

REVENUE GROWTH ON PACE TO SET NEW RECORDS

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Local News



Revenue growth on pace to set new records

Another indicator of the performance of the economy has been the growth in revenues for the year.

This year, the government added two percent to the ABST to move it from 15 percent to 17 percent along with other measures to improve revenues.

The year is not yet over and the government's revenues have seen strong growth in the first ten months of the year.

The financial secretary, Rasona Davis-Crump is confident that the ABST, which was projected at

\$413.6million this year, will be surpassed when the final figures are tabulated.

Meanwhile, Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu is reporting that as of October 31, 2024, revenues at his department totaled \$397.1 million compared with \$327.6 million for the same period last year.

This is an increase of \$69.50 million, or an increase of twenty-one point two one percent (21.21%).

For the month of October, revenues amounted to over \$46 million, another increase over the amount

for the same month last year.

All this translates in the Antigua and Barbuda economy doubling in size between 2014 and 2024. Based on data from the ministry of finance, the economy will value in excess of \$6 billion by year-end.

Up from the roughly \$3 billion in 2014. There are signs that the country's economy is back on track with the pandemic decline a distant sight in the rear-view mirror.

"At the end of 2019, the value of the econo-

my (market prices) was \$4.5 billion. Based on the growth that we have achieved so far, we are looking at in excess of \$6 billion for 2024.

"This growth is expected to continue into 2025. Our projections are that by the end of 2025 we will be at \$6.5 billion, roughly \$2 billion more than it was for 2019," Davis-Crump remarked.

She added that 'all this is predicated' on the expectations that the anticipated growth in tourism and in construction will continue.

Foreign Minister Greene shines the light on the Caribbean's vision to host a World Expo

Foreign Minister E.P. Chet Greene highlighted the individual charm and beauty of Caribbean countries as he focused the spotlight on what he described as a Caribbean vision to host a World Exposition at some point in the future.

FM Greene was speaking Monday morning at the opening of Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) Capacity Building workshop taking place at Royalton Hotel from November 4-6. BIE with funding from the European Union is conducting the training, which is the first such event to take place in the Caribbean.

In his remarks, Greene identified the unique characteristics of each Caribbean



an territory, including Haiti, as he encouraged the countries of the region to attain

the necessary skills and expertise in order to make a formal bid to host a World

Expo.

These events are held every five years, with a small event taking place somewhere in the intervening years.

In remarks to the opening ceremony, BIE Secretary General, Dmitry Kerkentzes, said the participants will embark on an exploration of Expos. "We will of course learn what Expos are, look into the opportunities that they offer, and study the technical and logistical aspects of participating in them," he noted.

According to the Secretary General the sessions will engage in open and productive discussions on how

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each country can maximise its participation in Expos to forge new ties, strengthen existing connections, and create new possibilities for cultural and economic development.

“Expos allow all Caribbean countries to bring their skills, values and experiences to the table, to inspire the world with their vision and their projects. Expos provide us with an inclusive platform for these conversations. By their very nature, these events aim to reflect the diversity of the world, offering a space where each nation can share its solutions, and express its identity, achievements, and vision for the future,” he explained.

Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the UK, Karen-Mae Hill, who as President of the BIE Administration and Budget Committee, played a key

role in the country's selection as host of the training workshop, said it aims at helping the Caribbean region improve and deepen their participation in Expos. She emphasized that there are many benefits to a nation when it attends these Expos.

“The next Expo will be in Osaka, Japan, and we will have an Antigua and Barbuda pavilion where we will display the country's work on the SDG's, but it also gives us a chance to connect with potential investors, share our culture, thereby sharing aspects of Antigua and Barbuda to the entire world,” she stated.

Noting that Haiti hosted an Expo in 1949 (the first and only Caribbean country to do so), she said the workshop is also to remind Caribbean countries that they are not too small to host something as important the Expo.

Tourism industry to honour its own during Tourism Week, 2024

Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry professionals, whose commitment and excellence have significantly elevated the nation's tourism sector, will be honoured at the prestigious Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Awards Gala on November 24, 2024.

This annual event, hosted by the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) and the Ministry of Tourism, is dedicated to celebrating outstanding individuals and organizations that have enhanced Antigua and Barbuda's tourism product.

This year's theme, "Waves of Opulence and Distinction" captures a sense of luxury, elegance and sophistication.

The event provides an opportunity to pair the luxurious allure of the ocean with the highest standards of distinction in service. Attendees are encouraged to dress in colors and styles that evoke the beauty and elegance of the ocean.

Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Investment, Charles Fernandez, stated, "Recognizing that service with distinction can only catapult Antigua and Barbuda's product to phenomenal levels and increase our global competitive advantage, I implore all

supervisors, managers and human resource personnel within the tourism industry to continue to recognize talent and encourage its development through the continued support of initiatives such as these."

ABHTA Chairman, Craig Marshall, added, "This celebration not only honours the contributions of our professionals but also underscores the collaborative spirit between the ABHTA and the Ministry of Tourism. Together, we are setting a standard of excellence that reflects the beauty and allure of our destination, while empowering those who make it shine every day."

This year's awards ceremony will honour tourism

professionals in various categories, including:

ABHTA Employee of the Year

ABHTA Supervisor of the Year

Rising Star of the Year
Young Hotelier of the Year

Young Chef of the Year
Chef of the Year

Transportation Service Provider of the Year

Tour Guide of the Year
Port Frontline Employee of the Year

Customer Service Excellence Award

Digital Marketing Excellence Award

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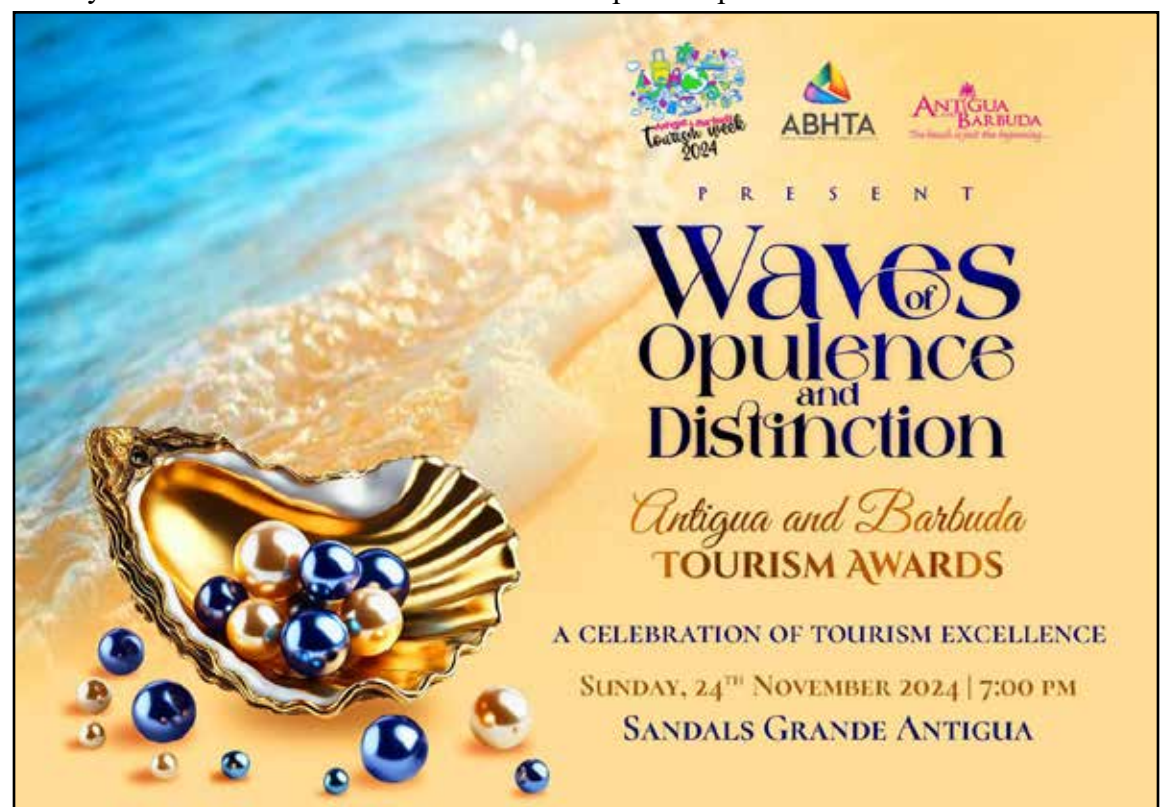
Nominations for the awards were open to pri-

vate and public sector tourism businesses, with selection of winners being made by a panel of esteemed industry executives.

The winners and nominees will be celebrated in the presence of Government officials and other tourism professionals at Sandals Grande Antigua on Sunday, November 24, 2024.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Awards Gala is a highlight of Tourism Week, taking place from November 17 – November 24, 2024.

With a renewed focus on sustainability, excellence, and distinction, the week promises to inspire the tourism community as it prepares for a thriving winter season.



Local News



Three persons to receive honour by the ABAT in Toronto

Antigua and Barbuda's 43rd Independence Day celebrations continue in the north with the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Toronto. The celebration gala will honour three notable nationals Mitzi Allen, Joy Lapps and Rodman George.

The gala will take place on November 9th, 2024 at the Viceroy Banquet Hall in Toronto and is hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Toronto with support from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

Tameka Wharton, Director of Tourism (Canada) explains that "The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has been on a reinvigorating venture of diaspora engagement for 2024." She says that the upcoming Independence Gala in Toronto is "an excellent avenue to remind our people that the efforts of promoting Antigua and Barbuda can be that much stronger if the diaspora shares their talent, skills and connections across their newly found community, and tell Canadians about their homeland."

Amongst the three honourees, is Mitzi Allen, an award-winning broadcast journalist and film and television producer, who was the first black reporter on CFTO-TV in Toronto in the 1980s. She is the managing director of HAMA Inc. and has produced five feature films, four television series, and countless documentaries.

Joy Lapps is an internationally lauded artist and composer who is of Antiguan and Barbudan descent. She is known for using the steelpan as a tool for engagement in community building and creative expression. She gives particularly nuanced attention to women of the Steelband movement and, in doing so, amplifies the contribution of women in every facet of her work.

The third honour will be given to Rodman George from Barbuda, also known as Uncle Roddy. In 2005, he opened Uncle Roddy's eco-friendly beach bar in Barbuda. Powered by solar panels, it was the first of its kind on the island. In 2017, Hurricane Irma severely damaged Uncle Roddy's but it has, to date, been

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ABAT
Antigua and Barbuda Association of Toronto

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TICKETS: \$120 / PERSON

For ticket purchase info, please contact abatevent@gmail.com or Selma Alincy 647-202-6935 (West) • LaTanya Abbott 647-991-6993 (East)





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rebuilt with a second-story dining room featuring expansive ocean views. Although Rodman is now retired, the legacy of Uncle Roddy lives on through his daughter, who manages the beach bar and Barbuda Cottages, and his son who has dominated the culinary industry in Canada.

The chair of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Toronto, Selma Alincy, says the gala embodies the Independence theme this year, 'From Community Collaboration to Global Gains,' as it underscores the association's commitment to working together, not just within our local communities but also on a global scale. She

asserts that "together, we can harness our collective strength, share our resources, and inspire change that transcends borders."

The night will be invigorated by the sounds of soca diva Claudette "CP" Peters backed by the Disturbance band, who will all journey from Antigua and Barbuda to Toronto for the event. Ticketholders will also be entered into a raffle for a complimentary stay-for-two at one of the Elite Island Resorts' hotels in Antigua, sponsored by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. Along with this grand prize, the ABTA supports the association with several door-prizes and memorabilia for attendees.

Come out and enjoy a night of entertainment at the
43RD INDEPENDENCE GALA

Live Performance by the one and only Claudette "CP" Peters, Antigua's Soca Queen, and also featuring the Disturbance Band – bringing the beats and energy that will have you dancing all night long! Don't miss out on this spectacular event celebrating Antigua and Barbuda!

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Join us as we acknowledge **Joy Lapps** at the
43RD INDEPENDENCE GALA

Internationally lauded artist and composer Joy Lapps activates spaces for community building and creative expression. The award-winning instrumentalist of Antiguan and Barbudan descent treats the steelpan as a tool for engagement, anchoring her artistry in a profound, community-centered musical tradition.

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Local News



Six-member delegation represents A&B at World Travel Market

A six-member delegation is in London to represent Antigua and Barbuda at one of the world's biggest travel trade show, the World Travel Market.

The team is being led by Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, Deputy Chair of the ABTA, Alan Hosan, Ian

Joseph and Elvira Emelda Frank of the United Taxi Association along with National Hero and Brand Ambassador, Sir Vivian Richards.

Artist Terryl Howell, is also included in the team to help promote one of the country's newest events, Antigua and Barbuda Art Week.

Reporting from London, Joseph said both he and Frank are there to meet with tour operators and others to help arrange the transportation aspect of the Antigua and Barbuda tourism sector.

Several meetings are planned for today, the opening day of the three-day affair.



Ian Joseph

Two members of Police Service Commission reappointed

Two members of the Police Service Commission have been reappointed.

A formal ceremony took place on

Monday at Government House where the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, presided.

Senior Attorney-at-Law, Kelvin

John, returns to the post of Chairman of the Police Service Commission, along with retired Deputy Commissioner of Police, James Hill as a member.

The ceremony took in the presence of distinguished guests, underscoring the Commission's commitment to safeguarding the integrity and discipline of the Police Force as outlined in Sections 104 and 105 of the Constitution.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney highlighted John's long-standing dedication and leadership, which have been instrumental in upholding the standards and effectiveness of the Police Force. The Governor General urged the Commission members to continue its work with integrity, impartiality, and diligence in supporting the nation's law enforcement.

Additional members, Regis Burton and Claudette Mason, will be re-appointed to the Commission in the near future.

The members of the Police Service Commission are appointed by the Governor General, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister following consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

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Health technicians undergo training

Technicians attached to several of the units within the ministry of health are undergoing a weeklong training as part of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARHA)'s recently approved Regional Integrated Public Health Surveillance Strategy.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health responsible for primary health care, Stacy Gregg-Paige, said the objectives of the training exercise are critical to vector control in the country.

"The objectives of this meeting are vital for ensuring that our vector management strategies are both comprehensive and effective. Over the next several days, you will assess the capabilities of entomology laboratories; receive training in laboratory techniques



related to the aedes aegypti mosquito and develop robust feedback mechanism for entomological indices and vector control operations," she stated.

Gregg-Paige urged the partici-

pants to absorb the training as it will enhance their ability to carry out their vector control strategies more effectively. "Each day will bring you a step

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AUA students celebrate Diwali

Students at the American University of Antigua gathered over the weekend to celebrate Diwali, one of the important festivals of

the Hindu religion.

"This celebration takes place around the world wherever Indians may be and we are happy that here

in Antigua and Barbuda we were able to come together in unity to celebrate this important festival," Honorary Consul for India based

in St. John's, Vijay Tewani stated

He reported that he joined AUA's senior management and staff to celebrate the Festival of Lights, which was organized by the students' committee of AUA.

"It was such a vibrant, joyful event!

"It was inspiring to see young people proudly honoring their culture and values, bringing everyone together to share in the fun and joy.

"This is the true spirit of Diwali—community, celebration, and unity," he remarked.

The Festival of Lights was held on the AUA campus near Jabberwock on Saturday.



Local News

Unveiling Hospitality Professionals Ashley Rhodes: Owner of A&A Rigging and Yacht Services

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) proudly highlights Ashley Rhodes, Owner of A & A Rigging and Yacht Services, in the Unveiling Hospitality Professional series.

With over twenty-five years of dedication to rigging, Ashley has become a trusted expert in this essential yachting service, which involves setting up and maintaining the masts, and rigging systems that keep yachts safe and seaworthy.

His business has grown to employ five team members, with plans for further expansion.

Rhodes' journey in the yachting world reflects determination and resilience. Despite academic challenges in high school, he carved out a successful path by pursuing a non-traditional career that aligned with his strengths. Now, he encourages students facing similar challenges to recognize their potential, reminding them, "There are abundant

opportunities beyond traditional jobs. Never give up on yourself.”

Ashley invites the Antigua and Barbuda community to explore careers in the yachting sector and emphasizes the value of local involvement in this dynamic industry.

To inspire new talent, he will be at the upcoming Antigua and Barbuda Yachting and Marine Association Showcase on November 6-7, 2024 at Falmouth Harbour Marina starting at 9:00am. Join him to learn more about rigging and other rewarding yachting careers.



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closer to strengthening your approaches and fine tuning your integrated vector control strategy. These efforts are essential for reducing the threat of vector-borne diseases and for advancing our mission to protect and promote health and wellness throughout our communities,” she remarked.

Principal Public Health Supervisor, Julianne Manix, said the training is geared towards building the capacity of the technicians to do entomological surveillance in a laboratory setting. Participants are attending from various units within the health ministry. These

are the Vector Control Unit, the Epidemiology Unit, the Analytical Services at Dunbar's and public health inspectors.

CARPHA is currently rolling-out the approved Regional Integrated Public Health Surveillance Strategy across its Members States. Under one of the priority areas for this strategy, CARPHA is seeking to build surveillance capacity for the prevention and control of vector borne diseases using a multi-sectoral approach. The foundational step in this process involves the development of a National Integrated Vector Management (IVM) strategy.

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A lawyer for the families say they want TikTok's legal liability for harmful content to be recognised in court.

French families sue TikTok over harmful content

By Kathryn Armstrong

TikTok is being sued by seven families in France, who accuse the social media giant of exposing their children to harmful content - leading two to take their own lives.

The case alleges the video platform's algorithm exposed them to content promoting self-harm, eating disorders and suicide, said Laure Boutron-Marmion, a lawyer for the families. She told French media that the lawsuit was the first of its kind in Europe.

TikTok, which is one of the world's most popular social media platforms, said it had not received any notifications of legal proceedings relating to the claims.

The company added in a statement that its community guidelines do not allow for the showing, promoting or sharing plans for suicide or self-harm, and that it uses a combination of technology and moderation to ensure these standards are upheld.

The group lawsuit, which has been filed in the Créteil judicial court, is

separate to a criminal complaint filed against TikTok last year by the parents of Marie - one of the two teenagers who killed herself.

Marie, whose surname has not been used in reporting, was 15 when she took her own life in 2021. Her death, according to her mother, was due in part to the video content that she was able to access on TikTok without moderation.

Another girl whose family is involved in the lawsuit also died by suicide, while four of the other five young women attempted to take their own lives. At least one of them had developed an eating disorder.

"The parents want TikTok's legal liability to be recognised in court", Ms Boutron-Marmion told broadcaster Franceinfo.

"This is a commercial company offering a product to consumers who are, in addition, minors. They must, therefore, answer for the product's shortcomings."

TikTok, like other major social networks, has faced scrutiny and crit-

icism over its safeguarding practices.

More than a dozen US states recently sued the company - accusing it of helping to drive a mental health crisis among teenagers.

Last year, the European Union opened an investigation into whether it had breached new safety laws relating to the protection of minors, among other areas.

In an interview in April, Ms Boutron-Marmion told French legal news site Actu-Juridique that cases such as that of Molly Russell, the British schoolgirl who killed herself in 2017 after seeing graphic images of self-harm and suicide online on Instagram and Pinterest, were increasing awareness of the need for greater accountability when it comes to social media content.

"Parents are starting to wake up. Many of them were unaware of the horrors that were circulating on the platforms. While I have noticed a change in mentalities, the problem remains: addiction persists, including among adults."

Opinion



The joker is vile or what?

By Tony Deyal

The film, *The Joker* is Wild, came out in 1957 when I was 12 years old. Now, 67 years later, the joker, instead of reaching the heights, has reached the depths of disgust, especially in the US where there is a fight to the finish. Either the entire country falls if Trump wins, or there will be a better and renewed United States if Kamala Harris becomes president.

In many ways, the closest to Trump as a president was Richard Nixon. I was studying journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, when Nixon was the US president. The Canadian PM, Pierre Trudeau, and our journalism teachers, made it clear that we and everyone else in Canada should always know what was happening in the US, especially the politics, because "Canada's relationship with the United States was like sleeping next to an elephant..."

Nixon was caught in the Watergate scandal and responded with a public speech "I am not a crook." He was not a total crook either. As one journalist said, "It was a clever defence. No one was accusing him of being a crook. They were accusing him of abuse of power and other misdeeds. It's like a boy who stole the cookies protesting that he didn't hit his brother. It fuzzes up the issue." It even

"fuzzed" up what he was. There are still Nixon jokes like, "What did Nixon say when asked to help with the presidential dinner? I am not a cook!" It is said that Richard Stone, who worked in the campaigns of both Nixon and Trump, supposedly had Nixon tattooed on his back. That way, inmates at the jail where Stone was sentenced for 40 months for lying to Congress, would get to see a criminal and a liar no matter which side of him they were facing. Interestingly, he was later freed by Trump. In wondering whether that made Trump better than Nixon and the greatest of all US Presidents, George Washington, the difference, as we learnt in school, was that Washington couldn't tell a lie. Nixon couldn't tell the truth and Donald Trump cannot tell the difference. In fact Amazon sells a T-shirt which says on the front, "I am not a crook" and below a picture of Trump, "Compared to Donald Trump."

Actually, the US bob-sled team put Donald Trump's picture on the front of the sled because nobody else can make America go downhill faster. Despite this, Trump has a huge following. In fact when asked how many Trump supporters does it take to change a lightbulb, the answer is, "None! Trump says it's changed and his supporters all cheer in the dark." As a



Tony Deyal

79-year-old, I just found out that Trump just turned 73 and that makes him the first president of the US whose age surpassed his IQ. When Trump was impeached, the response by many people was, "Finally, something he's earned." What we all found out earlier this week is that with all the many others in the world, especially the people of Puerto Rico, when it comes to Trump jokes his Republicans don't think they're funny. For them all that Trumps says or does is gospel.

On the other hand, and perhaps rightly so, Democrats don't think they're jokes. For them, not just Trump but also his staff and selected jokers are just as bad as he is. After last week's performance by one of his humorists, if it is at all possible, worse.

I remember reading *The Gleaner's* "Political Memes" when Donald Trump won the presidency over Hillary Clinton. The Glean-

er said that the world might be shocked but as Jamaicans, they know what their people always say, "Sometimes youh affir tek bad things mek joke."

In other words, "We are always joking and having a good laugh over any bad situation." Unfortunately Trump went far beyond Jamaica and after hitting Puerto Rico with a double or triple-whammy, ended up where he should always be – in the deep, depths of the Sargasso Sea. Maybe he was in Elon Musk's car, but the guy who drove the car and told the jokes for Trump and his fans would not get any of Musk's \$1 million or even a good morning. What happened is a question every writer should be able to answer, "When is a joke a joke." Or when is joking not a joke. A joke is supposed a display of humour to make people laugh. Calling something a joke doesn't grant it immunity from offence.

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Opinion

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Hiding behind a “joke” does not help when you’re telling racist, sexist or demeaning jokes. Trump’s humorist, Tony Hinchcliffe, went after all so-called Trump enemies, hoping to get laughs, which he did, but only from some Trump supporters. Others, like all the Democrats and others who know the Puerto Ricans and what they stand for, were totally disgusted.

It is not that Hinchcliffe was unknown in terms of what to expect from him. He was always expected to follow his performance name “Kill Tony” on the stage, and as Trump’s ‘joker’ when he was on the ball.

So with Trumps biggest crowd ready to rumble, the “Joker” started with, “I want to migrate to the United States of America. I want to migrate to the US with open arms...” and he started shaking his arms with a huge, “No! No!”

In other words, none of those wanting to migrate to the US were not

wanted by Trump and his supporters. “Kill Tony” continued, “Its absolutely wild. We’re right there by a wide open border. Where are the mosquitoes tonight? You can see what I mean. It’s wide open and there are so many of them. A floating iceland of garbage in the middle of the ocean right now. I think it’s called Puerto Rico. Ok!”

Then he went to town on Puerto Rico, “There’s a lot going on. Like, I don’t know if you guys know this, but there’s literally a floating island of garbage in the middle of the ocean right now. Yeah, I think it’s called Puerto Rico.”

Later, Hinchcliffe said the Latin/Hispanic community “loves making babies, too”. He added, “Just know that. They do. They do. There’s no pulling out. They don’t do that. They come inside. Just like they did to our country.” No race got away from Trump’s joker.

He compared a black man in the audience with a watermelon and

called Jews “cheap” and Palestinians “rock throwers”. When he heard that the Democratic Vice President-elect, Tim Walz, was upset about his jokes, Hinchcliffe responded, “I’m a comedian Tim ... might be time to change your tampon.” An American female politician, Ocasio-Cortez, who was speaking to Walz, replied to “Kill Tony”, “Can’t get over this dude telling someone else to change tampons when he’s the one s(p)itting bricks ... for a Trump rally and feeding red-meat racism alongside a throng of other bigots to a frothing crowd...”

What the crowd and all Trump supporters will never know is what a fun joke can be even when dealing with politicians. For example, my advice is, don’t steal, don’t lie and don’t cheat. Trump hates competition.

Tony Deyal was last seen saying that despite what so many people think, Trump is nothing like Hitler, the dictator of Nazi Germany. There’s no way he could write a book.



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TCI launches Border Force to boost national security

CMC - The government of the Turks and Caicos Islands has officially launched its Border Force, marking the culmination of a three-year endeavour spearheaded by the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services, which has seen a significant expansion of enforcement and intelligence teams, substantial investments in cutting-edge technology, and the implementation of robust legislative frameworks.

The newly established Border Force is poised to play a pivotal role in safeguarding the islands from a myriad of threats, including human trafficking, drug smuggling, and other transnational crimes.

It will also facilitate the smooth and secure flow of legitimate trade and tourism, ensuring that TCI remains a welcoming and prosperous destination.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Immigration and Border Control Althea Been, hailed last week's launch as a "historic moment" for the islands, emphasising the Border Force's commitment to "the safety, integrity, and sovereignty" of the nation.

She acknowledged the unique challenges posed by the islands' geographical location and underscored the need for "vigilant protection and management" of its



borders.

Been also provided insights into the meticulous planning and execution that led to the creation of the Border Force.

"From the inception, my team and I recognized that this vision required industrious people, effective and enabling policies, and modern-day world-class systems for it to come to fruition," she stated.

Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Arlington Musgrove, echoed Been's sentiments, expressing his immense pride in the government's achievement.

"The establishment of the TCI Border Force stands as one of our most significant accomplishments, a transformation that reflects our steadfast dedication to

securing our shores and uplifting our people," he declared.

Musgrove highlighted the Border Force's comprehensive approach to border control, which includes the deployment of advanced technology such as drones and biometric data. He also emphasised the importance of transparency and accountability, citing the implementation of body-worn cameras and other measures aimed at fostering public trust.

Deputy Governor Anya Williams commended the Border Force team for their unwavering commitment to protecting the islands' borders. She acknowledged the sacrifices made by officers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to process irreg-

ular migrants, manage detention centres, and screen individuals entering the islands.

Premier Charles Washington Misick underscored the critical role of security in achieving economic sustainability and social cohesion. He called for collective efforts to support the Border Force and other security forces in their mission to safeguard the islands.

Meanwhile, Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam lauded the Border Force's contribution to the multi-agency efforts to combat organised crime and trafficking. She also highlighted the importance of international partnerships in strengthening border security and promoting global stability.

Cayman Islands Governor says govt can function once it has a quorum in Cabinet



CMC - Governor Jane Owen says “calm and stable government” remains the priority in the Cayman Islands that is dealing with the second collapse of a coalition government within a four-year period.

Last Thursday, four members of Parliament, including the Deputy Premier André Ebanks, resigned from the government.

The others are the Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Minister, Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, Health Minister Sabrina Turner and Parliamentary Secretary Heather Bodden who have left the United People’s Movement (UPM) with immediate effect.

“In recent months in particular, the level of dysfunction and disorganisation, and a lack of professionalism, places the country at risk of erroneous decision making and reputational damage which could have long-term adverse consequences,” the four said

in a joint statement.

In a statement, Owen said that she appreciates that “this has been an uncertain time for many people throughout our islands” and that she is closely following developments after the resignation of four members of the UPM government.

“As many have said already, calm and stable government remains the priority. As you all know, Cayman has a strong constitution that has stood the test of time and robust democratic principles upon which our constitution is based.

“We will have constant reference to these as discussions continue. Under the constitution, the Cabinet can continue to function provided it has a quorum of five ministers, including the Premier,” the Governor said.

She said the Civil Service will also continue to provide public services and policy implementation as they

always do, promising to “provide further updates to you in due course, so I encourage you to remain tuned in to all official channels”

Last week, the opposition Progressives Party said that while it is “carefully considering its options” it “stands ready to provide the leadership the Cayman Islands needs”.

The Progressives in a brief statement noted the resignations highlight “an urgent crisis” in the government, one that threatens Cayman’s “stability and unity.”

“We must act with urgency, resolve, and a relentless commitment to the future of our islands. We must restore unity and stability to the business of government. Cayman deserves nothing less,” the party said.

Former premier McKeeva Bush warned that “pushing the country into an early election does not speak well for a stable country.”

Fresh flooding hits Barcelona as Spain rescuers search underground parking

The Spanish city of Barcelona was hit by flooding on Monday, as search and rescue efforts continue following devastating flooding around Valencia last week.

Spain's state meteorological agency has placed parts of Catalonia on red alert for torrential rain, with local media showing footage of cars partially submerged on a highway.

Parts of the Barcelona's El Prat airport, the second largest in the country, have been flooded. More than 80 flights have been cancelled or delayed, while rail services have been suspended.

A similar weather event, which hit the Valencia region with a year's worth of rain last week, has caused at least 217 deaths. On Monday, rescuers focused their efforts on searching for missing people in underground car parks.

The storm caught many victims in their vehicles on roads and in underground spaces, such as car parks, tunnels and garages, where rescue operations are particularly difficult.

It is feared shoppers and workers were trapped inside the car park at a shopping mall in Aldaia, on the outskirts of Valencia, as floodwater overwhelmed the area.

Police have confirmed that no victims were located in the first 50 vehicles inspected at the site.

But reports suggest these vehicles were found near the entrance to the car park, with much of the rest of it still submerged and yet to be explored.

Among the dead were a British couple in their 70s, whose family confirmed they had been found dead in their car days after the flash floods hit Valencia. So far no deaths have been reported in Catalonia.

On Monday morning, Spain's interior minister refused to say how many were still missing.



European football body Uefa said a minute's silence would be held at club competition matches "in memory of the victims" and those impacted by the floods. Real Madrid and Barcelona FC are due to play on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

Outside the Bonaire shopping mall in Aldaia, rotting piles of debris lined the roads while noisy generators pumped water from the mall car park.

Spanish police were using drones to get an initial view of the inside, a police spokesperson said.

When the BBC asked a local police officer how much longer the operation would take, he said he could not give an estimate, but that teams would stay as long as necessary.

As is the case in many parts of the region that have been devastated by the floods, there is a vacuum of information.

There has been anger at a perceived lack of warning and insufficient support from authorities after the floods.

On Sunday, the king and queen of Spain were pelted with mud and other objects by angry protesters during a visit to the town of Paiporta - one of the worst-affected in the Valencia region.

Objects were also thrown at Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who was quickly evacuated.

The Civil Guard has opened an investigation into the chaotic scenes, Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlasca told public broadcaster TVE.

He blamed "marginal groups" for instigating the violence where mud spat-tered the monarchs' face and clothes.

In a news conference on Monday, the chief of Spain's Military Emergencies Unit (UME) said it had pre-deployed 500 troops to Valencia so they could begin working as soon as they were authorised to.

General Francisco Javier Marcos said that when he saw the situation worsen, he sent alerts to 1,000 soldiers, who travelled overnight "so that by dawn the next day, people of Valencia could see that the armed forces were there".

He added: "You might say we didn't intervene rapidly. The weather prevented that partially, and secondly, it was a matter of order and discipline.

"You might say that doesn't justify being slow - well look, you can't bring more chaos to an already very chaotic situation."

Local authorities in Valencia have extended travel restrictions for another two days to facilitate the work of the emergency services, cancelled school classes and urged people to work from

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Modi condemns violence after Canada temple incident

By Kathryn Armstrong

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has criticised the “cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats” in a deepening diplomatic row with Canada.

Both countries expelled each other’s top envoys last month after Canadian officials accused India of being involved in violent acts targeting Indian dissidents on Canadian soil, something the country denies.

Modi’s comments came after violence broke out at a Hindu temple in the Canadian city of Brampton on Sunday, which he has called a “deliberate attack”.

“Such acts of violence will never weaken India’s resolve. We expect the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law,” he wrote on X.

Local police said three people have so far been arrested and charged over the incident in Brampton, near Toronto, but did not provide

further details.

The force said “several acts of unlawfulness continue to be actively investigated” by its officers.

Unverified video posted online appeared to show people carrying yellow flags of the Khalistan movement - which demands a separate Sikh homeland in India - clashing with others holding Indian flags.

India’s foreign ministry said “extremists and separatists” were behind the violence, calling on the Canadian government to “ensure that all places of worship are protected from such attacks”.

The North America-based activist group Sikhs for Justice, meanwhile, described the incident as an “unprovoked violent attack on peaceful pro-Khalistan demonstrators”.

Justin Trudeau wrote on X that Sunday’s violence was “unacceptable”, adding that “every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely”.



Monday’s comments are the first time Narendra Modi has spoken about the cooling of relations with Canada.

Relations between India and Canada have soured since Ottawa accused the Indian government of being behind the 2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a naturalised Canadian citizen who is labelled a terrorist in India.

India has vehemently denied this and other allegations and maintained that Canada has provided no evidence to support its claims.

Mr Nijjar had been a vocal supporter of the Khalistan movement and publicly campaigned for it.

The rift between Canada and India has raised questions over the impact it could have on the deep trade and immigration ties between both countries.

Bilateral trade is worth billions of dollars, and Canada is home to nearly 1.7 million people of Indian origin.

Neither country has yet imposed tariffs or other economic forms of retaliation, but experts caution that this could change, and that a cooling relationship between India and Canada could hinder further economic growth.

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home.

Gen Marcos said gridlock on some roads was making it hard to distribute food to the 69 affected municipalities.

He said that the number of troops on the ground had been “scaled up” - with 7,800 due by 20:00 local time (19:00 GMT) on Monday. These were being supported by 17,000 volunteers and 5,000 army soldiers offering logistical support, he said.

A warship carrying 104 marine infantry soldiers as well as trucks with food and water docked in Valencia’s port on Monday. Gen Marcos said the UME was “doing everything we can”, including working double shifts.

He added: “We must be disciplined and we must be patient. I know that’s hard, because pain and emotion means that’s not easy.”

In Catalonia, the Ministry for Ecology said that the State Meteorological

Agency (Aemet) had issued a red alert due to the “extreme danger” of torrential rains. Aemet is warning that up to 8cm of rain could fall across coastal areas into Tuesday morning - but that localised downpours could lead to “very different” accumulations between nearby towns.

The flooding in Valencia was caused by a Dana phenomenon - when warm, moist air meets cold air, creating an unstable weather system.



Barbados Pride's Demetrius Richards plays a stroke during his unbeaten 65 against Guyana Harpy Eagles in the CG United Super50 Cup at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday. (CWI Media)

Richards leads Pride to victory over Harpy Eagles

The Barbados Pride registered their third win on the trot in the CG United Super50 Cup as they downed Guyana Harpy Eagles by one wicket in a nail-biting contest at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

Demetrius Richards' patient unbeaten 65 off 121 balls, including five fours and one six, steered Barbados Pride to their victory target at 204 for nine after they won the toss and bowled out Harpy Eagles for 203 inside 48 overs.

With the win, Barbados Pride moved to the summit of the standings on 22 points, one point ahead of Trinidad and Tobago Red Force (21 points), while Harpy Eagles sit fourth on 12 points.

Asked to take first strike, the Harpy Eagles, who lost their first encounter and had their second contest end in a no-result, would have been intent on opening their account but were let down by a sub-standard batting perfor-

mance.

They lost in-form Matthew Nandu (14) with the score at 19 for one, but Tagenarine Chanderpaul (34) and captain Tevin Imlach (35) gradually got the innings back on track with a 49-run second wicket stand.

Chanderpaul had three boundaries and a six in his 59-ball knock before he fell to Nyeem Young, while Imlach followed shortly after, as he became the first of Javed Leacock's three scalps.

Leacock also accounted for Kemol Savory (seven) and Kevin Sinclair (zero) with the Harpy Eagles at 117 for five. However, a 46-run stand between topscorer Kevlon Anderson (52) and Keemo Paul (25) breathed new life into the innings, but when they fell, it signaled a writing on the wall for the Harpy Eagles.

Anderson, who used 72 balls for his 52, had two boundaries in the knock, while Paul had two sixes and a four in his 15-ball cameo. Ashmead

Need (19) offered little at the backend.

Leacock (3-43) was the pick of the Pride bowlers, with Dominic Drakes (2-38), Nyeem Young (2-29), and Jomel Warrican (2-27) offering support.

The Pride's response started shakily, as they lost Kadeem Alleyne (four), Leniko Boucher (29), Zachary McCaskie (18), and Kevin Wickham (zero), with a mere 58 runs on the board.

Three of those four wickets fell to slow left-arm orthodox bowler Nedd, with the other going to Veerasammy Permaul.

Captain Kyle Mayers (22) and Dominic Drakes (13) offered very little resistance as the Pride slipped to 115 for six before a 55-run stand between Richards and Nyeem Young (30) brought them within touching distance of victory.

Even after losing Young, Richards pushed on to ensure they got across the line. Nedd ended with three for 43.



Players of the All Saints United football team. (File photo)

All Saints United drop first points in Premier League

Reigning champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United dropped their first points in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

After winning their first two matches, All Saints United were held to a 1-1 draw by newly promoted Potters Tigers in the final game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Both teams battled to a goalless first half in which All Saints United were reduced to 10 men in the 21st minute when Blake Thompson was expelled after picking up a second

yellow card, which resulted in an automatic red card.

All Saints United took the lead via a penalty kick, which was converted by Raheem Deterville in the 54th minute.

The Potters Tigers were also reduced to 10 men in the 57th minute when Traimayne Jeremy received a red card and was expelled after picking up a second yellow card.

Brian Davis snatched the equalizer for the Potters Tigers with a 74th-minute conversion to salvage a share of the points.

Old Road FC continued their unbeaten start to the Premier League, notching up their third win in as

many matches by snatching a 1-0 win against John Hughes FC in Sunday's opening encounter.

Gisner Joseph's second-half goal was sufficient to give Old Road their latest win as John Hughes suffered their second defeat in three matches.

After losing their first two matches, the newly promoted Attacking Saints recorded their first win in the Premier Division with a 3-0 victory against the Willikies Warriors in Sunday's second encounter.

Joshua Samuel scored twice with goals in the 45th and 52nd minutes after Ellsworth Mack scored the opening goal for the At-

tacking Saints in the 15th minute.

Willikies Warriors finished the match with 10 men after Daniel Nanton received a red card and was expelled in the 81st minute for committing serious foul play.

Action in the ABFA's First Division will resume with three matches on Tuesday (today) at 4:30 pm.

Ottos Rangers FC will host Bendals FC at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos; Freeman's Village FC will entertain Tryum FC at Freeman's Village, and Jennings United FC will take on Empire FC at Jennings.



J'Quan Athanaze



Stacey Telemaque

Dredgers advance to final of IBSC Tape Ball Classic

Dredgers have advanced to the final of the LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Sports Club (IBSC) 20-Over Tape Ball Classic.

The Dredgers booked their spot in the final by snatching a three-wicket victory against Pelican Safari, The Nest Beach Bar and Restaurant VIP in the only semi-final at the Potters playing field on Sunday.

The VIP were dismissed for 118 in 16.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Kadeem Josiah hit 25, Amahl Nathaniel got 22, and Michael Dover made 19.

J'Quan Athanaze snapped up three for 13 to capture the Total Imports Player of the Game Award. Jedidah Martin Jr. captured three for 42, and Justin Athanaze picked up two for 16.

The Dredgers achieved their victory target of 119 for the loss of seven wickets with five overs to spare. Loy Weste hit 23, Mike France scored 18, and Jedidah Martin Jr. got 13.

Kadeem Josiah took three for 20, and Conroy Semple captured three for 35.

The Dredgers and VIP both won their last match in the preliminary round to clinch the two spots in the only semi-final of the T20 competition.

The Dredgers will face Buckley's 3J's, who got a bye into the final by virtue of finishing as the winner of the preliminary round of matches.

The final will take place at the Powells playing field on Sunday, November 10 at 1 pm.

Meanwhile, KC Plumbing Potters

Uprising defeated Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors by 35 runs in a female all-star game at Potters on Sunday.

The Potters Uprising made 137 for five off 15 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Stacey Telemaque slammed 54, including six fours and two sixes, to claim the Total Imports Player of the Game Award. Kushana David chipped in with 20, and Jamella McClure picked up three for 17.

In reply, Survivors were dismissed for 102 in 14.2 overs. Kimberly Anthony hit 33, and Grace Persaud struck 22.

Kushana David claimed two wickets for eight runs, Tawana John took two for 18, and Shenell Greene captured two for 22.

Greaves leads Hurricanes to seven-wicket win over T&T

Justin Greaves made history to lead the Leeward Islands Hurricanes to their second win in three matches with an impressive seven-wicket victory over defending champions Trinidad & Tobago Red Force in the CG United Super50 Cup at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Sunday.

Greaves, who also reached three figures in the Leewards' first two games this season, became the first player in regional List A cricket to hit three consecutive hundreds when he hit his match-winning and career-best 151 not out to anchor a successful chase of 292 by the Hurricanes with two overs and three balls to spare.

Greaves, who had scores of 111 not out against the West Indies Academy and 112 against the Barbados Pride, continued his spectacular form in the tournament.

In an exemplary display of 50-over batting, he didn't strike a single six and yet had a strike rate of 117 while collecting 13 fours.

The Barbadian opener set the tone for the Hurricanes by putting on 124 runs for the first wicket with Mikyle Louis, who scored an attractive 57, which included seven fours and a six.

The pair blunted the



The Leeward Islands Hurricanes

Red Force bowling attack for the first 20 overs of the chase before leg-spinner Yannic Cariah had Louis stumped by wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva.

With the pressure starting to mount on the home side, skipper Da Silva missed a run out chance against Chesney Hughes when he clipped the stumps before collecting the ball with the batter inches short of the crease.

That chance allowed the Hurricanes to reach 139 for one at the half-way point of the innings. The second-wicket pair eventually put on 60 before Khary

Pierre dismissed Hughes for 33.

A pull for four off Anderson Phillip took Greaves to triple figures off 98 balls, but the batter wasn't done yet.

He carried on through the innings to finish with a career best score, which was a testimony to Greaves' powers of concentration and fitness level as much as it was to his batting skills. The Bajan's knock came off 129 balls. Jahmar Hamilton chipped in with 25 not out.

Earlier, Trinidad and Tobago made 291 for six off their 50 overs after be-

ing put in to bat by the Leewards. In form Amir Jangoo fell agonizingly short of a maiden List A hundred with 96 off 109 balls, while Jason Mohammed and Tion Webster also got half centuries with 79 not out and 60, respectively.

Fast bowler Oshane Thomas took two for 54 off eight overs for the Hurricanes, who will next play the Guyana Harpy Eagles at the same venue on Tuesday (today).

The Red Force will next oppose the West Indies Academy at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground on Thursday.

ABSF names team for OECS Swimming Championships

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) has selected the national team to compete in the 32nd Annual OECS Swimming Championships in St. Vincent and the Grenadines this weekend.

Antigua and Barbuda will be represented by a full 34-member squad to defend their title at the sub-regional event, which is scheduled to take place at the Shrewsbury Aquatic Centre in Ratho Mill, St. Vincent, from November 8 to 10.

This prestigious event will be held under the sanction of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Swimming Federation (SVGSF).

Antigua and Barbuda are ready to defend their title against the region's top swimmers, hailing from 10 other countries.

The 34-member team was carefully selected based on their qualifying times achieved at the recently concluded 9th ABSF Invitational Championships, with four alternates also named to the roster.

List of Swimmers for the 2024 OECS Champi-



The Antigua and Barbuda the swimmers, coaches, and team manager heading to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to defend their title as OECS Swimming champions. The team will also be accompanied by parents and supporters. (ABSF)

onships: Girls 8 & Under Isabel Nicholas and Anna Sukumaran; Boys 8 & Under Jalon Weste; Girls 9 to 10 Kaylee Warner, Alysia Watkins, and Elizabeth Sukumaran; and Boys 9 to 10 Christopher Walter, Mkazo Lindsay, and Zane Williams.

Girls 11 to 12 Anya DeGannes, Keziah Joseph, and Alaysia Liddie; Boys 11 to 12 Alessandro Bazzoni, Jamie Tranter, N'yriq Weste, and Malique Josephs; 13 to 14 Girls Is-

abelle Bremner and Mila Festini-Cromer; and 13 to 14 Boys Espriit Shaw, Zahid Derrick, and Reuben Edwards.

15 to 17 Girls Ellie Shaw, Aunjelique Liddie, Madisson MacMillan, and Selah Wiltshire; 15 to 17 Boys Neil Noronha, Jai Sindhi, and Manav Sindhi; 18 & Over Girls Kimberlee Warner, Anisa Lewis, and Bianca Mitchell; and 18 & Over Boys Stefano Mitchell, Zardad Jan, and Jai Smith.

Alternates Vizuri Lidsay, Antoine Christian, Chase Gilead, and Yacine Williams.

The team will be led by Manager Kem Warner, with Head Coach Wayne Mitchell providing overall direction.

Coach Mitchell will be supported by Assistant Coaches Elizabeth Watkins and Nelson Molina Fojo, who both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to guide the team toward success.