



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
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# IT'S RANDY BY A LANDSLIDE!!!

*Story on Page 2*



Randy Baltimore, centre, celebrates with supporters after a landslide victory in the ABLP St. Phillip's North primary.

# Local News



## It's Randy by a landslide!!!

The dust has settled...the party faithfuls of St. Phillip's North have spoken...its Randy Baltimore by a landslide victory in Thursday's primary contest to select a caretaker for the constituency.

The final count was; Randy Baltimore, 424, Telly Cornelius, 164, Robin Yearwood Jnr. 50 and Dr. Oswald Thomas 20. Baltimore almost doubled the combined total of the three other candidates 234. However, he took a plurality of the votes cast thus eliminating any concerns about a need for a second round of voting.

Voting ran past the 8:00 pm cut-off point as there was

a large surge of people who wanted to participate in the primary, held at the Willikies primary school.

Baltimore has always fashioned himself as the worthiest candidate to replace Sir Robin Yearwood, who has represented the constituency for close to fifty years. However, it is widely expected that Sir Robin will bow out of elective politics at some point prior to the next general elections paving the way for Baltimore to become the eventual ABLP candidate.

For now, he can carry the title of caretaker as he has been tireless over the past several years, especially



Randy Baltimore during the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting the community in a variety of ways.

He has mobilized clean-up campaigns and has solicited thousands of dollars' worth of supplies for the polyclinic at Glanvilles as well as for the Willikies primary school.

Meanwhile, ABLP Polit-

ical Leader, Gaston Browne, has expressed his delight with the level of motivation and the interest generated in the primary election.

"An extremely impressive voter participation in the ABLP primary in St Philip's North. Registrants net of claims and objections, exceeded 900 voters. 300, or 50 percent more participants than the 615 votes garnered by the UPP candidate in the 2023 General elections.

"ABLP's resilient ascendancy. Thank you for your confidence and trust in Gaston Browne & Team Labour," he wrote in a social media post.

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## Antigua and Barbuda continues to play role in relief efforts

Antigua and Barbuda remains strongly committed to do all it can to assist those Caribbean countries that have been negatively impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl on Monday.

The country's assistance is manifested in several ways. At the level of the regional leadership, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has been intimately involved in the discussions and coordination of efforts to bring relief to the countries of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the two OECS member states most impacted by the storm earlier in the week.

PM Browne was among regional leaders taking part in meeting via ZOOM chaired by the Guyanese President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali where they explored various avenues to bring relief supplies and other forms of assistance to the people of the affected islands.

At the level of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), that office has been mobilized with Director Sherrod James being in constant communications with his counterparts from across the region as they work out the logistics by putting their heads together to determine the best ways to get the relief supplies to the countries

that are in need.

James told Pointe Xpress newspaper that he was at the St. John's Harbour up to late afternoon on Thursday looking about shipping supplies down south. "We have already dispatched water and other supplies such as tarpaulins and flashlights and we are looking to send additional supplies. However, we have been told that we cannot send too much at once as there are no storage capacity for some of the items.

"Therefore, we are making sure that the relief supplies are sent in limited quantities," he explained.

At the level of the disaster relief and the security, personnel have been sent via sea and at least one unit has arrived on site while another was due to arrive in Barbados late last night or early this morning. From Barbados, it will be determined its next posting.

Chief of Defence Staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin said those officers who are part of the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit have arrived in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and have been sent over to Union Island. According to Col. Benjamin, the reports from Union Island are that the island has been flattened by the storm and that the destruction has been widespread. He said most of the inhabitants

have been re-located to other parts of the country and the first order of business for the officers is to secure a shelter for themselves to serve as a base as well as a staging area.

The other team of security officers, spent over 48 hours in St. Lucia due to the threat of another storm. That team left St. Lucia late Thursday for Barbados and will be dispatched to St. Vincent to take up duties. It was originally destined for Grenada.

"We expected that while on assignment, our officers



Prime Minister Gaston Browne will move from country to country based on the demands on the ground and the instructions from the command centre," he stated.



### DELAYED DELIVERY OF PHYSICAL BILLS

Due to the ongoing operational challenges with the General Post office, we are experiencing delays with the distribution of our monthly electricity, water and telephone bills.

Throughout this period, customers may contact our customer service team for bill balances at tel: 1(268) 480-7150 or email: [customerservice@apua.ag](mailto:customerservice@apua.ag).

We highly recommend:

1. Telecoms customers, i.e. telephone and internet, to opt-in for monthly ebills. This can be done by providing an email address to [customerservice@apua.ag](mailto:customerservice@apua.ag) or calling 611 or 1(268) 480-7150.
2. Electricity and water customers can view and download a copy of their bills by registering at [myutilities.apua.ag](http://myutilities.apua.ag)

Your patience and understanding during this period is greatly appreciated

## Concerns from Ghana for Hurricane Beryl's victims

The Ghanaian Foreign Minister, Shirley Botchwey, says the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl to the countries of the Eastern Caribbean is tangible evidence that climate change is real.

Minister Botchwey, who represented her country at the Fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in May, calls for the mobilization of international efforts, including the Commonwealth, to help the people of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines recover.

“The threat of climate change is not abstract nor distant. That is why we must marshal the voice and the weight of the Commonwealth to tackle it. Financial institutions and wealthy countries must do more to ease the burden from SIDS and small states,” she wrote in a social media post.

She said the people of the two countries are in her thoughts and prayers at this time.

Minister Botchwey is a candidate to be the next Commonwealth Secretary General.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
A.D. 2024

**AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 23 July 2024 at 11:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property registered in the name of Keithley Bright of Jennings, St. Mary's, Antigua.

The Property is located in Lower Jennings Village, St. Mary's, Antigua, and comprises of a 1,008 sq. ft. single story, three (3) bedroom, one (1) bathroom, concrete residential dwelling situated on 0.10 acre or 4,356 sq. ft. of land. The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

<b>REGISTRATION SECTION:</b>	<b>Jennings</b>
<b>BLOCK:</b>	<b>53 1487C</b>
<b>PARCEL:</b>	<b>152</b>

Parcel No. 152 of Block No. 53 1487C is bounded by the following:

- On the North by: Parcel 163;
- On the South by: Public Road;
- On the East by: Parcel 153;
- On the West by: Parcel 151

---

Sgd. Trevor "Teddy" Santos  
Auctioneer  
Trevor Teddy Santos Inc.

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## New fire trucks are in the works for the country's fire services

The government has made a commitment to provide the country's fire services with five new fire trucks and two water tanks.

This comes following an engagement on Wednesday when the Cabinet invited the Fire Chief, Assistant Commissioner, Vivian Parker and his deputy, Superintendent, Edwin Henry to discuss the growing needs of the department.

Speaking at the post-Cabinet press briefing on Thursday, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Hurst, said during the discussions it was decided that the government will source used fire trucks out of the United States for the department.

"In many parts of the US, they routinely change fire trucks because they may have a certain shelf-life. We have found that by taking very good care of them (the fire trucks) that they can last for a much longer time. The decision then is to purchase five fire trucks and two tanks from the United States," he explained.

According to Amb. Hurst, the Cabinet was told that for Antigua and Barbuda purposes, big fire



trucks are not suited. "The firefighters explained that the larger the firetrucks and their water-bearing capacity, the slower they move and the more difficulty their drivers experience maneuvering on Antigua's narrow streets. Hence, the firefighters provided recommendations for increases in water tank trucks with a carrying capacity of 2,500 gallons, connected to the Fire Departments stations; and, firetrucks that carry up to 1,000 gallons of water," he further explained.

The idea is that both the fire

trucks and the water tanks will travel to a fire...with the fire truck expected to arrive first to be followed by the water tanks. Should there be need for additional water, the fire trucks will no longer be required to leave the scene of the fire to be refilled with water as the water tank truck will be right there to perform those services.

Hurst added that the cost for each fire truck is roughly EC\$500,000.00 (used) as opposed to a new fire truck that may run in excess of \$1million.

A government statement noted that as more housing and more shopping malls and office buildings are constructed across the country, the greater is the demand on the Fire Service.

The distances of buildings in villages from the Fire Department, the larger the number of trucks required if response time is to be reduced. The Cabinet agreed to five additional firetrucks, one each for St. John's, Cobbs Cross, All Saints, Johnson's Point, and one for the Airport. Two tankers will also be purchased for the Fire Department.



## Participants hail justice reform training as ‘timely’ and a success

The steady march towards criminal justice reform in Antigua and Barbuda gathered momentum over the past two days with the successful staging of a training workshop for stakeholders.

Held at the Trade Winds Hotel under the aegis of the Partnership of the Caribbean and the European Union on Justice (PACE Justice), the workshop was facilitated by Christalle Gemon, Team Leader, PACE Justice Project and Vanessa Untiedt, Project Specialist and Liaison with El PAcCTO.

Participants included probation officers, prison officers, police prosecutors, court staff, police officers from various sectors, welfare officers, social workers and members of the legal profession in private practice as well as from the public service.

In her closing remarks, Magistrate Veronica Thomas of the Juvenile Court, said the participants were ‘truly enriched’ by their attendance at the 2-day training.

“This session has come at an opportune time, as we reflect on the six years of incorporation and implementation of the Child Justice Reform principles into our legislative framework. We can be proud of the work that we have accomplished so far while rec-



Justice reform participants at Cabinet meeting

ognizing that there is still much work left to be done. I am encouraged by the shared vision of ultimate success which we all envisaged and I am fortified in my view that it is not a matter of ‘if’ but ‘when’,” she stated.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel, one of the coordinators of the training, led a team of five experts to Cabinet to address the challenges posed by children in conflict with the law. An expert from Trinidad was among those who addressed

the Cabinet, explaining the nature of the project funded by the UNDP (United Nations Development Program). It is designed to achieve restorative justice, to reduce the backlog of cases on the courts’ calendars, to reduce the very high rates of incarceration, and the length of time which is spent on remand. The Cabinet was informed that paper-based entries—as opposed to computer-generated calendars and the like—are in part responsible for the very slow administration of justice. The courts’ workers must therefore be trained in the new technologies; this is called “up-skilling”. The European Commission has funded the 8-country project in the Anglo-Caribbean to the tune of 500,000 Euros.

Judge-only trials also speed up the administration of justice and help to reduce backlogs of trials, the expert explained. The legislatures must therefore play a significant role by amending the laws that were adequate in a past era when the population of criminals was much smaller, and few minors were caught in the web of the law.



## PCOS retreat highlights issues in women's health

A retreat on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), organised by the Halo Foundation's youth arm (Generation Y), was held recently at Government House. The event aimed to illuminate the complexities of PCOS, providing support, education, and empowerment to women affected by a prevalent, yet frequently misunderstood condition.

During the retreat, esteemed women's health experts Dr. Raymond Mansoor and Dr. Cherie Tulloch explored various facets of the condition. Attendees were afforded the opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of PCOS, its common symptoms, and effective management strategies. The discussions also underscored the psychological impacts of PCOS, offering valuable insights into coping with the emotional burdens often associated with the disorder.

President of Halo Generation Y, Romancier Edwards said, "We are delighted to have hosted this

retreat, offering a supportive environment for women to convene, learn, and share their experiences. The positive feedback reaffirms the critical importance of raising awareness and fostering a sense of community among individuals living with PCOS."

The retreat also featured nutritional and dietary guidance from Dietitian Nutritionist Ms. Samantha Moitt, strategies for managing PCOS and mental health from Counselling Psychologist Ms. Alaina Gomes, and insights on living with the condition from Clinical Psychologist Ms. Regina Apparicio. Additionally, Gen Y members Kristine Louisa and Latisha Browne shared their personal testimonies about living with PCOS. Participants had the opportunity to connect with fellow attendees, build relationships, and feel empowered in managing their symptoms and enhancing their overall well-being.

President and Founder of the Halo Foundation,



Lady Sandra Williams, remarked, "WHO statistics reveal that up to 70% of women globally affected by PCOS remain undiagnosed. This often results in infertility, alongside significant physical and emotional challenges. It is commendable that the young women of Halo Gen Y, especially Ms. Browne and Ms. Louisa, have taken the initiative to focus on this critical issue."

The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, commended the Executive and Members of Halo Gen Y, of which he is proud to serve as Patron, for hosting a health education seminar at Gov-

ernment House. This is the second health-oriented seminar organised by Halo Gen Y, the first being an earlier mental health anti-suicide event which attracted well over one hundred young people in Antigua and Barbuda.

Sir Rodney emphasized the importance of understanding one's body to enhance self-care. He encouraged Halo Gen Y to "continue organising such health seminars to complement the efforts of the Ministry of Health and other health institutions on the island", noting that knowledge empowers better personal health care.



# Antiguan nabs restaurant manager at Sandals SVG

Antigua and Barbuda's, Tammica Mendoza, has been named restaurant manager at Sandals, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mendoza began her career at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa as a restaurant server in January 2015.

However, Mendoza's exceptional performance and unwavering dedication quickly propelled her to recognition, earning her a promotion to restaurant supervisor in March 2023.

This was just the beginning of her rise as a team member employed at Sandals Grande Antigua. Sandals General Manager David Latchimy,

highlighting her remarkable year, lauded her as a 'Sandals trailblazer' who, in addition to being nominated for several Sandals Prestige Awards, achieved the coveted General Manager's (Pacesetter) Prestige Award for 2022.

This recognition further solidified Mendoza's position as a shining example of talent and commitment within the Sandals organisation.

Her dedication was further acknowledged in December 2023, when she was presented with the prestigious 'Rising Star Award' at the Annual Tourism Awards hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.



Tammica Mendoza

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## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK COMMEMORATES FIFTY (50) YEARS OF SERVICE TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank (ABDB) was cause for contemplation and prayer as the Board of Directors, Management and Staff reflected on the journey of the Bank over the last fifty (50) years; and envisioned the path that the Bank must now take in fulfilment of its mandate.

The Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank was established as a statutory development finance institution by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in 1971, at a time when nation building was paramount throughout the region. The Bank officially commenced operations on July 1, 1974.

From the onset the ABDB was positioned as a key development-finance institution mandated to play a leading role in national socio-economic development. It was to be a catalyst for economic growth by mobilizing resources to support critical aspects of national development, industry, and enterprise. Entrepreneurship is a sure pathway to engaging the creativity and vibrancy that come with enterprise and youth, to reviving livelihood and for empowering our own people. Entrepreneurship, however, has to be supported to ensure success; and in building a robust micro, small, medium sized enterprises (MSME) segment it is necessary to have structures at various levels to provide requisite support and assist in the value creation process. In this regard, the ABDB is well positioned to create an enabling space for entrepreneurship through its product and service offerings, by forging strategic alliances with key local, regional and international partners, and in mobilizing and channeling resources from various funding streams.

In 2024, some fifty years after its opening, the role of the ABDB as a critical link in Antigua and Barbuda's socio-economic space has become even more urgent. It is the force of this reality that has propelled the Board of Directors under the leadership of Mr. C. Hendren Parker to seize "The Golden Opportunity" to transform the Bank into a modern purpose driven development finance institution that is more oriented towards sustainable development. This new strategic thrust covering the period 2023 – 2028 will re-engineer the ABDB's business model and re-align its operation with its core statutory mandate. The Board's **Vision** is for the ABDB to become "*a highly respected, agile and prudent Development Finance Institution that is financially sustainable.*" To re-invigorate the Bank's mandate, its new **Mission** will focus on "*mobilizing financial and technical resources and fostering an enabling environment that advances the holistic, inclusive and equitable socio-economic development and prosperity of Antigua & Barbuda and the empowerment of its people.*"

In April 2024, a new general manager was onboarded in the person of Mrs. Hyacinth Matthew Josiah a native Antiguan, who must now implement the strategic agenda for the transformation of the Bank. Mrs. Matthew Josiah brings strong practical experience in banking, business and development issues having been affiliated with and held progressively senior roles in several banking institutions including the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, across three (3) jurisdictions. As a Board, we are proud to appoint the first female to hold the position of General Manager, which is a clear demonstration of the Board's commitment to recognizing and empowering competent and talented women of our society.

As the ABDB embarks on a new journey, it must be recapitalized as its financial position has been significantly eroded over the years and now needs to be strengthened. The ABDB looks forward to being able to access substantial resources and funding streams to support entrepreneurial initiatives, national priorities especially in the areas of housing and education, and to offer affordable products that are geared towards climate smart and climate resilient initiatives both for businesses and homeowners. These strategic initiatives are continuous with the Nation's commitment to pursue the 2030 Agenda for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As the ABDB commemorates fifty years of service to Antigua and Barbuda, the Board of Directors, Management and Staff extend sincere gratitude to its customers, strategic partners and Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The ABDB is located at 27 St Mary's Street, St John's Antigua and may be contacted at (268) 462-0838 or [info@abdbank.com](mailto:info@abdbank.com).

# Opinion



## Why the OAS matters to all of us

By Sir Ronald Sanders

On June 28, 2024, Antigua and Barbuda offered to host the 2025 General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). I issued the invitation, on behalf of the country's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, and it was unanimously accepted by all member states at the 54th Regular General Assembly in Paraguay.

Why would a small country like Antigua and Barbuda take on the responsibility of hosting high-level delegates from Canada, the US, and Mexico in the North to Brazil and Argentina in the South, with the countries of the Caribbean in between?

The simple answer is that there is immense value in the OAS, particularly to small states, which rely on the commitments of much larger states, especially their neighbours, to respect and honour territorial integrity. By hosting an OAS General Assembly, Antigua and Barbuda would demonstrate its belief in the value of the Organization and remind all others of the necessity of equity, inclusion, and dialogue in addressing challenges and opportunities.

Regrettably, in many of the countries of the OAS, not enough is known about the Organization and what it does. Yet, the OAS has been crucially important to the well-being of all its member states and to their relations with each other.

The nations of the Americas have enjoyed a remarkable period of peace, having not experienced major wars between them since 1935. In contrast, regions such as Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa have been plagued by numerous wars, resulting in millions of deaths, shifting borders, and persistent hostility. This enduring peace in the Americas has allowed borders

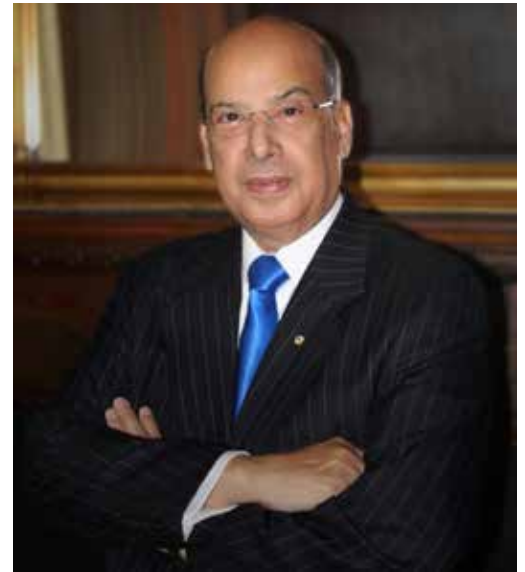
to remain stable, fostering an environment conducive to investment, social improvement, and economic development.

The maintenance of this peace is largely due to the 77-year-old OAS. From its early beginnings, the OAS established principles in its binding charter, committing every member state to two fundamental undertakings: "To strengthen the peace and security of the continent" and "To prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the pacific settlement of disputes that may arise among the Member States."

The OAS charter also obliged each of its member states to accept that "International law is the standard of conduct of States in their reciprocal relations" and that "International order consists essentially of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of States, and the faithful fulfilment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of international law."

Member states of the Organization also bound themselves to the principle that "The American States condemn war of aggression," adding that "victory does not give rights." By signing up to the OAS Charter, member states accepted that "Controversies of an international character arising between two or more American States shall be settled by peaceful procedures." Consequently, all disputes that have arisen between states have been peacefully settled – or are being voluntarily addressed – at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The one recent aberration to this general rule has been Venezuela's aggression toward Guyana following the Maduro government's withdrawal from the OAS in 2019. But even amid acts



Sir Ronald Sanders

of aggression, Venezuela is now participating in the ICJ process with Guyana, as are Belize and Guatemala over their territorial controversy.

From its inception, the OAS has been pivotal in maintaining peace and stability in the Americas. Through its Charters and organs, it has established a binding framework of law that governs relations among member states across various domains.

With over 100 Inter-American treaties covering areas from the peaceful settlement of disputes to family, commercial, and criminal matters, the OAS provides a comprehensive legal structure that supports peaceful coexistence.

Were it not for these OAS treaties, matters such as fighting organized crime, and cooperation on tackling trafficking in persons, guns, and drugs would have been left to limited national resources. No country – not even the biggest and richest – would have met these challenges without the framework for inter-American cooperation that the OAS has provided.

A significant contribution of the OAS is its role in promoting democratic governance, human rights, and the rule of law. The organization's efforts have been crucial in countries where these principles have been gravely and persistently violated, helping to

*cont'd on pg 11*

*cont'd from pg 10*

prevent contagion to other countries. For example, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted in 2001, outlines the commitment of member states to democratic principles and has been a crucial tool in addressing democratic crises in the region.

The attempted coup d'état in Bolivia on June 26, 2024, highlights the importance of the OAS in responding to threats to constitutional regimes. By immediately condemning actions that threatened democracy and the rule of law and warning of the serious consequences, OAS member states demonstrated their collective commitment to safeguarding democratic values and ensuring the stability of member states.

The OAS's involvement in building national electoral infrastructure and overseeing elections is another key aspect of its work. Ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections is vital for the legitimacy of governance and the fostering of public trust in democratic institutions. The OAS played a pivotal role in the peaceful transfer of power to President Irfaan Ali in Guyana in 2020 and to President Bernardo Arévalo in Guatemala in 2024 – both of whom were democratically elected in internationally-monitored elections. These successes not only reinforced political stability in these countries but also created conditions for economic development

and social improvement.

Haiti serves as another example of the OAS's critical role. Despite the immense challenges faced by Haiti, the OAS has consistently worked to stabilize the nation and support its development, including through the work of the OAS mission to Haiti in 2016, which I led, to ensure that a transitional national government was established, in accordance with the Haitian Constitution, to replace the expired government of Michel Martelly. As an organization, the OAS has always pursued a broad vision of Haitian stability and progress, based on

social and economic development. Gangs evolved in local circumstances, despite the work of the OAS.

The passage of Hurricane Beryl across several Caribbean countries, leaving death and destruction in its wake, especially in the smaller islands of Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines, underscores the importance of the organization's voice in galvanizing international action to curb the impacts of climate change and to operationalize the "loss and damage" fund, pledged by the large polluting nations at UN Climate Change conferences. That voice will be

raised loudly.

The OAS is a cornerstone of peace, stability, and development in the Americas. Its contributions have created a more stable and prosperous region, demonstrating the power of cooperation and legal frameworks. The value of the OAS is clear, and its continued support is essential for the well-being of all member states and their citizens.

*(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))*



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f i t

# Feature



## Curating Creativity: Branding, collaboration, and messaging for MSMEs in the Orange Economy

By **Chaneil C. Imhoff**

In the vibrant landscape of the orange economy, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) drive innovation and cultural expression. To thrive in this creative ecosystem, MS-

MEs must master the art of curating creativity, focusing on branding, collaboration, and messaging.

**Branding: Crafting a Unique Identity**

For MSMEs in the orange economy, a strong

brand is more than just a logo—it’s a story that resonates with your audience. Start by identifying your unique value proposition within the creative sector. Develop a consistent visual and tonal identity that re-

flects your creative essence. Leverage your cultural heritage or local influences to stand out in the global market. Ensure your brand aligns seamlessly with your creative products or services, creating a cohesive narrative. Remember, authenticity is key. Your brand should genuinely reflect your creative vision and values.

**Collaboration: Amplifying Creative Potential**

Collaboration is the lifeblood of the orange economy. For MSMEs, strategic partnerships can lead to exponential growth. Seek out complementary skills within your local creative community and engage in cross-sector collaborations to bring fresh perspectives to your work. Participate in creative hubs or co-working spaces to foster spontaneous collaborations. Leverage digital platforms to connect with global creative partners. By pooling resources and ideas, MSMEs can tackle larger projects, reach wider audiences, and create more innovative solutions.

**Messaging: Communicating Your Creative Value**

In a content-saturated world, effective messaging is crucial for MSMEs to cut through the noise. Craft a compelling story around your creative process and

*cont'd on pg 14*



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SPA

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority invites eligible proponents to submit Request For Proposals (RFP) for Concession opportunities at the New V.C. Bird International Airport Terminal.

RFPs for the following can be collected at the address below as of Monday 1st July 2024 with a payment of fifty (\$50.00) US dollars non-refundable fee. Payment shall be cash, bank draft, or wire transfer.

Departure Lounge Spa:

- Airport Spa (1 unit)

RFPs must be deposited in the RFP box at the address below.

**Closing Date for RFP: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**

**Finance & Accounting Department  
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority  
V.C. Bird International Airport  
Coolidge  
St. George's  
Antigua and Barbuda**

**JULY  
6th**  
**8:00PM**



**CAVALIER**

**RUM**

# CALYPSO

## MARCH

**Quarter Finals**

VENUE:

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**ADM: \$20.00**



# Commentary



## The comedy special called “the UPP pull-up”

By Watchman

Hold onto your hats folks because the United Progressive Party (UPP) is back with another installment of their “small business pull-up” comedy routine! Get ready for some knee-slapping, eye-rolling and downright cringeworthy moments as we dive into the UPP’s latest attempts to hoodwink the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

*cont’d from pg 12*

products. Use social media strategically to showcase your work and engage with your audience. Tailor your message to different platforms while maintaining brand consistency. Highlight the cultural and social impact of your work to connect with conscious consumers. Your message should not only promote your products but also celebrate creativity and cultural expression.

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Let’s start with their “vigorous campaign” leading up to the 2023 general election. The UPP paraded through communities, promising to bolster small businesses but in true comedic fashion they somehow managed to spend more on the photo ops and gas than on the actual businesses

they visited. It’s like they were playing a real-life version of Monopoly but instead of buying houses, they were buying selfie sticks and two-dollar items.

And the worst part? As soon as the election was over, their “wonderful” support for small businesses vanished quicker than a

magician’s rabbit in the hat. It’s almost as if they were trying to pull a three-card trick on the entire country but instead of using playing cards, they were using empty promises and a whole lot of hot air.

But wait, there’s more! The UPP’s antics didn’t stop *cont’d on pg 16*

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# Regional News



## Bermuda: Police alert residents to banking information scam

The Bermuda Police Service has issued a warning about a scam targeting residents, particularly the elderly.

They stated that they have been made aware that scammers are contacting individuals from what appear to be local telephone numbers in an attempt to obtain sensitive banking information.

According to a police statement, “intended victims are reportedly being told their credit or debit cards have been flagged for suspicious purchases, with the caller then asking for verification of credit or debit card information.”

This includes card numbers, expiry dates, the name on the card and the card verification value (CVV) number.

The police have also reported that some intended victims are being asked to



download ‘AnyDesk’ software, which would allow the scammers to gain remote access to the victim’s computer.

In response to this threat, the Bermuda Police Service has issued several guidelines for residents. They advise that if someone

is contacted about their finances by anyone other than a trusted relative or friend, they should not provide any information about their money, bank account number, bank cards, PIN number, address, or any other personal information.

The police further em-

phasize that if residents feel unsure about someone contacting them regarding their financial information, they should not engage in conversation with the caller. Instead, they are urged to inform their financial institution about the suspicious contact.

### *cont’d from pg 14*

there. They even managed to resurrect their small business pull-up support nonsense during the bi-election in St. Mary’s South in 2023. Talk about a failed repeat performance! It was like watching a bad sitcom where the writers just couldn’t come up with any new material. Pulling up and spending \$20 between 30 people? Make it make sense.

And now, the UPP has set their sights on what they are hoping would be the political demise of Sir Robin Yearwood, the nation’s longest-serving

parliamentarian and MP for St. Philips North. A distinguish gentleman who has dedicated his life to national service and the betterment of our people. This band of merry clowns are using their “small business pull-up” initiative to try and score some cheap political points? It’s like they’re playing a game of political chess, but they’re using checkers pieces on Snakes and Ladders board.

Seriously, folks, the UPP’s tactics have become so predictable, you could set your watch by them. It’s like they’re stuck in a loop, constantly

making grand promises before an election, only to abandon them as soon as the votes are counted. It’s enough to make you wonder if they’re auditioning for a role in a comedy troupe rather than running for political office.

So, to all the small business owners out there, beware of the UPP’s promises – they’re about as reliable as a three-legged bicycle. And to the voters, remember, the next time the UPP comes knocking with their “small business pull-up” antics, just laugh in their faces and tell them to try something new – maybe a comedy routine?



## Hurricane Beryl leaves Jamaican homes without power

By Nick Davis

Hundreds of thousands of homes in Jamaica remain without power in the wake of Hurricane Beryl.

The category four storm - one of the most powerful to ever hit the country - swept along the island's southern coast on Wednesday night, bringing more than 12 hours of heavy rain.

Officials and residents are assessing the damage after an island-wide curfew was lifted early on Thursday.

Beryl, which has now weakened to a category two storm, is headed for Mexico and the Cayman Islands. It left a trail of devastation across the Caribbean, killing at least 10 people.

St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Venezuela reported three deaths each, while one person died in Jamaica.

The storm destroyed almost every home on two small islands in St Vincent and the Grenadines, Mayreau and Union.

Strong winds and dangerous storm surges and waves are expected to hit the Yucatan Peninsula by early on Friday, the National Hurricane Center in the US forecasted.

The hurricane is expected to bring 10cm (4in) to 15cm (6in) of rain into Friday across the peninsula, with some places getting up



Rain lashed Jamaica for 12 hours.

to 10in.

In Kingston, while the winds were extremely strong, they were not the hurricane gusts that were expected. But the hours of heavy rain are a real concern, especially on farmland where flooding has been reported.

One resident of a rural farming community told the Reuters news agency: "It's terrible. Everything's gone. I'm in my house and I'm scared."

"It's a disaster," said Amoy Wellington, who lives in the southern parish of St Elizabeth.

On Wednesday night I was able to go outside briefly to move my car away from overhanging trees.

A full-length mirror was lying next to the car - it had probably blown off some-

one's balcony, a reminder that unexpected objects suddenly become missiles in winds that strong.

Jamaican energy provider JPS said that 65% - or about 400,000 of its customers - were without power on Thursday morning.

The hurricane had delivered "a most devastating blow" to parts of the island, said the MP for St Elizabeth South Western.

Posting on X, Floyd Green said in his constituency "significant numbers of roofs [have been] lost, houses destroyed, trees uprooted, light poles downed, almost all roads are impassable".

King Charles III, who is also monarch in several Caribbean nations, said on Thursday he was "profoundly saddened to learn of the dreadful destruction"

left by Hurricane Beryl.

The UN has unlocked \$4m (£3.1m) from its emergency response fund to help the recovery in Jamaica, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness thanked "first responders, essential services, security forces and good Samaritans who have assisted others in this time of crisis" on his X account.

Beryl became the the earliest category five Atlantic hurricane in records going back around 100 years - thought to be as a result of warmer sea surface temperatures.

The storm shocked meteorologists at how fast it intensified - taking just 42 hours to go from a tropical depression to a major hurricane.

## DR Congo soldiers sentenced to death for desertion

By Wedaeli Chibelushi

Twenty-five soldiers with the Democratic Republic of Congo's army have been sentenced to death for fleeing battles against the notorious M23 rebels in the conflict-hit east of the country.

The soldiers were also convicted of theft by a military tribunal as they stole goods from shops in a nearby village after abandoning their positions, an army spokesman said.

Four of the soldiers' wives were acquitted by the military court of receiving goods looted by their husbands.

In March, the government lifted a moratorium, in place for more than 20 years, on the death penalty being carried out after the justice minister cited the need to remove "traitors" from the army.

A lawyer for the soldiers, two of whom were captains, said he would appeal against the sentence, which was handed down on Wednesday by the military tribunal in DR Congo's North Kivu province.

In addition to the 25 who received death sentences, one soldier was given a 10-year prison sentence and another was acquitted.

In May a military court in the city of Goma sentenced eight soldiers to death for "desertion" and



A lawyer for the soldiers says he will appeal against the sentence.

"cowardice" when fighting rebel forces. They, too, are appealing against their sentences.

The M23 rebels have over the last few days captured several towns, including the strategic town of Kanyabayonga.

Neighbouring Rwanda is widely accused of backing the M23, but the government in Kigali denies it.

The UN has said that the current situation in North Kivu is "particularly concerning".

In the past week more than 150,000 civilians fled their homes, it said, worsening a humanitarian crisis in

a region where 2.8 million people had already been displaced.

North Kivu is also "perilous" for humanitarian workers, the UN added.

On Sunday two aid workers with the charity Tearfund were killed after their convoy was attacked in the town of Butembo.

The army's fight against the M23 and other rebel groups in the east has long been hampered by the disarray within its ranks.

The army is seen as unprofessional and badly disciplined. Soldiers complain of poor pay and a lack of equipment.

Both the UN and regional states have troops in DR Congo to support the army, but they have failed to stem the violence.

M23 fighters are said to be well-armed and disciplined.

The rebel group began operating in 2012 ostensibly to protect the Tutsi population in the east of DR Congo, which had long complained of persecution and discrimination.

Despite Rwanda's denials, UN experts - along with France and the US - say the M23 is supported by President Paul Kagame's government.

## Violent attacks shock France ahead of crunch vote

By Paul Kirby

A growing number of candidates and activists in France have been targeted with violent or verbal attacks in the run-up to Sunday's tense final round of parliamentary elections.

Government spokeswoman Prisca Thevenot was putting up election posters with her deputy and a party activist in Meudon, south-west of Paris, when they were brutally assaulted by a gang of youths.

Other election campaigners have come under attack across France, reflecting the febrile mood in politics with the far-right National Rally (RN) the front-runner in the election.

The motive for the attack on Ms Thevenot and her colleagues is not clear, but she returned to Meudon on Thursday with Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, who condemned "attacks of intolerable cowardice".

Images filmed from a block of flats showed the youths swarming around the candidate, her deputy Virginie Lanlo and a party activist for President Emmanuel Macron's Ensemble alliance.

Ms Thevenot told Le Parisien website that when she and her colleagues objected to the youths defacing party posters "they immediately attacked one of my activists, injuring Virginie".



Prisca Thevenot (L) and her deputy (C) returned to Meudon on Thursday with Prime Minister Gabriel Attal.

Ms Lanlo suffered an arm injury, while the activist was punched and hit with a scooter, ending up with a broken jaw. The car windscreen was also smashed by the scooter.

Three teenagers and a man aged 20 were arrested by police and the incident was quickly condemned across the political spectrum.

Mr Attal called on people to "reject the climate of violence and hatred that's taking hold", while RN leader Jordan Bardella said one of his "big commitments as prime minister" would be to "combat record insecurity and repeat offending".

Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin has announced that 30,000 police will be deployed across France for Sunday's vote in an attempt

to prevent "the ultra-left or ultra-right" from stirring up trouble.

The BBC spoke to voters in his constituency in northern France on Thursday who said they feared youths would go on the rampage whoever won, to express their anger at the political system.

Law and order is one of RN's big priorities, alongside immigration and tax cuts to target the cost-of-living crisis.

RN candidates have also come under attack. Marie Dauchy described being "violently assaulted" as she campaigned at a market in La Rochette near Grenoble in the south-east.

A conservative candidate allied with RN, Nicolas Conquer, complained that he and a female colleague

had been pelted with eggs. And last month another RN candidate was treated in hospital after he was set upon while handing out pamphlets.

Having won 33.2% of the vote in the first round of the snap election, called out of the blue by President Macron, Mr Bardella's party is now aiming to win an absolute majority in the 577-seat National Assembly.

But his political opponents have agreed to do all they can to block the far right from winning enough seats to form a government.

Seventy-six seats were won outright in the first round by candidates who won more than half the local vote in their constituency, including 39 RN candidates and their allies.

*cont'd on pg 20*

## Teams awaiting CWI's decision on status of Under-19 tournament

Teams are still awaiting word from Cricket West Indies (CWI) about the status of this year's regional Under-19 Men's Rising Stars tournament.

The tournament, which was slated to take place with three-day and 50-over matches from June 30 to July 31 in St. Vincent, is yet to start due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl that affected the Windward Islands on Monday, July 1.

The Leeward Islands team left Antigua on Sunday morning and traveled to Barbados, from where they were to travel to neighbouring St. Vincent on Monday, the same day Hurricane Beryl struck the island.

But Coach Wilden "Polo" Cornwall said the Leeward Islands and the Jamaica team are still in Barbados.

Cornwall said the six



The Leeward Islands Under-19 team at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Sunday, June 30, 2024. (File photo)

participating teams are still awaiting words from Cricket West Indies about the status of the regional youth tournament.

"We are stuck in Barbados waiting on a decision by Cricket West Indies. The

Leeward Islands and the Jamaica team have been here since Sunday. We were supposed to leave on Monday for St. Vincent, but, obviously, the hurricane did not allow that to happen," Cornwall said.

"St. Vincent suffered some major damage from the storm, so we are waiting on a decision by Cricket West Indies about the status of the tournament. So we are still waiting here in Barbados." **cont'd on pg 21**

**cont'd from pg 19**

The other 501 seats will be settled in run-off votes, and 217 third-placed candidates have pulled out of the race to hand a rival a better chance of defeating RN.

Of those 217 withdrawals, 130 candidates came from the left-wing New Popular Front and 81 from the Macron alliance.

Marine Le Pen has complained bitterly about the operation to secure "mass withdrawals", and blamed those who sought to "stay in power against the will of the people".

However, she said she thought there was still a chance of winning

an absolute majority, if the electorate turned out in big numbers.

The latest Ifop poll suggests RN will win 210-240 seats, short of the 289 it needs to form a government. That is down on the 240-270 range of seats that it was estimated to win after the first round.

Nevertheless there is fear among some of France's minorities of what RN might do if it gets into power.

It aims to give French citizens "national preference" over immigrants for jobs and housing and to abolish the right to automatic French citizenship for children of foreign parents, if those children have spent five years in

France from the age of 11 to 18.

Dual citizens would also be barred from dozens of sensitive jobs.

One Muslim woman in a district that voted 54% for RN last Sunday told the BBC that RN was gaining ground with every election that took place.

On the eve of France's quarter-final tie against Portugal in the European Championships in Germany, national football captain Kylian Mbappé called on voters to "make the right choice".

After Sunday's "catastrophic" first-round results, he said "we can't put the country into the hands of those people", without specifying who they were.



Ann Browne-John



Dr. Desmond Haynes

## Cricket West Indies expresses gratitude to former lead selectors

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has expressed gratitude to Dr. Desmond Haynes and Ann Browne-John as their respective tenures as lead selectors ended on June 30, 2024.

The governing body for cricket in the West Indies believes Dr. Haynes, who was appointed to the role in January 2022, and Browne-John, appointed in October 2019, have both made significant contributions to the organization during their tenures.

Cricket West Indies Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, expressed ap-

preciation for their services.

“We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Haynes and Mrs. Browne-John for their dedicated service as lead selectors.

“Their insights and commitment have been invaluable to our cricketing endeavours.”

While Dr. Haynes and Mrs. Browne-John will no longer serve as lead selectors, Cricket West Indies is confident that their contributions in other areas to the sport will not waiver and will seek to utilize their expertise.

CWI will continue the

quest for excellence in the selection system with ongoing restructuring efforts, including the implementation of new and improved processes. Bascombe elaborated on the new directions.

“We are committed to selection system that reflect the current needs of our cricketing landscape which will give us the best chance to identify and develop talent across all levels.

“The new system will have an increased focus on scouting, depth charting, alignment with cricket strategy, and human resource management. These deci-

sions were taken following careful considerations by the Cricket Development and Performance Committee.”

CWI further lauded Haynes and Browne-John for their service as lead selectors, which it said have been marked by their unwavering dedication to the sport and their deep understanding of cricketing dynamics.

The West Indies teams have shown improvements in the ICC rankings for both Men and Women under their leadership. CWI acknowledges the pivotal roles that both individuals have played in this achievement.

It is anticipated that the new system will take effect following ratification at the upcoming CWI Board of Directors meeting that will take place later this month.

*cont'd from pg 20*  
bados at the moment.”

Meanwhile, the Cricket West Indies Under-19 Women's Rising Stars tournament got underway in Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday morning after Tuesday's initial start was delayed due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

Guyana made a good start to the competition, snatching a four-run victory against defending champion Trinidad and Tobago at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba.

Guyana made 94 for five off their allotted 20 overs and restricted Trinidad and Tobago's women to 90 for six.

# Sports News



## Success for Legacy Thunder and Willikies Super Stars in domino competitions

Legacy Thunder and the Willikies Super Stars have won the first three-hand and four-hand titles, respectively, in the opening competitions of the 2024 Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) domestic season.

Legacy Thunders finished at the top of the standings with an overall total of 705 points after nine rounds of matches in the Three-Hand Competition, which was conducted in the accumulated points format, at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos.

Legacy Thunder clinched the title ahead of Legacy Lightning after winning their final round match in the 20-team round-robin competition. The Thunder scored 72 points to beat Double Six Ice with 70 points and the A team of Full Clip with 67 points.

Legacy Lightning finished in the runner-up spot with an overall total of 691 points after finishing second in their final round match. The A team of the Bolans Revellers won that encounter by scoring 89 points, Legacy Lightning scored 74 points, and Double Six Diamond recorded 53 points.

Highly Favoured finished in third place with an



overall total of 678 points. Highly Favoured and Parham Strikers both scored 66 points in their final round match with Bravo, which recorded 65 points.

The Rising Stars, who had a bye in the final round, came in fourth with a total of 662 points, one point more than the B team of the Willikies Super Stars, which finished in fifth place.

The Willikies B team scored 89 points to win their final round match against Dominatrixx with 71 points and the Fire Police with 59 points. Dominatrixx came

in seventh with a total of 647 points, and Fire Police finished in 12th place with 637 points.

Unstoppables, which finished in sixth place with a total of 656 points, and S.K. Eagles, which claimed 14th place with 633 points, won the other two matches in the final round.

Unstoppables recorded 73 points to beat the B team of Bolans Revellers with 69 points and the B team of Full Clip with 64 points.

S.K. Eagles scored 73 points to prevail against the B team of Willikies Super Stars with 71 points and the

Ramplers with 70 points.

The Ramplers finished in the cellar of the three-hand contest with an overall total of 492 points.

The Willikies Super Stars won the six-team round-robin four-hand contest by finishing at the top of the standings with 20 points. The Bolans Revellers clinched second place ahead of the Double Six after both teams finished tied with 12 points.

Dominatrixx finished in fourth place with 10 points, Ramplers came in fifth place, and Eagles ended in the cellar with two points.

## Lara expects West Indies to face daunting task in England Test series

West Indies battling legend and former Test captain Brian Lara is optimistic that the Caribbean side's inexperienced battling line up can stand tall to the demands as much will be required of them in the Three-Test series against England, which bowls of at Lord's in London next Wednesday.

In fact, Lara pointed out that a technical and tactical approach will be integral to West Indies chances, especially given the strength of England's line up, coupled with their aggressive approach and home conditions at Lord's, which they will relish.

With that in mind, Lara believes the best way to defend against the opponent's strengths is to take an attacking approach in the field.

"I think more important is how the bowlers and the captain handle it in the field because we have to stay positive. We have to stay aggressive in terms of having attacking fields, having players in attacking positions, because the way they (England) bat, England are going to have you pushing players out on the boundary – which is what they want," Lara said during a recent interview with Sky Sports.

"You push your deep cover back or your third man back, your deep backward square back, it creates opportunities for them



Brian Lara, left, talks with Kyle Mayers during a West Indies training session. (CWI Media)

to get singles – four, five singles an over is actually great scoring. We've got to be very technical and tactical in terms of how we approach this series," he added.

Unlike England, who has upped their game in Test cricket to what has been labelled 'Bazball' under Head coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes, West Indies has been quite the opposite.

England's alteration has resulted in them now playing an attractive brand of aggressive cricket, particularly with the bat.

West Indies, on the other hand, have been more traditional, and Lara is of the view that the regional

side should remain on the same path, instead of attempt to adopt England's style of play.

"I don't think first of all, as a batting team, that (aggression) is our style, which actually is a little bit of a negative. If you're going to come up against a side that's scoring at five and six runs an over and you're just going to score at 2.5, three runs an over, that in itself is asking for trouble," Lara reasoned.

"England is playing a style of cricket that is difficult to beat them, coming from behind. We've got to get them out cheaply in the first innings to stay in front of the game. If you get behind England – with the

pace they play the game at – it's impossible to get back into the game," he noted.

Despite the loss of Kemar Roach to a knee injury, Lara, 55, said he is more concerned about the batting.

"I'm not worried too much about Kemar Roach missing out or the bowling attack. I think the bowling attack is pretty formidable," he declared.

"I think the batting is where the experience is lacking. They're trying, the batters are trying, but it's the fact that, how much experience have they had in English conditions. So I'm hoping we can pull through in that department," Lara ended.

# Sports

FRIDAY 5TH JULY 2024



## CPL tickets available for online purchase

Tickets for the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), including the CPL playoffs and final, went on sale exclusively to Visa customers on Wednesday, July 3.

This initial batch of tickets will be available exclusively to Visa customers who will be able to purchase tickets by visiting [www.cplt20.com](http://www.cplt20.com).

Tickets will be available for general sale on the CPL website from Monday, July 8, with tickets available for all CPL matches with games set to take place in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The 2024 tournament gets underway on August 29 with the opening match taking place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium with Antigua & Barbuda Falcon facing St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

The final will take place at the Guyana National Stadium, Providence, on October 6.

Pete Russell, Republic Bank CPL's CEO, said,



**CPL T20**  
Caribbean Premier League

“The interest in the CPL is huge and we are excited that we are able to partner with Visa to release this initial batch of tickets to their customers.

“We are looking forward to another successful tournament in 2024 and we are looking forward to getting underway in Antigua and Barbuda when we will welcome the Falcons to the CPL family.

“With the interest in the final in Guyana being even bigger than it was last year, we are certain that the tournament will have an amazing finish on October 6.”

Tickets are priced to

be affordable for everyone with early bird tickets now on sale. There are savings in many locations if you buy early.

Demand for the playoffs is expected to be huge so fans are encouraged to buy early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets for the final will be released in batches to manage demand with a huge amount held back for sale from the box office in Guyana to ensure locals can attend the game.

This year, there are some amazing players taking part from the Caribbean and around the world with star studded rosters

with all teams. Overseas stars Quinton de Kock, David Miller, Tim David, Wanindu Hasaranga, and Imran Tahir all set to take part.

In 2024, fans can take advantage of the CPL digital wallet, which will safely and securely store all their CPL tickets to allow for easy access to the matches.

Fans can visit [cplt20.com](http://cplt20.com) to buy tickets now. Box offices will be opening in all locations prior to the tournament arriving in the host country so fans can buy tickets locally. Information on this will follow.