

# SENATOR MARSHALL: 'WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY'



Taxes are needed to maintain good infrastructure such as roads.

## Senator Marshall: 'We all have a role to play'

Leader of Government Business in the Upper House, Senator Samantha Marshall wants residents to take a different view on the issue of taxes.

Speaking in the Senate on Thursday's debate on the Revenue (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024, Sen Marshall said everyone has a role to play since taxes are needed for the smooth running of the country.

"We all have a role to play in making our contribution. We can't speak about SIDS, the SIDS conference and climate change



Senator Samantha Marshall and its impact on the environment, yet we all want to waive the Environmental Tax. You can't want to see improvements in the infrastructure in the country as well as improvements in the

institutions, but we don't want to make our contribution in our taxes," she noted.

She added that the Bill's provisions are all in line with the philosophy enunciated by Prime Minister

Gaston Browne when he presented the Budget last December. "Everyone must play their part in the overall national development," she recalled.

Sen. Marshall also noted that the Bill is a marked departure from the norm as it places limits on the Prime Minister Browne who also holds the Finance Ministry portfolio, as it places limits on the waivers that he may grant solely by his own discretion.

"I want to commend highly the prime minister, *cont'd on pg 3*

## DCA addresses claims concerning restrictive covenants

The Development Control Authority wishes to clarify claims made in a recent media report concerning restrictive covenants.

The National Housing and Urban Renewal Company is the vendor for the lands on which the residential property is being erected. The media practitioner referenced item six on the list of restrictive covenants - "no building other than a single dwelling house either with or without garages and necessary outbuildings is to be erected upon the Lot."

However, item six restricts apartments and commercial buildings, not a single unitina residential area.

Item seven, the appropriate section, reads-"nodwellinghouseoranyextensionthereof shall be constructed except as a single storey building unless the topography canreasonably allow, the decision of the vendor being final."

Furthermore, the front of the building is notdepictedinthevideoandiswellwithinthe prescribed boundary setback.

Please be advised accordingly.

### Restrictive Covenants

#### RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

- To use the Property solely for the construction of a residential dwelling house of not less than fifteen hundred sq. ft. (1,500 sq. ft.) to be constructed within a period of two (2) years from the date of the installation of the infrastructure (water, electricity, telephone and a passable roadway) by the Vendor.
- No Lot shall be subdivided.
- The Purchaser shall not sell the Property within five (5) years from the date of purchase from the Vendor.
- No sand, earth, gravel or stones shall be dug out of any Lot except in the course of excavating for foundations.
- No dwelling house or extension to any existing dwelling house shall be constructed without the prior written approval of the Vendor which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld but complete and detailed plans and specifications must be submitted when approval is sought.
- No building other than a single dwelling-house either with or without garages and necessary out buildings is to be erected upon the Lot.
- No dwelling house or any extension thereof shall be constructed except as a single storey building unless the topography can reasonably allow otherwise, the decision of the Vendor being final.
- No extension to the dwelling-house erected on the plot as at the date of this sale and purchase agreement shall exceed twenty percent (20%) of the Lot size.
- No trees or shrubs shall be allowed to grow upon any Lot to such a height or density as materially to obstruct views from any other Lots.
- No Purchaser shall be entitled to any rights of light or air or other easement in respect of his Lot so as to prejudice or interfere with the right of any other purchaser to build up to the building line to such height as he would be entitled by law to build in the absence of any such right of easement.



## Deputy Financial Secretary attends ECCB/IMF Fuel Price Reform Workshop

Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Financial Secretary, Carolyn Charles-Tonge, is among ministry of finance officials attending a workshop on "Fuel Pricing and Carbon Taxation" for Eastern Caribbean Currency Union countries which raps up at the ECCB headquarters in St. Kitts today.

The workshop is organized by the Eastern Carib-

bean Central Bank (ECCB), in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is being co-funded by the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC).

The workshop brings together practitioners from the Ministries of Finance and Trade from each of the eight ECCU countries. Participants engaged IMF technical

experts on issues relating to fuel pricing mechanisms and carbon taxation. This practical, hands-on workshop is intended to support member countries in their broader efforts towards fiscal sustainability and climate resilience.

The workshop provides an overview of recent developments in international oil prices while drawing lessons

from a review of global policy responses to fuel price shocks. In addition, it provides a forum for discussion on the various fuel pricing mechanisms, design features, and their components.

Participants are exposed to international best practices in managing international fuel price volatility through automatic pricing mechanisms to preserve fuel tax revenues while mitigating the impact of fuel price increases on vulnerable households.

Finally, a dedicated session on carbon taxation will round out the workshop's programme. Participants will have the opportunity to share country experiences to foster peer learning and policy discussions.

### *cont'd from pg 2*

because there are not many politicians, much more prime ministers, who would allow opportunities for this to happen.

"What it does show is that there is greater demand for accountability on the part of government locally, and internationally there are greater demands for accountability on governments as well and it is important to be cognizant of this," she observed.

Sen. Marshall emphasized that transparency is the hallmark of good governance as she extended commendation not only to the prime minister but to the staff of the ministry of finance as well.

She noted that the Bill will take effect from April 1, 2024, after passage by the Senate and the signature of the Governor General. She added that any waivers that were granted before that date will be honoured.

## Parents encouraged to introduce healthier eating to children earlier

The early introduction of vegetables into a child's diet is just one of several key tips one health official is sharing with the public to aid in the fight for healthier lifestyles in the country.

With childhood obesity and other health issues on the rise in Antigua and Barbuda, the Ministry of Health is hoping to help curb those figures by encouraging parents and adults to eat healthier.

This is the advice com-

ing from the Chief Nutrition Officer Samantha Moitt.

Parents have expressed their difficulties in trying to get their children to eat vegetables, but Moitt explained that finding creative ways of introducing them to this food type could be the key.

She also added that at the infancy stage, it is imperative to introduce them to vegetables even before the age of one.

"At six months, it is important that a baby is in-

troducted to vegetables. So, when they are doing their puree or when they boil their carrots or pumpkin or whatever, you mash it and give it to them from early. As the child gets older, you can use the baby carrots, but you can also pair it with something that they already like.

"So, for instance, if they like milk, you can do a drink. Some of them like dips, they like peanut butter. You can start pairing it

there so that they can have it. They tend to like something sweet you can put it in the fritters," Moitt explained.

She said the same method can be used for adults as well.

"Sometimes you have to mask it. The thing about vegetables it has an earthy taste and that might be a turn off but you have to find creative ways because just steaming it isn't appealing for some. So instead of just having it on the side you can do a mix of a rice with some vegetable, add some soy sauce, and just make sure that you are having at least two or three servings per day," Moitt added.

Moitt's comments come on the heels of International Carrot Day which was celebrated on April 4.

International Carrot Day serves as a reminder of the importance of incorporating vegetables like carrots into our meals for a balanced and nutritious diet.

Moitt is admonishing patrons to push towards eating healthier as it helps to prevent several illnesses.

For those who need additional information, they can log on to all of the social media pages for the Ministry of Health or even go into one of the community clinics and consult with a Nutritionist free of charge.

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St John's, Antigua  
email: [humanresources.ntw@gmail.com](mailto:humanresources.ntw@gmail.com)

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those short-listed will be contacted.

## Old Road man linked to country's third homicide remanded

June 12 is the date that has been set for when 21-year-old Denris Josiah will return to court for his committal hearing.

Josiah, an Old Road resident made his first court appearance on Thursday morning after being charged with the murder of a fellow villager, 23-year-old Ricaldo Joseph a day earlier.

He was taken into custody on the heels of the machete attack which claimed Joseph's life over the Easter weekend.

According to reports, Josiah used a machete to fatally wound Joseph after both men were involved in a dispute at a bar in the village late Saturday night.

Reports suggest that Joseph was

struck in the head, upper body, and arms while a 19-year-old who tried to intervene to calm the matter was also seriously injured.

Josiah is now on remand, an order made by Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel in the All Saints Magistrate's Court.

He is being represented by Wendel Alexander.

## Directorate of Gender Affairs launches 2024 Work and Life Skills Programme

The Directorate of Gender Affairs has announced the commencement of the 2024 Work & Life Skills Programme, focusing on Fi-

ancial Literacy, Bookkeeping, and Investment. This transformative programme is designed to equip participants with essential skills

to navigate the intricacies of personal and business finance, fostering financial empowerment and sustainability.

Throughout the programme, participants will delve into various aspects of financial management, from understanding fundamental concepts to mastering the nuances of investment strategies. Led by seasoned expert in finance and accounting, Nikido Joseph, the programme offers comprehensive training tailored to meet the diverse needs of individuals and businesses.

"The Work and Life Skills Programme aims to give participants real-world skills they can use to grow both personally and professionally. Financial Literacy was one of our most requested courses, and the Directorate is really pleased to be able to support the people of Antigua and Barbuda by providing access to this skillset." remarked Programme Coordinator Raisa Charles.

Key highlights of the programme will focus on understanding financial ba-

*cont'd on pg 6*

## Eastern Caribbean Youth Parliament Network established

An Agreement was signed to create the Eastern Caribbean Youth Parliament Network (ECYPN). The ECYPN will be a collaborative organisation made up of the youth parliaments within the OECS region.

The signatories to the agreement were Jessica Zouetr and Hasani McDonald the presidents of the National Youth Parliament Associations of Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts-Nevis respectively.

During the virtual signing ceremony both presidents outlined the future of the ECYPN and gave commendations to past presidents Mauriel Knight (SKNPA) and Kamalie Mannix (NYPAAB) who began formal relations between both organisations in 2021. Present at the meeting were other executives and senior members of the youth parliaments.

Since 2021, the NYPAAB & SKNY-PA have executed two successful sittings of the Joint Youth Assembly and, in 2023 planned and executed the inaugural sitting



Kamalie Mannix of the ECCU Youth Parliament. Members of both organisations have given overwhelming support to the creation of the Network.

The ECYPN will seek to harmonize the advocacy and work of its member organisations. Celine Edwards, External Affairs Officer (NYPAAB) indicated that the ECYPN is the result of months of hard work and she looks forward to the next sitting of the Eastern Caribbean Youth Assembly to be hosted in St. Kitts in August 2024.

## Rotaract Club of Antigua partners with the Central Board of Health to promote water conservation and hygiene

In a collaborative effort to raise awareness about water conservation, treatment, and protection, the Rotaract Club of Antigua has joined hands with the Central Board of Health. This initiative comes as part of the Rotary International Month of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, aiming to highlight the importance of preserving this vital resource.

The collaboration manifested in a three-part episode series, focusing on various aspects of water management based on tanks, cisterns and blue drums. Through engaging videos, the Rotaract Club of Antigua shared practical tips with residents of Antigua and Barbuda and the wider region on how to effectively treat and safeguard their water catchments.

One of the primary objectives of this partnership was to assist the Central Board of Health in educating the public about preventing mosquito breeding in water catchments. With the recent rise in mosquito-borne illnesses, such as dengue and Zika virus, this



aspect of water protection is particularly crucial for public health.

Water conservation and hygiene are fundamental aspects of community well-being. By sharing actionable insights through our videos, we aim to empower individuals to play an active role in preserving our water resources and safeguarding public health.

The videos produced through this collaboration are readily accessible on the social media pages of the Rotaract Club of Antigua and the Central Board

of Health's Facebook page. Through these platforms, the valuable information shared can reach a wider audience, encouraging collective action towards water conservation and hygiene practices.

As communities face increasing challenges related to water scarcity and environmental degradation, initiatives like these underscore the importance of collaborative efforts between civic organizations and public health authorities. By fostering awareness and encouraging responsible stew-

ardship of water resources, the Rotaract Club of Antigua and the Central Board of Health are making strides towards building a more sustainable and healthier future for all.

In addition to their collaboration with the Central Board of Health, the Rotaract Club of Antigua has been actively engaged in various community projects, further demonstrating their commitment to service and community development.

One such initiative was a disaster risk reduction management talk hosted by Anderson Tuitt from the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS). This educational event aimed to enhance community preparedness and resilience in the face of natural disasters.

The club also initiated the PEACE project within local secondary schools, striving to foster peace and harmony among students. Through workshops and activities, they promote conflict resolution skills and encourage positive interactions among peers.

These diverse projects exemplify the Rotaract Club of Antigua's multifaceted approach to community service, addressing various needs and fostering positive change in their local community.

<p><i>cont'd from pg 5</i></p> <p>sics and money management, financial statement preparation and planning, investment fundamentals, risk assessment and management and bookkeeping.</p> <p>The Financial Literacy, Bookkeep-</p>	<p>ing &amp; Investment course will be held from 5:00PM – 6:30PM at the UWI Open Campus every Tuesday and Thursday from April 23rd, 2024 – June 6th, 2024. The fee associated with this course is \$120.00XCD.</p>
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1

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- After touching pets or animals
- After handling rubbish

2

**CATCH YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE IN A CLEAN TISSUE, AND TOSS IN THE BIN**

- Then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer

3

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# Special Feature



## 1994-2024: 30 years of diplomatic relations between Antigua & Barbuda and Cuba



# Beneficiaries of Cuban Scholarships

**Dr Kamaria De Castro**  
*Acting Chief Medical Officer*  
*Antigua and Barbuda*

I became a recipient of a scholarship to Cuba in 2000. I was excited but also had some trepidation about living in a foreign country as a teenager with no friends or family and where another language was spoken. However, I maintained an open mind to this great opportunity.

La Preparatoria - an intense first year of learning Spanish, for general and career-oriented communication

was one of my best life experiences. It was an introduction to a bilingual lifestyle, and my cultural awareness was heightened.

I graduated with honours, "Titulo de Oro", in General Medicine. It was a momentous occasion which proved again that dedication is rewarded with success. I am part of a network of professionals which has positively impacted my progress in life.

In reflection, gratitude resonates in my heart for the opportunity I received from the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba.



Dr Kamaria De Castro

**Malaika Lake née Francis**  
*Early Childhood Education*  
*Pinar Del Rio, Cuba*

Studying Preschool Education in Cuba for six years offered a unique and enriching academic knowledge, while gaining valuable hands-on experiences through internships in Cuban preschools, honing my teaching skills under the guidance of experienced educators.

Being employed as a Curriculum Officer/Teacher at the Early Childhood Development Unit for the last 12 years, the comprehensive curriculum in Cuba, which emphasized the importance of play-based learning, social-emotional development, and cultural diversity, has prepared me for this role in every way.

Furthermore, the emphasis on community engagement and collabo-



Malaika Lake  
ration fostered a strong sense of social responsibility within me.

Engaging with local communities and participating in outreach programs in Cuba equipped me with assisting the Unit when the Ministry of Education placed much needed emphasis on opening Government Preschools in some of the more vulnerable communities on the island.

With our extensive and growing Spanish community, being bilingual has also played a positive role serving the children in these areas.

Overall, my six-year experience studying Preschool Education in Cuba, thoroughly equipped me with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to provide high-quality early childhood education, which now has enabled me to confidently tutor in our Early Childhood Programme and also our Day-care Operations' Programme, both offered at the Early Childhood Development Unit.

The experience gained through the opportunity of the Cuban Scholarship from the relationship with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Cuba has been not only a personal enrichment but a benefit to the nation.

*A most grateful recipient*





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# Opinion



## It's time the UN Security Council acts to stop the killing in Gaza

By Sir Ronald Sanders

The escalation of violence in Gaza by Israel has prompted a global outcry, marking a rising disgust, particularly among the young, of what is widely regarded as a hugely disproportionate response to the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

Now, the outrage has grown beyond young people to include solid representatives of the traditional establishment, at least in Britain. With over 600 British legal experts, including retired judges from the Supreme Court, demanding a halt to the British government's arms sales to Israel, the urgency of a re-evaluation by the UN Security Council of its stance on the conflict should be obvious.

The concerns of the British legal fraternity are linked to their fear of the possibility of complicity by the British government in grave breaches of international law by Israel, using arms that are supplied, in part, by Britain. If the Israeli government, particularly its globally unpopular Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, continues to dismiss all urgings to de-escalate attacks on Gaza, the current crisis will enter the realm of global ethical responsibility.

### Genocide or defence?

The courage of the

South African government to take the allegation of genocide by the Israeli government to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the Court's decision in January 2024 to order provisional measures against Israel, has strengthened the growing view that the government of Israel is committing genocide.

The detailed accounts by the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, of civilian targeting, destruction of vital infrastructure, and the systematic denial of essential supplies, give credence to the fears about genocide. In her report to the UN Security Council, she said that there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that Israel is "committing the crime of genocide against the Palestinians as a group in Gaza."

Israel has adamantly rejected these accusations. However, the killing of aid workers from the World Central Kitchen, illustrates to many that Israeli forces may not be as careful, as they claim, to ensure that non-combatants are not targeted in their attack.

### Excessive actions test traditional alliances

These incidents not only fuel the debate but also test the historical alliances that



have, until now, shaped the geopolitical landscape, including in the U.S. administration, which has begun to realize that it could be tainted by Prime Minister Netanyahu's firm resolve to pursue military actions in Rafah that could result in the deaths of thousands of civilians.

Rafah is a city of 25 square miles in the Southern part of Gaza. Prior to the present conflict, Rafah had a population of less than 200,000 people. On the orders of Israel, an estimated 1.4 million people have been pushed into Rafah. They are all vulnerable to an Israeli military attack. This is why the U.S. government has been insist-

ing on proper arrangements for civilian safety and humanitarian consequences of any attack.

### Global Impact of Regional Wars

In today's interconnected world, there is no longer any such thing as an isolated conflict. The repercussions of warfare ripple across the globe, affecting food prices, shipping costs, and economic stability. The conflict in Ukraine and the Houthis' attacks on shipping lanes have already demonstrated how wars can impact global economies and individual lives far removed from the battleground.

**Calls for a Humanitarian**  
*cont'd on pg 11*

## *cont'd from pg 10* **tarian Approach**

The call from British jurists to suspend arms sales to Israel is not an isolated sentiment but part of a growing international chorus demanding accountability and a re-evaluation of the policies that enable the continuation of the conflict.

This movement, gaining momentum amid the rising deaths of civilians not only from military action but also due to lack of medicine and hunger, challenges the U.N. Security Council, especially its 5 veto-nations, to fulfil their responsibilities. This means that each of them must move to align their international policy with the principles of human rights and justice.

The 5 veto-nations cannot wait for an unredeemable plight in Gaza simply to make pious statements or to point fingers of blame at each other. Human lives are at stake.

### **A Call to Action**

This critical juncture calls for a collective reimagining of the approach by all nations to international conflicts and the mechanisms of support that sustain them.

The resolution passed by the UN Security Council, demanding an immediate ceasefire and the expansion of humanitarian assistance, though a step in the right direction, was not enough.

Sadly, it highlighted the limitations of international governance in enforcing peace and ensuring the protection of civilian lives, when big power countries play the game of seeking advantage over each other.

### **Conclusion**

As the crisis in Gaza unfolds, the international community, led by the UN Security Council, must seize this moment to advocate for peace and justice. This is not merely a call for a ceasefire, but a demand for a profound policy shift towards upholding

human dignity and preventing further loss of life.

The time for decisive action is now. The global community stands at a crossroad, and the response to the crisis in Gaza will be remembered either as a testament to international commitment to these ideals or to the abandonment of them. The consequences of the latter—abandoning the principles of peace and justice—would be too grave for the world to bear.

That is why even the smallest and least powerful nations of the world must not be silent; they must speak up loudly and together, in all regional and international fora, without exception.

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*



# Curry House

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## How AI is being used to prevent illegal fishing

By Emma Woollacott

Late last year, the Spanish government fined 25 Spanish-flagged fishing ships that had been operating near Argentina's territorial waters.

The financial penalties were imposed because the vessels had illegally turned off the GPS-based automatic identification systems (AIS), which were transmitting their positions. This is often a sign that a vessel is engaged in illegal fishing.

"It's estimated that illegal or unregulated fishing is as much as 20% of what's caught," says David Kroodsma, head of the research team at Global Fishing Watch.

Such illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing may catch as much as 26 million tonnes of fish every year, or one in every five fish, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. It says that in financial terms this black market is worth up to \$23bn (£18bn).

This contributes significantly to overfishing, with the UN adding that a third of global fish stocks are now being fished beyond biologically sustainable levels. For example it's estimated that the population of bluefin tuna, is just 2.6% of its historic, unfished size.

"Sharks and rays are at the brink of extinction," says Mr Kroodsma. "You



The University of Southampton's underwater robot, pictured, is being trained to recognise the sound of fishing.

have extinction threats to sea birds and turtles from bycatch. It is really sad, because we could manage the oceans so much better."

Global Fishing Watch was co-founded by Google, marine conservation body Oceana, and environmental group SkyTruth. The latter studies satellite images to spot environmental damage.

To try to better monitor and quantify the problem of overfishing, Global Fishing Watch is now using increasingly sophisticated AI software, and satellite imagery, to globally map the movements of more than 65,000 commercial fishing vessels, both those with - and without - AIS.

The AI analyses millions of gigabytes of satellite imagery to detect vessels and offshore infrastructure. It then looks at publicly accessible data from ships' AIS signals, and combines this with radar and optical imagery to identify vessels

that fail to broadcast their positions.

And while not all ships are legally required to use AIS, the AI and its "fishing detection algorithm" aims to work out which of these "dark" vessels are likely to be engaging in fishing.

"We use information like the length of the vessel, plus environmental information as to where that vessel is located, the imaging of the area, the density of vessel traffic in the area, the state of the ocean, like the temperature - a bunch of information on where the vessel is operating," says Fernando Paolo, Global Fishing Watch's senior remote sensing machine learning engineer.

"And this model infers whether the vessel is likely a fishing vessel or not a fishing vessel, like passenger vessels, oil tankers, shipping vessels and that kind of stuff."

The researchers have

found that three quarters of the world's industrial fishing vessels are not publicly tracked, with particular hot spots around Africa and South Asia.

Global Fishing Watch is now working to introduce higher-resolution imagery to help spot more smaller fishing vessels.

However, stamping out illegal fishing means getting data as quickly as possible - and a project from the University of Southampton and local firm RS Aqua is aiming to do just that.

The team is building a submarine robot that uses underwater sensors and AI to identify the sound of fishing, and transmit the information in real time. The AI can already differentiate between the natural sounds of the ocean, and is now being trained to identify the noise of trawlers operating in protected waters.

"Part of the drive of the project is to try and put something in place that would help monitor fishing activity within marine protected areas [MPAs]," says University of Southampton professor of statistical signal processing Paul White.

"There's a definite concern that by creating these ecosystems with higher densities of fish, those are going to be attractive to fishermen."

Currently there *cont'd on page 13*

## CSHRP named Most Innovative HR Professional Development Organisation in North America by Corporate Visions

Kingston, Jamaica - The Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals (CSHRP), widely recognized for its commitment to advancing HR practices, has been bestowed with the prestigious title of the Most Innovative HR Professional Development Organisation (North America) by Corporate Visions, a leading magazine in the global corporate landscape.

Corporate Visions, a digital platform dedicated to spotlighting advancements in various business sectors including HR, marketing, coaching, and recruitment, is revered for recognizing entities that spearhead progress and innovation. The accolade underscores CSHRP's un-

wavering dedication to revolutionizing the HR landscape within the Caribbean.

“Being recognized as the Most Innovative HR Professional Development Organisation – North America by Corporate Visions is a testament to the tireless efforts and dedication of our members, partners, and stakeholders,” remarked Mrs. Rochelle James, CSHRP’s CEO.

“At CSHRP, we are committed to fostering a culture of innovation, continuous learning, and excellence in HR practices. This accolade reaffirms our resolve to push boundaries and redefine the future of HR within the Caribbean.”

The recognition comes as the Organization pre-



CSHRP CEO - Rochelle James

pares to host its highly anticipated regional HR Conference - LOUD 24. Scheduled to take place on May 9 and 10, 2024 in Kingston Jamaica, LOUD 24 promises to be a dynamic forum where industry leaders, professionals, and visionaries converge to explore the latest trends, chal-

lenges, and opportunities shaping the HR domain.

CSHRP has long been at the forefront of championing best practices, fostering professional development and nurturing talent in the HR arena. Through its initiatives, programs, and events, CSHRP continues to empower HR professionals with the knowledge, skills, and insights needed to navigate the complexities of the modern workplace.

James added, “Our theme for this year’s conference is ‘Every Artiste has a story’ and anticipation is mounting among HR professionals, thought leaders, and stakeholders eager to learn, share and network. We are excited to see that this Conference has become a calendar event for the Region’s HR Professionals focused on driving innovation and excellence in their role.”

### cont’d from pg 12

are around 15,000 MPAs around the globe, which account for 8% of the world’s oceans. Yet one study says that less than half are actually «fully protected» from fishing. Mr White says the aim is that if the robot senses fishing, it will automatically contact authorities who can send out a patrol vessel.

He adds: “Exactly what form of AI we’re going to use, we’ve not completely fixed on yet. Part of the problem is that for this to work it has to sit in the ocean for many months. You can’t put something out in one week and then have to go back and change the batteries.

“It’s got to be very power efficient, which means you can’t have very complicated algorithms running, but they need

to be sufficiently powerful to distinguish something like trawler noise from other sources of noise in the ocean.”

Paul Lansbergen, chair of the International Coalition of Fisheries, says that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) “is a scourge of the industry”.

“The sustainability impacts and economic damages are very real, but it’s also no longer an issue that persists in the shadows. Industry leaders, policy makers, and associated stakeholders are all focusing on the challenge.

“Emerging technology, like AI, is complementary to traditional law enforcement and placing IUU in the cross hairs. But consumers also need to make sustainable choices and make it tougher on IUU fishers. We all play a role.”

## Dominica: Lawyers call for urgent reforms within the judicial system

CMC - The Dominica Bar Association (DBA) has listed a number of recommendations it said is aimed at improving the delivery of justice in the country, as it supported the “remonstrations,” by a High Court judge at the end of the January assizes last month.

In a statement, the DBA said that the remonstrations by Justice Colin Williams were predicated by similar remarks at the close of the September assizes last year.

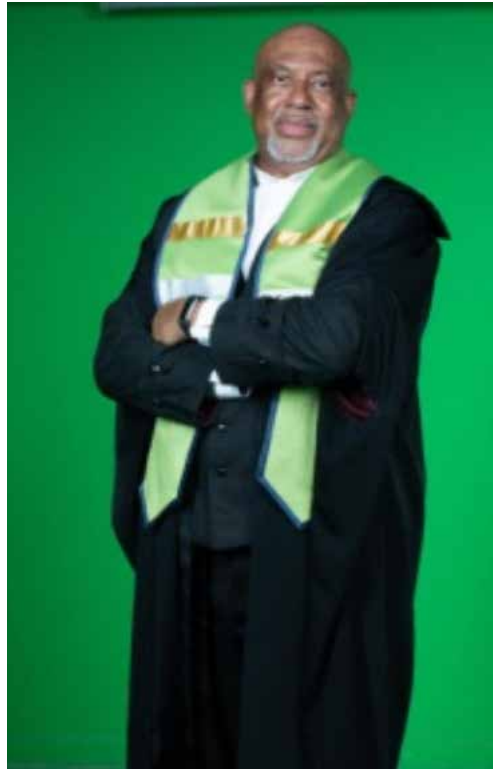
“We wish to support the sentiments of our Honourable Resident Judge in the criminal jurisdiction, with regard to the significant and in-excusable delays in the criminal justice system and the need for improvement. We note, as has been recognised by Justice Williams, that the cause of these delays is multi-faceted,” the DBA said.

Justice Williams had said that the rule of law is being compromised by systemic failures within the judicial infrastructure. He made reference to overcrowded prison cells and the prolonged duration of cases before the Court, plagued by lengthy delays in trials.

“When things are wrong, they want you to say all is well. But it is not,” he said as he highlighted the prevailing culture of complacency that threatens to erode the fabric of justice.

“I have to temper my words very carefully because people get very sensitive when you speak the truth. They don’t like you to say true things, they prefer you to be diplomatic or nice and pretend that all is well when it is rotten.

“In this particular era, you can’t offend people and if speaking the truth offends them then you can’t speak it and you must tell people that they are doing well when they are not,” he said,



Justice Colin Williams, High Court Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) assigned to Dominica. Photo: Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers noting also the backlog of cases and the excruciatingly slow pace of the Preliminary Inquiries (PI).

Justice Williams questioned the definition of success in the context of the judicial system and despite recording a full completion rate for the January session, he told the closing of the assizes that there were many people languishing in prison without trial, some for years on end.

“So, what is success. “From this assizes, between January and March, we had 13 matters and from this, only two went to trial. But the 13 matters are completed. That is a success, isn’t it, that’s a 100 per cent record, we have no matters left over. But tell that to the 119 males sitting down in the prison on remand awaiting trial. Now is that success?”

“I ask these questions as a person who is in the administration of justice,

and who must see things of a particular perspective as to how do we preserve the rule of law,” he added.

In its statement the DBA said that it is aware that delays occur at almost every stage of the process, both for summary and indictable matters.

“In our experience, delays occur primarily at the stages of making the case file ready for court, and at the preliminary inquiry stage for indictable matters. Many times, the mere disclosure of evidence to defence counsel by police prosecutors takes several months.

“Once the preliminary inquiry or summary trial begins, there are often-times inefficiency or outright failure in the summoning of witnesses by the police to attend court to give their evidence.

“There are instances when even the investigating officer is absent at the hearing, and therefore the case cannot move forward. As indicated before, a paper committal can be quicker and more efficient, but the training and resources for its more frequent use is lacking,” the DBA said.

It said while of course that some delay is caused by magistrates and also lawyers, it is of the opinion that a revitalisation of the criminal justice system on a whole would reduce and almost eliminate all unnecessary delays.

” This is because a robust working system would negate the culture of delay that has arisen in our courts. The benchmark of one year mentioned by Justice Williams in his recent remarks, from charge to High Court hearing (or summary trial in the Magistrates Court), is achievable”

However, the DBA said that to accomplish this the prosecution of cases

*cont’d on pg 15*

*cont'd from pg 14*

must be given the priority of resource allocation, dedication and work ethic that it requires.

“An accused remaining on remand in prison for an excessive amount of time before his/her case is finally heard is unconstitutional and hence unfair to the accused. In this case, the accused person has a clear constitutional route to seek redress for the deprivation of his/her right to a fair trial within a reasonable time.

“However, the excessive delay is also grossly unfair to the victims of crimes, who are left without a sense of closure and without justice being served. Moreover, such victims are often left without relief, as their route to seeking redress is often not so clear.

“We wait with bated breath to read the determination of the Court in a recent Trinidadian case where the family of the fatal victim of domestic violence sued the State for alleged persistent delays and injustice in dealing with her complaints and charges against her assailant. This judgment will undoubtedly have persuasive effect in our jurisdiction,” the DBA said.

“It is important to note, further, that unreasonable delays in the criminal justice system may also undermine the safety of our society, when possible criminal elements are released without trial due to the excessive delay in having their cases tried.

“It is for all of these reasons that the Dominica Bar Association has, over the years, made and continues to make representation to the authorities concerning the delays in not only the criminal justice system but the entire justice system altogether.”

In its latest set of recommendations, the DBA is calling for training for and allocation of more resources to, the more frequent use of paper committals, the appointment of more magistrates, and the streamlining of magistrates specifically for criminal matters as well as a re-focus, where

required, by investigators, prosecutors, magistrates and lawyers, to making a concerted effort to pursue matters with diligence.

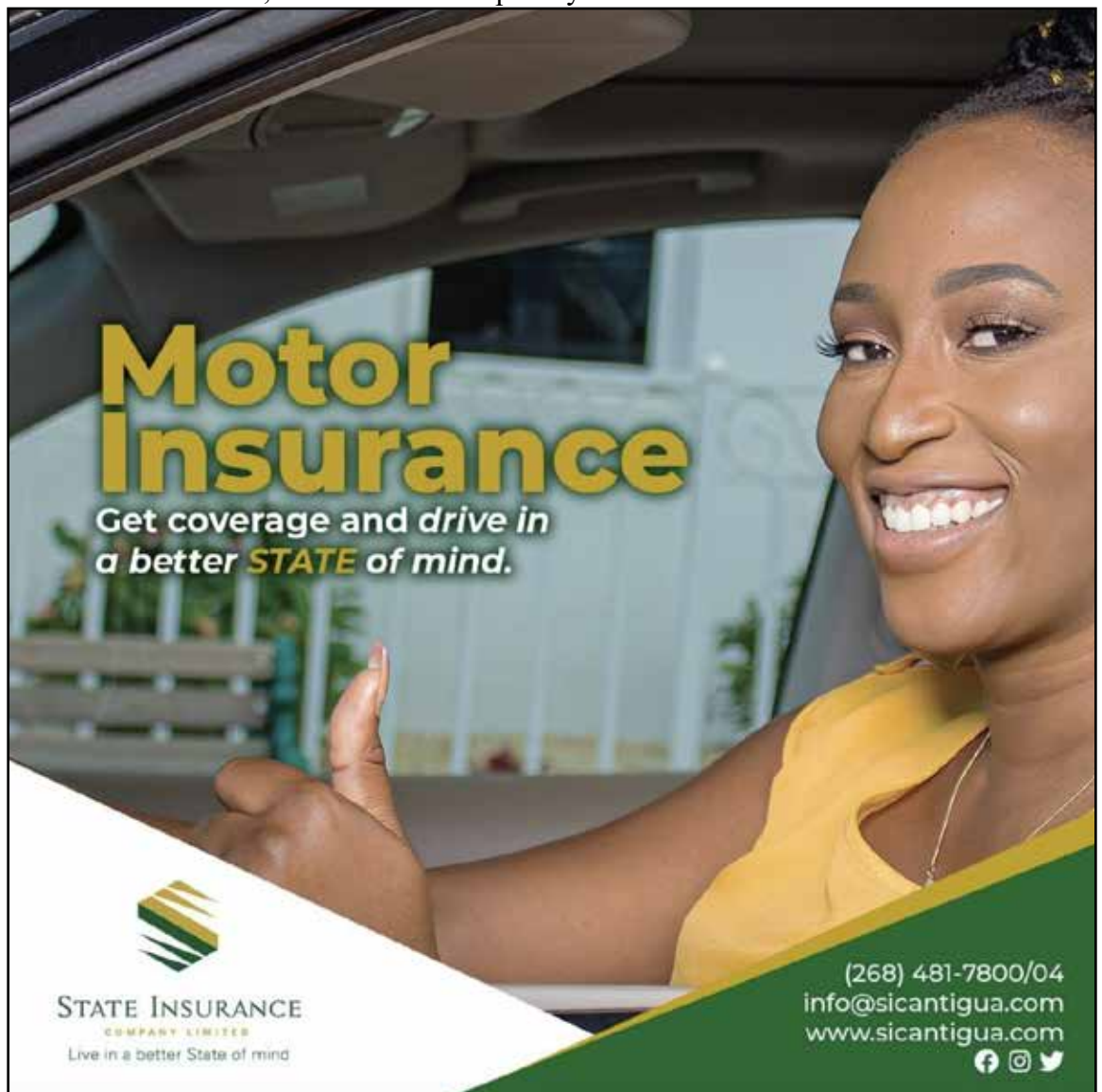
In addition, the DBA wants the stricter use of available sanctions and repercussions for untimely prosecution of cases and unreasonable delay and or absenteeism of defence counsel.

It said that these would include, the striking out of cases by magistrates where there are persistent failures on the part of investigating officers and police prosecutors as well as the taking of disciplinary measures

against incompetent and or inefficient investigating officers/police prosecutors by their relevant commanding officers.

The DBA said it was also supporting Justice Williams who noted that the weaknesses in the system are known, not new, and need to be cured.




“And further, if those who know better and can do better, do not, then the rule of law is consequently being consistently undermined, to the detriment of our nation. As he stated, “this is (our) country, and we have to do better”. Let us work together to do better.”



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# Israel says it will open new aid routes into Gaza

By Fiona Nimoni

Israel says it has approved the opening of two humanitarian routes into Gaza, to allow more aid into the territory.

The Erez Gate in northern Gaza will be temporarily re-opened for the first time since the start of the war and Ashdod Port will also be opened for humanitarian deliveries.

More aid from Jordan will be allowed to enter via the Kerem Shalom Crossing.

It comes hours after Joe Biden spoke with Israel's PM for the first time since seven aid workers were killed.

According to a readout of a phone call between the US president and Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr Biden warned that Israel must take steps to prevent civilian harm and humanitarian suffering if it wanted to maintain US support.

It is understood that the re-opening of the corridors was specifically requested by Mr Biden in the phone call.

Seven people working for the food aid charity World Central Kitchen (WCK) were killed in an Israeli strike in Gaza on Monday.

The WCK convoy they were travelling in was hit by an Israeli air strike as



Children in Gaza wait with empty pots at a food distribution point.

it travelled south along the Israeli-designated coastal aid route, just after they had unloaded more than 100 tonnes of food from a barge at a warehouse in Deir al-Balah.

The vehicles were around 2.5km (1.5 miles) apart and all three were hit during the attack.

The US National Security Council said it welcomed the steps announced by Israel, which it said "must now be fully and rapidly implemented".

US policy, it added, would be determined by the steps Israel took to protect "innocent civilians and the safety of aid workers".

On Thursday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there would be a change of US policy if the US did not see changes

from Israel.

The move to open Israel's northern border crossing with Gaza in Erez is particularly significant, after Israel's Foreign Minister Eli Cohen told Israeli media in November that there would be "no more contact between Israel and Gaza".

Mr Netanyahu has faced rising international and domestic anger at Israel's conduct in Gaza.

A long line of lorries filled with aid has been backing up on the Egyptian side of the border with Rafah for months as they can only enter Gaza after a complex and bureaucratic series of Israeli checks.

The absence of adequate humanitarian supplies has forced Jordan, the US and UK to drop aid

from the air - the least effective way to deliver humanitarian supplies.

But Palestinians have been crushed when parachutes fail and have drowned as they try to swim to pallets that have landed in the sea.

A recent UN-backed report offered evidence that the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza was turning into a man-made famine.

And the UN's most senior human rights official, Volker Türk, recently told the BBC that there was a "plausible" case that Israel was using starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza.

More than 196 aid workers have been killed in Gaza since October, according to the US-funded

*cont'd on pg 17*





## Truck crash spills live salmon into wrong Oregon river

By Max Matza

A truck carrying 102,000 live salmon in the US state of Oregon crashed last week on a creek bed, inadvertently releasing thousands of the juvenile fish into the water.

The young Chinook, also known as King, salmon were being taken from the Lookingglass Hatchery in the state's north, to the Imnaha River, where they are listed as threatened.

But the crash caused some 77,000 fish to splash into the Lookingglass Creek, boosting the population of that waterway instead.

Wildlife officials said on Tuesday that the driver lost

control around a tight turn, causing the fish tanker to roll down a rocky embankment. The driver sustained minor injuries, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) said in a statement.

The crash happened on a tight corner on 29 March, the statement says, with the 53-ft (16m) truck "rolling onto the passenger side, skidding on its side on the pavement, and then going over a rocky embankment causing it to roll onto its roof".

Over 25,000 of the salmon smolts - fish that are around two years old - died either inside the truck's

tanker or on the creek bank.

The local sheriff's office responded to the crash, officials said. "Small amounts of diesel fuel were quickly contained," the release said, adding that there was no need for a hazardous material spill response.

The Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation also responded and helped by collecting and scanning transponders on the dead fish.

Salmon are anadromous, meaning they spend much of their lives in the ocean but return to freshwater rivers to spawn. Many are now raised in government-run

hatcheries before being released back into their native waters to later return to those same hatcheries.

ODFW officials say the loss represents about 20% of the fish it intended to release into the Imnaha River this year.

They expect that around 500-900 fewer adult fish will return to spawn in 2026-2027 due to the loss.

The 77,000 smolts in the Lookingglass Creek will likely lead to around 350-700 additional adults returning there.

"We are thankful the ODFW employee driving the truck was not seriously injured," said ODFW fish hatchery coordinator Andrew Gibbs.

"This should not impact our ability to collect future brood stock or maintain full production goals in the future."

*cont'd from pg 16*

Aid Worker Security Database, which records major incidents of violence against aid personnel. Not all have been killed in the line of duty.

Much of the Gaza Strip has been devastated during the Israeli military opera-

tions that began after Hamas-led gunmen attacked southern Israel on 7 October, killing about 1,200 people and seizing 253 hostages.

More than 33,000 people have been killed in Gaza since then, the territory's Hamas-run health ministry says.

## Pytonz and Da Squad extend unbeaten runs in local volleyball league

Pytonz and Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad maintained their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League on Wednesday night.

Reigning champions Da Squad continued their successful start in defense of their Female Division 1 title by extending their unbeaten run to three wins in as many games with a 3-0 win against Stoneville at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The defending champion took an hour and 26 minutes to prevail 25-13, 25-18, and 25-22 against Stoneville, who lost for the first time in three games.

The Pytonz secured their third win in as many games in the men's Division 1 competition with a hard-fought 3-2 victory against the Top Ranking Storming Lions.

Pytonz, who finished as runner-up in last year's tournament, needed two hours and five minutes to prevail against the Storming Lions. Pytonz took the opening set 25-22, and the Storming Lions drew level by winning the second set 25-23.

Pytonz went ahead by claiming the third set 25-15, but the Storming Lions



The Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad female volleyball team.

once again drew level by winning the fourth 31-29.

However, the Pytonz eventually prevailed by winning the deciding fifth set 15-12, as the Storming Lions were beaten for the second time in five games.

Print Express Renegades continue to lead the men's Division 1 league by surging to their fourth win in as many games with a comfortable 3-0 victory against TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity.

The Renegades took just an hour and four minutes to claim their 25-10, 25-17, and 25-15 victory against the Chargers Velocity, who were beaten for the fourth time in as many games.

The Invaders recorded their first win in four games after beating the Sharks 3-0 in their men's Division 1 affair.

The Invaders won the encounter 25-23, 25-14, and 25-9 in an hour and 24 minutes, as the Sharks suffered their fourth loss in as many games.

## Boland scores six goals as Real Blizzard trounce Glanvilles in Second Division

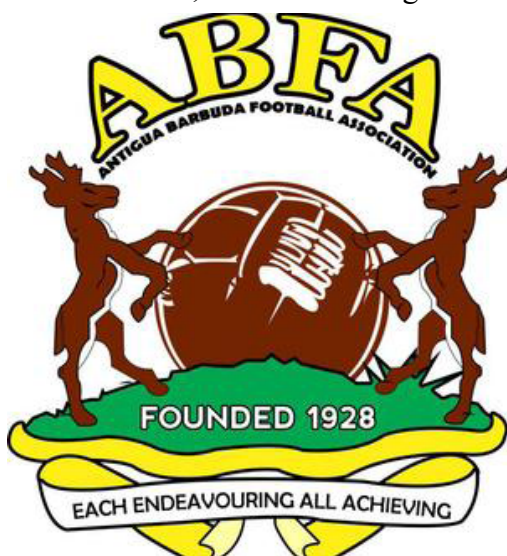
Skerwin Boland achieved a remarkable feat by scoring all six goals for his Real Blizzard team in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

Boland's six-goal blitz propelled Real Blizzard to a 6-0 drubbing of Glanvilles at the New Winthropes

playing field. He had conversions in the 10th, 16th, 18th, 34th, and 73rd minutes, as well as the first minute of added time (90+1 minute).

Their sixth win in 15 matches carries Real Blizzard up to 11th place on goal difference with 21 points, while Glanvilles slipped into 17th place with

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Parish League and ABCA to start one-day competitions this weekend

The Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League and the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) will start limited-overs competitions this weekend.

After completing the Dave Joseph 30-over championship, which was captured by Freetown, the Parish League will begin its second one-day contest for the season with the opening round of matches in the Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Competition on Saturday.

Freetown will host Masters at Freetown, and Dream 2 Reality Sea View Farm will take on Mahico at Sea View Farm.

Llewelyn Simon and Otis Burton will umpire at Freetown, and Nigel Browne and Dirk Schouten will officiate at Sea View Farm.



at Sea View Farm.

Two matches will also take place on Sunday. Seantons will meet Freetown at Freetown, and Sea View Farm will face Masters at Sea View Farm.

Llewelyn Simon and Otis Burton will once again umpire at Freetown, and Nigel Browne and Dirk Schouten will officiate at

Sea View Farm.

Following the completion of its two-day championship, the ABCA will start its Super40 Limited Overs Competition with the opening round of matches on Saturday at 11 am.

The reigning champion Liberta Blackhawks will begin the defense of their title against the Jennings Tigers

at home at Ball Beef in Liberta.

Empire Nation will tackle the Bolans Blasters at Rising Sun, and Pigotts Crushers will face the All Saints Pythons at Pigotts.

Combined Schools will meet the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at Bethesda, and the WES Rising Sun Spartans will take on the New Winthorpes Lions at New Winthorpes.

In the second round of matches on Sunday, the New Winthorpes Lions will host Combined Schools at New Winthorpes.

All Saints Pythons will challenge the WES Rising Sun Spartans at Rising Sun, and Pigotts Crushers will clash with the Liberta Blackhawks at Pigotts.

The Jennings Tigers will stay at home to face the Bolans Blasters in Jennings, and the Bethesda Golden Eagles will tackle the Empire Nation in Bethesda.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

seven points after losing for the 13th time in 16 games.

The Young Warriors moved out of the bottom two teams after recording their third win in 15 matches.

The Young Warriors snatched a 2-1 win against the JSC Progressors in a bottom-of-the-table clash at Buckley's Primary School playing field.

Caric James scored in the 7th minute, and Kemar Jacobs converted the winner in the 90th minute for the Young Warriors. Walter Bellot converted a penalty kick in the 77th minute for the JSC Progressors.

The result allows the Young Warriors to jump from second from the bottom of the standings to 16th place on goal difference with nine points.

The JSC Progressors will remain in the cellar of the 20-team round-robin competition with three points after crashing to their 12th defeat in 13 matches.

Devlyn Williams struck a hat-trick as Urlings romped to a 6-0 victory against TAMO FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Williams had conversions in the 16th, 18th, and 38th minutes; Kestone Daley scored twice with goals in the 61st and 85th minutes; and Jahmiah Daniel converted the other goal for Urlings in the 65th minute.

Their eighth win in 15 matches allows Urlings to move up to sixth place on goal difference with 29 points. TAMO FC will remain in 14th place with 17 points after suffering their eighth loss in 15 matches.

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Players of the St. Lucia Kings celebrate after capturing a wicket.

## Republic Bank CPL boosts St. Lucia economy by almost USD\$40 million in 2023, according to YouGov Sport

The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) created a total economic impact of US\$39,470,999 for St. Lucia during the 2023 tournament.

There were six matches scheduled in St. Lucia between August 16 and 20 with games taking place at Daren Sammy Cricket Ground with all six CPL teams visiting the island over that period.

The total event impact is calculated by world renowned research organization, YouGov Sport, with the final figure being determined by organiser spend, visitor spend, and media and promotional value for St. Lucia.

During CPL's stay in St. Lucia, CPL booked 12,818 hotel room nights, made up of players, coaches, administrators, TV and media crews, team owner groups, league and fran-

chise event management teams, alongside overseas visitors who arrived to watch the games.

A meaningful part of the total economic impact figure stems from the money spent by these overseas visitors.

St. Lucia also benefited from the tournament being broadcast around the world with CPL's audience reaching 853.5 million total viewers in 2023.

As always, CPL worked closely with the local tourism authorities to create world class content, which helped promote the spectacular benefits on offer to visitors to Saint Lucia.

These exclusive features and vignettes were shown during the CPL matches, further promoting the tourism message.

Pete Russell, Republic Bank CPL's CEO, said, "St. Lucia was

once again a wonderful host for CPL matches in 2023 and we enjoyed the unrivalled hospitality in such beautiful surroundings. We are looking forward to returning for the 2024 season to once again contribute positively to the Saint Lucian economy."

St. Lucia's Minister for Tourism, Investment, Creative Industries, Culture and Information, Dr. Ernest Hilaire said, "Through the synergy of sports and tourism, the Republic Bank CPL has not only brought thrilling cricket action to St. Lucia but has also catalyzed a ripple effect of economic prosperity.

"Some of our household names have developed through the sport even beyond the boundary. The tournament's impact resonates across sectors enriching our local economy and showcasing the unparalleled beauty of St. Lucia to a global audience."

## Leewards lose again as Barbados re-claim regional U-15 title

The Leeward Islands finished second from the bottom of the standings in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Super50 Tournament, which was recaptured by Barbados in Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday.

The Leeward Islands finished with a total of 7.8 points after losing for the third time in their five matches when they were trounced by 147 runs by Guyana in their final match at Ball Beef in Liberta.

Guyana, who was sent in to bat, made 258 for eight off their 50 overs, with middle-order batsman Emmanuel Lewis and opener Parmeshwar Ram each getting 60.

Guyana's captain, Adrian Hetmyer, chipped in with 48. Leeward Islands skipper J'Quan Athanaze claimed two for 35, and Shawn Harris captured two for 53.

In reply, the Leeward Islands were bundled out for 111 in 35.4 overs, with lower-order batsman Tayari Tonge getting a top score of 28.

Richard Ramdehol had two wickets without conceding a run, Rovaldo Pereira grabbed two for 11,



The victorious Barbados team after capturing the 2024 Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Super50 Championship in Bethesda on Wednesday, April 3. (CWI Media)

Ram claimed two for 32 and Arif Khan captured two for 40.

Guyana narrowly missed out on the title after claiming their fourth win in five matches to finish in second place with 20.8 points. After relinquishing the title to Trinidad and Tobago at the 2023 tournament, which was also held in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados re-claimed the title by crushing the Windward Islands by 192 runs in Bethesda, achieving their fourth win in five games to finish top of the standings with 22 points.

Barbados made 297 in 49.2 overs and then dismissed the Windward Is-

lands for 105 in 26.2 overs. It was the third loss in five games for the Windward Islands, who finished in fourth place with a total of nine points.

Trinidad and Tobago failed to retain the title and finished in third place with 13.6 points, wrapping up their campaign with an eight-wicket victory against bottom team Jamaica at the Coolidge Cricket Ground.

Jamaica's Under-15 cricketers ended the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Championship without a win. Electing to bat, the Jamaicans were skittled out for 101 in 38.1 overs.

Captain Demario Hall top scored with an even 50,

while Jaheim Frater, who got 19, was the only other player to reach double figures.

Arion Mohammed bagged four for 17, Aiden Owen claimed three for 14, and captain Zane Maraj picked up two for 16.

Trinidad then raced to victory at 102 for two in 19 overs, with Miraj returning to stroke an undefeated 32, and Zakariya Mohhamed hitting 29.

Delante Scott and Ryan Lyttleton were the wicket takers for Jamaica, who lost four games on the trot after the opening match was abandoned due to rain to finish in the cellar with 5.2 points.