



Minister of Health Donville Inniss yesterday announced that Chief of St John had been appointed chairman of the Executive Board of the organisation. (Picture by Marla Bradshaw)

first woman to hold the post. She had to be presented, the wider Caribbean

make a difference. The person who sits for Barbados was pointed out. The media that one could be focusing the way Barbados dealt

with nuclear and chemical events. "We are going to a special workshop next week. We are going to start to build our radio-nuclear regulation functions and we plan to use that opportunity to get specific resources for Barbados," she said.

"When I am in that seat, I can also learn and translate not only to Barbados but CARICOM issues and standards."

The main functions of the Executive Board are to give effect to the decisions and policies of the World Health Assembly, to advise it and generally to facilitate its work.

All of the WHO top posts are held by women.

## Standard of care for elderly

private nursing homes to provide care for persons who otherwise would have been admitted to Government long-term care institutions.

He explained that the ministry funded 253 Alternative Care Clients in the 37 nursing homes and senior citizens' homes that participate in the programme.

In lauding the compilation of the booklet, Inniss stated that government remained committed to providing and maintaining a high standard of care to the elderly and ensuring a safe environment for all persons in institutional care.

Meanwhile chairman of the National Committee on Ageing, Faizie Barker-Welch, called for all senior citizens' homes in Barbados to be custom-built and adequately set up to target specific needs of their elderly residents.

The 84-year-old chairman made this call yesterday whilst speaking to the **DAILY NATION** during a scenic ride and picnic for residents at Government-owned geriatric hospitals.

Welch noted that it was critical and a must for senior citizens' homes to be custom-built with accessible design elements to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

She said that her concern was nothing new, indicating that homes should already have these elements which are included in guidelines which all homes should be following.

"It is our mission to look into whatever is going on amongst the ageing population in Barbados which is growing annually. I am not naming any homes but all of the homes are not custom-built to accommodate old people", she stated.

(MB/AH)

## Stroke numbers of major concern

FIVE HUNDRED and fifty-nine Barbadians suffered strokes between 2009 and 2010.

And there were 182 heart attacks during a six-month part of this period as well.

These alarming figures were disclosed yesterday by Dr Kenneth George, Senior Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health, with responsibility for chronic non-communicable diseases.

Not only did George express grave concern about this state of affairs but pointed out that some of these people did not make it to a hospital and out of those who went there, 26 per cent succumbed to the diseases.

"The problem is certainly real," he said. "The chronic disease burden is high. Fifty were admitted to the hospital but the remainder died before they reached, so it is a significant."

George said the figures were a "good wake-up call" that persons who experienced chest pains or any other symptoms related to heart attacks should seek medical attention.

In response to these startling figures, Health Minister Donville Inniss said the ministry was moving towards producing an accredited and internationally recognised stroke unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

"We are seeking to produce a high level of care for stroke victims," he stated, pointing out that a team from Barbados would be going overseas to examine international standards to assist with the establishing of the stroke unit.