

Barbados Cuba Friendship Association
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The Secretary

Barbados Medical Council Ministry of Health and Wellness
3rd Floor Frank Walcott Building
Culloden Road, St. Michael,
BARBADOS

Dear Sir/madam

On behalf of the Barbados Cuba Friendship Association, I am writing to you to raise our association's concern at the continuing practice of discriminating against Barbadian students who have graduated from Cuban medical schools by requiring them to complete an additional 18 months of study at UWI Mona campus before they can take the CAMCE exam and seek professional registration in Barbados.

As you may be aware, this is a matter that I have personally raised with you from as long ago as 1998 when I organised the first medical scholarships in Cuba for young Barbadians as the Director for Regional and International Affairs, Clement Payne Movement. It is unacceptable that 26 years later this discriminatory practice continues. In the intervening period over 100 young Barbadians who trained as doctors in Cuba are working in various countries including the USA, UK, Mexico, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and throughout the eastern Caribbean while only about 10 are currently practising in Barbados. There appears to be no educational nor professional justification for this practice and it is time that the Medical Council in Barbados put a stop to it.

Across the region, other medical councils have adopted a supportive approach to their graduates from Cuba rather than placing unnecessary obstacles in their path to professional registration. For example, in Antigua and St Kitts, they have established structured internship programmes for their young graduates within the public health care system. These programmes enable the new graduates to familiarise themselves with local health practice while also preparing for the CAMCE. There is no reason why a similar internship programme cannot be established here in Barbados. This outdated practice of discriminating against these young graduates needs to be brought to an end.

I am willing to facilitate a sharing of experience in this regard from those countries where these structured internship programmes have been established.

I look forward to hearing from you and trust that the Medical Council in Barbados will take this opportunity to put an end to this shameful practice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denny', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Denny
President – Barbados Cuba Friendship Association