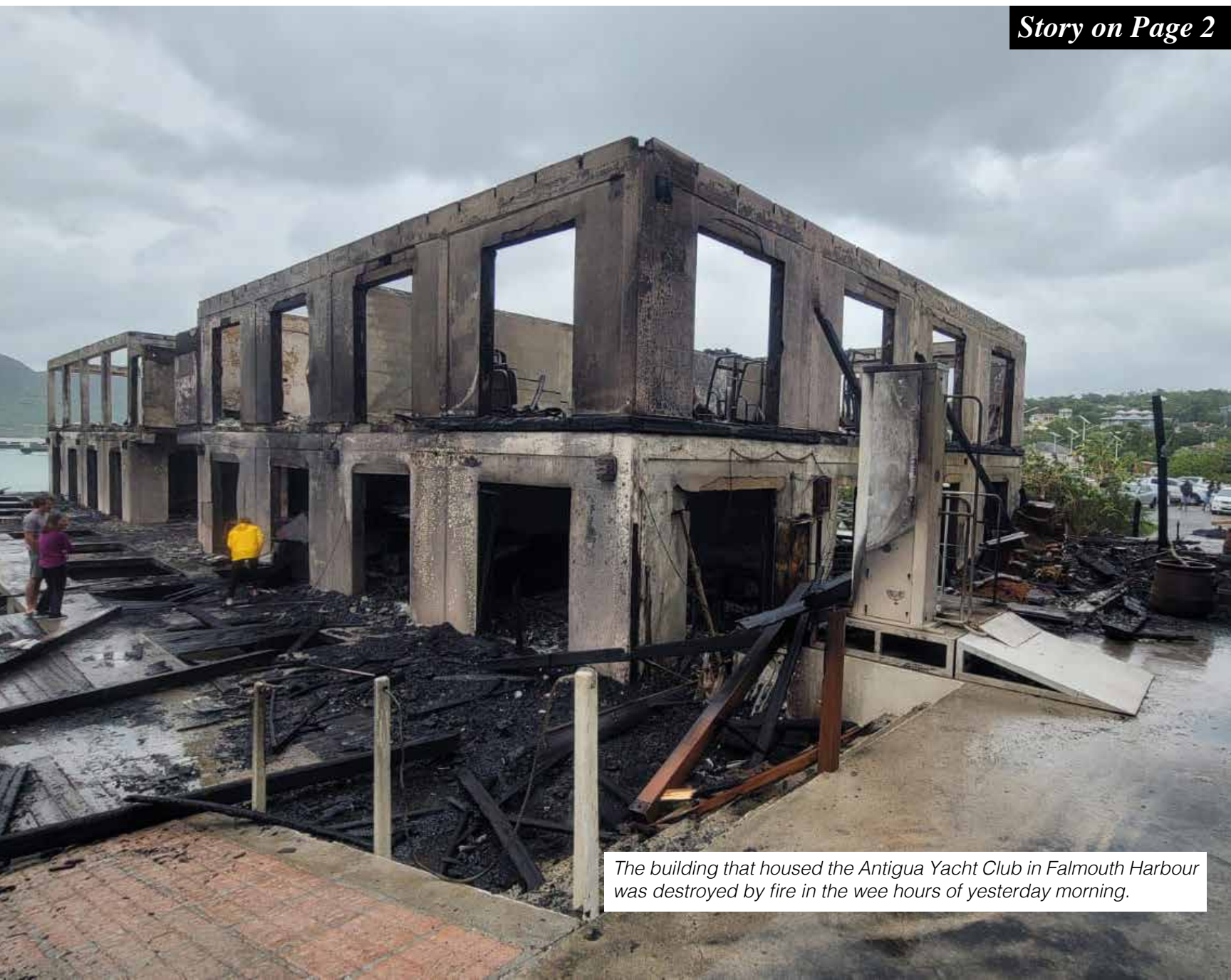


MASSIVE FIRE DESTROYS HISTORIC BUILDING

Story on Page 2



The building that housed the Antigua Yacht Club in Falmouth Harbour was destroyed by fire in the wee hours of yesterday morning.



Massive fire destroys historic building, several businesses affected

An early morning fire that started during the height of the winds and rain associated with Tropical Storm, Philippe, has destroyed one of the historic buildings that housed the Antigua Yacht Club in Falmouth Harbour.

Reports are that the fire call was made to the All Saints Fire Station at 1:35 a.m. on Tuesday. The firemen immediately sprang into action, racing to the fire at a building that housed several businesses. These

businesses are said to have employed some 100 persons who are now displaced.

The firemen reported that they encountered many problems in their efforts to put out the fire because of the heavy wind gusts.

Despite their efforts, the building was completely destroyed by the fire. Only the concrete pillars remain standing.

During the day, scores of people journeyed to Falmouth Harbour to see for themselves, the destruction caused by the fire.

A fire department official could not say what may have caused the fire. While lightning may be suspected, he said a thorough investigation is needed to make a precise judgment on the cause of the fire.

Meanwhile, the superyacht, Alfa Nero, which was docked at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina for a year and a half, had been removed to the St. John's Harbour before the storm and therefore was never at risk during this fire.



Antigua Yacht Club Marina remains operational despite fire

The Owners/Management of Antigua Yacht Club Marina are deeply devastated by the fires that occurred last night, particularly affecting the facilities and services within our main complex.

Our thoughts are with the affected business owners and their employees during this difficult time.

Despite this unfortunate incident, we want to assure our valued members, patrons, and the sailing community that the main marina facilities, including diesel, water, electricity, and dock-

age, remain fully operational. We are committed to providing uninterrupted services to our visitors and guests.

A new location for our office has already been set in motion to ensure seamless communication and assistance for all our customers.

We are grateful for the overwhelming support and concern expressed by our community, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has reached out to us during this challenging time.

Your support is invaluable, and we are determined to make the upcoming season a great one, albeit with some adjustments.

Antigua Yacht Club Marina remains resilient and determined to continue serving the sailing and yachting community with the same dedication and excellence.

We look forward to welcoming you back and appreciate your continued trust in us.

Issued by: Shaun Falcone on behalf of the Falcone Family

Meanwhile, the President of the Antigua & Barbuda Yachting & Marine Association (ABYMA), Franklyn Braithwaite says, "The Board and Members of the Antigua and Barbuda Yachting and Marine Association all offer their sympathy and support for the Falcone Family and the businesses and individuals impacted.

"The AYCM is the heart of our community and despite the challenges will remain so. They are our friends and we are here to support them."

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NODS gives the 'all clear'

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) has given the all-clear for a return to normality following a 36-hour period when the country was battered by the winds and rain associated with Tropical Storm, Philippe.

The disaster services agency said four shelters were opened for persons seeking refuge from the winds and the heavy rains.

These persons sought shelter at the Piggotts Primary School, the Greenbay Primary School, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy in Potters, and the St Paul's Empowerment Centre in Liberta. All persons have since returned to their homes.

Regarding the situation in Barbuda, the spokesman said the island reported less rainfall than experienced in Antigua. The exact amount of the

rainfall was not immediately available.

A NODS spokesman said a shelter was opened in Barbuda, but up to Tuesday morning, no one had made use of it.

NODS said there have been over thirty requests for search and rescue following widespread flooding throughout Antigua, as a result of conditions associated with Tropical Storm Philippe.

Emergency 911 reported to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) that some residents who were stranded in their vehicles in Bathlodge and on Sir George Walter Highway had to be rescued. Many of these individuals were traveling late on the roadways.

There were also individuals whose homes were flooded in areas

such as Piggotts, Cassada Gardens, and the vicinity of the Potworks Dam who received assistance from emergency personnel. There was one report that a bus got stuck in flood waters in the Golden Grove extension area.

District Disaster Coordinators who volunteer on behalf of NODS in various communities have reported flooding in quite several other areas like Upper Fort Road, Grays Farm/Green Bay, and other communities. A few people are also being accommodated in shelters in several districts.

In addition to the flooding and rescue efforts, firefighters fought a battle to contain a major fire at the Yacht Club Marina in Falmouth Harbour. According to reports, wind gusts were a challenge in getting the blaze extinguished.

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Potworks Dam

Almost eight inches of rain fell in parts of Antigua

Tropical Storm Philippe, dumped close to eight inches of rain in parts of Antigua on Monday night into Tuesday as the slow-moving storm impacted the island with strong winds, rain, and bursts of lightning.

The Met Office reported that the wind speed reached as high as 47 miles per hour around 2:00 a.m., as recorded at the VC Bird International Airport. The Met Office said that was the highest gust recorded at the airport during the storm, but he anticipates that it could have been higher, depending on the area and the topography of the area.

The office said its system was also affected by the storm making it incapable of readily providing 'verifiable' details of the rainfall amounts, at the different stations on the island. The rainfall amount for the Viv Richards Stadium was 7.5 inches of rain, while at the airport it was 6.5 inches.

The full report on the rainfall that Philippe brought will hopefully be available today.

Meanwhile, the Potworks Dam which has been dry for several years because of the lengthy drought, is about one-third full, from the heavy showers associated with the tropical storm.

Flooding was also reported in several low-lying areas that have traditionally been prone to rising water from heavy rainfall. Among those, was the bridge leading into Pigotts which has seen damage and erosion to the structure, as well as West Palm Beach in Bolans, among others.

Meanwhile, the Met Office is forecasting that the cloudy conditions will continue into the first half of the day, but that improvements should begin by later in the afternoon.

Philippe has since completely left the area, and all watches and warnings asso-

ciated with the passage of the storm have been lifted. The forecast for Tuesday afternoon placed the storm northeast of Puerto Rico with the cloud mass hovering over the Virgin Islands.

On Wednesday, schools are to resume classes and government workers are due back to work, so it is anticipated that by then, there will be a return to normalcy across the country.



SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE
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SLBMC Resumes Normal Operations Following Tropical Storm Philippe

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We are happy to announce that we will resume normal operations tomorrow, October 4th, 2023.

ELECTIVE SURGERIES REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Schools will re-open today

The Ministry of Education has announced that schools in Antigua and Barbuda are to reopen on Wednesday, following the passage of Tropical Storm Philippe, which brought the country to a near halt from

Monday night into Tuesday.

Director of Education, Clare Browne said it is very important that the ministry gives the green light to re-open schools, as this not only affects the operations in public sector schools but many privately run educational institutions rely on the Ministry of Education for direction in important matters, such as the one now facing the country.

“There are no adverse reports of any major damage to any of the school plants.

“We will open the schools and deal with the isolated incidents on an individual basis.

“Yes, there may be some issues at some schools but that should not prevent us

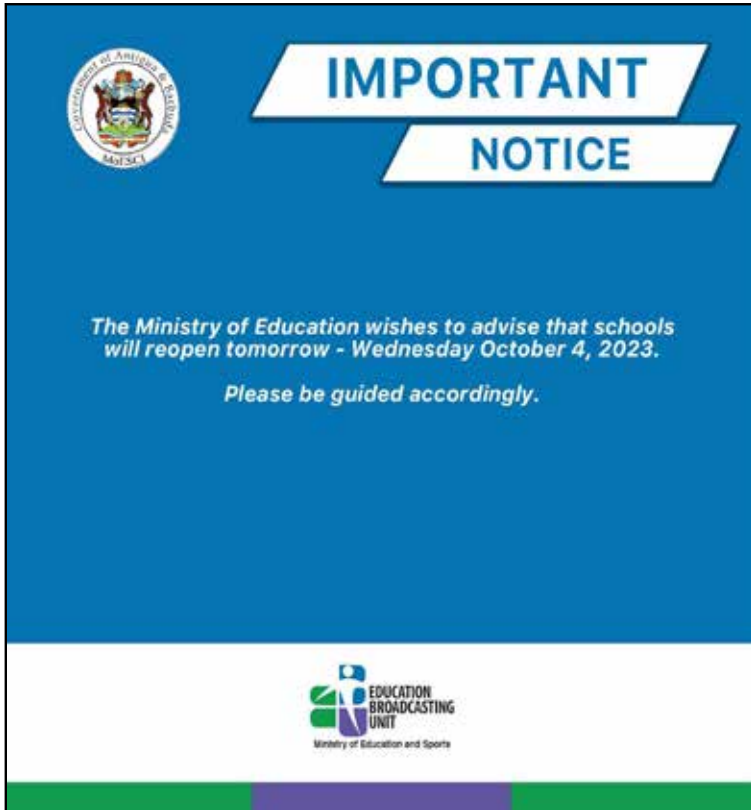
from giving a blanket notification that all schools should reopen,” he explained.

Director Browne further explained that there is much thought that goes into deciding when to shut or when to reopen the school plants.

For example, he said he gave the directive to close the schools on Monday after the Met Office had reported that the chances that Antigua and Barbuda would have been affected by the storm rose to 70 percent.

Secondly, he said he is aware that some school buildings double as hurricane shelters, and lastly because the School Meals Programme started the preparations of meals the night before, it was important

cont'd on pg 7



IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Ministry of Education wishes to advise that schools will reopen tomorrow - Wednesday October 4, 2023.

Please be guided accordingly.

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Ministry of Education and Sports



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APUA working feverishly to restore power nationwide

Multiple crews from the Electricity Business Unit of APUA have been in the field for many hours working feverishly to restore electricity, to homes and businesses across the country.

Electricity Manager, Andre Matthias, said up to late Tuesday afternoon the

electricity was restored to more than fifty percent of customers and his crews will be working into the night to get more areas energized.

“We had an unusual occurrence where three elements; strong winds, rain, and lighting affected us all at once. Usually, we will have

one or two but not all three together. The storm made an impact on the distribution systems as well and downed several electricity lines. Additionally, our main dispatch centre at Cassada Gardens was disabled because of water from the rain,” Matthias explained.

The electricity business manager explained that his crews had to replant some poles that were broken or uprooted by the strong winds. He said the system fared well until around 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, when the entire system crashed and caused Antigua to be plunged into darkness.

“Most of the system held up until around 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, as that is around the time that there was a total blackout. Our guys have been trying to get the electricity situation back to normal since then,” he stated.

cont'd from pg 6

ant that they be notified to prevent spoilage or wastage of food.

“You have to consider factors other than rain and the wind when making decisions under these circumstances,” he noted.

Students from the thirteen secondary schools and thirty-one primary schools in

the public sector, as well as scores that are in private hands, will resume classes effective Wednesday.

Noting that some schools were opened in some areas, if persons may have needed shelter, the director said the notice serves as an indication for them to recognize that they have to vacate these premises to allow for the full resumption of classes.

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Works Ministry to conduct assessment of damage

A national assessment of the damage caused to the nation's roads and infrastructure by the winds and rain associated with Tropical Storm Philippe will commence today (Wednesday).

That is the word from the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Senator Clement Antonio, who noted that this is needed to determine the areas to receive priority, in the repair and restoration exercise.

“As of today, Wednesday, we will begin the assessment of all areas and then make a decision of what areas are most critical



A galvanise sheeting from a house roof in Liberta landed on the electricity wire.

and ought to be first in line for repairs. We will pay particular attention to the most vulnerable areas. These include Cashew Hill, the Grays-Green communities, and areas in St. Johnson's

Village,” he stated.

Senator Antonio named the Burma Road Bridge, at the entrance into Pigotts, and the bridge in Bendals as two areas of the infrastructure that are of partic-

ular concern. He confirmed the reports of the damage to the bridge at Burma Road but indicated that there are no similar reports about the bridge at Bendals. However, he said there is still a need to ensure that its integrity has not been compromised.

The assessment will include roads, bridges, and government-owned or occupied buildings.

The results from the assessment will inform the decision to dispatch crews to carry out repairs to the roads or other infrastructure, or buildings housing various government departments.

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Following tour St. Paul's MP provides update

Dear Constituents:
Following a tour of our beloved St. Paul's in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Philippe, I hereby report that there is much work to be done clearing the roadways, removing debris, and providing support for our small businesses.

The accompanying rains caused much silting along the roadways, and as such, motorists are asked to be extremely careful as maneuvering can be tricky. Several downed trees will also impact vehicular traffic and even pedestrian access. Please exercise caution.

Tents and other gear used by our roadside vendors took the brunt of the storm and as such building back is now evident for several small businesses.

An assessment of the agricultural sector will begin tomorrow, and an update provided, once complete.

I have engaged the services of a backhoe operator to start the more difficult and urgent clean-up tasks today. The community cleaning crews will continue and will engage in a more comprehensive cleanup beginning tomorrow.

In the meantime, I encourage every constituent to stay safe and to report any areas of concern to me or any member of my team. We are in this together.

The Empowerment Center shelter was activated overnight and hosted 6 persons who have all since returned to their respective places of abode.

As a community, we commiserate with Mr. Carlo Falcone, the tenants and workers who operated from the section of the Antigua Yacht Club Marina which housed the Yacht Club offices, several restaurants, a supermarket, and several



other businesses, that was totally destroyed by fire in the wee hours of this morning. Our love, prayers, and support are with them. I further commit to meeting with each affected enterprise over the coming days to discuss the government's assistance in the rebuilding process.

Please note that APUA crews are working is-

land-wide to restore power. I ask us to be patient and supportive of their efforts.

Together we thank God that no lives were lost and I invite us to each play our part in the rebuilding process.

Much love
Yours in continued service

Chet
(MP E.P Chet Greene)

Protocol Office Recruitment Drive for SIDS 2024

Small island developing states (SIDS) and coastal areas are uniquely vulnerable to climate change impacts and other environmental pressures.

This was recognized by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1989, when it passed resolution 44/206 on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and low-lying coastal areas.

The first UN Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS was held in Barbados in 1994; the second was held in Mauritius in 2005; and, the third in Samoa in 2014. The 4th UN SIDS Conference is forecast to be held in Antigua in May 2024.

As a result, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently recruiting approximately 200 volunteers to work with the Office of Protocol in the various aspects of the Conference.

Persons from NGOs, Service Organizations and the Public Service will all be required to volunteer as: Country Liaisons, registration assistants, ushers, plenary escorts, meeting services and should all have mannerisms and characteristics as listed below:

1. Strong work ethic
2. Teamwork
3. Time management

4. Positive attitude
5. Willingness to help
6. Reporting skills
7. Trouble shooting/problem solving skills
8. A welcoming/warm personality
9. A calm demeanor.

Interested persons are asked to forward their Full Name, Email Address and Contact Number to kritzia.bird@ab.gov.ag for planning purposes.

“The date and time of the planning meeting will be announced soon,” remarked a protocol official who is involved in the planning process.

“We are especially hopeful that persons who were involved in World Cup or CARIFESTA will

apply but, truth be told, we encourage everyone to take advantage of this experience”.

NOTICE

TO: Magistrate for District "A"
Magistrate's Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS
REGISTERED AS
DOMILUNAR RESTAURANT BAR & LOUNGE**

I, Mahalia Eusebe, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 5th October, 2023 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Domilunar Restaurant Bar & Lounge" situated Factory Road, in the Parish of St. John's, 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 3rd August, 2023

Mahalia Eusebe
780-3097

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CPSA Solidarity Day message

By Thomas Letang
General Secretary

The Caribbean Public Services Association (CPSA) today observes what is intended to be an annual event – CPSA Solidarity Day. The theme for this year’s observance is “Public Sector workers safeguarding public services.”

The CPSA has also adopted a slogan for this special event which is “CPSA: United and Strong.” In light of all the difficulties being experienced by public sector employees, the CPSA saw the need to set aside one day each year, when affiliates simultaneously organize activities that will not only highlight their existence but also that of the CPSA as a regional public sector trade union organisation, one which was formed 49 years ago.

Today’s economic, political, and social global challenges make the objectives of the CPSA as relevant as they were half a century ago. The Caribbean which is so vulnerable to climate impacts and other shocks ought to continue to find innovative and progressive solutions.

Consequently, the need to intensify and strengthen unity among Public Sector Trade Unions assumes even greater urgency.

Some of the severe existential threats confronting public workers such as the erosion of human rights, threats to pensions and fringe benefits, political victimization, low salaries, and wages demand collective resistance. Though affiliates will be at different levels in terms of their development and ability to combat the problems, the CPSA provides a platform for united action. As a matter of priority, it offers the requisite technical assistance to assist affiliates.

The CPSA has a track record of serving as a central or coordinating agency for discussion with Govern-



ments in which respective affiliates are engaged. Notwithstanding financial constraints, great success has been realized in the Training and Education of ordinary and Executive members of affiliates, women, and young workers. Reports show that tremendous benefits have been accrued from those activities utilizing the knowledge and skills of internal personnel resources.

The CPSA over the past decade has been consistent in its pursuit of campaigns to address precarious work, gender equality and equity, governance and transparency issues, economic issues, poor working conditions, and disaster management all of which impact public services.

Our collective efforts have brought about positive results. We must however bear in mind that our detractors will not cease in their action of victimization and attacks on our leaders who speak out in defense of members. Arrests and legal persecution as well as denial of appointments are new strategies being used by some governments in trying to silence our leadership.

While it is recognized that each affiliate must retain its sovereignty, the power of collective action cannot be underestimated. It is only through unity we will get stronger and will then be able to cement our respective unions and the CPSA as a force to be reck-

oned with.

As leaders who have been entrusted by our members to represent their interests, we will seek to do so without compromising or betraying that trust and the principles of trade unionism as set out by our forefathers. Together we will continue to unite ourselves to ensure a nonreturn to the conditions of the 1930’s and the periods of colonization of our region.

The onus is on all public officers to seriously rally behind their trade union leaders as they seek better working conditions, justice, and fairness for all.

The CPSA anticipates greater collaboration with Governments of the region, other employers, and partners to chart a course for greater climate justice and decent work, particularly with regards to collective bargaining.

Unity is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. Let us erase possible failure from our minds and prove to the world that we will succeed in our endeavors.

On behalf of the CPSA Executive Committee and its Secretariat, I take pleasure in wishing all affiliates and public officers a successful Solidarity Day.

The CPSA was formed on October 3, 1970. Celebrating 53 years of existence but recognizing it the 54th year

Why your new Apple iPhone 15 is overheating

By Shiona McCallum

Apple has blamed a bug in its operating system and updates to apps such as Instagram for its new iPhone 15 overheating.

Since the latest model of the smartphone went on sale in September, some users have complained the devices are getting too hot to touch.

Apple said there was a bug when updating iOS 17 on the phone.

But it also claimed that changes to third party apps are “causing them to overload the system”.

iPhone users have come to expect their devices to become hotter during the initial set-up or when they are being backed up, due to the amount of



processing power being used and the handset working overtime - but these issues with the iPhone 15 have been

worse.

Users took to social media to complain the new phones were searing.

Apple said that the device may feel warmer in the first few days “after setting up or restoring the device because of increased background activity.”

The company said: “We have identified a few conditions which can cause iPhones to run warmer than expected.”

This includes a bug in iOS 17 which is the latest version of Apple’s software which is accessible for its most recent models.

It said that “another issue involves some recent updates to third-party apps that are causing them to overload the system,” and it is working with app developers on fixes that are in the process of being rolled out.

Among the apps blamed for the problem are Instagram, Uber and the video game Asphalt 9, according to Apple.

Instagram already fixed the issue with its app last week.

The upcoming iOS 17 bug fix will not reduce performance in order to address the iPhone’s temperature.

cont’d on pg 13

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Caribbean Tourism urged to embrace green investments and sustainable practices

As stewards of “fragile” ecosystems, the Caribbean must prioritize the need for ‘green investments and environmentally conscious practices’ with a sense of urgency.”

This statement was made by the newly-appointed Secretary-General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, Dona Regis-Prosper, during the recent regional forum commemorating World Tourism Day 2023, held on Friday.

Regis-Prosper explored the three fundamental pillars supporting this year’s World Tourism Day theme, emphasizing the Caribbean’s dedication to sustainability as it aims to take the lead in sustainable tourism.

“As a global brand, Caribbean tourism must continue to embrace best practices in environmental, social and governance activities that demonstrate our commitment to future generations,” Regis-Prosper said.

In the Caribbean, there are small islands that have already started with their



green initiatives, like the eight eastern Caribbean states (Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) that are currently developing their own geothermal energy plants. Dominica, meanwhile, has been championing the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, such as houses and other public facilities, with the help of private developing

company MMC Development Ltd.

Regis-Prosper also highlighted the importance of prioritizing people-centered tourism, emphasizing the necessity of addressing the knowledge and skills gap in the Caribbean.

“Research confirms what those of us in the tourism and travel industry know firsthand – that inter-personal, face-to-face interactions with others play a

significant part in the visitor experience,” she said.

The Secretary-General also stressed and “the need for public-private sector and community collaborations to enhance benefits from tourism,” backing the United Nations World Tourism Organization’s appeal for fresh and inventive solutions and investments that foster and reinforce growth, productivity, and sustainability within the tourism sector.

“We believe the Caribbean should lead, and not follow, on investing in a healthy, sustainable, and productive future for the prosperity of our people and our planet,” Regis-Prosper concluded.

cont’d from pg 12

Apple stressed that the warming phones is not related to the new titanium casing that houses the iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max instead of the stainless steel used on older smartphones.

It also dismissed speculation that the

overheating problem was anything to do with the new USB-C port that allowed it to comply with a mandate issued by European regulators.

Apple said the issue is not a safety or injury risk and will not impact the phone’s long-term performance.



None of the children who ate the sweets are said to be in a serious condition.

Jamaica: Children in hospital after eating cannabis sweets

By Kathryn Armstrong

More than 60 children have been taken to hospital in Jamaica after eating sweets containing cannabis, the country's education minister said.

Fayval Williams wrote on X (formerly Twitter) that the primary school pupils were from the St Ann's Bay area - about 80km (50 miles) from the capital, Kingston.

She said some children experienced vomiting and hallucinations.

None are reported to be in a serious condition.

"The doctors & nurses are doing all they can to ensure the students recover," Ms Williams wrote on X, adding that several of the children had to be put on an intravenous (IV) drip.

"One little boy said he only had ONE sweetie. That's how potent this product is. DANGER!"

Ms Williams said the children were from St Ann's Bay Primary, but local news agencies have reported that students from the nearby Ocho Rios Primary School were affected. The children are thought to be between the ages of seven and 12.

The principal of the latter school told the Jamaica Observer that a "lone vendor" had sold the sweets to its students.

The head of the St Ann police department, Senior Superintendent Dwight Powell, has urged the person or anyone with information about them to contact the authorities.

Ms Williams posted photos of the product packaging which is thought to have contained the sweets, which specifies they are not to be sold to minors.

Each is said to contain 100mg of the psychoactive substance Delta-8

tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is generally considered to be a high dose for an adult.

According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Delta-8 has "intoxicating effects".

The sweets, which are not FDA-approved, were produced by a company based in the US state of California, where cannabis is legal.

Jamaica decriminalised the possession of small amounts of cannabis, also known as marijuana, for personal use in 2015.

However, Health Minister Christopher Tufton told the Jamaica Star that the government did not allow the import of edibles containing drugs.

The incident comes more than a week after around 90 children fell ill in South Africa after eating drug-laced muffins that officials said they had bought from a street vendor.

Bermudians to pay higher electricity rates

CMC - Opposition leader, Jarion Richardson, has described as “a punch to the gut,” the announcement by the Bermuda Electric Light Company Limited (Belco) that it was increasing the rate of electricity as of October 1.

“Unexpected, significant increases in key household expenses during these volatile economic times shouldn’t be introduced without lengthy explanation and justification, especially given the economic and social repercussions.

“The average resident is already struggling to cover basic necessities, like groceries and housing. The same applies to the cost of doing business; it’s becoming intolerable,” Richardson added.

But Belco President Wayne Caines said “it is not lost on us that this most recent fuel adjustment rates (FAR) increase is significant.

“The cost of fuel is determined by the market, and the FAR is largely driven by the cost of that fuel used to generate electricity. The FAR is revenue neutral and Belco makes no extra earnings from this increase.

“The Regulatory Authority holds us accountable and ensures that our costs are efficiently incurred. Customers can vis-



it our website, where they can find many helpful tips on energy efficiency steps they can take to reduce their bills,” he added.

In its statement, Belco said it is increasing the FAR from the existing rate of US16.513 cents (per kilowatt hour (kWh) to US24.517 cents per kWh..

It said with the approval of the Bermuda Regulatory Authority, the FAR is comprised of US20.09 cents per kWh FAR and US4.427 cents per kWh government tax on fuel.

“This increase of 48.5 per cent relative to the third quarter of 2023 is primarily the result of the mix of fuel necessary to meet demand in light of current and projected engine availability for the quarter.”

Belco said that the FAR reflects the total cost to deliver fuel to its central plant and is comprised of two parts, namely the fuel adjustment and Bermuda government taxes, adding the fuel adjustment is based on the total cost of purchasing fuel and includes shipping costs.

It said the second part of the FAR is comprised of two separate government taxes.

At present the government charges US\$31.79 per barrel of fuel in addition to a tax of US\$0.40 per barrel of fuel, which provides funding for the St George’s Unesco World Heritage site.

Belco said the FAR is calculated quarterly and rises and falls as the pur-

chase price of its fuel rises and falls. The FAR is a cost recovery mechanism and both revenue and earnings are neutral as 100 per cent of the cost and any savings owing to a reduction in Belco fuel costs are passed on to customers.

Richardson said given the role of the Regulatory Authority in this, and its mandate “to promote the interests of the residents and consumers of Bermuda”, this fuel adjustment requires more than a press release, adding the people deserve a thorough explanation.

“The electricity bills were already choking many households,” he said adding “this price increase is like rubbing salt into a wound”.

Canada MPs elect first black House of Commons Speaker

Canada has elected Liberal MP Greg Fergus to be the new Speaker of the House of Commons after the previous one resigned amid a Nazi in parliament row.

Mr Fergus - the first black man to hold the position - was chosen by the 338-member House after a secret ballot on Tuesday.

He called it "a great honour" to be chosen for the role.

The former Speaker resigned after inviting a Ukrainian man who fought for a Nazi unit to the parliament.

Anthony Rota said he did not know of the veteran's Nazi ties.

Seven candidates had been in the race to replace him on Tuesday.

In his first remarks, Mr Fergus urged his colleagues to treat each other with respect in the House, a place he said was for "passionate debate".

"We will show them politics is a noble profession," he said.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his election "should be inspiring for all Canadians, especially younger generations who want to get involved in politics".

While Mr Fergus is the first black man to become Speaker in the House, Jean Augustine, the first black



Newly elected Speaker Greg Fergus appealed for collegiality in the House.

woman to be elected as a member of parliament in 1993, later went on to briefly serve as deputy speaker.

Along with his role as member of parliament, Mr Fergus, 54, served as parliamentary secretary to the Treasury Board president and to the health minister.

As a student in the late 1980s, he was also a House of Commons page for a year - a part-time year-long role that includes tasks such as delivering water and messages to members in the House chamber - a moment he recalled in his remarks.

Mr Fergus was first elected in 2015 as an MP for the Quebec riding (district) of Hull-Aylmer, near Ottawa, the year Prime

Minister Justin Trudeau's party swept into power.

His personal biography describes him as a "community activist, long distance runner, new grandfather and failed musician".

The Speaker chairs debates, enforces the rules of the House, votes only to break a tie and is expected to be politically impartial.

His first role will be to "restore the honour of the Chamber," said leader of the New Democrats Jagmeet Singh, speaking on the House floor.

It was a reference to the standing ovation given to a World War Two veteran who served in the 14th Waffen-SS Grenadier Division, a voluntary unit made

up mostly of ethnic Ukrainians under Nazi command.

Yaroslav Hunka, 98, was sitting in the gallery in parliament when Mr Rota honoured him by calling him a "hero" during a visit to Ottawa by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Division members are accused of killing Polish and Jewish civilians, although the unit has not been found guilty of any war crimes by a tribunal.

The 22 September incident drew global condemnation.

Mr Trudeau last week apologised for the incident, saying it was "a mistake that deeply embarrassed parliament and Canada".

DR Congo colonel sentenced to death over anti-UN protest killings

By Wycliffe Muia

An army colonel has been sentenced to death in the Democratic Republic of Congo for his role in the killing of more than 50 demonstrators in August.

Col Mike Mikombe, the ex-commander of the elite Republican Guard in Goma city, was accused of giving orders to open fire on anti-UN protesters.

His lawyers said he would appeal against the military court's ruling.

This was the highest number of deaths in a crackdown on protests against UN peacekeepers in eastern DR Congo.

The protesters were demanding the withdrawal of UN troops, accusing them of failing to protect civilians who have been under decades-long attacks by rebel groups in the region.

The UN has almost 18,000 personnel in the country, including more than 12,000 soldiers, making it the second-largest UN mission globally.

The August protests were organised by a Christian sect known as Wazalendo (Patriots), to demand the departure of UN troops from the region.

The protesters also wanted Governor Ndima



Col Mike Mikombe was accused of ordering his officers to open fire on anti-UN protesters.

Kongba, who had earlier banned the demonstrations, to resign. The governor has since been replaced.

According to the state prosecutor, 56 civilians were killed and dozens others wounded during the demonstrations, sparking international condemnation.

More than 150 people were arrested during the crackdown by the security forces.

The court heard how amid chaotic scenes troops opened fire at the protesters, allegedly on the instruction of Col Mikombe.

He had suggested that

he had been misled by an operational order identifying the sect members as proxies of the M23 rebel group, which had captured large swathes of territory in North Kivu province last year.

The death sentence is often handed down in DR Congo but no executions have taken place in more than 20 years. The sentences tend to be commuted to life imprisonment.

Col Mikombe was tried along with five other soldiers.

Three of them were sentenced to 10 years in prison, while two others,

including Col Mikombe's deputy, were acquitted.

An anti-UN protest in July 2022 led to more than 15 deaths, including three peacekeepers.

DR Congo's President Félix Tshisekedi, who is seeking re-election in December, has called on the UN force to begin leaving this year instead of next year as initially planned.

Last year, an East African force was deployed to eastern DR Congo to aid the Congolese military quell fighting - though it too has faced criticism of not doing enough to bring about stability.

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Antigua lose second game at ECCB International Netball Series

Host Antigua and Barbuda lost their second successive game in the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday night.

Antigua and Barbuda, who went under 25-59 against guest team Barbados on Sunday, lost 29-48 against defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their third encounter in the nine-team round-robin tournament.

Goal Shoot Rayana Regis converted 18 of her 28 attempts, while Goal Attack Jamilia Fitz sank 11 of her 18 shots for Antigua and Barbuda.

Goal Attack Shellisa Davis netted 22 of her 38 tries, while Goal Shoots, Joseann Antoine and Kimesha Antoine each scored 13 of their 19 attempts for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Dominica claimed their first win in the competition by snatching a narrow 54-51 victory over St. Kitts and Nevis, who lost for the third time in as many outings.

In a match-up between the two guest teams, Barbados made it two wins in as many outings by dispatching the Cayman Islands 83-24 in a lopsided affair.

Grenade claimed their



Antigua and Barbuda's players compete against their opponents from St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank International Netball Series at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday night.

second win in two outings by inflicting a crushing 68-11 beating on Montserrat, who lost for the third time in as many games.

All games that were scheduled to take place yesterday (Tuesday) were cancelled due to the passage of Tropical Storm Philippe across Antigua and Barbuda.

The organizers are hoping to resume matches in the tournament at the YMCA Sports Complex today by playing games both in the morning and the evening.



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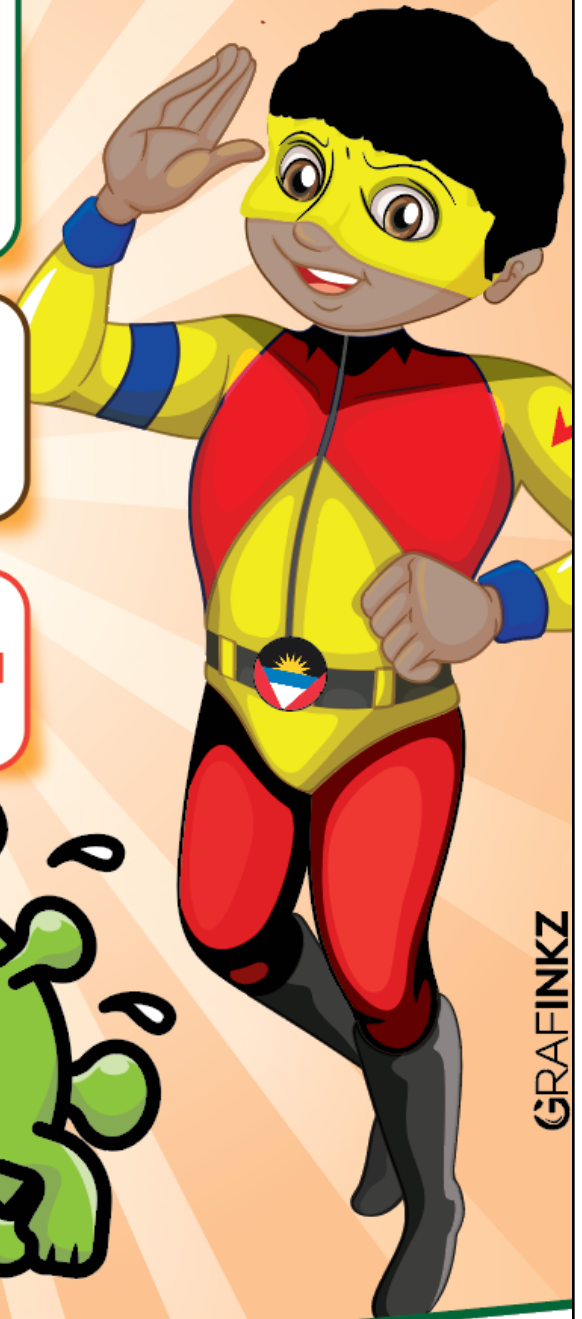
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James hits century in first Leeward Islands Hurricanes trial match

Antiguan all-rounder Kofi James slammed a century as Team Alzarri Joseph pulled off an 84-run victory against Team Rahkeem Cornwall in the first Leeward Islands Hurricanes Trial Match in preparation for this month's Cricket West Indies (CWI) regional CG United Super50 Cup in Trinidad and Tobago.

James cracked 104 off 113 balls, including 12 fours and three sixes, to lead his team, captained by fellow Antiguan Joseph, to 275 for six off their 50 overs at the Edgar Gilbert Sporting Complex in Molineaux in St. Kitts on Monday.

James shared a 93-run opening partnership with Montserrat's wicketkeeper/batsman Joshua Grant, who made 31 off 49 balls. He also added 67 runs for the second wicket with Kittitian Terrance Warde, who struck 81 off 90 balls. Barbadian Justin Greaves chipped in with 29.

Jamaican fast bowler Oshane Thomas claimed two for 44, and fel-

low pacer Collin Archibald captured two for 60.

In reply, Team Rahkeem Cornwall were restricted to 191 for eight, with Antiguans Karima Gore and Jewel Andrew sharing a third-wicket partnership of 105 runs to add some respectability to their team's eventual total.

Andrew hit a top score of 62, including four fours and three sixes, before he was forced to retire due to cramps, while Gore made 44 off 65 balls. Daniel Doram was left not out on 24.

Montserrat's off-spinner Zawandi White snapped up four wickets for 30 runs, while Joseph bagged two wickets for four runs.

The 27-member squad will play two more trial matches in St. Kitts, from which the 14 players to represent the Leeward Islands Hurricanes will be chosen to contest the regional CG United Super50 Cup in Trinidad and Tobago from October 17 to November 11.



Antiguan allrounder Kofi James



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Transport Board return to winning form in business basketball league

Former champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, returned to winning ways in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition on Monday night.

The Transport Board, who had won their first four encounters, suffered their first loss in the 13-team round-robin competition, narrowly losing 48-52 against the Callan Shooters at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday.

But the Transport Board returned to their winning form by snatching a 56-50 victory against the Sledge O'Ballers in the first game of Monday night's double header.

Marlon "Buju" Charles had 15 points, while Raymond Dickenson and

Russell Daley each had 11 points for the Transport Board.

Michael Jeffers and Kareem Edwards each converted 14 points, and Coy Quinland chipped in with 11 points for the Sledge O'Ballers, who lost for the fifth time in as many games.

Sandals prevailed 59-45 against Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the second game on Monday.

Keroi Lee shot a game-

high 25 points, Kim Casey scored 11 points, and Keady Martin sank 10 points for the Sandals.

Takeem Martin converted 13 points, and Najee Simmons scored 11 points for

the Fearless Crew.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Wednesday).

Sandals and the Sir Les-

ter Bird Medical Center will finish off their encounter at 6:30 pm; the Police will take on H. Wright Promotions at 7 pm; and the Callan Shooters will tackle Anjo Wholesale at 8 pm.

ECCB International Netball Series
 Sep 30 - Oct 7, 2023
 YMCA Sports Complex Antigua

Who will reign supreme

Participating Countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Cayman Islands
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Monsterrat
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines



Antiguan bodybuilder Dylan Jonas



Ambassador Kimberly Percival, center, is flanked by Ambassador Melissa Seaforth and Michelle Seaforth at the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation Diamond Cup in Prague in the Czech Republic.

Ambassador Percival wins second title in Prague

Ambassador Kimberly Percival has won her second title at the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation Diamond Cup in Prague, in the Czech Republic.

Ambassador Percival won the Bikini Fitness Pro competition, with fellow Antiguan Ambassador Me-

lissa Seaforth grabbing the runner-up position. Another Antiguan, Michelle Seaforth, captured fifth place from a field of 19 competitors.

This is the second time Ambassador Percival has won the title at the competition in the Czech Republic.

However, Antiguan

Kimberly Greenaway failed in her bid to reach the finals in the masters' bikini category. However, Greenaway was able to secure a fifth-place finish in the bikini contest up to 172 centimeters.

Antiguan Dylan Jonas captured third place in the amateurs' master body-

building competition. Jonas also finished in fifth place in the amateurs' men's bodybuilding contest up to 100 kilograms.

Melissa and Michelle Seaforth will be competing in Finland this weekend. Melissa Seaforth will also compete in Madrid, Spain, the following weekend.