

NEWS

*Family-run business gets investment...*

# New \$1.5m home for Andy's Bottling Facility

By YOHANSEH ASUKILE

A well-known Tobago product, 'Andy's Cherry Nectar' has now found a home at the Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park. On Friday morning, the company, Andy's Bottling Facility, was officially commissioned at the business park by its co-owners, Elvis Charles and Reginald Andrews.

Secretary of Finance and Enterprise Development, Tobago House of Assembly (THA), Joel Jack; the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), E-IDCOT, Bernard Mitchell; and the Chairman, Board of Directors, Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited, (VCEFL), Anthony Pierre were also present.

The company became the third to occupy a space at the factory shells of the Cove Park, joining Quiet River Corporation and Rojas Engineering Limited.

Andy Bottling Facility has now moved from a small scale family-run business to the national level and capable of producing over 700 cases of ½ litre bottles per day according to Secretary Jack. He added, "This project is the rebirth of an indigenous business whose product I remember enjoying especially at Christmas as a little boy."

According to Andrews, he went to the Business Development Unit of the Division of Finance but his plan was rejected because of the size of his project. He said he then turned to the VCEFL and the collaboration has resulted in the formal opening which was five years in the making.

An investment of \$1.5m has put Andy's Bottling in a position to not only bottle the four flavours of the Andy's brand - citrus punch, cherry nectar, fruit punch and sorrel, but also capable of bottling other products from other producers who may wish to use the company for that purpose.

The company will be employing 12 persons on a three-shift rotation basis

Jack indicated that in



Joel Jack, Secretary of the Division of Finance and Enterprise Development, THA, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Andy's Bottling Facility. To his right are co-owners Reginald Andrews and Elvis Charles.



Bottles of the signature drink Andy's Cherry Nectar is displayed.



Diamond Andrews, relative of the owners of Andy's Bottling Facility, blesses the new compound with a word of prayer on Friday.

alignment with the THA's 'comprehensive economic development plan' there are six areas of focus by the VCEFL which are: clean, light manufacturing; agriculture and agro processing; niche tourism; clean renewable energy and green technology; information

communication technology (ICT); and the creative arts and entertainment.

He went on to explain that Cove has a mandate to provide low cost lease factory space supported by the required utility and infrastructure systems while the VCEFL will

provide funding to businesses that will need capital injection of over \$250,000.

Charles described the bottling plant as a world class manufacturing company which is a testimony to the Assembly's commitment of the island's growth and development. He

would like the company to become a leading household brand throughout Tobago and Trinidad and then to see export markets in the Caribbean region, United States and in the United Kingdom and Europe.