation building for many years to come.

“Jamaica has lost someone who was, without doubt, the most outstanding, creative and successful businessman and private sector leader of my generation,” said Golding who added that Stewart’s passing came as a shock.

Jamaica’s Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett hailed Butch Stewart, saying that he was the standard-bearer of Caribbean tourism and the brand he spawned, Sandals, is the reference for luxury all-inclusive in the world.

“He was a mogul and indeed an icon that has charted a path which will never be repeated in its fullness by anyone. Not only because of his unique style of management, but his particular sense of picking winners.”

According to Bartlett, Stewart took the concept of Club Med, upended it and made it into the most

significant driver of tourism experiences in the resort and accommodation sub-sector.

He said: “The sense of purpose, commitment and entrepreneurship that he brought to the business space is unparalleled and his philanthropy and beneficence has made him the single greatest contributor to human capital and community development within the tourism sector.”

“As a family man, Stewart has been a shining example of how to balance business success. His children are shining leaders of the next generation of entrepreneurship, from which his son, Adam Stewart has emerged as a regional figure. Jamaica and global tourism have indeed lost an icon.”



The Management and Staff of  
**Ideal Bakery**  
extend  
deepest condolences to the family of  
**Mr Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart.**


Mr Stewart was a pioneer in the Hospitality Industry and an inspiration to many and will be dearly missed.

He will leave in our hearts and minds.




**May he rest in peace.**

the thousands of employees whose lives he no doubt personally impacted. This loss is not just Jamaica’s, it is the Caribbean’s.”

Other tributes poured in following the death of Stewart. Leader of the main opposition People’s National Party (PNP), Mark Golding said Stewart helped to change Jamaica for the better.



The Management and Staff of  
**Atwell Dalgliesh Co (St Lucia) Ltd**  
wish to express deepest condolences to the Stewart and Sandals Families, on the passing of  
**Mr Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart,**  
a giant in the Hospitality Industry in Saint Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean.  
**He will be greatly missed, and will forever live on in our hearts and minds.**

The Shareholders, Board, Management and team members of **Renwick & Co Ltd** extend our condolences to the family and team members of the late

**Gordon Butch Stewart.**

We have all lost a great Caribbean pioneer in the tourism industry.

**CELEBRATING A LEGEND**

# From



**SAINT LUCIA HOSPITALITY & TOURISM ASSOCIATION**

THE Saint Lucia Hospitality & Tourism Association (SLHTA) joins the rest of the regional and global tourism industry in expressing condolences to the family, friends and relatives of outstanding hospitality pioneer, Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, who died in Miami, Florida, on Monday evening, January 4, 2021.

Stewart was Founder and Chairman of Sandals Resorts International (SRI), which the late tourism icon founded in 1981. SRI currently owns fifteen all-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean. In Saint Lucia, Sandals owns four properties: Sandals Grande St. Lucian Spa & Beach Resort, Sandals Halcyon Beach Resort, Sandals Regency Golf Resort & Spa, and Sandals Golf & Country Club.

The Sandals story in Saint Lucia began when Stewart visited the island in 1992, later acquiring then Cunard Hotel and converting it into Sandals Regency. Years later, Sandals Halcyon and Sandals Grande were added to the Sandals portfolio.

"We played probably the largest role in Saint Lucia during the transition from bananas to tourism. Sandals drove the economy of Saint Lucia more than any other organization," Stewart said during a press conference at Sandals Grande in June 2017 to launch another Sandals hotel in Saint Lucia, dubbed Sandals La Source St. Lucia. At the time, Sandals, a multiple-award-winning hotel chain, employed over 1,800 people locally.

In her tribute, SLHTA's President Karolin Troubetzkoy said: "We have lost one of our most revered and respected Caribbean tourism icons. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart was a pioneer and a perfectionist of an all-inclusive Caribbean hospitality model that other brands could never copy or come close to. The success of the brand over several decades speaks for itself. We must also thank him for his mentorship of and the countless career opportunities he created for Caribbean nationals, surpassed only by his considerable philanthropy through the Sandals Foundation."

Stewart, who also at the time of his death headed ATL Group of Companies, which includes one of Jamaica's main news outlets, Jamaica Observer Limited --which he founded in 1993 --was born in Kingston, Jamaica on July 6, 1941. His knack for salesmanship eventually led to him establishing his own business in 1968 --Appliance Traders Limited --which imported and sold air-conditioning units, water coolers, stoves and other household appliances.

The Saint Lucia Hospitality & Tourism Association recognizes the trailblazing efforts displayed by Stewart and hopes they serve in some measure to inspire many more successes within our sector.



SLHTA's President Karolin Troubetzkoy



Stewart and Hopkin.

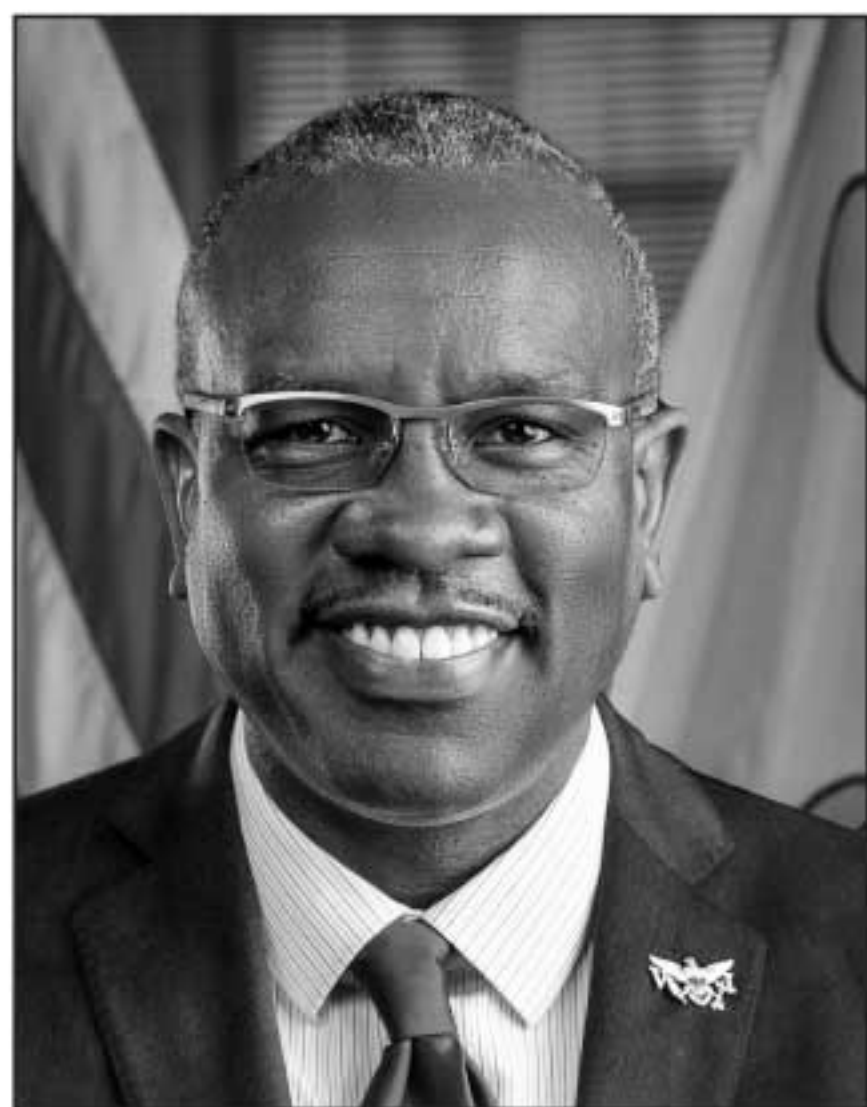
## Hopkin Family Tribute of Grenada

ST. GEORGES, Grenada-- With the announcement of the passing of iconic Jamaican hotelier, Honorable Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, OJ, CD, Hon. LLD, the Caribbean has lost another of its greatest innovators, progressive thinkers and dreamers.

Janelle Hopkin, President and Managing Director of Spice Island Beach Resort, in Grenada, reflected that with the loss of such a dynamic, charismatic, and larger-than-life figure, such as 'Butch' Stewart, the Caribbean hotel community has once again witnessed the passing of an icon.

Hopkin is the daughter of the late renowned hotelier, Sir Royston Hopkin who died suddenly in February 2020. She said: "Men like my father, and Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, were far ahead of their time in terms of taking their dreams and turning them into great legacies. They shared an unwavering friendship and never saw each other as being competitors, but rather as necessary components of the Caribbean luxury hotel sector. Together they spent many decades as trailblazers of the hotel industry in the region and my father often credited 'Butch' with defining the term 'All-Inclusive' and setting the benchmark for fully-inclusive luxury Caribbean holidays, resulting in the beloved 'Sandals' brand being known worldwide. They each have now left their indelible stamp on the hotel and tourism sectors in the Caribbean for future generations.

(See Page 8)



Governor Bryan

## Statement from the Govt. of the U.S. Virgin Islands

GOVERNOR of the U.S. Virgin Islands Albert Bryan Jr. paid the following tribute to Gordon 'Burch' Stewart:

"The people and government of the U.S. Virgin Islands join me in sending our heartfelt condolences to the family of the Honorable Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, whose passing reminds us of the momentous achievements he recorded as he helped build tourism into the Caribbean's major economic driver.

"We also remember that while he propelled the growth of tourism he did so in a way that increased local control to ensure its profits benefitted Caribbean people and their communities. He is carried into the arms of his Lord with our respect, affection and gratitude".

Joseph Boschulte, Commissioner of Tourism, U.S. Virgin Islands said: "The Honorable Gordon 'Butch' Stewart was our bold champion who spread across the Caribbean the message that high-end sustainable tourism can enrich our destinations and our people. Indeed, the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism has been discussing with his team the prospect of hosting one of his elegant resorts here in the Territory.

"An important attraction for me was the fact that he not only produced first-class resorts, but he also insisted on training and promoting local people to run them. That message resonates deeply, and we will all benefit from this great man's work."

## Tribute from the OECS Commission

The OECS Commission notes with sadness the passing of the visionary icon of Caribbean tourism Hon. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart.

We extend deepest condolences to his immediate family, his extended Sandals family and to the people of Jamaica on the loss of another Jamaican legend.

The Sandals and Beaches brand of indigenous all-inclusive luxury hotels have given prominence to the Caribbean region with its extensive international

marketing and the extraordinarily high standards of hospitality and customer satisfaction that he defined. The legacy that he created is indelible and it lives on in the thousands of OECS Sandals employees in Antigua & Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia (and soon, St. Vincent & the Grenadines) who are able to sustain their families every day.

The greatest tribute that we can pay to this transformational figure is to ensure the continuation



and continued impact of the legacy in the new normal by bringing to the task of the re-invention of the Caribbean tourism sector, the same creative energy that he brought to the challenge and creation of his brand.

**CELEBRATING A LEGEND**

# Chastanet: Stewart an Irreplaceable Icon

*'No one individual has left such an indelible footprint on The Caribbean region, or been more responsible for the development of the Caribbean brand'*

**GORDON 'Butch' Stewart** was never an ordinary man. He dreamed big, he thought big, he acted big. He was a visionary, a pioneer and a trailblazer. His son Adam described him as a 'superhero' and I concur because what he did for this region as a whole and for the islands in which he invested was transformative.

As a young Director of Tourism in the nineties, I convinced him to take a chance on Saint Lucia and he did. Three hotels and 2,000 jobs later, the legacy and impact of Sandals is indisputable. No one individual has ever left such an indelible footprint on the Caribbean region or been more responsible for the development of the 'Caribbean' brand.

Butch Stewart was a marketing and branding genius, creating the first world-class Caribbean brand with his Sandals product. His quest for bigger and better led to the unprecedented growth of his hotel chain and global recognition of the Sandals brand.

I have lost a former boss from my airline days, a mentor and more importantly, a close friend but the Caribbean has lost an irreplaceable icon.



**Prime Minister Chastanet with Stewart and Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness**



**Sandals Grande in St. Lucia.**

Thousands of persons in this region have jobs and careers because of Butch Stewart. The world knows more about the Caribbean and Saint Lucia because of Butch Stewart. Our tourism product is surviving in spite of Covid in large measure because of Butch Stewart and the Caribbean tourism industry is as strong as it is today because of Butch Stewart.

Many working directly and indirectly in tourism may not attribute their careers to him, but they most certainly have benefited from all that he did to develop the industry. In spite of all his successes and recognition on the global stage, he remained a Jamaican boy at heart, a family man, a lover of all things Caribbean and a tireless advocate for Caribbean people.

I am forever grateful for the time we had together and I will forever cherish all that I learnt from him.

On behalf of the Government and People of Saint Lucia and my own family, I extend heartfelt condolences to the Stewart family and the extended Sandals family.

May he forever rest in peace.



**The Management and Staff of**

Laurel's Pest Control Company Ltd.

wish to express deepest condolences to the Stewart and Sandals family, on the passing of

**Mr Gordon 'Butch' Stewart,**

a giant in the Hospitality Industry in St Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean.



Tel: 758-458 9451  
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The Management and staff of **Grew Industries 1989 Ltd** Dennery



Extend heartfelt Condolences to the family of **Mr Gordon 'Butch' Stewart,** the Sandals family and friends in St Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean on his passing

Mr Stewart will be remembered as a great contributor to the Hospitality Industry. *He will dearly be missed.*

**CELEBRATING A LEGEND**

# CWI Hails Sandals Founder and Chairman, Gordon 'Butch' Stewart

ST JOHN'S, Antigua — Cricket West Indies (CWI) paid tribute to Gordon 'Butch' Stewart who sadly passed away earlier this month.

Stewart, the outstanding Jamaican businessman and entrepreneur, was the founder and Chairman of Sandals International Resorts – the long-standing and valued partners of West Indies cricket.

He was a stalwart of the Caribbean society, an iconic figure across the region, and a true supporter of the game of cricket at all levels, CWI said.

Speaking on behalf of CWI, President Ricky Skerritt said: "CWI mourns the passing of The Honourable Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, OJ and sends our sincere condolences to his family. He was a life-long West Indies cricket fan, fierce champion of the Caribbean and a major commercial partner. He was also a true West Indian legend in his own right. He established unique and very successful Caribbean brands and created many opportunities for young men and women across this region to grow."

For many years, Sandals supported West Indies cricket and in fact its latest sponsorship of the team ended last month.

The all-inclusive Caribbean resorts operator had its logo inscribed on all Windies playing and training clothing.

Sandals also gained stadium branding at all home matches and broadcast sponsorship of all Windies matches screened by Sky Sports.

At the time the latest sponsorship was

announced in June 2018, Cricket West Indies chief executive Johnny Grave said: "Windies cricket is the heartbeat of the Caribbean and we're thrilled to partner with such a prestigious international brand as Sandals which is also synonymous with promoting the best of the Caribbean to the world.

"Sandals shares our determination to strengthen and grow cricket across the region, as well as harnessing cricket's power to drive economic investment and tourism."


Sandals Resorts International founder and chairman Gordon 'Butch' Stewart said then: "Our relationship with West Indies cricket is not a new one, having sponsored tours to the UK in 1995, 2000 and 2004, and we have now deepened our support for the Windies with this sponsorship which will cover all upcoming tours including the World Cup until the end of 2020.

The Sandals Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International, for years sponsored an annual cricket Academy in St Lucia, as part of their corporate social responsibility.

A number of players from St Lucia benefited from the Sandals Academy and went on to represent St Lucia in the Windward Islands tournament. Some have also gone on to play for the Windward Islands in the regional domestic cricket tournament and have even reached the heights of representing the West Indies.



Hon. Gordon 'Butch' Stewart Chairman of Sandals Resorts, bowled over the West Indies Cricket Team with his generous sponsorship of their 1995 U.K. tour.




The Ferrands team wishes to extend our condolences to the widow, family and Sandals team on the passing of

**Gordon 'Butch' Stewart.**

We recognize his immense contribution to the growth and development of the hospitality sector here in St. Lucia and throughout the Caribbean.

***His legacy continues to live on.***




Our hearts are filled with sorrow as we express our condolences to the family of **Mr Gordon 'Butch' Stewart** and the Sandals family in Saint Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean. The world has lost a great contributor to the tourism product. His vision created jobs for thousands of people in Saint Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean.

May his legacy live on forever  
From the Management and staff of Trans Caribbean 2000 Ltd.

## CELEBRATING A LEGEND

**Tribute from the Hopkin Family****(From Page 5)**

My father considered him a true brother and a 'giant of a man' who shared his philosophy, 'that it was not about hotels but hospitality.'

"My mother, Lady Betty Hopkin, and my family,

will always have many fond memories of 'Butch' and his enduring friendship with Sir Royston and our family. His warmth was infectious, whether it was at one of his many visits to our family's resort, or when we would meet at Caribbean hotel conferences around the region. Our

thoughts are with his wife, Cheryl, and his entire family as they must now take comfort in the knowledge that the passion and legacy of Gordon 'Butch' Stewart has forever changed the tourism landscape of the Caribbean.

"Indeed, we were honoured that he was present to mark Sir Royston's 75th birthday celebration held at his home in Grenada last year just a few short weeks before his passing."



## *In Loving Memory*

### GORDON "BUTCH" STEWART

My hero and friend Gordon "Butch" Stewart has left this world for greener pastures but my heart felt admiration and love of this Caribbean icon compels me to let the world know about this son of Caribbean soil. This man rose from very humble beginnings in Jamaica to the pinnacle of business success by vision, an ever positive attitude and a work ethic second to none but he never lost his humility and love for the working men and women of the Caribbean. A simple act that I witnessed illustrates the essence of "Butch" Stewart. One night while enjoying a delicious dinner with some dignitaries at one of his Sandals hotels I observed "Butch" get up excuse himself and proceed to walk through the kitchen of every restaurant at the hotel to mingle with the staff and thank them for the excellent work they were doing for the hotel's guests. He did this with the humility of a beggar and when my wife and I were departing after dinner feeling really honored to have been invited to dine with the "Chairman" as we all called him he thanked us repeatedly for joining him for dinner. I thought to myself "something isn't right here we should be the ones thanking him" but he never saw it that way. I will forever thank God for the life of Gordon "Butch" Stewart and I will pray for the continued success of his son Adam and the Stewart family and for the entire Sandals team. They are a beacon to Caribbean people that says anything is possible in the Caribbean. We can be the best in the world if we put our minds to it.

**Bizzy Williams**  
**Founder and Chairman**  
**Williams Industries Inc.**