

INDEPENDENCE 41 ROUND-UP

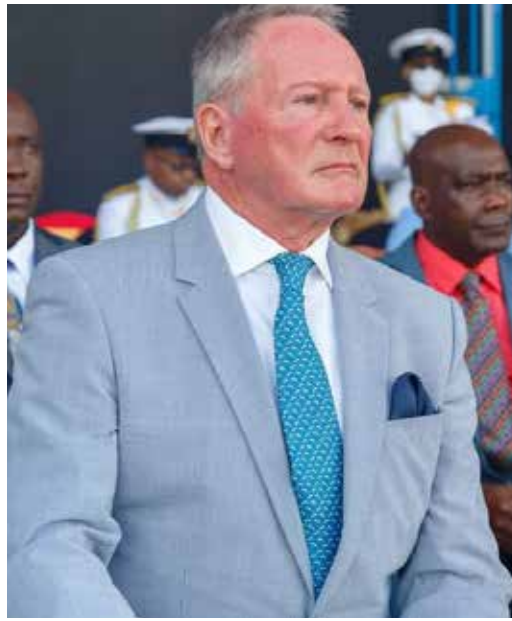
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Independence Day this year opened with the arrival of the long-awaited inaugural flight of Antigua Airways YU619 from Lagos, Nigeria into the V. C. Bird International Airport. On hand to welcome representatives of Marvelous Mike Inc, the financiers of the Antigua Barbuda-based airline, were Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene (third from right), Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez (centre right) and CEO of the Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James (far right) and CEO of the Airport Authority Euletta Francis (far left). [Photo: ABTA] [Story on page 3.](#)



Sir Ramez Hadeed



Sir David Harrison



Dame Ann Edwards

Diplomat, philanthropist and nurse head National Honours list

Sir Ramez Hadeed, UK Philanthropist David Harrison and retired nurse Ann Edwards are recipients of the country's highest honours announced during yesterday's Ceremonial Parade and National Awards Ceremony as part of the country's 41st anniversary of Independence.

They were listed among twelve Antiguans and Barbudans and one institution that were singled out for their contributions in several key areas of national development in four categories of the honours system, namely The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation, The Most Illustrious Order of Merit, The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage and The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (Institutional).

Hadeed and Harrison were conferred with the title Knight Grand Cross, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KGCN), while



Mrs. Ann Matilda Sophia Edwards was made Dame Commander, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (DCN).

Sir Ramez was recognised for his four decades of unbroken service in the Diplomatic Corps, David Harrison for distinguished and outstanding contribution to national development and Ann Edwards for distinguished and outstanding contribution in nursing and community service.

The other recipients were

honoured for their services in education, labour relations, calypso, pan, national security and community service.

They are:

Bernadette Sherman (Commander, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation); Joseph Hughes-Pinder (Commander, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation); former Labour Commissioner Dr. Austin Josiah (Commander, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation) and Wigley George, president of the Antigua

Trades and Labour Union (Commander, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation); Former Commissioner of Police Edric Potter (Commander, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation); Trevor Simon (Commander, The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation); Ogliver 'Destroyer Snr.' Joseph (Grand Cross, The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage); Patrick Gomes (Grand Cross, The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage) and Veronica Gordon (The Most Illustrious Order of Merit).

The institutional honour was awarded to the Empire Football Club (The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage-Gold).

An investiture ceremony is expected to be held sometime next year at Government House at which time medals will be distributed to the awardees.

Scores on hand to welcome Antigua Airways' Inaugural flight

A water cannon welcome and scores of people standing outside the airport perimeter fence provided a warm Antigua and Barbuda welcome for the inaugural flight of Antigua Airways from Lagos, Nigeria in Africa, to Antigua.

Senior government officials as well as officials from the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority were on hand to greet the passengers as they entered the terminal building.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, said the arrival of the flight marked the fulfillment of a promise made by his government several years ago when it gave a commitment to reach out in a positive way to establish cultural and commercial ties with the African continent, the ancestral home for approximately eighty percent of the population.

"This promise delivered today, represents an expansion and at the same time, a diversification of the Antigua and Barbuda economy.



"We are now looking at, in a real way, trade with Africa; not only in tourism but in goods and services. We are looking at reconnecting our people with the African mainland, the motherland with the diaspora here in the Caribbean," he stated.

He added that the flight now represents a real potential of further ties not just with Antigua and Barbuda but with the rest of the region.

Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez thanked the owners of the airline for staying the

course by fulfilling the goal of having Antigua and Barbuda serve as the Caribbean hub for the airline. According to the minister, several other Caribbean territories have been making overtures to the airline's owners suggesting their countries as hubs.

Fernandez noted that it was fitting that the inaugural flight should arrive on the day Antigua and Barbuda was celebrating its 41st anniversary of Independence. He said it was a fitting tribute. "The US and the UK have been our main source markets for tourism,

however, with Nigeria having a population of over two hundred million people that has the potential to one day become the number one source market for tourism," he suggested.

He called on the airline's officials to continue with the flights noting that the government would do its part to ensure the success of the venture.

Also addressing the ceremony was the airline's Chief Executive Officer, Eugenio Fernandes, who said it is their intention to continue the flights into the future, but the airline is still awaiting permission from the regulators in order to do commercial flights.

Over one hundred passengers arrived aboard the flight some of whom will stay here and return to Nigeria in six days time; while the others will take connecting flights to other Caribbean destinations.

Wed 02 Day		Wed 02 Night	
85°	☀️	78°	☁️
23%	E 11 mph	23%	ESE 7 mph
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High near 85F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy skies. Low 78F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 77%	UV Index 10 of 10	Humidity 83%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:05 am	Sunset 5:35 pm	Moonrise 1:54 pm	Moonsat 12:39 am
☾ Waxing Gibbous			

Overwhelming turnout to Independence Service in New York

The Church of the Crucifixion in Harlem erupted in joyful praise as flags were raised high by an appreciative congregation of Antiguans and Barbudans attending the Independence Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday.

Filled pews signalled the return of in-person worship as this was disallowed during the pandemic. Last year the service was attended virtually.

The City South Steel Orchestra and Antigua and Barbuda International Chorale led the congregation in the rendition of patriotic songs.

A message from Prime Minister Gaston Browne was delivered by Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson.

In his message, Prime Minister Browne reflected on the progress Antigua and Barbuda has made since acquiring political independence from Britain 41 years ago.

He addressed the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the skilful management of the economy by his government to ensure

the country survived a painful crisis.

"COVID-19 impacted our growth in 2020 since borders were closed to prevent the disease's spread. Nevertheless, the current administration has been spectacular in its many achievements," Ambassador Webson read.

Prime Minister Browne thanked Antiguans and Barbudans in the US who continue to support the overall development prospects of Antigua and Barbuda although they no longer live in the land of their birth.

In his sermon, Canon Franklin Reid, who served the Anglican communion in Antigua and Barbuda for many years, asked the nation to pray for its leaders and prevailed upon citizens the need for unity, love and mutual respect.

"Like I said before, there are people here who support the government there are people who support the opposition. I hope we all support and love Jesus and we all support and love Antigua and Barbuda," Canon Reid preached.

The service, officiated by Rev. F. Craig Henry, featured members of the



Antigua and Barbuda Offices in New York.

Marketing Officer of the Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority, Carolyn Punter, rendered a song, while lessons were read by the AOSIS Programme Administrator, Jerri-Anne Jeremy, and Adviser at the Permanent Mission, Javier Spencer.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Consular Officer, Joy Wehner.

The next major activity for the Antigua and Barbuda Mission is the Independence Gala which takes place on Saturday at Mulino's Lake Isle Country Club at 8pm.

The highlight of the evening will be a live performance by the original Burning Flames.



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Independence Day address to the Nation by Prime Minister, the Honourable Gaston Browne MP

On the occasion of the 41st Anniversary of the Independence of Antigua and Barbuda

November 1st, 2022

“Our nation has been tested, and proved strong and resilient”

Fellow Citizens and Residents of our beloved Antigua and Barbuda.

Today, we have completed 41 years of political independence and we commemorate our nation’s struggle for freedom and its advancement, under the theme: Moving forward with Unity,



Strength and Stability.

Whereas we are in an election cycle which is characterised by partisan sentiments, we must all remain

respectful of our nation’s independence by dignifying the struggles of our ancestors and giving thanks to the Most High for our 41 years of

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Independence Greetings



cont'd from pg 5

than existed in the previous three centuries.

And, have educated more Antiguan and Barbudans to secondary and University levels in four decades than in 300 years of previous generations.

These were extraordinary accomplishments, in an extraordinarily short space of time.

There is much of which, as a nation, we have cause to be proud.

The evidence of our progress is there for all to see.

- Two Modern sea ports and the most modern inter-

national airport in the Caribbean;

- Sir Lester Bird Hospital which provides the best facilities for a range of ailments that our country has ever enjoyed;

- More and better schools for all children, guaranteeing everyone the right to education and learning;

- In a country, perennially plagued by drought, over seven million gallons of potable water is being produced daily, using reversed osmosis technologies and delivered to most parts of the country in a continuing and progressive programme;

- Electricity now reaches all sections of our nation, whereas 41 years ago, electricity was a scarce commodity, street lighting was sparse and electricity in homes was a luxury for the better-off;

- More housing and more homeownership for all income groups than at any other time in our nation's history;

- Instant interconnectivity to the world via high-speed internet for information, education, learning, entertainment, and social contact;

- We enjoy one of the highest wage levels in the Caribbean;

- Our people's savings in the banks and credit unions are among the highest per capita in the Caribbean.

- Barbuda now enjoys the highest level of investment in its history, with full employment; considerably improved infrastructure in education, health and port facilities; better and more resilient housing; more reliable public utilities including, a renewable energy plant and telecommunications.

- Barbudans who were previously left behind, now enjoy the opportunity for greater empowerment.

Forty-one years of independence brought us these successes, having been left with a neglected, backwater of colonialism where inequities and inequalities prevailed.

It is the vision, the commitment, drive and leadership competence that resulted in our accomplishments and fuelled our people's burning

ambition for advancement.

And, we should all recall that, for 31 of those 41 years of improvement and progress, it was the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party that successfully managed the affairs of our nation for the benefit of all our people.

Leadership mattered over the last 41 years, as leadership matters now.

Our progress should have reached higher heights; more should have been achieved for our nation and for every person within it.

But we experienced 10 lost years; a lost decade under the former administration

I need not recall the rapid decline of our economy between 2004 and 2014.

Many of you suffered through it, particularly between 2009 and 2014, when the nation's financial affairs were mistakenly entrusted into the hands of a well known financial novice, Harold Lovell, culminating in the worst performance of any finance minister in the history of our country and possibly in the history of the world.

You will all recall the high unemployment - the large number of people who lost their homes and their cars because they could not pay their loans and mortgages.

You will all recall the stagnation of our economy, resulting in no growth and financial hardship, causing businesses to close and contracting the economy.

You will all recall the high debt that was incurred and the descent into the harsh

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conditions of an IMF programme, causing workers to be pushed into severance or early retirement.

You will recall parents having to make a choice between paying to run their cars or paying their children's school fees.

You will also remember, that even in these harsh conditions, taxes - including taxes on income, astronomical airport taxes and taxes on services - were imposed upon you, causing the depletion and exhaustion of your savings.

Those awful 10 years, between 2004 and 2014, significantly reversed the decades of growth and development achieved over the previous 23 years.

Our progress was retarded.

Our growth prospects were ruined, by the four years of economic contraction between 2009-2014.

Our people's betterment was derailed.

The inept UPP government pauperized our country and bankrupted our economy.

Had our nation not suffered those ten years of economic mismanagement, financial maladministration, and just plain incompetence, on this 41st Anniversary of our independence, our finances would have been much stronger, our economy more resilient and our social welfare system more robust.

That is why, one of our pledges at this 41st Anniversary of our National Independence is not to make that mistake again.

We paid dearly. We suffered much.

Never again should we be lured by empty and recycled promises.

Never again should we be fooled by unsupported pledges to reduce taxes, without any compensatory revenue.

Never again should we fall prey to the trap of downright lies and deceptions, of these desperados.

Never again.

My friends, it took a new direction, a new leadership and a clear vision with strong management to recover our nation from that decade of catastrophe, and to restore it to a path of economic advancement, higher employment, and social improvement.

The outstanding record of reconstructing our finances, restoring jobs and rebuilding our economy, between 2014 and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, was plain for all to see.

Our nation's economy experienced 5 years of unprecedented, high sustainable growth. Employment increased. Poverty reduced. Both foreign and local investment multiplied fuelling robust growth and development. Tourism figures reached an all-time high.

New housing schemes and schools were built and equipped. A record number of scholarships were awarded to

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Independence Greetings



cont'd from pg 7

hundreds of nationals to secure a University education.

We established the first-ever University of the West Indies Campus in our country.

We empowered more individual Antiguans and Barbudans with ownership of homes, cars, and shares in public companies than at any other comparable period in history.

Fully aware that we cannot have a sound economy with a dysfunctional financial system, in 2014 we immediately instituted measures to fix the disastrous banking crisis that was enabled by the UPP.

Had we not acted swiftly, not only would the lifesavings of thousands of persons and their families been completely lost, but the collapse of ABIB would have plunged the entire banking system into danger.

We implemented a financial rescue plan that stabilised the banking structure

and bolstered the financial system.

Solid and sound financial and economic management, combined with a deep commitment to social welfare improvement, recovered our country and rebuilt it from the ashes of destruction inflicted by the UPP.

The fact is that in 2014, this nation was on the brink of complete collapse.

Unemployment was higher than it had been since the 1940's. Productivity was at an all-time low. Unauthorised Debts incurred by the UPP were high and unpaid.

These unauthorised debts, which had no agreed credit terms, included debt for the supply of water provided by Sembcorp, which was threatening to cut-off supply to the entire country, and debt to APC for electricity.

West Indies Oil Company, which had already given notice that it would cease supply of all petroleum products to the nation as a whole, was owed 81M at the time, with a further \$8M in

cheques, that were returned unpaid for insufficient funds.

It is the UPP government that put people out of work and set a shameful record of economic and financial decline.

Had the ABLP Government not acted swiftly to remedy all this, the scale of the catastrophe and hardship that would have befallen this nation is almost unimaginable.

Everything would have ground to a devastating halt with no water, no electricity, no functioning shops, businesses, banks, schools or offices.

Our nation was within a fraction of that reality. To forget it would be folly. Remembering it would be wise and not repeating this mistake will be most wise.

Never again, should we suffer from such incompetent management of our affairs.


My friends, today, despite the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economy, and the turmoil caused by the consequences of the Russian war against Ukraine, your money in the bank is safe; businesses are no longer in deep distress; the banking system is stable; average national income has returned to a high level; and our Government has established successful mechanisms to give relief to the vulnerable.

Yes, the world economy is in a crisis of high prices and high inflation, and, undeniably, those circumstances have affected our country just as they have impacted all others.

The impact of COVID-19 has lingered globally, adversely affecting logistics and the supply chain.

This has resulted in shortages and high prices, which, as part of the global community, we import.

This situation has been worsened by the Russian war in Ukraine that created more shortages of food and ingredients for food production, as well as higher prices for oil, gas, and production of electricity and water.



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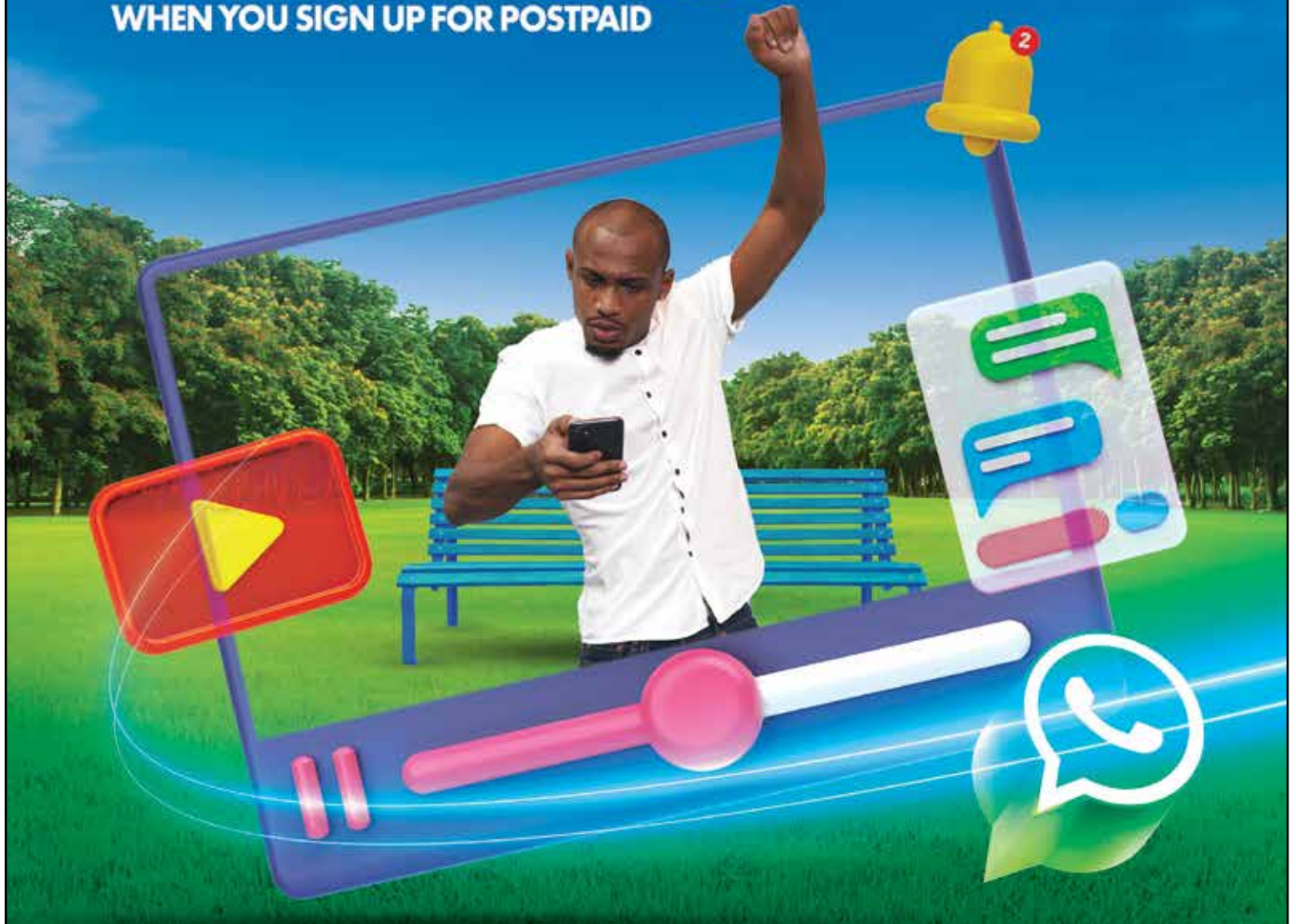


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Independence Greetings



cont'd from pg 8

These were all circumstances not created in our country. No policy or action of the Government led to these conditions. All of them were due to external factors that we could not escape or avoid.

But, your government did not wring its hands in despair, nor was it paralyzed in fear.

Instead we expanded our social safety-net programs and, continue to subsidise the cost of petroleum products, thereby keeping the rate of inflation below those of other countries including developed countries.

Although fear did grip the entire world in the face of the galloping spread of the Coronavirus which, to date, has killed almost 7 million

persons worldwide, and infected more than 630 million people; we courageously and successfully adopted and implemented a pragmatic policy of working and living with COVID.

Throughout the period of more than 2 years since March 2020 to now, we have limited the number of COVID-19 deaths in our society to 146 – that is 0.15 per cent of our population.

Very few countries in the world have matched that achievement.

Our people were kept secured; their lives were saved; and their future was assured by the competent, efficient, and caring policies that the ABLP government immediately implemented.

Even in the face of sig-

nificantly reduced revenues, resulting from the worldwide lockdown, the ABLP government invested in safeguarding the welfare of our people.

For instance, for more than a year the government instituted the Dollar Barrell Initiative to allow families to import food, clothing, toiletries and personal hygiene products for a nominal fee of \$10 per barrel in taxes.

We also stopped disconnections of electricity and water supply to aid families whose income had been adversely affected by the pandemic.

Further, we discounted 25% on domestic electricity accounts for households.

Our investment in health facilities was significant.

We expanded hospital facilities, constructing new accommodation and increasing the number of beds per patient.

We built the first infectious diseases clinic in our country to contain the disease and to save lives.

And, we invested heavily in life saving equipment, such as ventilators, and in drugs, medical personnel and specialized treatment, including stem cells therapy.

We scoured the World for vaccines to inoculate our people against the virus and to save their lives.

No effort was spared, and not a cent was withheld in our drive to protect our people from the reaping scythe of the deadly pandemic.

Our nation emerged stronger, and better able to open up our economy before

any other Caribbean country.

We led the way in the reopening of Caribbean economies. We were able to revive tourism and tourism facilities, returning people to work, facilitating their earnings, thereby promoting economic growth.

None of this happened by accident. It required planning, foresight, strategic allocation of scarce resources and careful oversight in implementation.

Safeguarding our peoples' lives from the most frightening disease the modern world has confronted, together with managing economic survival and growth, are the most awesome combination of tests any Government has ever faced.

The proof of the ABLP government's successful stewardship, in the interest of every person and the entire nation, has been lived by all in our country.

It was not a task for the incompetent, the incapable or the inadequate.

Similarly, neither is the task of navigating our ship of state through the current turbulent global economic sea.

The prevailing global challenges demand competent, strong and stable leadership to ensure the continued advancement of our country and its transformation into an economic powerhouse.

It is evident, that on this the 41st Anniversary of our nation's independence, the UPP has no plan to safeguard and strengthen our growth and development.

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What they offer is a tissue of promises without the means to fulfil them; pledges for big spending without showing how the money is to be earned and character assassination of their political opponents.

Their threats to privatise, to their cronies, the peoples' assets in productive enterprises such as WIOC, APUA, State Insurance, Caribbean Union Bank and other state owned entities by collapsing the National Assets Management Company which holds the shares in these entities, should be of serious concern to the workers of these entities.

And what they do not say is, just as they did during their disastrous period in government, they will increase taxes, impose income taxes, and hustle to the IMF to again indebt the country and tie it to commitments to dismiss civil servants, reduce wages and salaries and cut social welfare services.

After engaging previously in a failed IMF program, they are now champions of a new IMF program; we therefore do not have to speculate on the focus of their development plan.

We know it from experience.

Prior to 2004, they swore not to introduce any taxes.

Yet they reintroduced income tax that the ABLP had abolished; they imposed ABST on services, even though they pledged not to do so; they raised property taxes; they raised airport taxes to astronomical levels, they dismissed public servants by forcing them into severance.

Who can trust such charlatans?

Today, their declared policies threaten the ultimate disaster – a catastrophic economic hurricane that would ruin the livelihood of thousands of families.

Our forefathers, and we of this generation, did not work so hard to maintain our nation's independence to see it mortgaged and destroyed by the UPP yet again.

What our country requires now is sound financial knowledge, successful management experience, and the capacity to achieve increased income and economic growth with more investment in education, health, and social welfare services.

That is how we will maintain and

strengthen our independence. It is how we will command a place of respect and regard in the global community.

And that is what this ABLP government has delivered and will elevate to the next higher level of accomplishment.

We shall do it by ensuring that men and women who invest their savings in their own business, or in a public company, can earn a reasonable return, such as they do now with WIOC, and with their own enterprises.

We shall encourage the production of wealth by spreading a share in its growth among those who have helped to create it.

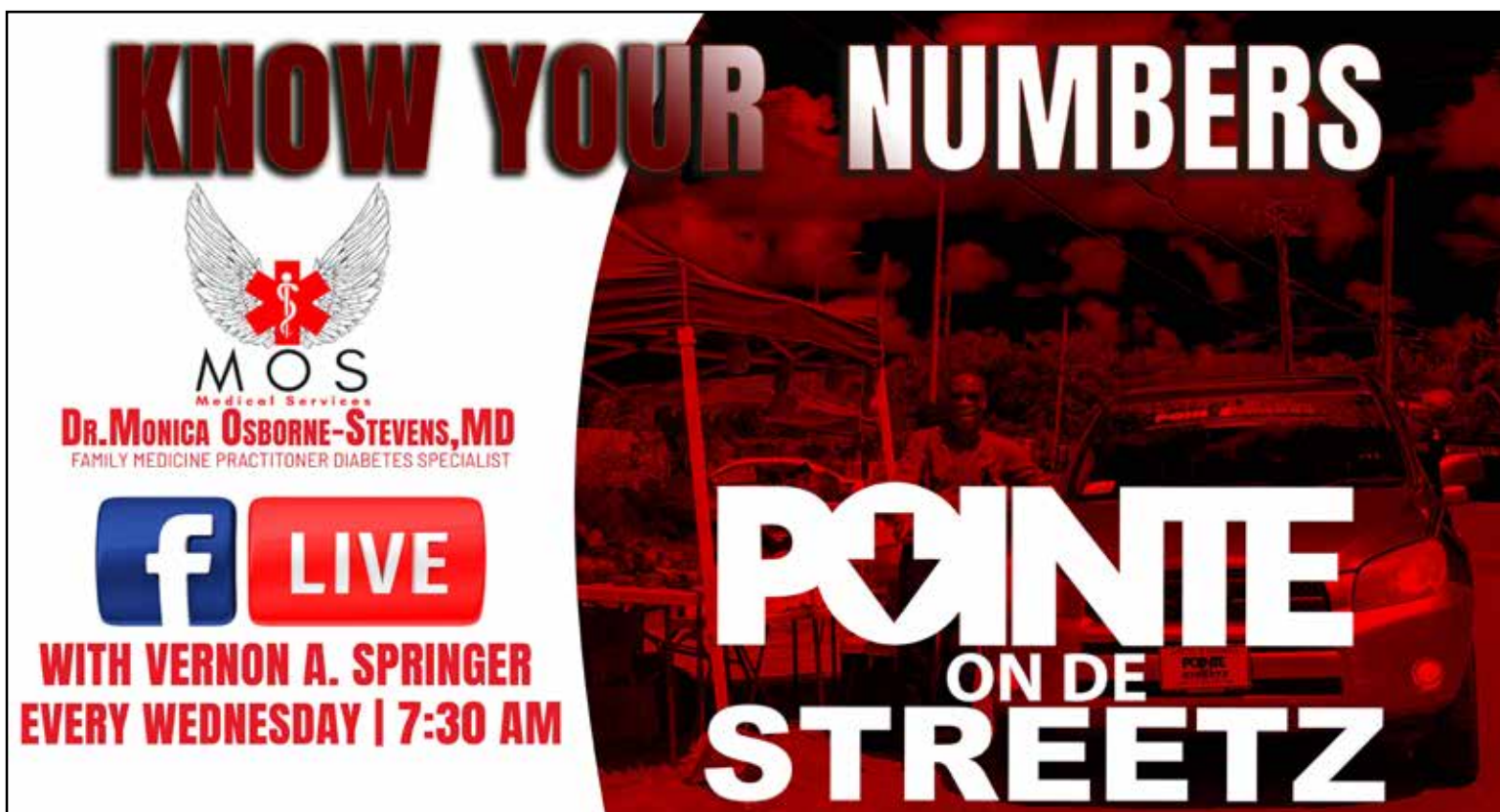
My fellow citizens,

I lay out now some of the further means that the ABLP Government has already started to alleviate the cost of living and to further empower our people.


By the end of this year, we will increase the salaries and wages of public servants, pending the results of the current negotiations .


This undertaking reflects the seriousness and commitment of the ABLP

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government to alleviate the present impact of global circumstances on the well-being of our people.

Effective from November 2nd, we will waive payments on electricity and water bills that were due up to December 31st, 2021, provided that bills for 2022 are paid-up.

We will also reduce internet costs for less fortunate students. The Dollar Barrell Program will resume on Nov 2, 2022.

Understanding that our migrant community, especially from our sister Caribbean countries, who are working and contributing to our nation's development, are also facing hardship from the impact of global conditions, we will reduce all immigration extension fees to \$150, effective November 1st, 2022.

We will waive all outstanding property taxes on residential properties, due and payable up to Dec 31, 2021. Additionally, we will grant a 10 per cent discount to all those who pay their property taxes for 2023 early.

And to continue the empowerment of our people, especially our young people who want to start-up businesses of various kinds, we are adding a Venture Capital Component to our existing Entrepreneurial Development Program (EDP).

The sum of \$1 million has been placed in this new mechanism.

Its purpose is to provide capital, as a Government stake in viable business projects submitted by individuals.

The injection of this capital will give the business the chance to start-up, expand and take off successfully.

If it turns out to be profitable, the individuals can buy-back the government's stake.

We are launching this new initiative because we recognise that traditional lenders and investors are risk-averse, hence potentially profitable, new enterprises may go underfunded.

We want to give our people, partic-

ularly our young people, the chance to prove their entrepreneurship and gain the success they want.

In other words, my friends, on this 41st Anniversary of our independence, the ABLP Government is implementing additional measures to safeguard and advance the interests of people, in the firm belief that, together, we can meet any crisis, and prevail.

This is the resilience of the Antiguan & Barbudan people which is second to none.

The compact that we, as a governing party made with the people of our one nation, is that we will honour and respect the confidence that you placed in us to manage your affairs successfully.

We are doing so, as the evidence shows. More remains to be done.

Water supply has come a long way and full satisfaction is within sight. The last Reverse Osmosis Plant whose components have begun to arrive will be installed in the first quarter of 2023, and will provide a further 3M gallons of water daily. The piping, re-piping and water conservation program will also be done con-currently, thereby ensuring water sustainability.

Electricity delivery has also significantly improved, and we know that there is still more to be accomplished. To this end, a 40 megawatts LNG electricity plant is being installed at Crabbs and will be operational by their quarter 2023.

We are fixing our country's problems steadily and progressively.

And, we are doing so, despite all the odds of high costs, reduced revenues and increased expenditure on housing, education, health, roads and social empowerment and improvement.

All that we ask, as part of that bargain, is that each of you join hands with us in the task of keeping our country as a paradise in which all are entitled to grow and to live in the pursuit of happiness.

We are now an inflection point, a turning point in our history.

There are two paths to choose.

One is a path I've warned about today, the path that would serve only narrow interests and ambitions, ending in social chaos and economic hardships, as it did the last time, except now, it will be catastrophic.

It is a path that leads to incompetence, corruption, decline and disaster.

It is a certain route to failure.

My fellow citizens and residents,

Everyone's experience, particularly in the travails of the last 2 years, shows how we can survive the greatest threats, with tried and tested hands.

That is the path to security, progress and prosperity.

Further, the lessons of our heritage - the path of common purpose, of shared aspirations, of joint achievement - summon us to good sense and informed judgment.

We all know the strength of our people, their resilience and inexhaustible capacity to thrive. That has been the lesson and experience of our history.

It is what empowered previous generations to overcome exploitation and to claim independence.

It was what inspired the present generation to build on that inheritance and to reach with pride and with dignity, this 41st Anniversary of Independence.

In the days to come, let us renew the strength of our joint effort to maintain the freedom of our nation.

Let us advance the progress of all in our country to the next higher level of development on whose ladder our feet are firmly set.

Let us commit ourselves together to a rebirth of the spirit of unity of our one nation, recalling with determination that when each endeavour with supporting works, all can achieve.

With our common faith we cannot - and will not - fail.

Happy Independence anniversary.

May God continue to bless you, and to bless our beloved Antigua and Barbuda.

Independence Message from Senator Gail Christian

Family, friends, Constituents of Rural West, this moment finds us all in a most patriotic mood.

Draped in the colours of our flag, and the national fabric; listening to the season’s favourite and timeless songs and eating things local as we mark our 41st anniversary of Independence.

The introspection, the joy and the celebrations are rooted in history. From bondage to liberty, statehood to independence and from independence to defining ourselves, for ourselves.

Independence is each of us playing our role and honouring commitments to self, family, community and country.

As we celebrate, let’s reflect on the hard work, courage and dedication that has brought us to this point.

May we be reminded too, that whatever we need to move us forward is within us, and that working in unity, irrespective of country of origin, gender and the boxes that divide us, is what will take us further.

Enjoy the festivities safely and then let’s get back to the business of sending me as your first female representative to parliament and fulfilling the manifesto we created together.

Happy and blessed Independence!



Senator Gail Christian

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CARICOM extends 41st Independence greetings to Antigua and Barbuda

Honourable Prime Minister,

On the occasion of your country's Forty-First Anniversary of Independence, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to you and the People of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as you celebrate another milestone.

Antigua and Barbuda has made remarkable progress in these 41 years of independence, making this year's theme: "Moving Forward With Unity Strength And Stability" a fitting representation of a people

resolute in their pursuit of prosperity, sustainable development, and the wellbeing of their country.

Honourable Prime Minister, CARICOM has benefitted from the efforts of the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda in promoting regional integration.

Your leadership and advocacy as Lead Head of Government for the Services Sector has ensured that the Community's interests in a critical area of economic growth remain at the forefront of the regional and international agenda.

The Community looks forward to the continued active participation of Antigua and Barbuda in the work of its Organs and Institutions.

Excellency, as the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda celebrate this Independence Day, I join with the CARICOM family in extending best wishes for the continued advancement of Antigua and Barbuda and the wellbeing of its People."

*CARICOM Secretary-General,
Dr. Carla Barnett*

US Secretary of State extends Independence Day greetings

I would like to extend my congratulations to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on their 41st year of independence.

We thank Antigua and Barbuda for its close cooperation with the United States on regional security issues, to include countering narco-trafficking and reducing the flow of illicit arms. Our mutual legal assistance treaty has benefitted both of our countries, and we hope to continue working together to prevent crime before it happens, by increasing educational, economic and social opportunities for at-risk

youth.

Antigua and Barbuda is on the front line of the climate crisis, and the United States is committed to elevating our cooperation to support climate adaptation and resilience and strengthen energy security with the urgency these challenges demand, through the U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030 (PACC 2030).

I wish the people of Antigua and Barbuda a happy Independence Day and a prosperous year ahead.

*Antony J. Blinken,
Secretary of State*



Antony J. Blinken

Independence Greetings



Happy 41st Independence Anniversary to Antigua and Barbuda!

The OECS Commission has extended warmest congratulations to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda, on the occasion of the nation's 41st Anniversary on Tuesday 1st November 2022, being celebrated under the theme "Moving forward with Unity, Strength and Stability".

A virtual flag-raising ceremony was held by the

Commission to commemorate the Anniversary. The ceremony featured a recorded message from the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Gaston Browne; and an address by the Director General of the OECS, Dr. Didacus Jules.

In his address, Prime Minister Browne spoke to the importance of the OECS integration movement to the

progress of Antigua and Barbuda, and the importance of solidarity within the OECS space. According to him,

"We are bound by challenges and threats from all sides, and only our solidarity as OECS member states will see us through this difficult period. New threats call for new strategies."

He further highlighted, "It now becomes more nec-

essary and urgent than ever to build out our OECS single space and to put in place the building blocks of our Economic Union as a means of consolidating our gains and confronting the World's challenges together."

In his remarks, OECS Director General Dr. Didacus Jules congratulated Antigua and Barbuda on the strides made since Independence, and looked forward with optimism on the role that the country will continue to play globally. According to Dr. Jules,

"The Anniversary of Independence of Antigua and Barbuda is worthy of great celebration, as you reflect on the significant progress made, but it is also an opportunity to cogitate on immediate issues and to look beyond to the long-term with sights set on the next frontier, in the quest for better solutions and fresh possibilities."

Happy Antigua and Barbuda National Day

Shared by Ambassador Ronald Sanders with *Pointe Xpress*

Dear Ambassador Sanders,

On behalf of your friends at the Pentagon, we wish you and the people of Antigua and Barbuda a very happy and joyous National Day.

With warm regards, Dan Erikson

Daniel P. Erikson

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (WHA)



Daniel P. Erikson

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Elon Musk dissolves Twitter's board of directors

BBC - Elon Musk has dissolved Twitter's board of directors - cementing his control over the social media platform.

The multi-billionaire will be its chief executive after buying the company last week, ending months of back and forth over the \$44bn (£38.3bn) deal.

He has moved quickly to put his mark on the firm, which is used by politicians and journalists around the world.

The reforms he is contemplating include changes for how Twitter verifies accounts, as well as job cuts.

The Washington Post has reported that a first round of cuts is under discussion that could affect 25% of the company's staff.

Twitter did not respond to a request for comment from the BBC on the report.

Top executives have already been removed, as Mr Musk brings in high profile allies to the company.

The latest move will mean that he is now chief executive of three companies. Along with taking the top role at Twitter, Mr Musk is chief executive of electric car maker Tesla and rocket company SpaceX.

However, he has indicated that his position at the social media company may be temporary.

'Singular solution'

Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey has rolled his entire stake of 18m shares, worth almost \$978m at the buyout price of \$54.20, into the new private company, according to a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday.

Mr Dorsey, who left Twitter's board in May, supported Mr Musk's purchase of the firm.



Elon Musk

"Elon is the singular solution I trust. I trust his mission to extend the light of consciousness," he said in a tweet after the takeover was approved by the company's former management team.

Meanwhile, technology investor Jason Calacanis who changed his Twitter bio to "chief meme officer", said he was "hanging out at Twitter a bit ... during the transition".

He took to the social media site to solicit opinions on a range of topics from advertising to video.

Mr Calacanis also asked how much people would pay to be verified, amid reports that Twitter could charge people \$20 per month to keep the blue ticks that indicate verified accounts.

Later on Tuesday, responding to a Twitter user calling for the platform to purge accounts that had been inactive for more than a year, Mr Musk said "definitely".

Mr Musk, who also leads electric car maker Tesla, changed his pro-

file details on the social media site to "Chief Twit" after the takeover. It has since been updated to "Twitter Complaint Hotline Operator".

He is now the sole director of Twitter, another filing on Monday showed.

The nine ousted directors include former chairman of the board Bret Taylor and former chief executive Parag Agrawal.

Baroness Martha Lane Fox, currently president of the British Chambers of Commerce, who is among the board members to be removed under the merger agreement, declined to comment when approached by the BBC.

'National-security issue'

Mr Musk's takeover has drawn widespread scrutiny, as he signals plans to overhaul how Twitter has moderated the spread of information on its platform, including from sources such as state media, politicians and celebrities.

Mr Musk said the company would

cont'd on pg 18

Rapper Takeoff killed in Houston shooting, media reports

By Rich Mckay

Takeoff, a member of the rap group Migos, was fatally shot at a party held at a Houston bowling alley early on Tuesday, according to media reports that cited a representative of the artist and law enforcement sources.

Two other people were wounded, but Houston police were holding back the names of the victims until the next of kin are notified and verified by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, according to a tweet by the department.

But a representative of the rapper told the Associated Press that Takeoff, 28, whose real name is Kirshnik Khari Ball, was killed. TMZ cited law enforcement sources and multiple witnesses in reporting Takeoff's death.

A second member of Migos - Quavo, 31, whose real name is Quavious Keyate Marshall - was at the party but not hurt, Rolling Stone reported.

A third member, Takeoff's cousin Offset, whose real name is Kiari Kendrell Cephus, was not there.

The influential hip hop trio from the Atlanta area is known for its singles "Bad and Boujee" featuring Lil Uzi Vert, "MotorSport" and "Walk It Talk It."



From left: Offset, Quavo and Takeoff of Migos arrive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala (Met Gala) to celebrate the opening of "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination" in the Manhattan borough of New York, U.S., May 7, 2018. REUTERS/Carlo Allegri

Takeoff's booking agency, Jay Siegan Presents of San Francisco, was not immediately available for comment.

Police have not offered a motive for the shooting, but various media reports said the gunplay had been spurred by a dispute over a game of dice.

Officers responded to a call at the bowling alley at 2:30 a.m. and found one man dead when they arrived, the

department said, describing him only as a Black man in his 20s. No arrests have been reported.

Grief over the death of Takeoff, an Atlanta native, flooded the internet in the hours after the first reports emerged.

"Dead over dice. We are better than this. Black men deserve to grow old," Mayor Khalid Kamau of South Fulton, an Atlanta suburb, wrote on Twitter.

cont'd from pg 17

create a new council to govern those decisions and that no changes would occur yet.

On Monday, Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat, said that he had asked the government to review the national security implications of the deal, given the large stake in the company held by firms tied to Saudi Arabia, which has an increasingly tense relationship

with the US.

"We should be concerned that the Saudis, who have a clear interest in repressing political speech and impacting US politics, are now the second-largest owner of a major social media platform," Mr Murphy wrote on Twitter.

"There is a clear national-security issue at stake and CFIUS [the Committee on Foreign Investment in the

United States] should do a review."

Mr Musk financed his takeover with his own money, a group of other investors and roughly \$13bn in debt financing.

Analysts say that the increase in debt is likely to constrain the firm, which has struggled to expand its user base and not turned a profit in years.

Together, Prince Al-

waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Kingdom Holding Company are the second largest investor in the newly private company, according to a filing with the US government.

Prince Alwaleed, who was a major Twitter investor prior to the Musk deal, has tweeted the stake aligns with Kingdom Holding Company's "long-term investment strategy".

Trinidad Government receives US\$5.85 million for October flood damage

CMC - The Trinidad and Tobago government has received US\$5.84 million from the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) following the heavy rainfall and flooding that occurred earlier this month

Between October 5 and 8, 2022, rainfall caused widespread damage to properties in eastern Trinidad affecting areas including Arouca, Arima, Tunapuna, Sangre Grande, Piarco, and St Helena.

The heavy rains led to the death of Theresa Lynch,



41, a farmer who lost her life when she was swept away by floodwaters in her village of

La Pastora. The Ministry of Rural Development and Local

Government reported a total of 75 incidents of flooding.

The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) reported that the heavy rainfall impacted operations at 25 surface water treatment facilities in Trinidad's northern region and four in Tobago.

In a report on the weekend, the CCRIF said of the US\$5.84 million the Government received from the facility, US\$5.1 million was made on the country's excess rainfall policy for Trinidad and US\$726,932 on the excess rainfall policy for Tobago.

In a September 3, 2021, news release on its website, CCRIF said since Trinidad and Tobago purchased coverage for excess rainfall in 2017, the country had received payouts under its excess rainfall policy each year – five payouts totaling US\$12.5 million.

The payout earlier this month makes it six payouts in six years for a total of US\$18.34 million.

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DATE	SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM • TV	TIME (AST)
SAT, 29 OCT	LEEWARD ISLANDS HURRICANES @ WEST INDIES ACADEMY	1PM
TUE, 01 NOV	LEEWARD ISLANDS HURRICANES @ JAMAICA SCORPIONS	1PM
THUR, 03 NOV	BARBADOS PRIDE @ JAMAICA SCORPIONS	2PM
SAT, 05 NOV	JAMAICA SCORPIONS @ WEST INDIES ACADEMY	9AM
SUN, 06 NOV	LEEWARD ISLANDS HURRICANES @ BARBADOS PRIDE	2PM
TUES, 08 NOV	BARBADOS PRIDE @ JAMAICA SCORPIONS	2PM
WED, 09 NOV	LEEWARD ISLANDS HURRICANES @ WEST INDIES ACADEMY	2PM
FRI, 11 NOV	WEST INDIES ACADEMY @ BARBADOS PRIDE	2PM
SUN, 13 NOV	LEEWARD ISLANDS HURRICANES @ BARBADOS PRIDE	2PM
MON, 14 NOV	JAMAICA SCORPIONS @ WEST INDIES ACADEMY	2PM
WED, 16 NOV	SEMI FINAL 1: WINNER ZONE A @ RUNNER UP ZONE B	2PM
THUR, 17 NOV	SEMI FINAL 2: WINNER ZONE B @ RUNNER UP ZONE A	2PM
SAT, 19 NOV	FINAL: WINNER SF1 @ WINNER SF 2	2PM

COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUNDS • STREAMING

TUE, 01 NOV	WEST INDIES ACADEMY @ BARBADOS PRIDE	9AM
FRI, 11 NOV	LEEWARD ISLANDS HURRICANES @ JAMAICA SCORPIONS	9AM

ANTIGUA

OFFICIAL BROADCASTERS

Jamaica's Education Minister encourages parents to send Oberlin students back to school

CMC - Jamaica's Minister of Education and Youth Fayval Williams is encouraging parents to send their children to classes at Oberlin High School after several opted not to go following last week's incident.

In a statement on Sunday, Williams said: "Nor-

mality has returned to the school and last Friday, there was an atmosphere of calm and all categories of staff were present."

However, she noted that fewer than 100 students of the approximately 1500 student body turned up for classes on Thursday and Friday.



Jamaica's Minister of Education, Fayval Williams

Top US energy official back to Puerto Rico amid power woes

AP - The U.S. secretary of energy was scheduled to visit Puerto Rico Tuesday for the second time in less than two weeks as the island struggles with a crumbling power grid and constant power outages worsened by recent hurricanes.

During her last visit, Secretary Jennifer Granholm warned of numerous "critical failures" and the federal government pledged to help speed up reconstruction of the U.S. territory's power grid, which was devastated by 2017's Hurricane Maria.

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency has set aside nearly \$10 billion to rebuild the grid, but only \$183 million in projects have been approved.

Reconstruction of the grid had just started when Hurricane Fiona, a Catego-



Workers at Las Palmas Cafe work with the power of an electricity generator during an island-wide blackout, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Carlos Giusti, File)

ry 1 storm swiped Puerto Rico's southwest corner in September, causing an islandwide blackout.

"Fiona also underscored that five years after Maria, almost none of the federal money allocated for permanent work on the electrical grid has actually been spent," said Tom Sanzillo, director of financial anal-

ysis at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis in Ohio.

He noted that citizens, communities and businesses have invested in solar power on their own, with more than 43,000 rooftop solar systems installed since Maria, representing at least 10 times the amount of FEMA funds spent on the grid.

Granholm is expected to meet behind closed doors with stakeholders and government groups to find solutions. Some Puerto Ricans have demanded the ouster of Luma, a private company that took over the island's transmission and distribution of power last year.

On Tuesday, Sunrun — the largest rooftop solar installer in the U.S. — announced a deal with Puerto Rico's Electric Power Company to launch the island's first "virtual" power plant to help reduce power bills and offer a backup energy source.

Chris Rauscher, Sunrun's senior director of policy, said in a phone interview Monday that some 7,000 homes with solar batteries would supply additional energy to the power grid,

cont'd on pg 21

Bolsonaro breaks silence, says will follow Brazil's constitution

AlJazeera – Jair Bolsonaro has said he will respect Brazil's constitution after his election defeat to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, breaking nearly two days of public silence that fuelled concerns the far-right leader was planning to reject the results.

In a brief statement to reporters at the presidential palace in Brasilia on Tuesday afternoon, Bolsonaro did not reference his loss in Sunday's run-off or concede defeat to Lula, but he thanked his supporters for their backing.

"I have always been labelled undemocratic, and unlike my accusers, I have always respected the framework of the Constitution," he said. "As President of the Republic and as a citizen, I will continue to respect all the commandments of our Constitution."

Taking the podium after Bolsonaro's address, his chief of staff, Ciro Nogueira, said the president had "authorised" a transition process to Lula's government.



Supporters of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro protest his reelection loss on the side of the highway leading to Sao Paulo-Guarulhos International Airport, in Guarulhos, Brazil, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

Bolsonaro was narrowly defeated on Sunday, garnering 49.1 percent of the vote to Lula's 50.9 percent and becoming the first sitting president to lose a re-election bid in Brazil.

For months, he had falsely claimed the country's electronic voting system was vulnerable to

fraud – an allegation rejected by judicial experts, but which raised fears the former army captain could be preparing to contest the outcome.

Many of Bolsonaro's key political allies had already publicly acknowledged Lula's victory, putting pressure on him to do

the same.

Some, including Nogueira, have begun to establish contact with the Lula camp to discuss a transition while others, including the speaker of the lower house of the National Congress, had publicly said the Bolsonaro government should respect the election result.

Lula had criticised Bolsonaro for not immediately conceding defeat or calling him after the election results were announced on Sunday evening. "Any place else in the world, the defeated president would have called me to recognise his defeat," he said in his victory speech in Sao Paulo.

cont'd from pg 20

effectively creating a plant. Each home would be capable of providing enough energy for its own needs as well as those of up to three other households, he said.

"People here in Puerto Rico are sick and tired of the power they're getting from the utility grid and how unreliable it is," he said.

The amount and details of the contract

have not yet been made public because it is awaiting regulatory approval from Puerto Rico's Energy Bureau and a federal control board that oversees the island's finances.

Power plants on the island use fossil fuel to generate 97% of its electricity. The government has pledged to obtain 40% of its power from renewable resources by 2025 and 60% by 2040.

Israeli election: Exit polls point to Netanyahu win

AP – Exit polls in Israel indicated Tuesday that former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies may have won enough seats to return to power in a nationalist religious government after 3 1/2 years of political gridlock.

The polls are preliminary, however, and final results could change as votes are tallied. Israeli media reported that a small Arab nationalist party was approaching the electoral threshold, which would give it four seats and erase Netanyahu's narrow projected margin.

It was the fifth election in less than four years in Israel, and all of them turned largely on Netanyahu's fitness to govern. Polls by three major Israeli TV stations indicated that Netanyahu and his allies would capture the 61-seat majority in parliament required to form a new government.

"It's a good start, that's all I can say right now," Netanyahu said after the exit polls came out.

The polls also showed far-right lawmaker Itamar Ben Gvir's Religious Zionism as the third-largest party. Ben-Gvir is a disciple of a racist rabbi who was assassinated in the 1990s and has promised a hard line against the Palestinians.

Ben-Gvir is expected



Ultra-Orthodox Jews watch their Rabbi Israel Hager votes during Israel elections in Bnei Brak, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022. Israel is holding its fifth election in less than four years. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

to seek a Cabinet position as head of the ministry that oversees police. Just last month he brandished a handgun in a tense Palestinian neighborhood of Jerusalem and called on the police to shoot Palestinian stone-throwers. He has also called for deportation of Arab lawmakers.

Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption, would be able to battle the charges as prime minister, improving his chances of avoiding conviction or jail time. His opponents view him as a grave threat to Israel's democratic institutions and the rule of law.

"While the exit polls may indicate a trend, it is important to note that there have been discrepancies between these surveys and the actual results in past rounds of elections," said Yohanan

Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, an independent think tank.

But if the results hold true, the next government "is poised to propose a series of reforms that would seek to politicize the judiciary and weaken the checks and balances that exist between the branches of government and serve as fundamental components of Israeli democracy," he added.

Two hours before the polls closed, election officials said turnout stood at 66.3%, over five points higher than the same hour in the 2021 election and the highest at that point since 1999, when the main issue was the flagging peace process with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu's main rival is the man who helped oust him last year, the centrist caretaker Prime Minister

Yair Lapid, who has warned against the nationalist religious alliance that would emerge should Netanyahu return to power.

"Vote for the state of Israel, and for the future of our children," Lapid said after casting his ballot in his upscale Tel Aviv neighborhood.

After he cast his vote in the West Bank settlement where he lives, Ben-Gvir promised that a vote for his party would bring about a "fully right-wing government" with Netanyahu as prime minister.

Ben-Gvir, who has been convicted of incitement for his anti-Arab rhetoric had seen his clout rise in the polls ahead of the vote and has demanded a key portfolio should Netanyahu be tapped to form a government.

Celebrations erupted at his party's headquarters in Jerusalem late Tuesday, with supporters cheering and dancing with Israeli flags and party flags. Bezalel Smotrich, head of the Religious Zionism party that includes Ben-Gvir's faction, hailed the projected results as "historic."

With former allies and proteges refusing to sit under him while he is on trial, Netanyahu has been unable to form a viable majority

cont'd on pg 23

Russia seeks drone attack probe, guarantees to resume grain deal

AlJazeera – Russia's President Vladimir Putin has told his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Moscow would consider resuming a deal allowing grain exports from Ukrainian seaports but only after securing "real guarantees" from Kyiv.

The phone call between the two leaders on Tuesday came following Russia's suspension of its participation in the deal due to what it said was a drone attack on Moscow's fleet in Crimea that it blamed on Ukraine.

Kyiv has not claimed responsibility and has denied using the safe shipping corridor for military purposes.

Putin told Erdogan that Russia sought "real guarantees from Kyiv about the strict observance of the Istanbul agreement, in particular about not using the humanitarian corridor for military purposes", according to a statement from the Kremlin.

The grain export deal between Russia and Ukraine was brokered by Turkey and the United Na-



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meet on the sidelines of the 6th summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA), in Astana, Kazakhstan, October 13, 2022 [File: Vyacheslav Prokofyev /Pool /Sputnik via Reuters]

tions in July to ease a world food crisis caused in part by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, a major grain producer, and an earlier blockade of its ports. It is due to expire on November 19.

The Kremlin said a resumption might be considered only after the completion of an investigation of the alleged drone attacks on the Crimean naval port of Sevastopol.

Russia wants "a detailed investigation into the circumstances of this incident,

and also after receipt of real guarantees from Kyiv of strict observance of the Istanbul agreements, in particular on the non-use of the humanitarian corridor for military purposes".

"Only after that will it be possible to consider the question of resuming work" within the deal, the Kremlin statement said, referring to both the investigation and guarantees it is seeking.

It also said Putin had reminded Erdogan of "the failure to fulfil the second part

of the package agreements – to unblock the export of Russian agricultural products and fertilisers to world markets".

While these goods are not subject to the Western sanctions imposed in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russian producers have lost access to the Baltic Sea ports that they had used for exports, and to a pipeline carrying ammonia to the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Pivdennyi, known as Yuzhny in Russian.

cont'd from pg 22

government in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament.

Netanyahu's opponents, an ideologically diverse constellation of parties, are equally hamstrung in cobbling together the 61 seats needed to rule.

That impasse has mired Israel in an unprecedented political crisis that has eroded Israelis' faith in their democracy, its institutions and their po-

litical leaders.

Buoyed by his followers' almost cult-like adoration, Netanyahu, 73, has rejected calls to step down by his opponents, who say someone on trial for fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes cannot govern.

Netanyahu denies wrongdoing, but embarrassing details from his ongoing trial repeatedly make front-page news.

In Israel's fragmented politics, no single party has ever won a parliamentary majority, and coalition-building is necessary to govern. Netanyahu's most likely path to the premiership requires an alliance with extreme nationalists and religious ultra-Orthodox parties.

Some of those parties have promised to enact reforms that could make Netanyahu's legal woes disappear.

North Korea threatens to use nuke over S. Korea-US drills

AP – North Korea issued a veiled threat Tuesday to use nuclear weapons to get the U.S. and South Korea to “pay the most horrible price in history,” an escalation of its fiery rhetoric targeting the ongoing large-scale military drills between its rivals.

Animosities on the Korean Peninsula have been running high in recent months, with North Korea testing a string of nuclear-capable missiles and adopting a law authorizing the preemptive use of its nuclear weapons in a broad range of situations. Some experts still doubt North Korea could use nuclear weapons first in the face of more superior U.S. and South Korean forces.

North Korea has argued its recent weapons tests were meant to issue a warning to Washington and Seoul over their series of joint military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal, including this week’s exercises involving about 240 warplanes.

Pak Jong Chon, a secretary of the ruling Workers’ Party who is considered a close confidant of leader Kim Jong Un, called the so-called “Vigilant Storm” air force drills “aggressive and provocative.”

Pak also accused the Pentagon of formulating a North Korean regime col-



A North Korean flag flutters in the wind near the border villages of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea on Oct. 4, 2022. South Korea says Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, North Korea has fired a ballistic missile toward its eastern waters. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon, File)

lapse as a major policy objective in an apparent reference to the Pentagon’s recently released National Defense Strategy report. The report stated any nuclear attack by North Korea against the United States or its allies and partners “will result in the end of that regime.”

He slammed South Korean military leaders over what he called “rubbish” comments that threatened to destroy North Korea if it uses nuclear weapons. South Korea’s military has warned North Korea that using its nuclear weapons would put it on a “path of self-destruction.”

“If the U.S. and South Korea attempt to use armed

forces against (North Korea) without any fear, the special means of the (North’s) armed forces will carry out their strategic mission without delay,” Pak said, in an apparent reference to his country’s nuclear weapons.

“The U.S. and South Korea will have to face a terrible case and pay the most horrible price in history,” he said.

U.S. and South Korean officials have steadfastly said their drills are defensive in nature and that they have no intentions of attacking North Korea.

Pak’s statement is the North’s second warning to the United States and South Korea this week. On Monday, the North’s Foreign

Ministry warned of “more powerful follow-up measures” in response to its rivals’ air force drills.

South Korean officials have said North Korea could up the ante in coming weeks by detonating its first nuclear test device since September 2017, which could possibly take the country a step closer to its goals of building a full-fledged nuclear arsenal capable of threatening regional U.S. allies and the American mainland.

Some experts say North Korea would eventually want to use its expanded nuclear arsenal as a leverage in future negotiations with the United States to win sanctions relief and other concessions.

Nash out as Nets coach after poor start, more controversy

AP – Steve Nash is out as Brooklyn Nets coach after a disappointing start and more controversy surrounding Kyrie Irving.

The Nets announced Tuesday that they had parted ways with the Hall of Fame point guard, a day after they beat Indiana to improve to 2-5.

Nash made it to this season after Kevin Durant said he wanted him out this summer, but not much longer. The Nets have been another mess, with bad play on the court and bad headlines off it.

The biggest — again — was created by Irving, who posted a link to an antisemitic work on his Twitter page last week, drawing criticism from Nets owner Joe Tsai.

“Since becoming head coach, Steve was faced with a number of unprecedented challenges, and we are sincerely grateful for his leadership, patience and humility throughout his tenure,” general manager Sean Marks said in a statement.

“Personally, this was an immensely difficult decision; however, after much deliberation and evaluation of how the season has begun, we agreed that a change is necessary at this time.”

The Nets may move quickly to replace Nash. A person with knowledge of the matter said the Nets were in discussions with



Brooklyn Nets head coach Steve Nash argues a call during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022, in Milwaukee. (AP Photo/Morry Gash)

suspended Boston coach Ime Udoka — a former Brooklyn assistant who is not with the Celtics this season because he was found to have violated team rules by having a relationship with a female staffer within the organization.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because those talks were not revealed publicly.

Nash led the Nets to a 92-62 record and the playoffs in both full seasons, his first as an NBA coach. But they lost Irving and James Harden to injuries during their second-round loss to Milwaukee in 2021, then were a first-round flop last season after trading Harden during the middle of the season.

Much of the Nets’ problems during the latter season were caused by Irving being

unavailable for most of their home games because he refused to get vaccinated for the coronavirus, as mandated at the time in New York City.

Nash handled it all as best as possible, but apparently not good enough for his best player. Durant said he wanted to be traded this summer if the Nets didn’t fire Marks and Nash, but Tsai stood by them and Durant eventually pulled back his request.

Nash downplayed that before this season began, saying he didn’t believe the reports were entirely true and that they had quickly talked through their issues.

But things started poorly this season and Nash gave some his hardest criticism of the team during his tenure after their loss to Indiana on Saturday night, calling their defensive effort a “disaster”

and saying he didn’t see desire or will.

Much of that was ignored because the focus was on Irving’s combative news conference defending his tweet, and the Nets beat the Pacers in the rematch Monday to end a four-game skid.

But Nash’s tenure ended anyway a day later, hours before Brooklyn is set to host Chicago. Jacques Vaughn will serve as acting head coach against the Bulls.

Tsai alluded to the constant turbulence around the team in his statement thanking Nash.

“My admiration and respect for him grew over time as he brought hard work and positive attitude to our organization every day, even in periods of exceptional storm surrounding the team,” Tsai said.

Nash thanked the Tsai family and Marks for giving him the opportunity, calling the job “an amazing experience with many challenges that I’m incredibly grateful for.”

Marks chose his former teammate as coach in 2020 despite no experience in the job, citing Nash’s ability to be a connector of personalities as a player. Nash was a two-time MVP with the Phoenix Suns who ended his 18-year career third on the NBA’s list with 10,335 assists.

FIFA doctor sees World Cup as showcase of concussion policy

AP – FIFA’s top doctor highlighted brain injuries in soccer as his top priority Tuesday ahead of a World Cup where teams can use an extra substitute if a player has a suspected concussion.

“I joined FIFA to try and make a little bit of a difference and brain injuries is top of my list. That is the one we can focus on,” said Andrew Massey, who joined the world governing body as its medical

director in 2020 after being team doctor at Liverpool. “What we do at the World Cup will be evidenced at grass roots football.”

The tournament in Qatar will be the first World Cup where teams can make an additional permanent substitution in a game for a suspected concussion, on top of the five that can be used in the regulation 90 minutes.

In the final of the 2014 World Cup, Germany mid-



Aston Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez receives treatment during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and Aston Villa at St. James' Park, Newcastle, England, Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022. (Owen Humphreys/PA via AP)

fielder Christoph Kramer stayed on the field for 14 first-half minutes after taking a heavy blow to the face when colliding with an Argentina opponent. He was replaced only after slumping to the ground.

Soccer’s often inconsistent attitude to head injuries was shown Saturday in the English Premier League. Aston Villa’s Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez continued playing for several minutes against Newcastle despite looking groggy after colliding with a teammate.

FIFA’s law-making panel, known as IFAB, has specially allowed concussion subs at the World Cup as it continues trials that run through August next year with about 140 com-

petitions globally.

Massey said FIFA’s strategy was to “suspect and protect,” aiming to avoid having injured players staying on the field until the severity of a head injury becomes clearer.

“We don’t want to leave a team numerically disadvantaged or tactically disadvantaged,” he told FIFA’s in-house “Living Football” show.

In Qatar, teams’ medical staff will have tablets to see video replays quickly and get input from concussion spotters in the stands.

“Everything FIFA does is to support the team doctors” who make the final decision if a player can continue playing or must be replaced, Massey said.



James, Glasgow part of training group for U19 Women's World Cup

CMC - West Indies A stars Zaida James and Jannillea Glasgow have been named in a 23-member group to prepare for next year's ICC Under-19 Women's Twenty20 World Cup.

The group will feature in three trial matches in Trinidad this week – two carded for Tuesday and the final one set for Wednesday.

Cricket West In-

dies (CWI) said following the trial games, the group will undergo skills and fitness sessions under the guidance of head coach Steve Liburd November 4-6, to further enhance preparations.

“The upcoming training camp in Trinidad for our Women's Under-19 squad will be an important component of their preparation for their inaugural tour of India which



Jannillea Glasgow

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immediately follows, and also for the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup which takes place in South Africa in January,” said CWI's director of cricket, Jimmy Adams.

“During the eight-day camp, the squad will continue its ongoing program of technical, tactical, physical, and mental preparation.

“The entire experience of the camp, and subsequent tour to India, will play a big role in the development of our next generation of international female cricketers who have had limited experience of playing outside the region before now.”

West Indies Under-19 Women are scheduled to tour India November 7-25, a series which CWI said

would form “a crucial part of the team's preparations” for the upcoming World Cup, which runs January 14-29 in South Africa.

The Caribbean side will feature in Group C of the tournament alongside New Zealand, Ireland and Indonesia.

SQUAD – Asabi Calender, Kenika Cassar, Jahzara Claxton, Naijanni Cumberbatch, Destiny Edward, Earnisha Fontaine, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmond, Trishan Holder, Zaida James, Djenaba Joseph, Maria La Foucade, Namiah Marcellin, KDJazz Mitchell, Ashmini Munisar, Niveena Ramnauth, Cyanna Rete-miah, Selena Ross, Shalini Samaroo, Shunelle Sawh, Lena Scott, Abini St Jean, Kate Wilmott

Player responsibility, coaching innovation lacking – Sir Andy Roberts

Test legend Sir Andy Roberts has again pointed to the lack of “personal development” by players as central to West Indies’ run of poor form but has also criticized the coaching staff for their lack of innovation.

Speaking in the wake of the Caribbean side’s shock exit from the ongoing Twenty20 World Cup in Australia, Sir Andy said there was little coaches could do if players were not willing to take responsibility for their own form.

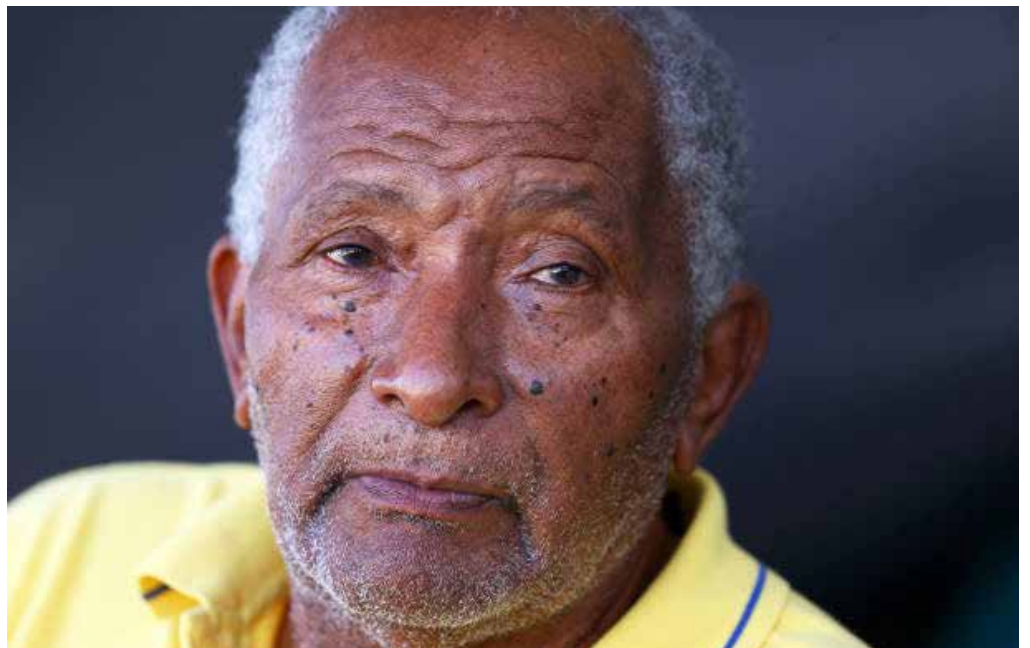
“I have said all the time, my emphasis is not so much on coaching. My emphasis is on the players improving themselves because there’s nothing the coach can do if the players cannot perform,” Sir Andy told Starcom Radio’s Mason and Guest cricket show.

“I’ve said it more than once – our players need to embark on personal development. They have to develop their game.”

West Indies were installed in Group B of an eight-team qualifying series but failed to get into the top two in order to qualify for the Super 12s, finishing last on two points.

The Nicholas Pooran-led unit crashed to a heavy 42-run defeat to Scotland in their opener before rebounding to beat Zimbabwe by 31 runs in their second match.

Needing to win their final game against minnows Ireland, West Indies slumped to a comprehensive nine-wicket loss, to tumble out of the



Sir Andy Roberts tournament.

Only one batsman – Brandon King – scored a half-century while none managed an aggregate above 80 runs in the three qualifying games.

Sir Andy, who prior to the tournament said West Indies would struggle to qualify, also chided the lack of imagination shown by the Phil Simmons-led coaching staff.

“The only problem I have with the coaching staff is that they don’t try anything different,” Sir Andy contended.

“They did the same thing in all the matches that we played. They used the same people to open the batting [and] to open the bowling.

“You have two players – Kyle

Mayers and Akeal Hosein – opening the bowling in all the matches and it’s not working out so why don’t you try somebody else? Why don’t you give Alzarri (Joseph) the new ball? Why don’t you give (Jason) Holder?”

“That’s the only problem I have with the coaching staff ... they stick to the same script. You have to try things.”

Simmons recently tendered his resignation and will depart the side following the two-Test series against Australia.

Cricket West Indies president, Ricky Skerritt, said a post-mortem of the side’s performance would be carried out on “all aspects of our World Cup preparation and performance”.