

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
**POINT EXPRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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ANTIGUA  
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THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

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**LAUNCH**  
2023

THE CARIBBEAN'S *Greatest* SUMMER FESTIVAL

APRIL  
SATURDAY  
**15TH**

STREET JAM: 2PM  
STAGE SHOW: 6PM

VENUE: RISING SUN GROUNDS

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# Local News



## Carnival 2023 launch date announced

As anticipation rises towards the staging of “The Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival”, Antigua’s Carnival 2023, The Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries is extending a special invitation to ALL to witness and participate in the iconic Launch of Antigua’s Carnival. This magnificent event will take place on Saturday, 15th April 2023, unfolding in a stage extravaganza: -

**T-Shirt Mas** commencing at 2 pm sharp. Masqueraders are encouraged to wear their old T-Shirt Mas shirts from previous years. The starting point is at the Old House of Culture on Parliament Drive. The Parade will turn right onto Queen Elizabeth Highway, right onto Independence Drive, Left

onto Redcliffe Street, right onto High Street, up Factory Road and right onto Parliament Drive for the climax.

**Launch Concert** commencing at 6 pm at the Rising Sun Grounds. Patrons will be treated to a diverse cultural story encapsulating our cultural elements along with features from the 2022 winners’ circle. Mas, Pan, Soca, and Calypso will be prominently featured. One of the evening’s highlights is the début of our 2023 Queen of Carnival Contestants.

The Ministry is encouraging Vendors who wish to ply their trade at the Launch to register soonest as this will be on a first-come basis as space is limited. Vendors are also reminded that absolutely no drinks should be

sold in breakable bottles. This customary security measure is to avoid any broken bottles being deposited onto the field, or used as a weapon in the occurrence of any fights. Forms may be obtained from any of the Ministry’s three (3) locations:

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries Office on Old Parham Road – 562 9605 / 06.

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries Office on Redcliffe Street (Formerly the Festivals Office) - 462 4707.

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries, Cultural Unit on Lower Nevis Street - 462 5644.

The Creative Industries remains thankful by the support of the public, artists and our service providers.

## Registration commences for Antigua’s Carnival 2023

Registration for Antigua’s Carnival 2023, “The Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival”, has officially begun. The Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries wishes to advise that registration is currently open, for the following disciplines and competitions:

1. Vendors and Booth Operators
2. Mr. & Miss Teenage Pageant
3. Junior Carnival (Mas)
4. Junior Calypso
5. Junior Party Monarch
6. J’ouvert Troupes
7. Mas Troupes
8. T-Shirt Mas Troupes
9. Individual Mas
10. Monday Wear
11. Carnival Floats
12. Calypso Tents

13. Calypso Monarch

14. Party Monarch

All persons desirous of participating in this year’s Carnival competitions are kindly asked to obtain forms daily between the hours of 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and Fridays, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Forms may be obtained from any of the Ministry’s three (3) locations:

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries Office on Old Parham Road – 562 9605 / 06.

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries Office on Redcliffe Street (Formerly the Festivals Office) - 462 4707.

□ The Ministry of Creative Industries, Cultural Unit on Lower Nevis Street



- 462 5644.

Please note that completed registration forms must be returned to the Old Parham Road Office, upstairs the KFC and Inet Building ONLY.

The deadline for ALL Carnival Competitions and Calypso Tents is Monday 15th May; meanwhile, Ven-

dor and Booth Operators registration concludes on Friday 3rd July.

Antigua’s Carnival 2023 will be staged from Thursday 27th to Tuesday 8th of August.

For more information, kindly contact our offices, by calling (268) 462-0194/4707 or 562-9606/7.

## AG affirms that a Republican, Constitutional reform looming

Antigua and Barbuda will make concrete steps on the road to further political development when the government initiates public discussions on two critical issues; Republican status and Constitutional reform.

Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, spoke to these initiatives during a lively presentation on the 2023 National Budget in the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

“Our status in Antigua and Barbuda today is that we are a Constitutional Monarchy; Parliament is made up of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Governor General, representing the Crown. We have to become a Republic in this country. I am asking all persons in the state to think about it. If we become a Republic is that not the natural gradual thing to do?” he asked.

Benjamin said he has already dispatched to the Opposition Leader, several articles and publications on the issue and has encouraged him to familiarize



*Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin*

himself with the subject. “In every democracy, there are three arms of government; the legislature (parliament) the executive (the cabinet) and the judiciary (the court system), and if we don’t control those three organs, we are not really free,” he declared.

The attorney general called on the members on the opposition bench to ‘put politics aside’ and give full support to efforts to attain Republican status for Antigua and Barbuda.

He also indicated that he firmly believes that the country should not stop

there, but make the necessary move to have the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final court of appeal as part of constitutional reform.

“I come to another topic; Constitutional Reform, we must talk about that. It is not a new thing. In 1994 the late Cosmos Phillip wrote an article on the subject. A committee was set up that produced a booklet. There is much discussion about constitutional reform. Among the subject is, whether men of religion should be elected to the House. These are matters we will have to look at when the prime minister announces his decision sometime in the future,” he stated.

Another issue, he suggested, is whether or not the country should remain a bicameral system with two houses of parliament. He noted that the Commonwealth of Dominica currently has only one chamber. That too is a matter for further discussion, according to the attorney general.

## Debate on National Budget 2023 ends

The debate on the National Budget 2023 came to an end last evening in the House of Representatives, following four full days of presentations from members from both the government and opposition benches.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne brought the debate to a close by complementing his colleagues for the level of the debate they presented to parliament, as well as addressing some of the issues raised by the opposition members.

In response to calls for national unity, the prime minister said that this could only



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne* happen when all members of the house commit to a principle of truthfulness in their deliberations and approaches.

He noted that there has been a smear campaign

waged against members of the government with several outlandish lies including one which claimed that he was wanted by the FBI of the United States and that he had brought into the country US\$4.5 billion in cash. According to the prime minister, he was particularly amazed when, even otherwise intelligent people, believed this lie.

PM Browne stated that it was a dangerous game to traffic in untruth, mis-information and dis-information, noting that it could have a boomerang effect; that is coming back to harm the pur-

veyor.

Such tactics, he continued, will only harm the image of the country and lower its standards in the eyes of the world.

At the end of his presentation, the opposition sought to make a case of whether or not Sir Robin Yearwood had signed the register as a member of the House.

The debate extended for some time, but it was eventually resolved when the attorney general advised that Yearwood had in fact signed once, and was informed that he did not have to sign twice.



# Local News

## “A great injustice done to former PM Baldwin Spencer”

The nomination of former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer to be the Speaker of the House of Representatives by a member of the House and who at the critical moment did not vote for him was an injustice meted out to the respected, retired

politician.

That's the assertion of Attorney General, Steadroy Cutie Benjamin speaking in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, noting that Spencer should not have been used by anyone as a political tool.

“When we stand in the House of Representatives and we make statements and we do things, history will record us, look upon us and determine if what we did was correct. My friend, Sir Robin Yearwood and I are the only two active politicians who are serving today, who were members of parliament in 1981; I was a senator then. My friend, Mr. Baldwin Spencer has served for many years in parliament, including ten as prime minister,” he recalled.

Benjamin continued by saying that Spencer has done a lot for the country as an outstanding trade unionist par excellence, as well as a member of parliament. and that those who sought to make a mockery of this outstanding servant of the people have done him an injustice.

“What happened when we came here after the elections at our first meeting? The government submitted its candidate, the opposition did likewise and then some gentleman, an independent



Former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer

candidate raised the name of Baldwin Spencer and this was seconded by the member for Barbuda. When the votes came, not a single vote was cast for Mr. Spencer. What an absolute disgrace!” he exclaimed.

The attorney general cautioned those involved in this dastardly act to at all times bear in mind that their words and deeds are recorded in the official records of parliament for posterity and that history will judge them for what they did to Spencer; a man who served the nation well and with much honour.

“You have disgraced this man, you have destroyed his reputation and that is something he will never live down,” he stated.

Benjamin added that if they wanted to make a point under the Standing Orders, then they ought to have selected someone else and not subject Mr. Spencer to public ridicule and embarrassment.



**KINGDOM ALLIANCE**

**Crusade**

UNDER THE THEME:  
**Kingdom People Stand Your Ground**

**6:30pm NIGHTLY** **Date: MARCH 26-31, 2023**  
**Location: Union Estate, Hatton**  
(West of Torturer's Gym)

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY (COOKS HILL) IN CONJUNCTION WITH IRON SHARPENS IRON, KENTISH PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, WESLEYAN HOLINESS, GREENBAY MORAVIAN CHURCH WITH SEVERAL OF OUR INDEPENDENT CHURCHES WILL BE COMING TOGETHER FOR SIX NIGHTS OF REVIVAL.

Wed 15   Day		Wed 15   Night	
<b>83°</b>	6% ESE 11 mph	<b>73°</b>	4% SSE 6 mph
Partly cloudy skies. High 83F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		Clear to partly cloudy. Low 73F. Winds light and variable.	
Humidity <b>67%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>79%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>6:15 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:17 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>12:55 am</b>	Moonset <b>12:07 pm</b>
		Waning Crescent	

## All beaches in Antigua and Barbuda remain accessible to residents

The beaches in Antigua and Barbuda remain accessible to all citizens and residents.

That's the comment coming from Minister for Housing, Land, Works and Urban Renewal, the Hon. Maria Browne in responding to social media discussions on access to a number of beaches in Antigua and Barbuda where development is taking place.

Social media discussions suggest that persons are being blocked from entering and using beaches where development is taking place with some being granted access with limitations.

Referencing the Physical Planning Act, 2003 Section 50 (1) (2) (3) (4) and (5), Minister Marie Browne says that no owner, developer or occupier of land leading to a beach has the authority to prevent persons from accessing and using the beaches on Antigua and Barbuda.

The Act in Section 50 (1) states: 'There shall be at least one public landward access to and right of way to every beach in Antigua and Barbuda,' while Section 50 (2) addresses the issue of access through private property: 'Where there is no alternative public access, traditional public use of a private landward access through an existing private development shall be sufficient grounds for establish-



*Minister for Housing, Land, Works and Urban Renewal, the Hon. Maria Browne*

ing a public right of way over that access for the purpose of access to the beach by the public.'

The full section on Public Access and Right of Way to Beaches state as follows:

50. (1) There shall be at least one public landward access to and right of way to every beach in Antigua and Barbuda.

(2) Where there is no alternative public access, traditional public use of a private landward access through an existing private development shall be sufficient grounds for establishing a public right of way over that access for the purpose of access to the beach by the public.

(3) Where the only landward access to a beach is through an existing private development where traditional public use pursuant to subsection (2) of this section has not been established, the Crown may acquire the right to public use of that beach access by gift, negotiation, contract, purchase or lease, compulsory acquisition 'in exchange for other property, interest, or financial exemption, or by such other means as the Minister may recommend, as a condition of issuance of any permit or licence required under 'the provisions of any Act.

(4) Where land is acquired by way of compulsory acquisition for a beach

access the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act shall apply in respect of such acquisition.

(5) Where a proposed development is likely to adversely affect the public's ability to access a beach from the landward side, any development permit shall require as a condition a landward public access through the development at all times free of charge.

Making reference to the Pearn's Point development, which is at the centre of discussions on some social media platforms, Minister Browne stated that there are seven beaches within that development with one main 20-foot public right of way which runs through the private property. She said that currently the Survey and Mapping Department is establishing access boundaries for all seven beaches with official boundary marks and signage.

During this period, Minister Browne asks that users of the beaches at Pearn's Point exercise patience and collaborate with the property owners while accessing the beaches.

The Development Control Authority and the Survey and Mapping Department have prepared a preliminary Beach Access Report which governs access and use of all beaches in Antigua and Barbuda. The report is being reviewed for publication.



# Local News



## Industrial action averted at landfill, NSWMA

Industrial action by workers at the Solid Waste National Management Authority (NSWMA) head office and the sanitary landfill at Cooks Waste Disposal facility, was averted after an agreement was reached regarding the payment of

outstanding monies.

President of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU), Wigley George, said the workers had threatened industrial action early Wednesday morning to make known their displeasure over the delays in pay-

ment of outstanding monies.

He explained that the amounts represented monies from two contracts, on behalf of the workers at the head office and those at the land fill. Last December, the workers received partial payments for outstanding

amounts.

George further explained there is still an amount of eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000.00) outstanding. He said some of these monies were calculated based on the proposed new increases that the government will grant.

The union leader indicated that he took the initiative to get word directly to the Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph who immediately journeyed to the land fill at Cooks to speak to the workers.

During the discussion, both the workers and the minister agreed to a formula for payment of the outstanding amount to the satisfaction of all. Sir Molwyn agreed to take the matter to today's Cabinet meeting to have the agreement endorsed.

Under said agreement, the workers will be paid half the amount by May 1st, 2023, and the other half will be paid some time afterwards.

George said the agreement averted a strike that would have caused disruptions in the collection of garbage in several areas of the island, which would have led to a pile up of garbage, that would have been both unsightly and unhealthy.

He credited the minister for his speedy response to bring an amicable solution to what would have been a messy situation.

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RETAIL230319

## Antigua and Barbuda and Serbia agree to abolish visa requirement

Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Serbia signed an agreement in Washington DC, on behalf of their governments, abolishing visa requirements for their citizens. This move is seen as strengthening the passport of Antigua and Barbuda, internationally.

The Agreement was negotiated and signed between Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders, representing Antigua and Barbuda, and Ambassador Marko Djuric on behalf of the Republic of Serbia.

Ambassador Sanders remarked that, “with the signing of the Agreement with Serbia, citizens of Antigua and Barbuda now have visa-free access to more than 162 nations, making the Antigua and Barbuda passport one of the strongest in the world.”

He added, that “both tourism and investment in Antigua and Barbuda are enhanced by making access for visitors easier for up to 90 days a year, without a visa.”

Ambassador Djuric described the Agreement as “another step in further strengthening the friendship and cooperation between Serbia and Antigua and Barbuda.”

Students from Antigua and Barbuda already benefit from scholarships to study in Serbia, and the two countries have pledged to examine ways in which they could be helpful to each other, including through co-operation in tackling global issues, such as the economic consequences of the Russian war on Ukraine.

The two Ambassadors agreed to meet regularly to explore deeper economic cooperation between the two states in the interest of their people.

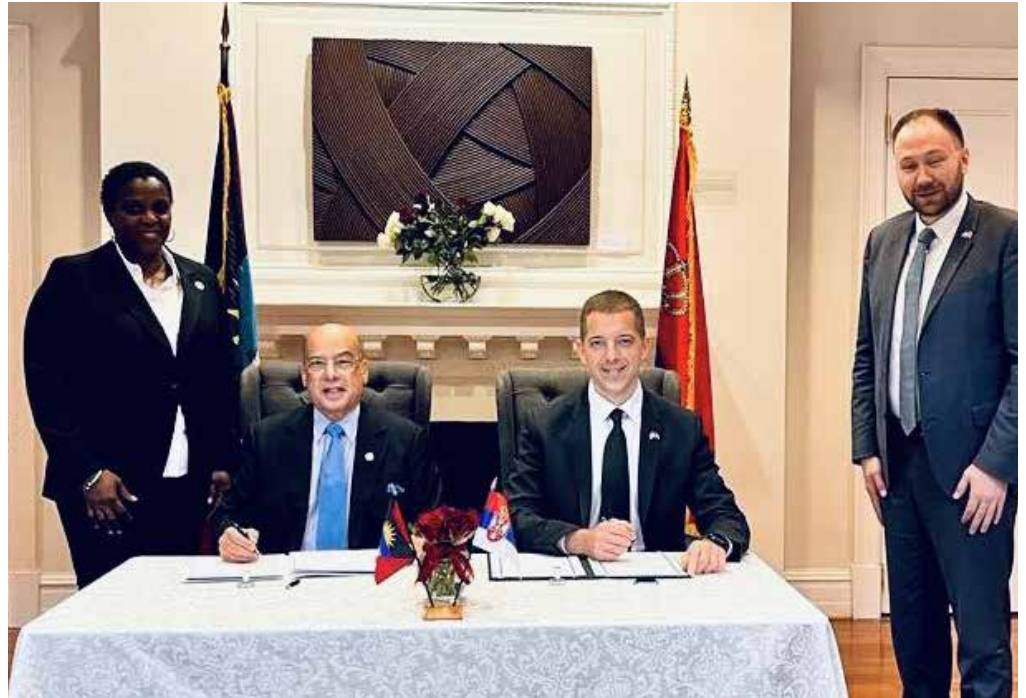


Photo shows (left to Right) Joy-Dee Davis (DCM Antigua and Barbuda Embassy) Ambassadors Sir Ronald Sanders and Mr. Mrarko Djuric, and Veljko Piljak (Counsellor, Serbia Embassy)



**POINTE FM 99.1**  
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COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
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## Moving Forward in Holistic Mental Health

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Lisa Ministries



**Host**  
Vernon A. Springer



**Cerene Prince,**  
Psychotherapist

**“Teen Substance Abuse”**

**8AM AST 15th March**



# Local News

## National Parks Authority successfully completes \$80,000 grant project

The National Parks Authority has successfully completed a US\$80 thousand-dollar grant project, that introduced significant advancements to its ongoing work in the area of marine management in Antigua and Barbuda.

Funding for the Enhancing Marine Ecosystem Management in the Nelson's Dockyard National Park project was negotiated and secured through the Marine Ecosystems and Protected Area Trust (MEPA), which supports the protection, recovery and effective management of protected areas across Antigua and Barbuda.

The three-year project was brought to a formal clo-



sure during an official ceremony in the Antigua Naval Dockyard on Tuesday 7th March. The ceremony was attended by a number of community stakeholders

and officials including Governor General's Deputy Sir Clare Roberts.

Through the MEPA funded project, which was activated in 2020, the National Parks was able to undertake a number of wide-ranging initiatives as part of the marine management project.

"The MEPA Trust was basically set up to support environmental initiatives through grant making, project and programme implementation as well as to be a sustainable finance mechanism to support marine protected areas. We are very pleased to have the National Parks Authority as one of our pilot grants," Chief Executive Officer of the MEPA Trust Sasha Middleton told the ceremony.

One of the major successes was the operationalizing of a marine vessel,

purchased under a separate project through the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The vessel, Acropora, was operationalised under MEPA through the purchase of a Boat Trailer, GPS Equipment, Marine Radio, Safety Equipment and Buoys.

The grant received, from the MEPA Trust, also significantly boosted the research and monitoring activities throughout the expansive marine area of the park.

Other project activities include the collection of LiDAR data around the park, the introduction of marine biodiversity monitoring activities, conducting stakeholder outreach workshops and the installation of No-Prop zones, which prohibit propeller driven boats from


*cont'd on pg 9*

TO: HER WORSHIP, The Licensing Magistrate  
District "A" Magistrate Court  
High Street  
St. John's, Antigua

TO: Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. John's, Antigua

I, Bassam Haddad, Crosbies, St. John's, Antigua Antigua DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's Antigua next ensuing a Tavern Licence in respect of premises known as ALANNA'S PIZZA situated at Factory Road, St. John's Parish Antigua pursuant to Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023

  
Bassam Haddad  
268-723-8474



*cont'd from pg 8*

moving through certain areas of the coastline.

The No-Prop zones at Galleon Beach and Pigeon Point have been created for the protection of the local community and safe vessel operation.

The project has also supported the National Parks Authority in its efforts to increase capacity and equip it with a better understanding of the marine ecosystem in the area.

In this connection, the closing ceremony featured the unveiling of a 3D diorama that showcases the unique vibrance, diversity and interconnectivity of the rich cultural heritage and environmental assets of the National Park. Conceptualized by team members of the National Park, it was built and designed by artists Emile Hill and Leudis Gittens.

“We now have an amazing 3D model of the National Park, where



you can see the ecological resources, the cultural resources and the entire boundaries of the Park. So I wish to thank MEPA and the Caribbean Diversity Fund (CDF) because without their support we wouldn't be able to display this amazing visual of the Park,” noted Ruleo Camacho, Marine Ecologist within the Environment Unit of the NPA.

The ongoing data collection work will ultimately help in creating a report on the status of the marine and coastal environment in the National



Park. This process brings Antigua and Barbuda much closer to meeting its commitments.

The National Parks Authority also continues to seek ways to improve its ability to meet its legal mandate of protecting and managing the ecological and natural resources within its boundaries. A Marine Spatial Plan is in the works and will support these overarching goals in making sure the marine resources of the park remain safe and accessible for all stakeholders and members of the community.





## THIS TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY



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- medium drink





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# Technology



## Meta lay-offs: Facebook owner to cut 10,000 staff

**By Tom Gerken**

Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, has announced plans to cut 10,000 jobs.

It will be the second wave of mass redundancies from the tech giant, which laid off 11,000 employees last November.

Meta chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said the cuts - part of a "year of efficiency" - would be "tough"

In addition to the 10,000 jobs cut, 5,000 vacancies at the firm will be left unfilled, he told staff.

In a memo, Mr Zuckerberg told employees he believed the company had suffered "a humbling wake-up call" in 2022 when it experienced a dramatic slowdown in revenue.

Meta previously announced that in the three months to December 2022, earnings were down 4% year-on-year - though it still managed to make a profit of more than \$23bn over the course of 2022.

Mr Zuckerberg cited higher interest rates in the US, global geopolitical instability and increased regulation as some of the factors affecting Meta, and contributing to the slowdown.

"I think we should prepare ourselves for the possibility that this new economic reality will continue for many years," he said.



*Meta chief executive Mark Zuckerberg announced the plans in a memo to staff.*

The latest job cuts come as companies, including Google and Amazon, have been grappling with how to balance cost-cutting measures with the need to remain competitive.

At the start of this year, Amazon announced it planned to close more than 18,000 jobs because of "the uncertain economy" and rapid hiring during the pandemic, while Google's parent company Alphabet made 12,000 cuts.

According to layoffs.fyi, which tracks job losses in the tech sector, there have been more than 128,000 job cuts in the tech industry so far in 2023.

Mr Zuckerberg said the recruitment team would be the first to be told whether they were affected by the cuts, and would find out on Wednesday.

He also outlined when other teams would be informed: "We expect to announce restructurings and

lay-offs in our tech groups in late April 2023, and then our business groups in late May 2023," he wrote in the memo to staff on Tuesday.

"In a small number of cases, it may take through to the end of the year to complete these changes.

"Our timelines for international teams will also look different, and local leaders will follow up with more details."

Sadly, we're getting used to hearing about big tech lay-offs, as the giants of the sector continue to tighten their belts.

Many like Meta make most of their money from advertising. Now they're faced with a perfect storm: of falling ad revenues from companies with their own bills to pay, and a user base which has less money to spend, making existing ad space less valuable.

It's interesting to note that Meta is looking to its recruitment team in the latest

round of cuts.

I often hear that Silicon Valley firms have a tendency to over-recruit, for two reasons. Firstly, so they have staff ready to handle sudden growth, which can happen (just look at TikTok). And, secondly, to retain those people perceived to be "top tech talent", whom they don't want working for their rivals.

Both are luxuries, it seems, that are no longer affordable.

Meta has the added risk of Mark Zuckerberg's enormous gamble on the metaverse being The Next Big Thing. If he's right, his firm will regain its crown, but if he's wrong, the \$15bn+ dollars he has spent on it so far could disappear in a puff of mixed reality smoke.

Mr Zuckerberg said there would be no new hires until the restructuring was complete, adding that he aimed to make the company "flatter" by "removing multiple layers of management".

He also dedicated a section of his correspondence to hybrid work. His claims that software engineers who joined Meta in person performed better than those who joined remotely, suggest hybrid working will come under scrutiny during the current "year of efficiency".

*cont'd on pg 11*



## Avril Lavigne confronts topless protester onstage while The Weeknd wins big at Juno Awards

By Paul Glynn

Avril Lavigne confronted a topless environmental protester onstage at the Juno Awards, the Canadian equivalent of the Brits.

As the singer introduced a performance at the start of Monday's ceremony, a woman ran onto the stage behind her.

A message on her back read "save the green belt", apparently in reference to a controversial housing development plan by the Ontario government.

Lavigne tried to finish her speech before confronting the woman.

"Get the [expletive] off," she said and swatted at her breast, reported Canada's CBC News. The woman was then escorted off stage by a security guard.

The pop-rocker alluded to the intruder in her later acceptance speech.

"Now, nobody try anything this time. I'll [mess a woman] up," joked Lavigne, while collecting the TikTok Juno fan choice award.

The ceremony's host, Shang-Chi actor Simu Liu praised Lavigne, who is



Avril Lavigne had to deal with a topless environmental protester while onstage at Monday's Juno Awards.

from Ontario, for "handling that topless lady like a champion".

In November, the Ontario government issued new regulations to remove 7,400 acres of protected Greenbelt land and open it up for housing, with 50,000 new homes set to be built by 2025.

The move, which has been criticised by environmental groups, is under investigation by the province's auditor general and integrity commissioner.

Elsewhere on the night, Toronto singer The Weeknd became the Juno's second

most-honoured artist of all time.

The star won album of the year for Dawn FM - a concept record set in purgatory - earning him his 22nd Juno award, overtaking Celine Dion and Bryan Adams.

Only country-pop singer Anne Murray has more, with 24.

The musician, whose real name is Abel Tesfaye, did not attend the event, and his absence reportedly prompted jeers from the crowd at the Rogers Place venue in Edmonton, Alberta.

Meanwhile, rock band Nickelback, whose lead singer Chad Kroeger used to be married to Lavigne, were inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame at the event.

"Twenty seven years, blood sweat and tears, started off 300 kilometres south-east of here in a little town called Hanna," said Kroeger, referencing the band's hometown.

"We had no idea what we were doing and most of the time still don't," he added. "But everything we did wound up leading us to this moment right here. But we didn't make it here without a lot of help."

They then closed the show by performing their hits Rockstar, How You Remind Me and Animals.

**cont'd from pg 10**

"Engineers earlier in their career perform better on average when they work in person with teammates at least three days a week," wrote Mr Zuckerberg.

"We're focusing on understanding this

further, and finding ways to make sure people build the necessary connections to work effectively.

"In the meantime, I encourage all of you to find more opportunities to work with your colleagues in person."

# St Lucian leads British Airways first flight with all-black crew

By Sharine Joseph

British Airways recently made history by operating a flight with an all-Black Crew for the first time ever.

Flight BA 255 departed on February 8, 2023, from London Heathrow Airport to Bridgetown, Barbados, and was led by Sarah Diane Louis, an Inflight Manager from St Lucia.

Sarah shared that she started working with British Airways in 2011 as a cabin crew member before enrolling in the Future Talent Crew (FTC Program), which prepared her for a management position. She shadowed other managers on flights, completed assignments, graduated and then applied for a managerial position. Now, she serves as an inflight manager.

“It was a great program. It helps you understand if you are on the right track. You learn different management styles and have a better understanding of your way of managing others and situations. After the course, you graduate and apply for a managerial position which recently changed names from Customer Service Manager to Inflight Manager.”

The flight was organized by the BeME (Being of a Minority Ethnicity) colleague network group at British Airways, which celebrates the contributions of ethnic colleagues to the airline’s



success. Sarah shared her pride in leading the all-Black crew on this historical flight, representing herself and her home country of St Lucia.

“It was a magical day and we worked incredibly well as a team. Our customers were delighted with the exceptional service received from our crew.

“The feedback on social media platforms from our customers and the public has been overwhelming and has gone viral. Thank you to British Airways for giving us the platform to make history.

“When you’re a leader operating a historic flight, the pressure is on you to ensure that you support your crew and empower them to make an impact as all eyes are on you. As a little girl

growing up, I always dreamt about travelling the world and working for British Airways.

“I am honoured and humbled to have been a part of this momentous occasion. This is the importance of representation because it inspires others to be what they can see.”

Sarah also spoke about the importance of being one’s self, giving advice to aspiring young men and women in the Caribbean to work hard and believe in their dreams.

“It’s achievable, you have to put in the hard work and believe in yourself. For managers, be true to yourself and be the change that you want to see. Empower your team so they feel confident.

Delegating is also very important because you can’t do it all on your own.”

The all-Black Crew included the flight and cabin crew, ground staff, airport gate team, and dispatchers. The flight was a historic moment for British Airways, as it represents a significant step towards greater diversity and inclusion.

As Sarah’s advice shows, it is important for young people to believe in their dreams, and for managers to empower and trust their teams to excel. Team Cohesion is an essential element to the team’s success. The success of the all-Black flight demonstrates the importance of representation, celebrating diversity and creating an inclusive environment for all.



## Guyana: Body of missing mine worker found

CMC - Labour Minister Joseph Hamilton Tuesday confirmed that the body of 59-year-old Neptid Hercules, who went missing following an accident at the Chinese-owned BOSAI Minerals mines over the last weekend, has been found.

He told the online publication, Demerara Waves Online News that the bulldozer, which Hercules had been operating when the incident occurred on Saturday had also been found.

“At least, now, the family can have closure, the fact that the body has been found,” Hamilton said, adding that it  
*cont'd on pg 14*



## Grenada calls for peace in St. Lucia as gang violence claims seven lives

Loop - The Government of Grenada has expressed regret over the upsurge in gang violence that is occurring in St Lucia.

Grenada says the gang violence, which has claimed seven lives in the southern

town of Vieux Fort since last Thursday, has caused unnecessary loss of life and emotional distress to families and communities and has also disrupted the education of children and business activity in affected areas.

Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell, who is the Chairman of the Regional Security System (RSS), has responded favourably to a request from Saint Lucia's Prime Minister, Philip Pierre, for the RSS to support the Royal

Police Force of Saint Lucia.

Personnel from the RSS are expected to arrive in Saint Lucia from this week.

“The Caribbean region is proudly a zone of peace – a designation that we cannot take for granted, especially given current global tensions,” Mitchell said.

“Our small, and often close-knit, communities have no place for this level of violence, which threatens the lives and livelihoods of our citizens, and places our tourism-dependent economies at risk. We call on all parties to work with the relevant authorities towards a peaceful solution.”

Grenada said it will stand with the people of St Lucia in their fight against criminals.



# Regional News



## Barbados denies social media reports on pending Computer Misuse Bill

CMC - Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Dale Marshall, Monday described as “unadulterated garbage” social media reports that the government intends to pass a law which will make it an offence, among other things, to record a fight, or to record the police, or to record someone without their permission.

Marshall said that he had read “with some dismay”, a statement which has been circulated widely on social media, purporting to set out what is going to be enacted in what is referred to as a “Computer Misuse Bill”.

“Unfortunately, Barbadians at home and abroad have taken what they have read as being accurate and have assumed that it is from a legitimate or knowledgeable source, and it has generated a significant amount of comment.

“That statement alleges that the Government intends to pass a law which will



make it an offence, among other things, to record a fight, or to record the police, or to record someone without their permission,” Marshall said.

He said that the statement goes on to state persons must seek the permission of a Government Minister to record or post projects and that you also need the permission of Government Information Service to post things on social media. It suggests that to even record oneself will be

an offence.

“Let me call that what it is – unadulterated garbage. It is mischief that has taken on a life of its own,” Marshall said, adding “we are bringing a new Cybercrime statute which will repeal the now outdated and inadequate Computer Misuse Act.

“It will deal with a whole set of offences which are not now covered by the existing legislation – such as cyber-bullying, grooming chil-

dren using computers, child pornography, revenge porn, cyber forgery, and fraud. It was researched and worked on by the Law Reform Commission, which is chaired by Sir David Simmons.”

Marshall said that the Law Reform Commission has prepared a draft Bill, which now has to be considered by Cabinet and, if acceptable, will form the basis of further drafting by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel.

“I have seen and read the draft Bill, and I assure Barbadians that none of the things set out in that mischievous statement that is being circulated is in the draft Cybercrime Bill, or is in the contemplation of the Government.

“What is being circulated is certainly not in keeping with any policies of the Government,” the Attorney General added.

### *cont'd from pg 13*

was too early to give BOSAI Minerals approval to resume operations. “There are a lot of things that we have to take into consideration and whatever we have to do, we will do. Of course, we are working with the Geology and Mines Commission as a our partner in the investigation,” he said.

Hamilton said the key priority would be ensuring there is proper safety at the site, based on several reports that there needs to be improvement at BOSAI.

The management of BOSAI, the safety department of that company, workers who

were on duty and other persons would be interviewed.

“There are all kinds of suggestion about the unsafe nature of the place,” he said.

Hercules vanished while operating the bulldozer during the early hours of Saturday and the residents of Linden, Region 10 picketed the office of bauxite mining company, calling for a complete halt to operations until the missing employee is located.

Hercules had been employed as an operator with the company for the last 40 years, and media reports said Hercules was set to retire later this year.



# US drone crashes after encounter with Russian jet

BBC - A Russian fighter jet has collided with a US drone, causing the unmanned US aircraft to crash into the Black Sea, the American military says.

The incident highlights the increasing risk of direct confrontation between Russia and the US over the Ukraine war.

The US says the drone was on a routine mission in international airspace when two Russian jets tried to intercept it.

Russia said the drone crashed after a “sharp manoeuvre”, and denied that the two aircraft made direct contact.

The Russian defence ministry also said the MQ-9 Reaper drone was flying with its transponders turned off. Transponders are communications devices that allow the aircraft to be tracked.

Reaper drones are surveillance aircraft with a 20m (66ft) wingspan.

The incident happened at about 07:03 Central European Time (06:03 GMT) on Tuesday, according to the US military.

“Our MQ-9 aircraft was conducting routine operations in international airspace when it was intercepted and hit by a Russian aircraft, resulting in a



*Reaper drones are full-size aircraft designed for reconnaissance and surveillance.*

crash and complete loss of the MQ-9,” the statement said.

Several times before the collision the Su-27 fighter jets dumped fuel on the drone in a “reckless, environmentally unsound and unprofessional manner”, it said.

The US summoned the Russian ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Antonov, to protest against the move. Following the meeting, Russian state media quoted Antonov as saying that Moscow saw the drone incident as “a provocation”.

Tensions have risen over the Black Sea ever since Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Since Russia’s full-

scale invasion of Ukraine the US and the UK have stepped up reconnaissance and surveillance flights, though always operating in international airspace.

The key question is whether Tuesday’s encounter was an attempt by Russia to disrupt the US drone and its work, or whether it was a deliberate attempt to bring it down.

According to the US, there has been a “pattern of dangerous actions by Russian pilots” interacting with allied aircraft in the region.

So this could simply have been a mistake by a Russian pilot who got too close as they “buzzed” the drone. But if this was a deliberate attack on a

US aircraft by a Russian warplane, then that would amount to a huge provocation and a substantial escalation.

In that case, the attack would be seen as an attempt by the Kremlin to test the response of the United States.

Western allies have worked hard to stop the war in Ukraine escalating into a direct confrontation with Russia. But this incident over the Black Sea is just that. The US will now have to evaluate its response.

As US military commanders warned in their statement, this was a dangerous act that “could lead to miscalculation and unintended escalation”.

## Imran Khan: Clashes as Pakistan police try to arrest opposition leader

BBC - Supporters of Pakistan's main opposition leader Imran Khan have clashed with police outside his home as officers try to arrest him.

Police fired tear gas shells to disperse the supporters, who threw stones and bricks.

There is a tense situation outside the compound, in the city of Lahore, as police try to force their way in.

He is facing allegations he sold state gifts while in office. He says the case is politically motivated.

Police have made previous attempts to arrest him,



Pakistan's main opposition leader Imran Khan

but Mr Khan, 70, told the BBC he thought they were determined to put him behind bars this time.

"I'm mentally prepared  
*cont'd on pg 17*



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GLAUCOMA  
AWARENESS  
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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board





## Andrew Tate: Romanian court rejects bail application

BBC - A Romanian court has rejected the latest application for bail by Andrew Tate.

The controversial British social media influencer and his brother Tristan have been detained since December.

They are being investigated on charges of rape, people trafficking and forming an organised crime group. Both have denied wrongdoing.

Mr Tate's spokeswoman said the ruling was "disappointing" and that his legal team would appeal.

Lawyers for Mr Tate have long argued that keeping him in preventative custody is unnecessarily harsh, when other judicial options - such as house arrest - are available.

Judges have so far disagreed, based on the perceived risk of Mr Tate fleeing the country, influencing witnesses or evidence, or



Andrew Tate (left) and his brother Tristan have been in detention since late last year.

that his release would disturb public order.

The request for bail in place of custody was new, but the response from the court, the same.

In late February, the court ruled that Mr Tate should remain in custody until 29 March.

On Wednesday, Mr Tate's brother Tristan will also apply for bail in a separate hearing.

Last month, an appeals court overturned all but one of the justifications for keeping Tristan Tate in detention.

No charges have yet

been brought against the brothers or the two Romanian associates who were arrested alongside them.

In 2016, Mr Tate, a former kickboxer, was removed from British TV show Big Brother over a video which appeared to show him attacking a woman.

He went on to gain notoriety online, with Twitter banning him for saying women should "bear responsibility" for being sexually assaulted. He has since been reinstated.

Despite social media bans he gained popularity, particularly among young men, by promoting what he presented as a hyper-masculine, ultra-luxurious lifestyle.

**cont'd from pg 16**

that I'm going to be spending my night in a cell," he said. "I don't know how many nights, but I'm all prepared for that."

The former prime minister appeared in front of what he said were tear gas canisters, which he said had been fired into his property.

He said the authorities were trying to arrest him to stop his party from taking part in forthcoming elections. But he added: "Whether I am in jail or not they will not be able to stop my party winning."

Government minister Marriyum Au-

rangzeb said the move had nothing to do with elections and police were only complying with court orders to arrest him in corruption cases.

Mr Khan's supporters are also holding protests in other cities.

He was ousted as prime minister last April but has kept up pressure on his successor Shehbaz Sharif with demonstrations and speeches calling for elections due later this year to be held early.

He blames Mr Sharif for an assassination attempt at a rally in November in which he was wounded in the leg.

# Sports News



## Wins for Cedar Grove and Liberta in schools' basketball

Cedar Grove and Liberta primary recorded wins in the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools' Basketball Competitions at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday.

Cedar Grove Primary prevailed 9-2 against Buckley's Primary in the Mini Boys Primary Division. Bron Joseph and Fabian Johnson each scored four points for Cedar Grove Primary.

Liberta Primary cruised to an 11-2 victory over Greenbay Primary in their encounter.

Meanwhile, the Bas-

ketball Unit in the Ministry of Sports has expressed its appreciation to Franklyn Edwards, who has donated a couple of benches to the schools' programme.

Edwards, who is a PMS alum, former player in the school's programme and ex-national junior player, saw the need and made the donation on his own volition.

Jason Paul made the donation on behalf of Edwards, who is overseas, to the Coordinator of the Inter-Schools' Basketball Programme Carl "Bolie" Knight at YMCA on Monday.



Players of the Cedar Grove Primary (grey and white uniform) and Buckley's Primary schools compete in the Inter-Schools' Basketball Competitions at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday, 13th March. (Photo courtesy Schools' Basketball League)

### STUDENT SAFETY POLICY



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## Fearless Crew beat Superiors in Division 2 basketball league

Jan Serve Fearless Crew2 snatched a 64-55 victory over Cuties Ovals Superiors in the Zone 1 of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division at the Ovals Court on Monday night.

Daysher Samuel shot a game high 23 points, snatched 10 steals and seven rebounds and Delroy Foster sank 12 points and claimed eight rebounds for Fearless Crew2.

Shane Rivera converted 14 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and claimed seven steals; Dorian James sank 14 points and pulled down 11 rebounds; and Deon Jules scored 13 points and snapped up nine rebounds for Superiors.

It was the second loss in two days for Superiors after suffering a 58-80 defeat against Raeburn Generators United at the same venue.

Kwame Huntley shot a game high 44 points and claimed 12 rebounds and Jesus Lopez had 12 points, eight steals and six rebounds for United.

Shamori Bascus sank 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Christopher Henry scored 13 points; Dorian James converted 12 points and snatched 10 rebounds, while Deon

Jules had 11 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Superiors.

Galaxia Bar Spanish Heat also snatched a narrow 63-62 victory over

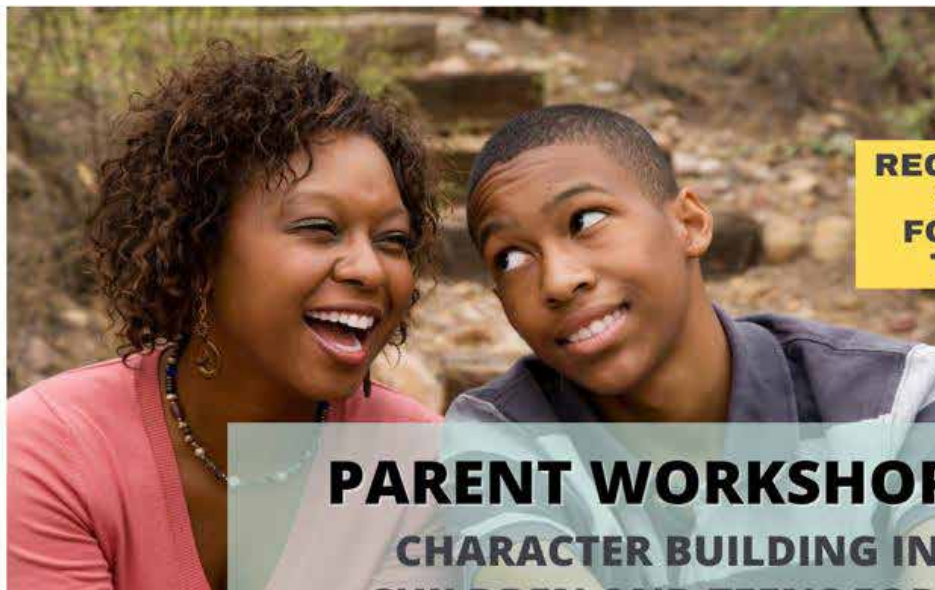
Flyers2 in a Zone 2 affair.

Steven Matthew sank 20 points, Wilkin Floyd had 16 points, 16 rebounds and eight steals while Antonio Cruzdehaa scored 10

points for Spanish Heat.

Javonte Daley sank 16 points and claimed seven rebounds while Craig Massiah scored 13 points for Flyers2.

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## Tyson seeks financial assistance to acquire full-time coach

Antigua and Barbuda's top Kite Surfer Tiger Tyson is seeking some financial assistance to acquire a full-time coach for the rest of this year.

Tyson said he and three of his colleagues are currently being assisted by a new coach, John Bertrand.

But Tyson said he is currently in need of financial assistance to maintain the services of Bertrand as a full-time coach for the rest of the year in which he is planning to compete in two major Olympic qualifying events.

"I actually just got a new coach with three other training partners. His name is John Bertrand, he's a very famous sailor.

"If you look him up, you'll see many impressive statistics about him. Right now with him, he gives me a lot of input. He's very smart and helped me a lot on the water," Tyson said.

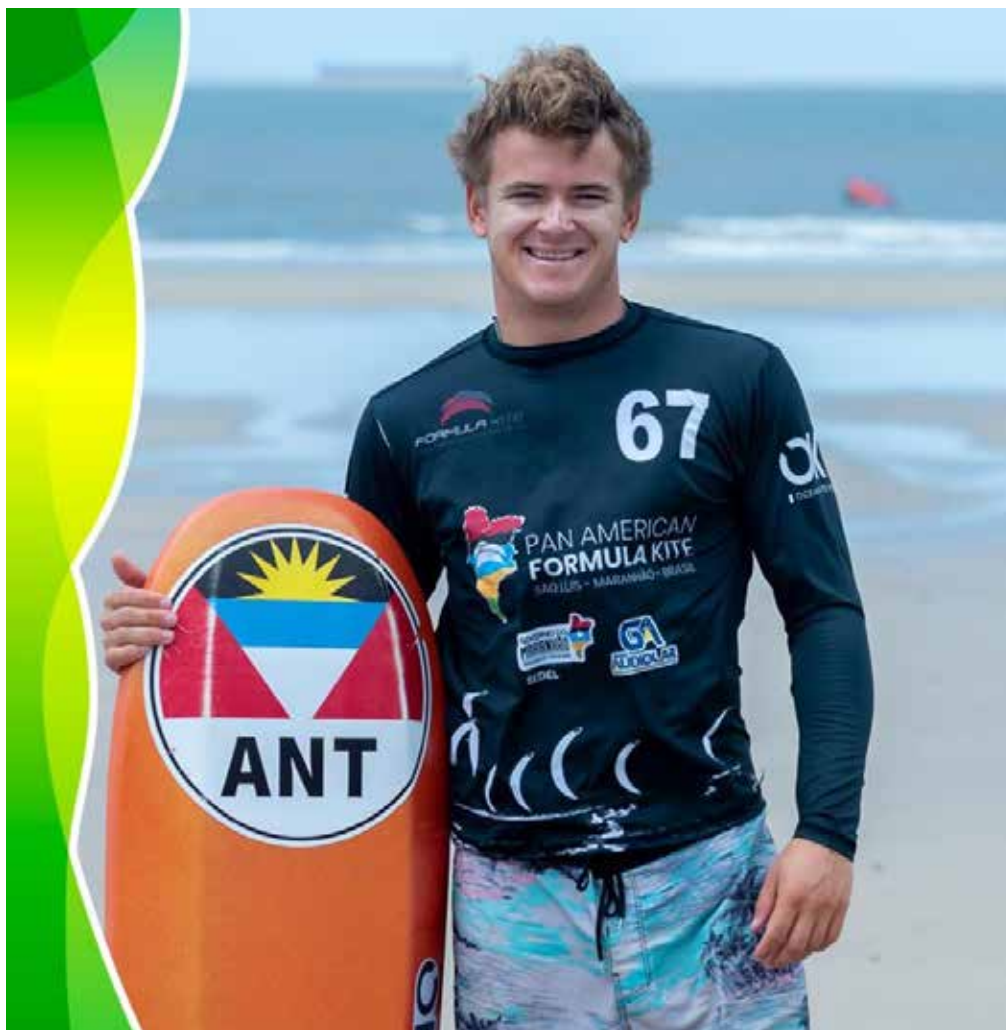
"It's not cheap to have a coach though. I'm really trying to find some financial help to allow me to have this coach fulltime because right now, I can't really afford it, which is difficult, because most of the top competitors have a fulltime coach, which really makes a big difference."

Tyson captured the gold medal in Kiteboarding (Kite Surf) at the Inaugural Junior Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Sea and Beach Games in Santa Marta, Colombia, on Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022.

His victory in Santa Marta also secured his qualification into next year's Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, from 20th October to 5th November, 2023.

Tyson said the Pan Am Games in Chile is one of two major events in which he will be competing to secure qualification for the 2024 Summer Olympics in France.

Tyson will take part in his first



Antigua and Barbuda's Kite Surfer Tiger Tyson. (File photo)

competition for this year when he participates at an event in Palma, Spain, today Wednesday, 15th March.

Therefore, in order to give himself the best chance of succeeding, Tyson said he is also seeking financial assistance to facilitate his travels to compete as well as to purchase equipment.

"In 2023, my aim of the year is to just qualify for the Olympic Games. I have two chances to qualify, one in August and one in October. So I am going to be travelling a lot, I need a coach a lot and I need to buy new equipment," Tyson said.

"I am always on the best gear when I am racing because I have to give myself the best opportunity to qualify.

"How people can help? I have a Go Fund Me called Tiger Tyson. I am mostly looking for companies or individuals who would like to put their name or their brand or company or something on my equipment with the exchange of sponsorship money.

"If anybody knows any companies, organizations or even just individuals who have the capacity to help me, I would really appreciate it. I am really trying everything to get some financial help right now.

"You could also find me on my Facebook page. I send a lot of my Go Fund Me stuff there and my contact details are on my Facebook so you can always get in touch via messaging me or my email."

## All Saints United beat SAP to go second in premier league

All Saints United have moved back into second place on goal difference in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League.

Shafeeq Joseph scored all four goals as All Saints United romped to a 4-1 win over SAP at the ABFA's Technical Center on Monday night.

Joseph had conversions in the 41st, 56th, 73rd and 77th minute to give All Saints United their 12th win in 15 matches to advance to 37 points, the same as Villa Lions.

However, due to a superior goal difference, All Saints United will overtake Villa Lions into second place, two points adrift of premier division leaders Jennings Grenades.

Tyrique Tonge scored a consolation goal in the 43rd minute for SAP, who will remain on 19 points and in 8th place on goal difference in the 16-team competition after succumbing to their 7th loss in 14 matches.

Meanwhile, Garden Stars and Jennings United continued their unbeaten runs in the ABFA's first and



The All Saints United Football Team. (File photo)

second divisions respectively by recording wins on Monday.

Courtney Clarke and Wilden Cornwall Jr each scored a brace to propel leaders Garden Stars to a 5-0 drubbing of Fort Road in their first division encounter at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Clarke scored in the 70th and 74th minute while Cornwall Jr had conversions in the 83rd and the third minute of added on time or 93rd minute after Jahred Williams had scored

in the 41st minute to give Garden Stars a 1-0 halftime advantage.

Their 14th win in 15 matches has taken Garden Stars to 43 points, 16 points ahead of John Hughes in second place in the first division, while Fort Road will remain on 20 points and in seventh place on goal difference after suffering their seventh loss in 15 encounters.

Forward Daryl Massicot scored a brace as leaders Jennings United cruised to a 3-0 win against Bel-

mont FC in their second division encounter.

Following a goalless first half, Massicot had conversions in the 47th and 73rd minute while Rhezal Gomes scored the other goal in the 56th minute for Jennings United to record their 11th win in 13 outings to advance to 35 points, five ahead of Attacking Saints in second place.

Belmont FC will remain on 19 points and in 10th place on goal difference after losing for the sixth time in 13 appearances.