



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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10

**YEARS OF PROGRESS
2014 - 2024...**

Editorial

How the 'Most Consequential Decade' impacts ordinary people's lives

To write about the 'Most Consequential Decade' in Antigua and Barbuda's history would be quite easy just by listing the many accomplishments of the Gaston Browne Administration from 2014 to 2024.

One can easily highlight the strides made over that period, from the purchase of the West Indies Oil Company, to the transformation of the tourism industry, to the many new homes that are being built and occupied by ordinary Antiguan and Barbudans to the growing reputation of the country as an international leader on issues of climate change and reparatory justice.

We could quote from the statistics from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank regarding the growth in the economy, or figures from the Social Security Scheme related to the employment situation in the country or



even the answer to the question posed to ordinary Antiguan and Barbudans; Are you better off today than you were ten years ago? An overwhelming number of people would unreservedly answer in the positive. This is despite the daily humdrum of negativity from certain media outlets.

Like Fox News in the United States, they have created their own echo-chamber; their own ecosystem that churns out a tirade of mis-information and untruths about conditions in Antigua and Barbuda that people living here often wonder, of what country are they referring?

But for the purposes of this ten-year review, we have chosen to see how the developments over the past decade have affected the lives of ordinary people. Two examples would suffice.

Firstly, there is the example of a senior citizenship, a diehard supporter of the opposition United Progressive Party, who recently asked the question; Is it true that we will be getting the increase as pensioners by this July? She asked the question, not with any doubt that the increase is coming, but with an assuredness that the Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, a man she often cursed, had made a commitment, a promise to pensioners, including her, that their pension amount would be increased to \$1,000.00 monthly. "I am looking

cont'd on pg 3



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forward to the increase, as it would help me a lot," she added.

When told in jest, that after she receives the increase in her pension she should thank the prime minister, this often very talkative woman, was suddenly speechless.

Unable or unwilling to acknowledge that this was a promise and an initiative from which she stands to benefit, yet not wanting to be heard giving thanks/credit where it was due.

Turn now to the recently concluded SIDS4 conference held from May 27-30 where hundreds of Antigua and Barbuda nationals and residents volunteered to help the thousands of guests who converged on Antigua and Barbuda for the conference.

At the end of which, the entire nation, the government

and the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues were showered with praise from the UN Secretary General down to the lowliest of the delegates.

One of the benefits that has arisen from the involvement of the volunteers is that many of the young people are already using the experience to add to their respective resumé's thus giving them a leg-up when they are applying for scholarships, employment or to further their education at institutions of higher learning.

Participation in SIDS4 has given our Antigua and Barbuda volunteers a platform from which they can further their life ambitions.

These are just two examples; two examples of how and why leadership matters! The ABLP Administration under the leadership of Prime Minister Gaston Browne has provided that leadership.





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10 Years of Progress



Statement by The Honourable E. Paul Chet Greene, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party

Today, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's triumphant return to governance, we reflect on a decade marked by profound transformation and renewed hope. We embarked on this journey after enduring ten disastrous years under the previous administration, a time when our economy was hampered by mismanagement and our communities burdened by unnecessary hardships.

The landscape of our beloved nation was once scarred by incomplete projects like the stark unfinished car park building in St John's and the infamous Wadadli power plant—projects that consumed vast resources but failed to deliver their promised benefits. This mismanagement resulted in unsustainable national debt, compromised public services, and a paralyzed economy.

However, with resilience and unity, we turned the tides. Upon re-election, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party inherited not just these challenges but a determined people ready for change.

We took swift action to bring essential services like water and electricity under public ownership, spearheading massive improvements and ensuring that these critical resources were managed in the interests of all our people, not just a privileged few.

Even amidst the global challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our leadership delivered stability without resorting to external bailouts. Our

proactive and prudent fiscal policies have safeguarded our economy and public health, enabling us to emerge stronger and more unified.

Our commitment to revitalization has been unwavering. We have transformed once frequent power outages into occasional interruptions and turned a legacy of water scarcity into security, thanks to major investments in reverse osmosis plants.

The strides we have made are visible: our nation now boasts one of the most impressive cruise ship facilities in the region, and our modern cargo port is a hub of thriving economic activity, offering well-paying positions and boosting our economy.

Education and housing have seen unprecedented advancements under our leadership. We have built and equipped schools, established the first campus of the University of the West Indies here at home, and enabled more Antiguan and Barbudans to own homes than ever before. These efforts have not only transformed our physical infrastructure but have also empowered our community to grow and thrive in an increasingly competitive world.

Moreover, the ABLP has dedicated great efforts to heal the long-standing divisions between our communities in Barbuda and Antigua. For decades, these divisions were deepened by political strategies that favoured separation over unity, reducing Barbuda to dependence and manipulation. We have worked tirelessly to build one



ABLP Chairman Hon. E.P. Chet Greene nation, one society, where every citizen—whether in Antigua or Barbuda—has the opportunity to thrive, in the spirit of partnership, inclusion, and cohesion.

In the realm of international affairs, our nation has taken a leadership role in the Organisation of American States and the UN Alliance for Small Island States, championing initiatives that have earned us respect from larger and more powerful nations. We have stood firm on our principles, advocating for justice and the rights of small islands, undeterred by the influence of greater powers.

Today, Antigua and Barbuda stands as a testament to what can be achieved through dedicated leadership and a clear vision for the future. We celebrate these achievements not as the triumph of a party, but as the collective success of a nation united towards prosperity and resilience.

In unity and progress.

Ten Years of Progress – From Foreign Affairs to Tourism

Guided by the motto, “The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively,” the Hon. H. Charles ‘Max’ Fernandez has devoted his life to service. His unwavering commitment spans from his constituents in Rural North to the broader population of Antigua and Barbuda through his distinguished ministerial roles.

From 2014 to 2017, Hon. H. Charles Fernandez served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration. Through proactive engagement with diplomatic allies and friendly governments, Minister Fernandez spearheaded initiatives that attracted international solidarity, goodwill, and crucial resources, thereby contributing to Antigua and Barbuda’s socioeconomic advancement. Under his leadership, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration strengthened relations with key partners, significantly enhancing the nation’s visibility on the regional and international stage.

Among his notable achievements was the successful hosting of the 6th CARICOM-Cuba Summit in 2017, a historic event that welcomed His Excellency Raul Castro, President of the Republic of Cuba, to Antigua and Barbuda soil for the first time. This summit marked an extraordinary moment in bilateral ties and was President Castro’s final official tour of duty, adding to the occasion’s significance. All CARICOM Heads of State and Government attended, with Montserrat being the sole exception.

Beyond his portfolio, Minister Fernandez demonstrated commendable leadership in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in September 2017. As the government lead on evacuation and relief efforts, he oversaw the evacuation of all



Hon. H. Charles ‘Max’ Fernandez

1,700 residents of Barbuda to Antigua, ensuring essential services were operational for the displaced community.

As Minister of Tourism, Investment, Civil Aviation, and Transportation, Charles ‘Max’ Fernandez has made monumental contributions to Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism industry.

His achievements under the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party’s (ABLP) leadership over the past decade are extensive.

In civil aviation, Minister Fernandez led intense negotiations with over twenty-five airline partners during the Routes Americas annual conferences, securing increased airlift to Antigua and Barbuda. The nation’s robust marketing campaigns resulted in record-breaking visitor arrivals from the USA and UK in 2019 and 2024.

Under his leadership, major developments are underway at the V.C. Bird International Airport, including significant runway renovations. Cruise tourism has flourished with the expansion of the cruise port, involving over \$75 million investment in a fifth pier and land-side development.

Minister Fernandez’s exemplary work earned him the Caribbean Tourism Minister of the Year award for

2020/2021, highlighting his dedication to promoting regional tourism and successfully reopening the sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. Antigua and Barbuda was the first Caribbean country to reopen its borders, setting a precedent for others to follow.

Minister Fernandez launched several initiatives to bolster the tourism sector, including the ABHTI scholarship program, job recruitment drives, taxi operator engagements and increases, the creation of restaurant and art week and the redevelopment of the cruise industry, and the visionary Tourism Vision 2032 blueprint, which encompasses sports and health tourism. Notable projects under his tenure include the opening of several resorts such as The Royalton, Hammock Cove, Hodges Bay Club, and Royalton Chic, with ongoing developments like MoonGate Development, Nobu Barbuda, PLH Barbuda, and the expansion of Tamarind Hills and Sandals Resort.

In his parliamentary role, Minister Fernandez consistently delivered on his commitments, such as annual back-to-school supplies distribution, ABHTI scholarships, refurbishing the Cedar Grove Community Playground, creating the Yorks Community Recreational Playground, organizing international cruise job recruitment drives, and conducting yearly laptop distributions. He has also supported restoration work at the Yorks Basketball Court, backed local sports clubs, ensured active community centers, and provided support for constituency clinics.

Cheers to ten years of progress. Ten years of steadfast leadership. Ten years of prosperity and development. Ten years of historic achievements under the visionary guidance of Hon. H. Charles ‘Max’ Fernandez.

10 Years of Progress



Celebrating a decade of affordable housing in Antigua and Barbuda: A Promise Fulfilled

In the heart of the Caribbean, the twin-island state of Antigua and Barbuda marks a significant milestone. This year, we commemorate ten years of unprecedented strides in making housing and land affordable for our people, under the diligent leadership of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) administration.

As the Honourable Maria Browne, Minister of Housing, Works, Lands, and Urban Renewal, it is with great pride that I re-

flect on the journey we have embarked upon, a promise kept, to ensure that every citizen and resident of Antigua and Barbuda has access to affordable housing and land. Our administration's dedication to improving the lives of our people has been unwavering, and through sustainable initiatives and valuable subsidies, we have transformed the housing landscape of our nation.

Over the past decade, our government has introduced numerous policies aimed at reducing the financial burden on those



Minister of Housing, Works, Lands, and Urban Renewal Maria Browne

wishing to own a home or acquire land. With the implementation of subsidies for first-time homeowners, our efforts have been both broad and deeply focused on inclusivity. Moreover, our commitment to sustainable development has seen the integration of green technologies in new housing projects, promoting environmental stewardship alongside socio-economic progress.

We stand at a pivotal moment, not just to celebrate our achievements but to anticipate the future with optimism and determination. The path ahead is filled with promise as we continue to innovate and adapt our strategies to meet and exceed the expectations of our community.

“The best is yet to come,” a phrase that both acknowledges our accom-

plishments and heralds the dawn of a new era of affordable housing in Antigua and Barbuda. Together, we look forward to building on our legacy of success, ensuring that access to affordable housing and land remains a cornerstone of our nation's development.

“As we move forward into another decade, our mission remains clear—to empower our citizens, enrich our communities, and foster a nation where everyone has the opportunity to own a piece of our beloved homeland. With continued support and collaboration, we will uphold our commitment to affordable housing for all, securing a brighter, more prosperous future for Antigua and Barbuda.”

*Hon. Maria Browne
Minister of Housing,
Works, Lands and Urban
Renewal*



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **EXCAVATOR OPERATOR.**

Job Functions:

- Operate a large excavator to complete daily production targets
- Load dump trucks, move materials in quarry, level out quarry areas
- Making quarry areas safe
- Maintain cleanliness of machine
- Identify and report safety issues and hazards
- Complete pre-start checks
- Look for areas of improvement or streamline work procedures
- Must comply with company, and governmental health and safety regulations, policies, and procedures at all times
- May be called upon to run other heavy equipment such as but not limited to Dozer and Loader, dump truck
- Work independently and collaboratively with other team members to achieve common objectives.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must have a valid driver's license
- Must be able to safely and effectively operate an Excavator and or other heavy duty equipment
- Minimum 2 years' experience driving and operating an Excavator

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

A decade of dynamic leadership

By **Samantha Marshall**

Reflecting on the last decade under Prime Minister Gaston Browne's leadership, Antigua and Barbuda has witnessed a period of significant transformation and progress. Following the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's (ABLP) convincing victory in the June 2014 general elections, the country was steered through a series of challenges that tested its democracy and governance. The ABLP's resolve in ensuring free and fair elections, despite the legal and procedural maneuvers by the opposition, set the tone for a government committed to justice and the rule of law.

The administration inherited a daunting economic situation marked by an empty treasury, considerable local and foreign debts, including large sums owed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the West Indies Oil Company. Despite these challenges, the Browne administration was undaunted, channeling its efforts into revitalizing the economy and improving the standard of living for all Antiguans and Barbudans.

One of the administration's flagship initiatives, the "500 homes in 500 days" project, aimed at addressing the critical need for affordable housing, underscores the government's commit-



Samantha Marshall

ment to social welfare. Despite delays, the project's legacy is visible across the nation, in communities such as Paynters, Denfield's, Lightfoot, and Bolans, where thousands of homes have been constructed, improving many lives through subsidized homeownership.

In the sector of utilities, the government's strategic investments and acquisitions, particularly the majority shares in WIOC and the enhancement of water production through new Reverse Osmosis plants, have significantly increased the reliability of electricity and water supply. These steps not only exemplify astute administrative and negotiation skills but also a dedication to improving the infrastructure of the nation.

Education, perceived as the cornerstone of sustainable development, received special attention. The establishment of the Sir

Novel Richards Secondary School and the expansion and renovation of existing schools are testament to the administration's vision for the future. The UWI Five Islands Campus stands as a beacon of higher education in the country, accessible to all and indicative of the government's foresight in academic excellence and opportunity.

The past decade under Prime Minister Gaston Browne's stewardship has indeed been transformative, navigating through significant challenges to build a resilient economy, advance social welfare, enhance infrastructure, and promote education. As Antigua and Barbuda continues on this path, it is clear that the nation's progress under the ABLP and Prime Minister Browne's leadership provides a strong foundation for future growth and prosperity.



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **BATCHER**.

Job Functions:

- Mix or blend products, work assembly lines, keep designated areas clean
- Ability to use a computer to operate the equipment that formulates the product
- Perform quality checks on finished products
- Set equipment parameters for operation
- Write routine reports and document routine forms and logs
- Comply with all company policies as well as practice safe work habits in accordance with company's health and safety regulations.
- Ensure that product conforms to customer specifications.
- Maintain communication with systems operator to insure quality work and fluidity
- Communicate with customers in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate a continuous effort to improve operations, reduce turnaround times and streamline work processes.
- Work independently and collaboratively with other team members to achieve common objectives.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must have a valid driver's license
- Minimum 2 years' previous experience within a similar field
- Computer literate
- Multi-tasker and ability to work in a team environment
- Excellent customer service

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

10 Years of Progress



A Decade of Progress and Prosperity: Reflecting on the Achievements of the Gaston Browne-led ABLP Administration

As we mark a significant milestone in the history of Antigua and Barbuda, it's imperative to reflect on the transformative journey our nation has embarked upon under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) administration. This decade-long voyage has steered us from the shadows of uncertainty to the forefront of hope and prosperity, showcasing remarkable progress and an unwavering commitment to

the socio-economic development of our country.

Under the ABLP's stewardship, Antigua and Barbuda has witnessed substantial advancements, especially in areas pivotal to our nation's growth and well-being. One of the administration's crowning achievements is the bolstering of our educational infrastructure, highlighted by the introduction of the University of the West Indies' Fourth Landed Campus in Antigua. This development has not only positioned our islands as

a hub for academic excellence in the Caribbean but also significantly increased access to tertiary education for our youth.

Moreover, the ABLP tenure has been characterized by inclusivity and diversity in governance, with a noticeable increase in the representation of women and youth in leadership roles. This inclusivity extends beyond gender and age, aiming to create a society where every individual, regardless of their background, feels valued and can contribute to our nation's progress. Such a commitment to inclusivity has fostered a sense of unity and purpose among our people, propelling Antigua and Barbuda towards greater heights.

Economic growth has been another focal point of the ABLP administration, with strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing our nation's financial stability and encouraging sustainable development. Through comprehensive policies and investment in key sectors, Antigua and Barbuda have enjoyed robust economic performance, providing our citizens with enhanced opportunities to prosper within



Senator Clement António a thriving and dynamic national economy.

As we celebrate a decade of growth, it is clear that the journey with the ABLP-led administration at the helm has been one of transformative change. The strides made in education, inclusivity, and economic development have laid a solid foundation for the continued progress and prosperity of Antigua and Barbuda.

In acknowledgment of these achievements and with our sights set on the future, we are reminded of the potential that lies within our beloved nation. The best is still to come, and together, under continued strong and visionary leadership, we will pursue even greater accomplishments, ensuring a bright and prosperous future for all the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.

Senator Clement António

NOTICE

To: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
St. Johns
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American
St. Johns
Antigua

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice-Application for Tavern License

I, Terry Cornelius of Tindale Road with registered business situated at Liberta Village St. Paul Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court's Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 4th July, 2024 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Proud-A-Rasta Novelty" Situated at Liberta Village in the parish of St. Paul, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 10th day of June, 2024

Tel# 717-8362 (779-7350)



10 Years of Progress



Ambassador Patrice Luke

Ten years and counting

Congratulations to Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party for a decade of distinguished leadership and governance. Your commitment has significantly propelled our nation's development, ensuring economic resilience and social prosperity. This milestone reflects a journey of visionary leadership and dedication towards improving the lives of all citizens. I look forward to continued cooperation and shared successes in the years ahead.

Ambassador Patrice Luke



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **REDI-MIX CONCRETE TRUCK DRIVER.**

Job Functions:

- Perform pre and post-trip check daily to ensure safety and working of the truck
- Documenting any maintenance as required
- Driving truck to job site and unloading
- Assembling concrete chute and attaching chute to truck back
- Protecting truck using protective compound and performing minor maintenance task
- Washing and cleaning of trucks or equipment used in the concrete production line
- Backing truck under loading hopper and starting the mixer to get concrete

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must be able to operate truck and its auxiliaries such as levers, chutes and mixing drums efficiently
- Have a good understanding of mixing procedure and knowledge of adjusting the mixing speed
- A valid truck driver's license
- Have at least 2 years' truck driving experience

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

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10 Years of Progress



A decade under Gaston Browne: Reflections on a sterling leadership era

**Central Youth for Labour
Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party**

As we mark a decade of governance under Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, it's an opportune moment to reflect on the transformative journey of our twin-island state. Since assuming office in 2014, Browne's administration has heralded a period of significant socio-economic development, reshaping the landscape of Antiguan and Barbudan society and setting a precedent for future governance.

Under Browne's leader-

ship, Antigua and Barbuda have seen impressive strides in various sectors. The economy has flourished, with notable achievements in tourism—a vital part of our national income—where innovative strategies have attracted greater numbers of visitors and generated considerable revenue for the nation. The government's investment in renewable energy initiatives has not only diversified our energy sources but also moved us closer to our sustainability goals, showcasing a commitment to environmental stewardship.

Education and health-

care have received significant attention, with policies and programs designed to make these essential services more accessible and of higher quality. The launch of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is a testament to the government's dedication to higher education and local development, offering new opportunities for our youth and positioning Antigua and Barbuda as an educational hub in the region.

On the international stage, Prime Minister Browne has been a vocal advocate for climate justice, recognizing the disproportionate impact

of climate change on small island developing states. His leadership in this domain has not only raised our profile globally but also secured much-needed support and resources for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Of course, no tenure is without its challenges, and the Browne administration has navigated its fair share, including the global economic uncertainties and the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. The government's response to these crises, prioritizing the health and economic well-being of its citizens, has underscored the resilience and adaptability of Browne's leadership.

As we look forward, the foundation laid by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party over the past decade provides a blueprint for sustained growth and development. The journey has been marked by ambitious visions and transformative achievements, setting a high bar for leadership that not only meets the needs of today but anticipates the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

In saluting a decade of sterling leadership, we acknowledge the strides made under Browne's tenure while recognizing the work that lies ahead. The path forged by the current administration offers a roadmap for continued prosperity, driving Antigua and Barbuda forward in unity and purpose.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

APUA Reintroduces Transparent Fuel Variation Charge for a Sustainable Future

St. John's Antigua, June 11th, 2024 - The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) has announced the re-implementation of a fluctuating fuel variation charge on electricity bills, effective as of July 1st, 2024. This move is aligned with the authority's core operational function of providing and sustaining high-quality services while managing the ongoing volatility in fuel prices.

During the recent pandemic, the Authority reduced the fuel variation by 10% and continued the early payment discount of an additional 10% to support our customers. However, post-pandemic, the deduction was not adjusted to the pre-pandemic rate, leading to significant over-subsidization of the continual increases in fuel charges, which has had a substantial impact on the overall operational costs of electricity.

The Electricity Business Unit Manager, Mr. Andre Matthias highlights the efforts of the Electricity Business Unit in implementing alternative power sources and transitioning to a cleaner energy mix in the network, along with cost-cutting initiatives to ensure the provision of reliable and affordable electricity to customers. "Antigua's current peak load is around 62 megawatts, with 11 megawatts of installed solar systems being a part of the generation mix, showcasing our commitment to adopting clean energy," Matthias said.

Mr. John Bradshaw, General Manager, emphasizes, "This initiative aims to ensure that billing transparently corresponds to actual fuel costs, offering customers a fair and accurate representation of the expenses associated with generating electricity."

Hon. Melford Nicholas, Minister of Public Utilities, reaffirms the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to cleaner energy and acknowledges the progress of the LNG Power Plant, set to be commissioned later this year on gas. "This plant is expected to benefit customers as a cleaner transitional fuel option. The state-of-the-art LNG terminal promises economic benefits, a reduction in fuel costs for the Authority – which will ultimately be passed on to customers – and a reduction in our carbon footprint," stated Nicholas.

Customers are reminded that their conservation efforts in electricity usage greatly impact cost and are encouraged to implement conservation practices in their daily lives. Electricity bills issued after July 1st, 2024, will reflect the changes and in the interest of transparency, a monthly summary detailing the calculated fuel variation costs will be circulated to the public on the APUA Social Media pages and website.

For further information, customers can contact the Customer Service Department at 480-7150 or via email at customerservice@apua.ag

- END -

10 Years of Progress



ABLP Fact Sheet: 10 years of Gaston Browne Administration - June 12 2014 to 2024

A Short History

1. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), marked its 80th birthday on September 23, 2023, having been founded as the Political Committee of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union in 1943. The ABLP's very first manifesto was published on May 18, 1946, in anticipation of a July 1946 general election. The ABLP has straddled colonial, pre-independence, and post-sovereignty governance cumulatively for eight decades. Except for three election losses it suffered in 1971, 2004 and 2009, the ABLP was successful in 1946,

1951, 1956, 1960, 1965, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2014, 2018 and 2023 or for 14 of seventeen election cycles. It is a heritage party whose governance is well-remembered and has won the faith of generations of voters.

2. In the 21st century, the ABLP lost two successive elections to an amalgam of opposition parties—re-christened the United Progressive Party (UPP) in 1992. In 2004, the ABLP won 37% of the vote and lost 13 of the 17 constituencies to the UPP. By 2009, the decline of the UPP's



popularity was palpable; the ABLP re-gained three previously lost constituencies, raising the ABLP's percentage to more than 46% of the vote, and lowering the UPP's to 50% of the 2009 vote. Five years later, on June 12, 2014, the ABLP won the general election by capturing 14 of the 17 constituencies, and winning 57% of the vote. On March 21st 2018, the ABLP won 15 of the 17 consti-

ties, garnering nearly 60% of the votes cast. In 2023, the ABLP won the election by winning 9 out of 17 constituencies—the closest call in its history. Nevertheless, it was the very first time in the post-independence period that a Prime Minister won three consecutive terms. No Prime Minister until the Honourable Gaston Browne had ever won that many terms. The mould was broken.





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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM

	SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2024 OMAN v SCOTLAND		\$25 [NO INCLUSIONS]
	TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 AUSTRALIA v NAMIBIA		\$25 [NO INCLUSIONS]
	THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2024 ENGLAND v OMAN		\$100 [DRINKS INCLUSIVE]
	SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2024 NAMIBIA v ENGLAND		\$100 [DRINKS INCLUSIVE]

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2024
A2 v D1 **\$150** [DRINKS INCLUSIVE]

THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2024
B2 v D2 **\$150** [DRINKS INCLUSIVE]

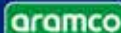
SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2024
A1 v D2 **\$200** [DRINKS INCLUSIVE]

SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2024
C2 v D1 **\$150** [DRINKS INCLUSIVE]

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10 Years of Progress



PROMISES MADE! PROMISES KEPT!

Outstanding achievements in the five years: June 2014 to June 2019

PART 1 / 30

1. The rescue of the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Bank (ABIB) depositors' money, without any disruption in the banking system, is the greatest achievement of the then five-year old Gaston Browne administration. The new *Banking Act 2014* was made law, transferring more decision-making authority to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. All depositors received 100% guarantees. Cash was made available to pay those with deposits under \$500,000. Not a single depositor withdrew his/her funds. The full faith and credit of the Government was sufficient. Those depositors with amounts exceeding \$500,000 received assurances of a payout after five years, and interest payments of 2% in the interim years

2. The Gaston Browne administration engineered the purchase of the majority shares in the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC)—including the acquisition of 130 acres of prime real estate—for US\$31 million dollars, utilizing a bridging loan. The administration then sold shares in the WIOC and used those proceeds to repay the bridging



loan. The land was separated-out from the core purpose of the WIOC and transferred to the National Housing Company. WIOC has expanded its operation considerably, adding more than one million gallons of storage; partnering with Rubis at the V.C. Bird International Air-

port to sell jet fuel; and partnering with Shell to sell fuel to cruise vessels docked at the Heritage Quay Port. WIOC has paid dividends exceeding \$42 million dollars since the acquisition, and its Board has retained earnings for expansion and improvements. The purchase of WIOC was the second-most outstanding accomplishment of the Gaston Browne administration in the five years since 2014. The purchase fits squarely within the guiding philosophy of the administration, known as “**empowerment capitalism.**” The same tenets hold as in “entrepreneurial socialism”; however, the nomenclature was altered to avoid any confusion as to purpose.



3. The new administration in 2015
cont'd on pg 16

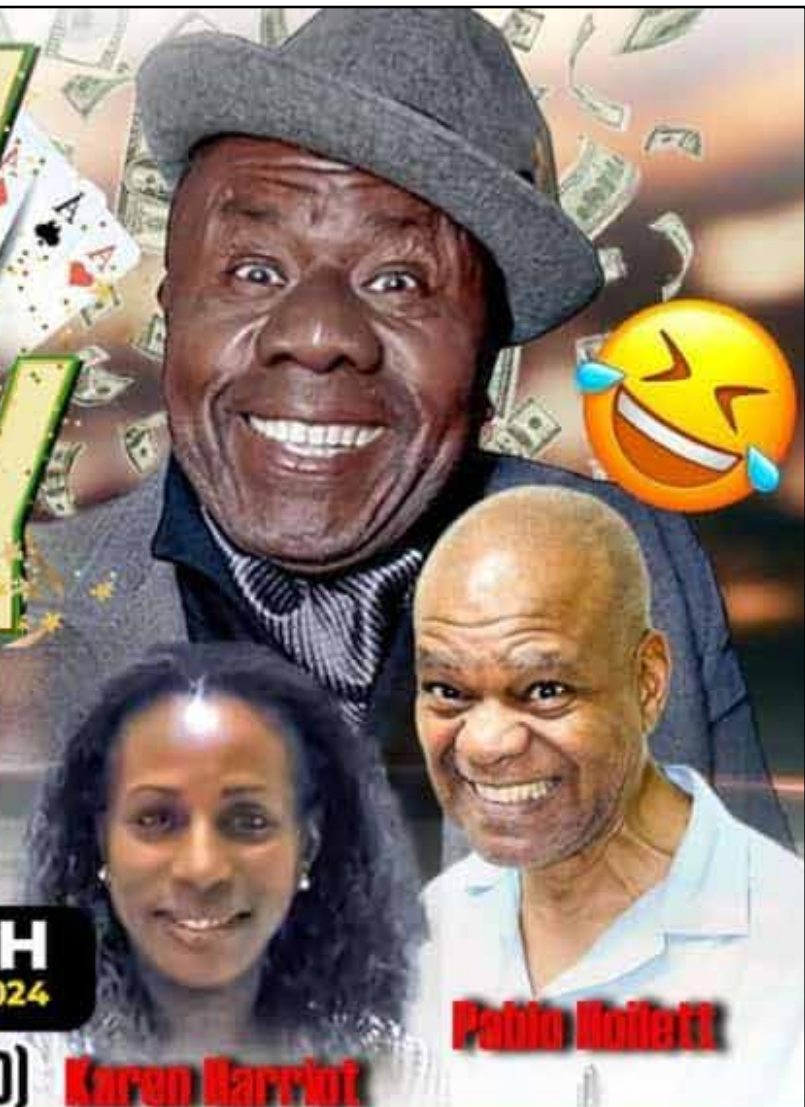
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Oliver Samuels

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AFTER PARTY FEAT: KUTTIN EDGE BAND



10 Years of Progress



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abolished personal income tax, as promised in the ABLP’s 2014 Manifesto, and the action is based on the reasoned paper submitted in April 2014—months before the June 2014 general elections—by the Honourable Gaston Browne. Despite the opposition to the plan by naysayers and the UPP mouthpiece—Observer Newspaper and Radio—the end to PIT has come without a ripple. In fact, revenues have increased as consumption increased.

4. The Administration has completed the construction of 48 homes at Dredge Bay, Villa; completed 90 homes at Paynters with an additional 70 under construction. The National Housing Company continues to employ 350 workers who constructed 150 homes at Denfield’s, all allotted. Additional acreage has been acquired at Royall’s Estate for 200 more homes, and an additional 100 homes are to be constructed at Marble Hill Road.



China has agreed to build 300 homes, as a gift to the Antigua and Barbuda people. 150 will be built at Booby Alley, the Point; 50 will be built on Barbuda; and 100 will be built in St. Mary’s South. A “build on your own property” program has seen the construction of nearly 100 homes by the National Housing Company, all across Antigua. Two housing projects, undertaken by the previous ad-

ministration, at North Sound and Follies, were incomplete and unoccupied. Since 2014, all 100 derelict homes have been refurbished and are occupied by police and nurses, primarily.

5. The new administration completed the repairs of several Government-owned buildings, utilizing resources earmarked for National Housing: The Old Admin Building on High and Long Streets; The Multi-Purpose Center at Perry Bay; The Fence and burnt-out building at Government House, with the help of prisoners; The Dockyard Police Station; The roof at the National Archives, which still must be re-done; The National Library was completed and opened for occupancy and use—not a bogus opening. The Nurses

cont'd on pg 17



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Hostel on Queen Elizabeth Highway has been refurbished at a cost exceeding \$1 million dollars; it was undertaken by a private contractor. Evacuees from Barbuda occupied the buildings for nearly one year following Hurricane Irma. During the refurbishment of the Fiennes Institute, the residents have been transferred to the Nurses Hostel. The Clarevue Mental Hospital is currently under repair, although the resources in that case are coming from the Ministry of Works. Other government-owned buildings, including schools, the Post Office and office buildings have been repaired by workers from the National Housing Company.

6. Households owing the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) for electricity and water, up to 31 Decem-



ber 2013, had their arrears eliminated; small businesses were granted generous repayment terms. Hundreds took advantage of the offer, swelling the collections of APUA, rather than draining resources as the Opposition had predicted.

7. The new administration, shortly after June 2014, granted amnesty to thousands of immigrants who were pre-

viously told that gaps in their lawful residency required them to commence their seven-year qualifying period in order to meet the eligibility for citizenship. Many would later qualify and became citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. The unfairness and injustice evinced by the policy of the previous administration was tossed into history's dustbin. The administration also determined that a waiver of work permit fees for CARICOM nationals during the 6 months of 2014—July to December—would ease the burden on our CARICOM brethren and encourage every non-national worker to register. Thousands took advantage of the waiver and came forward to regularize their worker status in Antigua and Barbuda. Again, the revenues of the Labour Department would increase, rather than witness a decline, as had been predicted by the Opposition.

8. ABS-TV has nearly 100,000 followers on its Facebook Page and is the most reliable source for information and News. Its move to high definition has also spurred an interest in the quality of its broadcast, and its news program draws more viewers and listeners than any other media house in Antigua and Barbuda. This turn-around has come about despite public criticisms by other media houses and media personalities.

9. The administration eliminated the \$5 weekly charge for student inclusion on the daily School Meals Programme.

cont'd on pg 18



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This policy formed a part of the ZERO HUNGER Programme that the administration implemented across Antigua and Barbuda. Regardless of the parents' ability to pay, all students across 29 Schools are fed 5,756 hot meals daily, at no cost to the parents. Free School Bus System picks-up and delivers hundreds of students daily to and from their assigned schools, at no cost to parents.

10. The new administration faced default on the \$320 million dollar repayment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) upon taking office on June 12, 2014. The outgoing administration failed to make the June 6, 2014, initial payment and there were no plans in



place to make the payment. Despite the poor start, the IMF Debt was repaid by March 2018.

11. The transformation of the St. John's Harbour is near completion. The \$97 million dollars, secured by the administration on behalf of the Port Authority, through the China Ex/Im Bank, are already being paid over to the contractor. Construction at Rat Island is complete; the new administration building is also completed. Before works began at the Deepwater Harbour, \$23 million dollars were spent to make the cruise port ready by December 2, 2016, to receive the Quantum Class ships.



12. An agreement has been entered into with Global Ports Holding and Royal Caribbean to enable the Oasis Class vessels to dock at Antigua. GPH will
cont'd on pg 19



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cont'd from pg 18

spend US\$84 million dollars to dredge the harbour further, to widen the channel and the turning basin, and to build new shops and other entertainment facilities along the new waterfront area. Heritage Quay, nearly 40 years old, will also be upgraded by the GPH firm. GPH has agreed to partner with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines; they will build a land-based entertainment Center costing millions of dollars. Carnival Cruise Lines will increase the number of calls at the St. John's Port. A pointless lawsuit has been initiated by the Opposition in an effort to slow the progress.

13. The University of the West Indies has placed the 4th UWI Landed Campus at Five Islands, St. John's, ANTIGUA. The core building has already been constructed, though built for a secondary school, and expansion of the building complex on the lands at Five Islands is already planned. In its 71st year, in September 2019, the UWI will add Antigua and Barbuda as the venue for its most recent campus, following Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados as the other three. The Attorney General and the Minister of Education attended the May 30, 2019, meeting of the Technical Committee and report that the document establishing the Fourth Campus has gone to the U.W.I. Chancellor for signature. UWI Five Islands has graduated four cohorts thus far.



14. The administration determined that it would encourage automobile ownership, in order to provide economic opportunities for many and to supplement the public transport system that operates within certain fixed hours. Used automobiles enjoy at least 50% waiver of duty and environmental levy when imported for personal use. Car ownership has soared, creating new possibilities for many families previously with-

out autos. Additionally, the insurance companies, the finance companies and the petroleum distributor have experienced a boom in new customers and sales, resulting in windfall profits. A tax plan ensured that some of the bounty rounded to Government.

15. The plan to curb crime has succeeded. More vehicles have been provided to the Police, making the Police highly visible in the day time and at night. Allowing promotions to take place and by changing the leadership, higher police motivation and performance—and lower crime—have been achieved. The promise to strengthen the Police Force has also occurred; more trainees have been recruited. More jobs, especially for young males in construction, have significantly reduced the number of idle males who once slouched around street corners.



cont'd on pg 20

10 Years of Progress

cont'd from pg 19

16. The Administration adopted new Cannabis legislation in 2017 that permitted each household to plant four cannabis trees, and each person 18 years or older to lawfully carry 15 grams of the plant substance on his/her person. The primary object of the legislation is to ensure that youth are not convicted of drug offenses that would forever cause them to be excluded from being issued visas to either study in, or visit, certain States. The secondary object was to ensure that the Court's calendars are not clogged with cases that have caused harm to none. The Cannabis industry promises to be a boost to agricultural production and to medical marijuana products that are to be offered for sale.

17. The amount of water now flowing through the pipes has doubled since 2014 June. More than 7.5 million gallons of potable water are desalinated daily. APUA delivers more than 12 million gallons each day. The installation of a 2 million-gallon-per-day reverse osmosis plant at Barnacle Point has significantly increased the output capability of APUA's Water Division. Another reverse osmosis plant will be constructed at Bethesda, by the Japanese, in order to enable many farms in that area to have access to sufficient water daily during periods of drought.



18. The promise to attract more than US\$1 billion in investments in 5 years has been surpassed. Nearly \$3 billion dollars' worth of tourism investments have been invested, and more invest-

ments are still coming. 12,000 new jobs have been created since June 2014. More investments, more jobs, less taxes.

19. Materials for manufacturing have been relieved of ABST, RRC and Customs Duties. Presently, equipment and tools and machines receive the same treatment. The manufacturing sector in Antigua has declined because of the high cost of inputs, and the relatively high labor costs. By reducing the tax on inputs, when the goods are expected to be exported, the manufacturing sector enjoys an advantage that acts as a fillip to growth.

20. The ABLP promised to bring supplementary appropriations before
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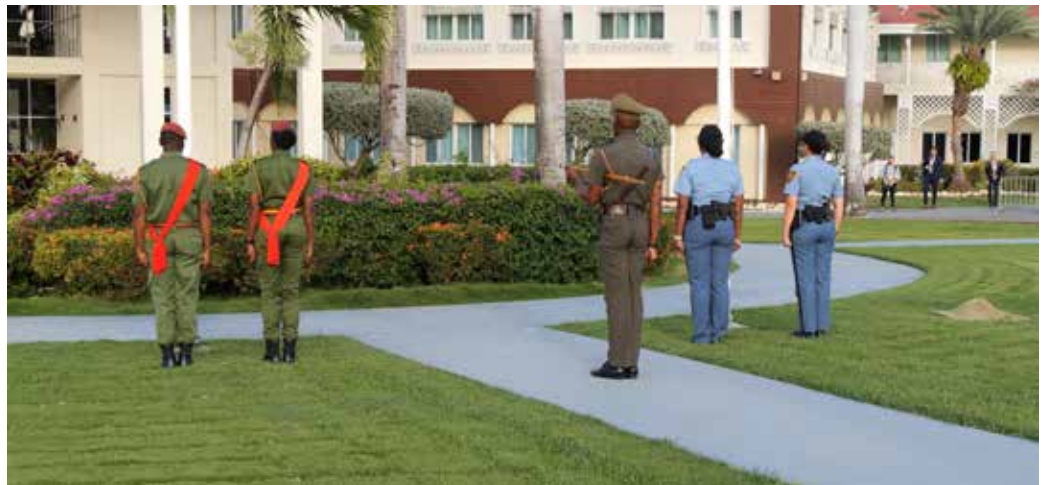
10 Years of Progress



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the Parliament. Supplementals for the 10 years of the UPP were brought by the new administration before the Parliament in May 2016. The parliamentary reporting has remained constant.

21. The Plan To Fix the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (once the MS-JMC) has worked: the administration ensured that the hospital is stocked with medicines and supplies; US\$30 million dollars of new diagnostic equipment purchased; six successful kidney transplant operations were conducted there, and more are planned. Other medical procedures, privately available in Antigua, were introduced at SLBMC when they were not before; an ophthalmologist has been hired, and there are doc-



tors available with regularity. The ABLP promised a competent and experienced management team; Dr. Duncan and the new team, hired by the Board of MS-JMC, have turned the performance level of the MSJMC around dramatically. The Waiting Room has been enlarged, oper-

ating rooms have been modernized, and many more improvements have been introduced.

22. The Party promised to review the arrangements with the Cancer Center, and it did. Many Antiguan who, as cancer patients, required radiation treatment and chemotherapy have been successfully treated there instead of having to go abroad. However, the majority owner demanded a purchasing price that is more than four times its value; negotiations for outright purchase by a private group continues. The idea is to introduce new methods for cancer cure that are exportable.



23. The Gaston Browne administration
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tion expanded five school plants by making available 1,000 new chairs and desks for students at formerly cramped high schools. Jennings, All Saints, Princess Margaret, Antigua Girls High and Clare Hall Secondary School have all had their school plants enlarged. Improved the delivery of education, teacher comfort, and better spaces for administrators. The Gaston Browne administration built the Sir Novelle Richards High School at Tomlinson's for EC\$14 million dollars in two months and one week; the CDB estimated the same construction to cost US\$14 million and would take 2 years to construct. The Administration has set-aside \$9.3 million in 2019 for the repair and upgrade of schools across the country, in order to ensure that teachers, students, administrative staff and others work in acceptable conditions.

24. The administration planned to make and keep our country a green energy state. Already, 10 megawatt of green power have been secured for Antigua and Barbuda. The plant within the airport compound produces 3.5 megawatts; the government buildings have been outfitted with plants that add 3.5 megawatts to the green energy production. Barbuda has had 3 megawatts added to its gener-



ating capacity, although Hurricane Irma trashed the plant and caused the administration to have to begin again.

25. The administration determined that improved sports complexes and football fields would benefit the villages and communities in which they are located. Hence, sixteen complexes and fields were significantly improved. They include: Potters Sports Complex, Bolans, Golden Grove, Fort Road, Nut Grove, Radio Range and Liberta, Ovals, Wilikies, All Saints and Bethesda Sports Complexes. The Sea View Farm Football Field, the Princess Margaret Football Field, Freetown Football Field, Green Bay School Sports Complex, Blackburne Villa Park.

26. The administration identified and began nurturing talent in sports and culture. Miguel Francis, for example, was made attractive to the UK sports only because he had performed exceedingly well. Alzarri Joseph has become a West Indies Fast Bowler, in the tradition of Anderson Roberts and Curtley Ambrose. Rahkeem Cornwall is a giant who makes runs each time he takes to the wicket. Four Island Girls rowed across the Atlantic when the challenge was laid down by the Prime Minister. Their safe return to Antigua after 47 days at sea was hailed as an outstanding achievement by the entire nation. They rowed the Pacific Ocean subsequently, and are deemed

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 heroes of great repute.

27. Cricket in Antigua has returned to its former glory, thanks to the Gaston Browne administration. Support for West Indies cricket has been heightened; and, test matches are being played at the Sir Viv Richards Stadium. The national embarrassment of having the shortest Test match ever, after 10 balls were bowled, when sand was discovered as the material used in the outfield, during a February 13, 2009, match between England and the West Indies, still reverberates. It was very much a reflection of the incompetence of the UPP administration. Antigua lost its place as a Test Match venue.

The Gaston Browne administration is now partnering with the West Indies Cricket Board (Cricket West Indies) so that they can jointly own the Stanford Cricket Field, and to have the WICB build a new Headquarters building just outside of the Sir Viv Richards Stadium. The Women's W.I. Cricket team was exceedingly successful, despite adverse remarks by the Opposition prior to the games. The Sir Vivian Richards Stadium was full to the brim on both the Thursday and Saturday, November 1st and 3rd 2018.

28. The Administration vigorously defended the *Citizenship By Investment Programme (CIP)*, in the face of unpatriotic attempts to end its viability by the Opposition. The administration vig-



orously marketed the CIP programme, increasing the revenues to more than EC\$1 billion of non-tax revenue dollars in ten years; the Minister reports every six months to the Parliament on the uses to which those revenues were put. Despite the entry by two other Caribbean jurisdictions into the CIP Market, and their race to the bottom by lowering the cost of citizenship acquisition to US\$100,000, Antigua and Barbuda has done exceedingly well, the reports show. A special program costing US\$150,000 per file has been written into the law; it allows new citizens—supporters of the UWI Fourth Campus—to add to the endowment which universities require in order to stay viable. An agreement entered into by the OECS countries trading in citizenship, returns the minimal cost of acquisition to US\$200,000.

29. In December 2018, Bank of Nova Scotia attempted to sell its interest in nine Caribbean jurisdictions, including in Antigua and Barbuda. The Gaston Browne administration has insisted that a consortium of local banks ought to be made the offer first; a vesting order, required by law, would not be signed by the Minister of Finance until such time as the offer is extended to the local banks at the same price as to the intended purchaser. That sale was consummated. Both Bank of Nova Scotia and the Royal Bank of Canada have been purchased by local banks. Reversal of the original decision to sell to a firm from outside the ECCU region is regarded as a victory for the Antigua and Barbuda people.

30. The creation of NAMCO (National Asset Management Company) to receive dividend payments from the Government's investment program, has been adeptly managed and the resources judiciously dispersed. NAMCO's monies have been further invested in the building of a new hotel, invested in a dredging company that has already secured millions in dredging contracts, purchased the unfinished Sunshine Hub and Car Park for a fraction of its construction cost, and continues to earn dividends from WIOC and State Insurance Company.



10 Years of Progress



PROMISES MADE! PROMISES KEPT!

Outstanding achievements in the past ten years: June 2014 to June 2024

PART 2 / 30

31. The number of students receiving support from both the Prime Minister's Scholarship Program and the Board of Education Loan Program has increased exponentially since the June 2014 date. Resources from both the 30 year-old Board of Education Act 1994 and the Citizenship by Investment Program 2013 have swelled the total amount available each year to more than \$30 million dollars. Students may choose to go to China, Cuba, Estonia, Morocco, Russia, the U.S., and even the U.K., utilizing the supplementary financing provided by the scholarship program. Since the Fourth Landed



Campus of the UWI was established, a fraction of the resources allocated to the programs was diverted in part to meet UWI obligations.



32. The Administration has initiated an Entrepreneurial Development Fund in order to make capital easily available to those who are willing to risk their own resources to develop new businesses. The funding is not intended to support merchandising of imported goods; rather, funding will go to those enterprises whose principals will create new products and new services that will enlarge the economic well-being of the country. The resources have been transferred to the Caribbean Union Bank and a special window for the loan of the funds, at a very low interest rate, has already been agreed.



33. A Joint Venture Capital Fund has also been created to assist those already in business but who need additional capital to expand their offerings. Again, merchandising of imported goods is not included. This fund is not loan-based. It results in a portion of the business being transferred to the venture capital fund, equal to the percentage of the value which the fund

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supplies. That quantum of the business can be re-purchased from the venture capital fund whenever the owner determines that s/he no longer needs the fund's participation.

34. A Homeowner's Improvement Fund has been initiated, utilizing resources from the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP). The homeowner with very low income whose home is in need of repairs may, after receiving an estimate of the repairs, borrow a maximum of \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) repayable in 10 years. The object is to make certain that houses which are subject to significant damage during a hurricane can be repaired and strengthened before the hurricane so that damage can be minimized.



35. The H.A.P.I. (Home Assistance Program for the Indigent) program has been designed to ensure that those who have suffered a catastrophe can be immediately helped by the deployment of the State's resources. HAPI has rebuilt the homes of indigent villagers



that have been destroyed by fire and who possess no material resources to start all over again. The elderly, whose incomes are fixed and trifling, have also been assisted by the program, to fix their homes so that they may live a dignified life.



36. The Anti-Plastics Concert held on June 1, 2019, was the result of the leadership shown by Antigua and Barbuda's Legislature which placed a ban on plastic bags, including plastic spoons, forks and cups. The legislation would also enforce a ban on the importation and use of Styrofoam utensils, including food trays. So impressed is the international community with the administration governing Antigua and Barbuda, its aggressive approach to ending the plastics scourge, that the President of the General Assembly selected Antigua for the anti-plastics concert which was a resounding success.

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37. Contrary to the law, the outgoing administration denied newborns their birth certificates when their mothers failed to pay for the delivery services at the Mount St. John Medical Center (MSJMC, now the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center). The administration wrote-off the debts owed to the Medical Center (SLBMC) by new mothers, such that they could receive the birth certificates for their newborn children. The previous administration prohibited the issuance of the birth certificates of the newborn citizens until the hospital fees were paid. That unlawful policy was ended after June 2014.

38. The Knuckle Block Sports Complex, to be named the Baldwin Spencer Community AND Sporting Center, and the two Poly-Clinics under construction, attest to improved relations with the People's Republic of China since June 2014. The Knuckle Block Complex has been used as the Magistrates' Court until that High Street home has been repaired. The Poly-Clinics are in use, rendering services to thousands each year.

39. The Chinese gift of agricultural implements and the provision



of skilled scientists have ensured that many farmers learn new techniques and new scientific methods for increasing agricultural yields. The Administration has secured more than \$400 million dollars in technical cooperation and loans from the People's Republic of China in 5 years.

40. The Youth Empowerment Education Program (YEPP) has been a tremendous success, providing many youth who dropped out of High School to complete CXC subjects and to be tested under the CAPE. The numbers continue to swell allowing more youth to gain certification upon completion of Math and English, especially.



41. The V.C. Bird International Airport lost its tier 1 status. Many security investments and other kinds of improvements have caused the airport to be highly rated, bettering several of its Caribbean counterparts. New pieces of legislation will cause the airport to regain its Tier1 status.

42. The last INCSR Report, following challenges by the Antigua and Barbuda diplomats in Washington, D.C., was partly complimentary. The uncovering of false reporting and rumor mongering caused the U.S. Government to reverse its many previous designations of Antigua and Barbuda as a major money laundering and drug trafficking center.



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43. Sexual Offences Model Court has been established in Antigua and Barbuda; it is the first of its kind in the Eastern Caribbean that will serve as the model for others to follow. Instead of causing years to pass before a trial can be held, the model court will cause a speedy trial when memories are fresh and witnesses are still able to recall facts clearly. Justice will then be achieved in these sensitive cases.

44. The Crown Prosecution Service Act takes the prosecution of criminal cases away from the Police and place prosecutions in the hands



of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). It had long been deemed an affront to justice to have the Police determine whether there were sufficient

facts to prosecute. The Office of the DPP will now determine this, following the collection of evidence by the Police.



43. The frequency with which Parliament has been meeting creates a new record in the history of modern Antigua and Barbuda. At least once per month, sometimes more often, the Parliament is convened in order to address glaring issues that beg for the attention of the law-makers.

45. Separation of Police and Fire Departments has taken place in virtually every Anglophone Caribbean
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country. Antigua and Barbuda has lagged behind. The new administration has had the first reading of the Bill to make the separation permanent. The cost to be incurred has acted as a barrier to implementation.

46. The new Standing Orders governing the behaviours of members of both Houses of Parliament have been completed and have been adopted. The existing Orders date back to 1967, or more than fifty-five years, and urgently require updating.

47. The Labour Department has initiated a Human Trafficking Division that focuses upon those who are forced into all manner of labour. Those who are of the view that they may act as virtual enslavers, compelling women and children especially to engage in



unwanted labour, shall not escape the arms of the law, the new administration has indicated.

48. Two drafters were the entire complement of lawyers responsible for drafting legislation. The new administration has increased that num-

ber to 10 drafters, making new laws more readily available to a demanding government.

49. The establishment of the Public Trustee allows for indigent defendants and others without the ability to secure legal representation to turn to a service that provides public defenders at no cost.

50. Evidence from overseas, for criminal matters, can be included at trial in order to speedup trials and to ensure better justice. The Evidence Public Provision Act also allows electronic evidence to be admitted, providing that adherence to certain guidelines are strictly followed.

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51. The Prison Extramural Officer: Where a magistrate believes that the convict ought to be imposed non-custodial sentences, that judicial officer is armed with the authority to sentence the wrongdoer to hours of community service or other types of non-custodial sentences.

52. The administration thrice increased the minimum wage to \$10.00,

from \$8.20 and from \$7.50 per hour. Security Guards are paid a minimum of \$10.20 per hour.

53. Personal Injury awards have been increased under law from \$10,000 to \$250,000 because of the insufficiency of the smaller amount. Justice is achieved by increasing the liability that would ensure an injured person a reasonable opportunity to care for him/herself following injury.

54. The administration has named the youngest Foreign Service Officer to Morocco as First Secretary, in the Embassies of the Eastern Caribbean States located in the Kingdom of Morocco. Although he serves under the Ambassador from the OECS, every opportunity exists for him to move into a senior post in due course, given his youth and enthusiasm.

55. Long-term lease program for farmers, launched in April 2019, allows farmers to lease land at a peppercorn rate for the purpose of earning our nation the food security for which it yearns. All manner of new incentives have been added to encourage more farming in the state.

56. In January 2019, Antigua and Barbuda launched its Sexual Offences Model Court to improve the handling of sexual offence cases nationwide. The Antigua and Barbuda Support And Referral Centre (SARC) provides

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support to the sexual offenses model court by providing psycho-social care and advocacy services to all complainants in sexual offence matters. The SARC is the first of its kind in the OECS, and the relevant services are offered under one roof. Those victimized by the crimes of rape, sexual assault, human trafficking and domestic violence and all gender-based violence now receive professional, fast and effective help along with a 24-hour hotline.

57. The UNOPS Science and Innovation Park Headquarters is a think-tank for young innovators across the state. It is fully equipped with the facilities and technologies to harness and mould innovative ideas for goods, services and products. The Park has since been used to develop Project Jaguars—to develop a tracking system to keep an eye on the Sargassum Seaweed before it gets to our shores and ruins our beaches. The use of a predictive



system along with a statistical algorithm to predict when the Sargassum is likely to arrive on our shores have been implemented.

58. Summer Internship Program introduced by the Ministry of Education, ensuring that Secondary and Tertiary-Level students from Government institutions are provided temporary summer employment within Ministries, learning the value of work. The job-creation exercise through Youth Skills Training has been renewed. More

than \$4.5 million dollars have been spent annually on this program since June 2014. Meantime, new hotel rooms in refurbished and new properties have hired several hundred youth, relieving the administration of the additional resources required to employ many. The PLH in Barbuda now employs more than 800 men and women. 300+ are Barbudans who are earning more than Barbudans traditionally earn.

59. The administration paid \$51 million dollars to

thousands of government employees in back pay who were owed unpaid increases, dating back to 2003 to 2008, and 2014 to 2017. The administration paid a 5% increase to all government employees in 2018, and a 9% increase in 2024.

60. The Gaston Browne administration ended the 2009 requirement for certificates from the Inland Revenue Department, the Board of Education, the Medical Benefit Scheme, the Social Security Board to be supplied to Customs by brokers and companies before goods can be cleared.

The end to that onerous requirement—proposed by the IMF to the outgoing administration in order to achieve compliance—was welcomed by businesses; the owners and managers regard the cancellation as creating an improved business-friendly environment. The “ease of doing business” has been much improved.





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Pakistan finally gets first win at T20 World Cup

WESTBURY, N.Y. (AP) — Canada's inexperienced batters crumbled against pace for yet another low score at the Twenty20 World Cup as Pakistan finally registered their first win with a seven-wicket victory against Canada at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on Tuesday.

The four-pronged Pakistan pace attack, led by Mohammad Amir's impeccable figures of two for 13, restricted Canada to 106 for seven off their 20 overs, with only opening batter Aaron Johnson showing aggression in his 44-ball knock of 52.

Mohammad Rizwan's unbeaten half-century (53 not out) anchored Pakistan, which lost to rival India on Sunday, to victory at 107 for three in 17.3 overs for a commanding win.

"Good for us, we needed this win," Pakistan skipper Babar Azam said. "We started well with the bowling, in the first six overs (and) we know we had to be up to the mark."

Johnson sent early tremors in Pakistan's camp with his back-to-back boundaries off Shaheen Shah Afridi's first two balls of the match after Babar won the toss and elected to field.

But Amir, who came out of retirement for the



Pakistan's Mohammad Amir, second left, celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of Canada's captain Saad Bin Zafar during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between Pakistan and Canada at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York, Tuesday, June 11, 2024. (AP)

World Cup, hit the right areas straight away and buckled the batters as wickets continued to fall around Johnson.

Johnson, who was dropped on 44 by Fakhar Zaman at mid-wicket, hit four boundaries and brought up his half-century with his fourth six before he too was finally undone by Naseem Shah in the 14th over.

Fast bowler Haris Rauf became the third quickest bowler to complete 100 wickets in T20 internationals when he had Shreyas Movva (2) caught behind and then found the out-

side edge of Ravinderpal Singh's bat in the same over to finish with two for 26.

Pakistan's experiment with Saim Ayub as an opener in the World Cup for the first time didn't work out as the left-hander struggled to score six off 12 balls before he edged Dillon Heyliger, who had two for 18, to wicketkeeper inside the batting power play.

Rizwan and Babar (33) then had a 63-run stand. Rizwan's run-a-ball half-century saw Pakistan over the line.

Pakistan, the 2022 runner-up, needs to beat Ireland in their last game and

also hope co-host USA lose both their remaining games against India and Ireland to have a chance of advancing on superior net run-rate.

The United States made a history by beating Pakistan in the Super Over in Dallas after they had defeated Canada in a high-scoring opening game of the tournament the Americans are jointly co-hosting with the West Indies.

Cricket lovers in Antigua and Barbuda can tune in to Platinum FM 97.9, which is providing daily live ball-by-ball coverage of matches in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Patriots add Hasaranga, Rossouw for 2024 CPL

The St Kitts & Nevis Patriots have confirmed the players they have retained and signed ahead of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) draft.

They have 13 confirmed players for the 2024 season and will have four spots to fill at the draft in July.

Sri Lankan leg spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and South African opening batter Rilee Rossouw headline their 2024 signings, with Zimbabwean international Sikandar Raza and hugely exciting Sri Lankan seam bowler Nuwan Thushara also in the squad.

Their final overseas signing is

South African batter Tristan Stubbs, who had an excellent IPL for the Delhi Capitals.

The local players the Patriots have retained include Evin Lewis, Sherfane Rutherford and Andre Fletcher.

The Patriots have also secured the services of Odean Smith, who has been transferred from the Guyana Amazon Warriors. The Patriots finished last in the 2023 CPL with one win in 10 games.

The 2024 edition of the CPL is set to run from August 30 to October 7. The Patriots will open their campaign against the St. Lucia Kings on September 1 in Basseterre.



Sri Lankan leg spinner Wanindu Hasaranga

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Sports News



A&B name squad for Americas region qualifiers for 2025 Netball World Youth Cup

A 15-member Under-21 squad has been named to represent Antigua and Barbuda in the Americas Region Qualifiers for the 2025 Netball World Youth Cup (NWYC) in Gibraltar.

The Antigua and Barbuda Wadadli Pearls have been using the current Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) League to prepare for the Americas region qualifiers for the NWYC that will be held in Guadeloupe from July 7-14. Jamila Fitz is the head coach, and Vincere Barthley-Cochrane is the assistant coach.

Full Squad: Jahida Payne, Xandea Hobson, Shi-Anna Payne, Jaya Isaac Carr, Khaiva Knowles, Joy Shaw, Azaliya Simon, Tassian Benjamin, Zhanira Pereira, Sonia D. Gregg, Dariann Giddings, Stacia Henry, Kendeisha Greenaway, Anayjah Anthony, and Jonelly M. Encarnacion.

Management Team: Carol-Jean George (manager), Jamila Fitz (head coach), Vincere Barthley-Cochrane (assistant coach/delegate), and Lorelei Lapps (physiotherapist).

The Netball World Youth Cup is the pinnacle of netball competition for emerging players who are under 21 years of age.

World Netball announced in August 2021 that Gibraltar Netball had been awarded the rights to host the Netball World Youth Cup 2025



(NWYC2025).

The tournament will take place in two main competition venues in Gibraltar, the Tercentenary Sports Hall and Europa Sports Park, which was recently upgraded for the 2019 Island Games.

Twenty teams will compete in the event, taking place from September 19-28. Five teams have pre-qualified, and the remaining 15 teams will be determined by the five regional qualifier events taking

place in Gibraltar, who pre-qualified as the hosts of the event in 2025. This means that there are 15 more spots to fill at the NWYC 2025.

World Netball has five regional federations: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Each regional federation will host a NWYC 2025 Qualifier event, with the top three from each region then invited by World Netball to compete at the NWYC2025.

Africa and Asia have already held their qualifiers, with South Africa, Malawi, and Zambia qualifying from Africa, and Malaysia, Singapore, and Sri Lanka qualifying from Asia.

Europe and Oceania will all host their qualifiers before the end of 2024, with dates still to be confirmed.

Meanwhile, Roman Hill United snatched a two-point win in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) League on Monday.

Roman Hill United snatched a 26-24 victory against S.W. Electronics Black Lightning in the A Division at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Jamila Fitz converted 14 goals from 19 shots, and Trecia Jarvis sank 12 goals from 20 attempts for Roman Hill United. Zhanira Pereira scored 17 goals from 23 attempts, and Karol Carlton converted seven of her 11 shots for S.W. Electronics Black Lightning.

place in 2024.

The five pre-qualified teams for the event are New Zealand, Australia, England, Fiji, and Gibraltar.

New Zealand, Australia, England, and Fiji are all invited to compete at the NWYC 2025 because of their top four finishes at the last NWYC in Gaborone, Botswana, in 2017. The NWYC 2021 in Fiji was cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus.

The final pre-quali-

Bridges wins King of the Hills cycling race



Jyme Bridges

Jyme Bridges once again proved his superiority as the top elite cyclist on the domestic scene in Antigua and Barbuda.

Bridges followed up his win in the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) Invitational Race on May 19 with another victory by capturing the King of the Hills title on Sunday.

Bridges left the pack trailing as he won the Elite Male Class to be crowned the overall champion of the road race, which was staged by the East Side Raiders Cycling Club in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF).

Bridges completed the 56.2-kilometer (34.92-mile) course in a time of one hour, 47 minutes, and 21.93 seconds to win the Elite Male category.

Bridges held off a stiff challenge from veteran Antiguan cyclist Robert Marsh, who is a perennial winner of the King of the Hills, a race he last won in 2022.

Marsh clocked the sec-

ond-best overall time of one hour, 47 minutes, and 27.26 seconds to finish second behind Bridges in the Elite Male Division. Conroy Thomas captured third place in the same category.

Last year's overall winner, Tahje Browne of the Wadadli Cycling Academy, won the Junior Male Class. Browne crossed the finish line in one hour, 53 minutes, and 39.21 seconds.

Aiden Tonge of the East-side Raiders finished second in one hour, 54 minutes, and 21.17 seconds. Jomari King captured third place.

Lone competitor Telesha Choy of the Vipers Cycling Club won the female division title in a time of two hours, 10 minutes, and 11.86 seconds.

Another lone competitor, Tacuma Davis, won the Sports Class by clocking two hours, 17 minutes, and 41 seconds.

Lone competitor Elite Thomas won the Cadets 11-14 age group class. Thomas completed the course in a time of one hour, 22 minutes, and 53.87 seconds.

Edward Henry of the Andre Simon Cycling Academy won the Masters Class by clocking one hour, 58 minutes, and 51.26 seconds.

Tiziano Rosignoli finished second in one hour, 59 minutes, and 41.73 seconds. Vaughn Gomes captured third place.

APUA Inet and Gato-grade provided support for the event.

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the First Division next season. Urlings secured their promotion by winning the First and Second Division three-team playoff series after prevailing 2-0 against the Young Lions in their final encounter at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday.

Devlyn Williams scored both goals with conversions in the 9th and 32nd minutes. Urlings won the playoffs with six points after beating fellow Second Division team Sea View Farm 2-1 in their opening encounter.

The First Division team, the Young Li-

ons, has been relegated to the Second Division next season after finishing at the bottom of the playoff series without a point.

The Young Lions contested the three-team playoff with Sea View Farm and Urlings to decide the last team to compete in the First Division next season.

The Young Lions ended their First Division campaign in the cellar with 12 points from their quota of 20 matches.

Sea View Farm finished third with 52 points, and Urlings claimed fourth place with 47 points in the Second Division League.

Attacking Saints promoted to ABFA Premier Division

First Division team Attacking Saints will be competing in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League next season.

The Attacking Saints gained promotion to the nation's top domestic league after winning the Premier and First Division three-team playoff series by snatching a 2-1 victory against Swetes in the final match at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday.

Joshua Samuel snatched victory for the Attacking Saints by scoring the winner in the fourth minute of added time (90+4 minutes). Samuel was also sent off after he picked up his second caution for removing his shirt in his goal celebration.

Prince Walter scored in the 30th minute to give the Attacking Saints a one-nil halftime lead, and Shalon Knight scored an equalizer for Swetes with a 68th-minute conversion.

The Attacking Saints finished the game with nine men after Carlos Tittle was sent off in the 87th minute when he received a red card for using offensive, insulting, and abusive language.

The Attacking Saints won the playoffs with four points after drawing their opening match nil-nil with fellow First Division team Police.

Premier Division team Swetes has been relegated and will compete in the First Division next season, finishing second with three points after beating Police 5-0 in their opening encounter.

The three teams contested the play-



Players of the Attacking Saints football team celebrate with their supporters after gaining promotion to compete in next season's Premier Division League at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday, June 10, 2024. (Photo courtesy of the Attacking Saints)

offs to decide the last team to compete in the Premier Division next season.

The Attacking Saints clinched third place ahead of the Police on goal difference after both teams finished tied with 42 points from their quota of 20 matches in the First Division League.

Swetes entered the playoffs after finishing 12th in the Premier Division and avoiding automatic relegation to compete in the First Division next season.

Urlings also gained promotion to

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