

# CABINET INVITES CONSULTANCY FIRM WORKING WITH APUA

*Story on Page 2*



The Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, presided at the swearing in ceremony for several individuals who are taking up appointments in key oversight bodies. *Story on page 2.*

# Local News



## Cabinet invites consultancy firm working with APUA

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) has engaged Development Consulting Center Limited (DCC) to support the development of the organisation's three-year strategic plan (2025 - 2028).

On Thursday, the Cabinet invited representatives of the firm to address it on the way forward for the utility company. DCC's responsibility it is to assess APUA's performance and make recommendations for improvements.

The Cabinet is especially interested in ensuring that APUA provides sufficient potable water to households, hotels, businesses and

institutions on a regular basis; it was accepted that APUA creates seventy-five percent (75%) of the potable water required to fulfill nationwide demand.

Although several reverse osmosis plants are to be added to bring capacity in line with consumption, the Cabinet desires an outcome that would ensure each household can receive water no fewer than five days per week, and at times of day that allow for water use.

The consultant team left satisfied that they knew precisely what the Cabinet desired of it.

Meanwhile, APUA said it aims

to improve overall performance and alignment to the needs of all stakeholders as it seeks to fulfil its Vision (A highly engaged and responsive utility company with a knowledgeable and respected workforce contributing fully to national, social and economic sustainable development.).

The authority is inviting feedback from stakeholders as it charts the way forward. The feedback takes the form of a survey that the authority is launching.

"The objective of this survey is to gain an understanding of the external business environment of the APUA" an APUA release stated.



## Swearing in ceremony held at Government House for several individuals

The Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, presided at the swearing in ceremony for several individuals who are taking up appointments in key oversight bodies.

During the ceremony,

Anthony Athill formally takes up his appointment as Information Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda.

In his remarks, Sir Clare recalled that the Office of the Information Commissioner, established

by the Freedom of Information Act, is an independent body responsible for:

- Promoting and protecting the public's right to access government information.

- Handling requests for information from the public.

- Investigating complaints regarding the denial of access to information.

- Providing guidance

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and education on the Freedom of Information Act.

Regis Burton was sworn in as a member of the Police Service Commission with Sir Clare noting that the Police Service Commission, established by the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, is an

independent body responsible for:

- Appointing and promoting officers of the Police Service.

· Disciplining officers  
of the Police Service.

· Advising the Government on matters relating to the Police Service.

- Ensuring the integrity and efficiency of the Police Service.

Three members were appointed to the Midwifery Board – Dr. Raymond Mansoor, Nurse Soria Dupie-Winston, and Nurse Laurellyn Williams – also took their oaths during the ceremony.

“We extend our warmest congratulations. Your expertise and commitment to public service are invaluable assets to our nation.

“We trust that you will serve with distinction and uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity,” Sir Clare noted.

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# Local News



## Official statement from the One Nation Music Festival team regarding fake flyer

It has come to the attention of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission that a fake flyer has been circulating online, falsely claiming that Kirk Franklin will be performing at

Night Two of the One Nation Music Festival. We want to assure our community that this information is completely false and has not been issued or endorsed by our team.

The official lineup for Night Two includes an incredible roster of world-class gospel artists, including:

- Donnie McClurkin
- Tim Godfrey
- JohnMark Wiggan
- ABYSO and Choir
- Blessed Messenger
- Rashid Walker
- Naycha K.I.D
- Roxy
- Beverley Danvers
- Psalmist Robyn
- Sean Joseph

This lineup has been meticulously curated to deliver an unforgettable and spirit-filled evening of worship and praise. We are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the One Nation Music Festival exceeds expectations, delivering a top-tier experience that reflects the excellence and integrity you've come to trust.

We encourage everyone to rely only on our official channels and trusted ticket outlets for accurate event information. For updates and details, please follow our official social media pages and visit our authorized ticket locations: Ticketing, Roti King, Cool and Smooth, Exotic Antigua, The Larder, Cook and Basket, Quintessence Variety + and Rivers by Quintessence Boutique.

Thank you for your continued support as we prepare to host a first-class Music Festival on January 11th and 12th at the Antigua Recreation Grounds for two incredible nights of music, unity, and celebration.

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## PM Gaston Browne calls for more women in Politics

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has called for increased female participation in politics to strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's political institutions. Addressing Parliament on Wednesday during his closing remarks for the 2025 Budget Debate, he praised Housing, Works, and Urban Development Minister the Hon. Maria Browne, the sole female Member of Parliament, for answering the call to serve, but underscored the need for greater gender representation.

"It is unacceptable that, in the 21st century, we have only one female Member of Parliament in the Lower House," Prime Minister Browne stated. While noting progress toward gender equity in the Upper House, he

acknowledged that cultural norms often impede women from rising to leadership roles and urged women to support one another in overcoming these barriers.

"Women are equally capable leaders as men," he af-

firmed. "We must stop treating women as second-class citizens and focus on nurturing leadership within our homes and communities." Browne expressed optimism that more women will step forward to run for office in

the next general election.

Since taking office in 2014, the Gaston Browne administration has worked to elevate women to prominent positions within the government. The Prime Minister highlighted several notable appointments, including Charmaine Donovan as Head of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, Senator Shenella Govia as Leader of Government Business in the Senate, and Hon. Alincia Williams-Grant as President of the Senate. Additionally, four female senators have been appointed to the Upper House, reflecting the administration's commitment to gender inclusivity.

Browne's remarks underscore his administration's dedication to fostering female leadership and achieving a more equitable political landscape.





# Local News



## ECAB hosts its first small business forum: Elevate with ECAB

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank hosted its inaugural small business forum last week under the theme “Elevate with ECAB,” which was created to equip small business owners with the tools to advance their businesses.

Forty entrepreneurs attended the event held at the Trade Winds Hotel to learn from experts in various industries.

Among the featured speakers were Antigua & Barbuda Intellectual Property & Commerce Office Registrar Ricki Camacho and Inland Revenue Department Deputy Commissioner Jermaine Jarvis.

The government officials provid-

ed insight to help businesses operate within the confines of laws and regulations.

Meanwhile, Chartered Accountant, Heather Browne spoke on the importance of managing business accounts, and marketing expert Chalita Rose shared applicable information on building and sustaining a business's brand.

ECAB's Small Business Manager Sharon Williams-Potter said, “It is essential that we further engage with our clients.

“We want to be more than their financial partner; we want to see their businesses succeed and provide assistance so that they can fulfill

their goals.”

ECAB's General Manager Michael Spencer underscored the importance of small businesses. He said, “Small businesses are the fulcrum on which a nation like Antigua and Barbuda is built. We understand the importance of providing them with the tools to be successful.”

Senior Manager of Retail and Commercial Lending Adrian McLean also thanked the attendees for choosing to be a part of the workshop.

The event was well received by the diverse group of invited business owners who actively participated in the discussions.

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## Calvin Ayre Foundation celebrates heart patient Junior James' birthday and his recovery

The Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) joins the family and friends of Junior James in celebrating his remarkable recovery journey, as he celebrates his 58th birthday on December 12. Junior, a resident of Antigua and Barbuda, has returned home after a series of life-saving medical interventions, thanks to the unwavering support of the Foundation. CAF initially provided EC\$31,854.00 and an additional EC\$23,465.00 to cover urgent medical expenses, including travel costs for Junior and his wife, Kate, to access urgent treatment in Martinique.

Junior's journey began in September when he traveled to Martinique for what was initially expected to be a mitral valve replacement surgery. Upon further evaluation by a team of surgeons and cardiologists, a decision was made to repair the mitral valve instead.

While the procedure was successful, Junior faced significant post-surgery challenges. He spent 12 days in the intensive care unit (ICU) as his medical team worked to stabilize his heart's ventricles, which were not functioning in unison.

Despite their efforts, one ventricle was only operating at 48-66% efficiency, while the other remained non-functional. This led to the difficult decision to proceed with a second surgery to implant a pacemaker. Within an hour of the decision, Junior underwent the procedure and spent another night in ICU before beginning an intensive aftercare program, including blood tests, echocardiograms, ECGs, and rehabilitation.

According to Junior's wife, Kate, the medical ordeal was mentally taxing and being away from home made it all the more uncertain. However, the support from CAF provided them with

hope. "The Calvin Ayre Foundation's support has been our rock throughout this process, enabling Junior to receive the care he needed and allowing us to stay together during this challenging time."

Junior echoed Kate's sentiments. "Without the Calvin Ayre Foundation, I wouldn't have made it this far. Their generosity and support have been life-changing, and I am forever grateful."

Jamilla Kirwan, Ayre Group's Media Relations Specialist, emphasized the Foundation's ongoing commitment to helping those in need. "Medical as-

sistance is a cornerstone of our mission, alongside education and sports," she said. "We are honored to have supported Junior and his family through this journey and are thrilled to celebrate his return home and his birthday. We wish him continued health and happiness."

Junior's journey is a testament to resilience, strength, and the impact of a caring community. As he celebrates another year of life, his story inspires hope and gratitude. The Calvin Ayre Foundation wishes him continued healing, a blessed birthday, and a wonderful Christmas.



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# Local News



## Celebrating 40 years of Antigua and Barbuda National Parks: A legacy of preservation and pride

As Antigua and Barbuda National Parks celebrates its 40th anniversary on December 13, 2024, we reflect on the remarkable journey of this treasured institution. Over the past four decades, the National Parks have not only preserved the natural beauty and cultural heritage of our islands but have also played a pivotal role in fostering national pride, sustainable development, and making positive impacts on the country's economy.

From the perfectly preserved buildings of Nelson's Dockyard to the restoration work at the Block House, Antigua and Barbuda National Parks have safeguarded some of the most breathtaking sites in the Caribbean. These parks serve as sanctuaries for diverse flora and fauna, offering visitors a chance to connect with nature

and experience the islands' unique ecosystems.

The impact of the National Parks extends beyond conservation. They have become a cornerstone of our tourism industry, attracting visitors from around the world and contributing significantly to the local economy. The parks provide employment opportunities and support local businesses, fostering a sense of community and economic resilience.

As the home of a world-class marina, we are proud to host not only sailing vessels from around the world but also a slate of regattas and yacht shows, putting Antigua and Barbuda firmly in the yachting vocabulary.

Nelson's Dockyard, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands as a testament to our maritime history and

colonial past. The restoration and preservation efforts have ensured that future generations can learn about and appreciate the historical significance of these sites.

As we celebrate this milestone, we must remember the staff, both past and present, and the countless individuals whose contributions have helped build and ensure the success of this organization.

They have our undying thanks. We look forward to the future with optimism and determination, fully aware that the continued success of Antigua and Barbuda National Parks will depend on our collective efforts to support and protect these invaluable resources. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of preservation and pride endures for generations to come.



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## Celebrating 38 years of unbroken service: The Rotaract Club of Antigua

The Rotaract Club of Antigua proudly marked 38 years of uninterrupted service to the community of Antigua and Barbuda.

Chartered on December 5th, 1986, as a project of the Rotary Club of Antigua, the club was founded by Rotarians Patrick “Paddy” Benjamin and the late Anthony Michael. Under the guidance of its first Charter President, Greg Walter, and Vice President, Keva Margetson, the club embarked on a mission of service, leadership, and fellowship that continues to flourish.

This year’s Charter Week, celebrated under the theme “United in Joyful Impact,” commenced with a heartfelt church service at the Precision Centre, followed by a delightful brunch at Weatherills Re-kindled.

The week-long festivities highlighted the club’s dedication to fostering community connections and celebrating its enduring legacy. Key activities included media engagements to share the club’s impact, a Rota-Mixer to strengthen bonds among members and Rotarians, and a memorable Charter Day celebration on December 5. Members proudly displayed their pins and gathered for an after-work social event.

The week culminated on December 7 with two major events. The annual “Share the Cheer” initiative brought joy and support to residents of the CARE Project at SLBMC, where the club presented essential items as part of their community service efforts. Later that day, the club hosted its Christmas Bingo Fund-raiser at Eighteen Plus 1, offering an entertaining experience for attendees while raising funds to support the

District’s upcoming conference in 2026.

The celebrations concluded on December 8 with a vibrant club social, marking the end of a successful week of reflection, fellowship, and service.

As part of its ongoing commitment to health and wellness, the Rotaract Club of Antigua is gearing up for its annual HIV/AIDS and Health screening event, scheduled to take place in December 2024.

This free and confidential initiative underscores the club’s dedication to public health and providing essential services to the community.

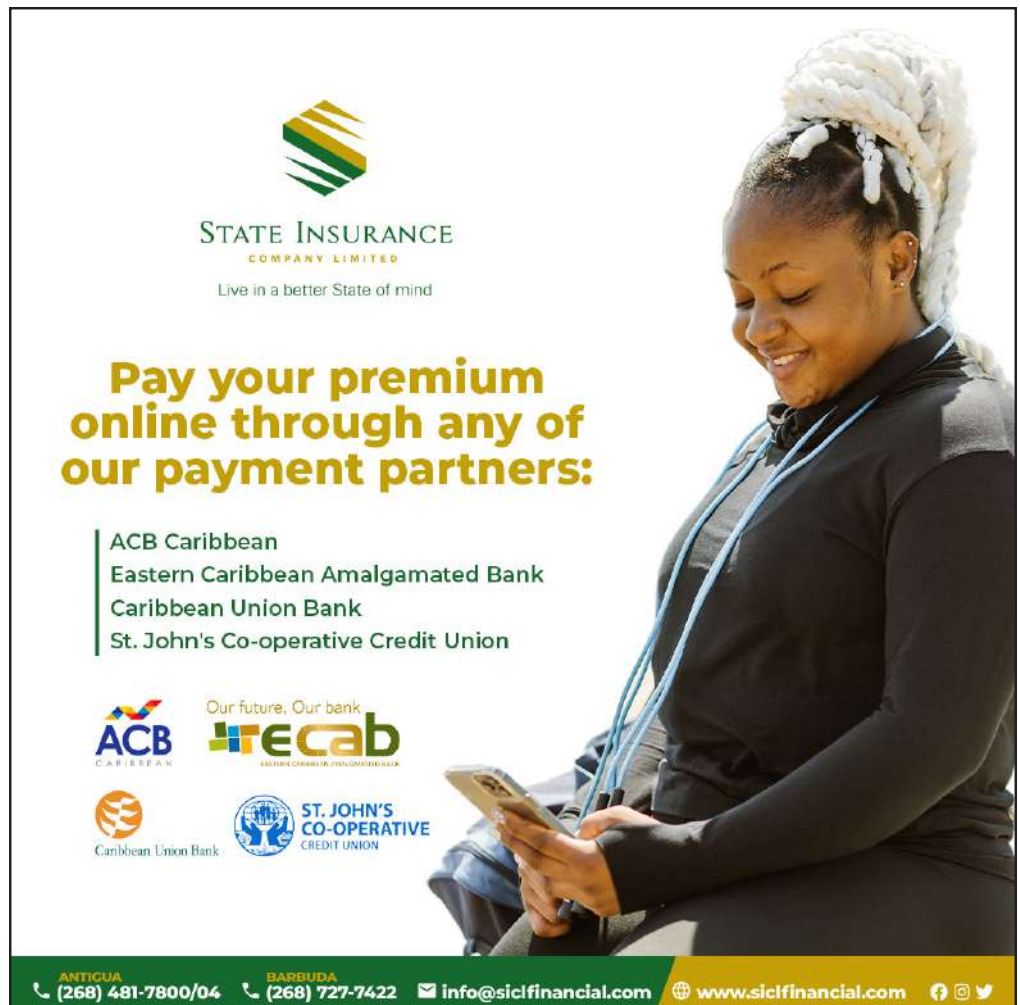
The club also partnered with Junior Chamber International (JCI) Antigua to tackle period poverty and

promote hygiene awareness through an impactful community service project. Supported by generous sponsors, the collaboration focused on providing education and supplies to students of Pares Secondary School.

The school received donations of menstrual hygiene products, while the Queen of Carnival 2024, Ms Desire Markham, conducted valuable sessions on menstrual health for the young women.

Meanwhile, the young men participated in engaging hygiene education sessions led by Mr Andrew Solomon (Chef Beard).




This initiative not only raised awareness about hygiene but also empowered students with the knowledge and tools for improved well-being.



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# Commentary



## Antigua and Barbuda's economic success: The future looks bright for sustained growth and prosperity

By Garfield Joseph

Over the past decade, Antigua and Barbuda has transformed into a beacon of economic success, largely fuelled by foreign direct investment (FDI) along with significant domestic investment in key sectors of the economy, as recently articulated in the 2024 budget presentation. This article delves into the key factors that are responsible for the strong economic performance over the past ten years.

### Visionary Leadership

At the heart of Antigua and Barbuda's economic transformation is visionary leadership. The government has demonstrated a clear and ambitious vision for the nation's future, focusing on sustainable development and inclusive growth. This leadership has been instrumental in creating a strategic roadmap that aligns with global economic trends while addressing local needs. By prioritizing long-term goals over short-term gains, the government has laid a solid foundation for enduring prosperity.

### Business-Friendly Policies and Programs

Imagine a place where starting a business is as smooth as the Caribbean breeze. Antigua and Barbuda's government has rolled out a red carpet for investors with a suite of business-friendly policies and programs. These initiatives have created fertile ground for economic growth, making it easier for entrepreneurs to plant their roots and flourish.

The Entrepreneurial Development program, the EDP, the first of

its kind in Antigua and Barbuda provides low-cost funding, grants and concessions to help small and medium size enterprises.

In addition, there is the CABI, (Construct Antigua and Barbuda Initiative) homeownership program, which was started by the previous administration, continues to deliver tremendous benefits to existing and first-time homeowners. The program is designed to provide financial relief for persons to expand, repair or build new homes. Over the years, the program has delivered over 576 million in benefits with average cost of construction at \$344,000.

As Manmohan Singh once said, "a great vision is not just of economic growth, but also of a growth which would improve the life of the common man." Surely, the CABI homeownership program as well as the EDP program have helped to improve the life of the common man and woman.

### Broad Range of Incentives

The allure of Antigua and Barbuda isn't just its stunning beaches but also its attractive incentives for investors. From tax breaks to duty-free concessions, the government offers a treasure trove of financial benefits that make investing here a lucrative opportunity. These incentives have been pivotal in attracting a diverse range of investors, further boosting the economy. Incentives include reduction and or exemption of ABST, Revenue Recovery Charges, on building material, fixtures, fittings,

plant and equipment and losses carried forward deepening on the size and scope of the investments.

### Extensive Support for SMEs

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the heartbeat of the economy. The government has shown unwavering support for SMEs, providing access to financing, training programs, and resources. This support has empowered local businesses to grow and innovate, contributing significantly to the nation's economic vitality.

### Strong Legislative Framework

A robust legislative framework underpins Antigua and Barbuda's economic success. Laws and regulations ensure fair treatment and protection for investors, creating a stable and secure business environment. This strong legal foundation has been pivotal in attracting and retaining foreign investment. John F. Kennedy once remarked, "Economic growth without social progress lets the great majority of the people remain in poverty, while a privileged few reap the benefits of rising abundance." Not so in Antigua, where the legislative framework provides for economic, social and financial inclusion.

### Private-Public Sector Partnerships Engagement - Still an Area of Opportunity.

The synergy between the private and public sectors is critical for long term growth and development. Recognizing the private sector's critical role, the government has created the

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# Commentary

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avenues for public private sector partnerships that drive economic growth. These collaborations have led to significant investments and developments, transforming various sectors of the economy, primarily in the tourism industry and construction sector.

However, I would suggest that this is still an area of opportunity, one in which the government is eager to improve, and the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority is ready to engage with the private sector to provide the incentives, policy framework and support to ensure that a rising tide lifts all boats.

**Summary: The Government's Recipe for Success**

The government's success in driving economic growth can be attributed to several key factors:

**Bold Economic Vision:** With a clear and ambitious vision, the government has set the stage for a prosperous future.

**Focus on Results:** A relentless focus on achieving tangible outcomes has ensured that policies and programs deliver real benefits.

**Partnerships and Engagement:** Active engagement with local and international stakeholders has been crucial in attracting investment and fostering growth.

**Managerial Competence and Experience:** The government's strong managerial skills and experience

have been instrumental in navigating economic challenges and implementing effective policies.

Antigua and Barbuda's economic success story is a testament to the power of strategic planning, effective governance, and collaborative efforts.

As the nation continues to build on this solid foundation,

the future looks bright for sustained growth and prosperity.

Ban Ki-moon's insight captures this journey well: "Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all."

"It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environ-

mental stewardship, and strengthen governance."

Let us, as a people, continue to work towards these ideals. For the best way to help the poor is to promote economic growth and job creation."

By any objective measure this Government has done that and more over the past decade.



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## *One Nation Music Festival set to rock Antigua with two nights of unforgettable entertainment*

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission is thrilled to announce the transition of the beloved One Nation Concert into the One Nation Music Festival, an exciting two-night event set to take place on January 11th and 12th, 2025. Produced under the auspices of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, this year's festival promises to deliver an unparalleled experience, celebrating the vibrant music and culture of the Caribbean.

### Event Details

**What:** One Nation Music Festival

**Tagline:** One People, One Love... One Nation

**When:** January 11th and 12th, 2025

**Where:** Antigua Recreation Grounds

**Time:** Night One: 8 PM - Night Two: 6 PM

**Night One: Soca, Reggae, Dancehall, Soft Rock and Bouyon Clash**

The festival kicks off on January 11th with an electrifying lineup featuring headliners Reggae Superstar Barrington Levy and Grammy Nominated Shenseea. They will be joined by an incredible roster of supporting acts, including:

- The Original Burning Flames, known for their dynamic performances
- Claudette Peters, the Caribbean's Soca Diva
- Tian Winter & Iconic
- Asher Otto and Itchy Feet
- Kid Fresh, Young Vice, and Empress
- Triple K International, bringing the infectious sounds of Bouyon Music

Our DJs—DJ Jime, King Warrior,

Int'l DJ Quest, and DJ Trixx—will keep the vibes all night. The charismatic trio of Ibis, Supa Dymond, and Jesse Fyah will host the night, ensuring a lively atmosphere throughout the evening.

An exclusive experience for those seeking a premium experience, the Vice Versa Love All-Inclusive Lounge will be available exclusively on Night One. Sponsored by Remy Martin, Carib, and Brybens, this luxurious lounge is inspired by Barrington Levy's hit song "Vice Versa Love." Guests can expect top-tier food and drinks, with Remy Martin leading as the drink of the night and Carib as the beer of choice.

### Night Two: A Gospel Celebration

On January 12th, the festival will continue with an inspiring Gospel Night featuring renowned headliners:

- Pastor Donnie McClurkin is celebrated for powerful songs like "Great is Your Mercy," "I've Got My Mind Made Up," and "Fall Down and Stand."

- Pastor Tim Godfrey, who will uplift the audience with hits such as "Big God," "Dependable God," "Nara," "Onaga," "Evidence," "God Has," and "Turned It Around."

- JohnMark Wiggan, known for his uplifting anthems including "He Lives," "Run Me Down," and "Reggae Worship."

Local talent will shine with performances by ABYSO and Choir, Blessed Messenger, and artists Rashid Walker, Naycha Kid, ROXY, Beverly Danvers, Robyn Joseph, and Sean Joseph. DJ Bless will host the night with support from the Anointed Selector.

### Ticket Information

Tickets are available at various outlets, including Roti King, Cool and Smooth, The Larder, Exotic Antigua, Quintessence Variety +, Rivers By Quintessence Boutique and Cork and Basket.

- General Admission Nightly: \$100

- Vice Versa Love All-Inclusive Lounge: \$400 (Hosted only on Night One)

Look out for road shows and pop-up events offering ticket bundle deals!

We proudly acknowledge our platinum sponsors for this year's festival: the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, and the Citizenship by Investment Unit.

### Quote from Amb. Elizabeth Makhoul

Amb. Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, invites everyone to join in this remarkable celebration: "We are excited to present the One Nation Music Festival, an event that embodies our unity and cultural spirit."

"This year, we are proud to evolve from a one-day concert into a full-fledged music festival, showcasing the best of soca, reggae, and gospel over two nights. This transition reflects our commitment to enhancing the cultural landscape of Antigua and Barbuda. We encourage everyone to come out and support what promises to be the event for 2025, and we ask that you stay connected as we pave the way for a three-day festival in 2026!"

Join us to celebrate music, culture, and unity at the One Nation Music Festival, where we come together as One People, One Love... One Nation.









**11TH JAN 2025**  
**NIGHT ONE**

BARRINGTON LEVY, SHENSEEA,  
THE ORIGINAL BURNING FLAMES,  
TIAN WINTER & THE ICONIC BAND,  
CLAUDETTE PETERS, TRIPLE K,  
ASHER OTTO & ITCHY FEET, YOUNG VICE,  
EMPRESS FRESH AND KID FRESH

DJ: DJ JIME, KING WARRIOR, INT. DJ QUEST, DJ TRIXX  
HOST: SUPA DYMOND, IBIS AND JESSE FYAH

**12TH JAN 2025**  
**NIGHT TWO**

DONNIE MCCLURKIN, TIM GODFREY,  
JOHNMARK WIGGAN, BLESSED MESSENGER,  
RASHID WALKER, ROXY, ABYSO & CHOIR,  
BEVERLEY DANVERS, PSALMIST ROBYN,  
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# Opinion

## Let the asylum seekers go: A first step for Venezuela to rebuild relations in the Americas

By Sir Ronald Sanders

The government of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela has steadfast support from many friends in the Caribbean and other parts of the world, despite numerous allegations of violations of international law, aggressive acts toward its neighbour Guyana, and intolerance of political dissent.

Yet, these actions have driven millions of Venezuelans to flee their homeland, making them the second-largest group of refugees globally. Thus, the Venezuelan government has also created hostility from many of its closest neighbours in North, South and Central America.

This tension came to a head on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at a Special Meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), which I presided over as Dean of the Ambassadorial Corps.

During this meeting, fourteen member states of the OAS, led by Argentina, read a statement into the record expressing profound concerns about the situation in Venezuela. The concerns related to six members of the opposition who sought asylum in the Argentine Ambassador's official residence following the disputed presidential election of July 28, 2024. Nicolás Maduro was declared the victor

amid claims of electoral rigging by international observers and numerous Western governments.

The Argentine Foreign Minister Gerardo Werhein accused Venezuela of harassing the six opposition members—Omar González, Pedro Urruchurtu Noselli, Magalli Meda, Claudia Macero, Humberto Villalobos, and Fernando Martínez Mottola. They are allies of opposition leader María Corina Machado, who was barred from running in the July 2024 election.

Werhein detailed acts of “physical exhaustion” and “psychological terror” inflicted on the asylees, including water cuts, electricity interruptions, restrictions on food deliveries, and constant surveillance of the Argentine diplomatic compound in Caracas in which they have sought and been granted asylum in accordance with international law.

The statement was not supported by 11 CARICOM countries and 7 Latin American states which have maintained cordial ties with Maduro's government. Paradoxically, these countries have a strong tradition of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in their own countries. These nations are also bastions of political and human rights, accepting free speech and dissent while rejecting the



Sir Ronald Sanders

repression of political opponents.

Their good relations with the Maduro government stem in part from gratitude for the assistance Venezuela provided after the global recession of 2007-2009, particularly through the PetroCaribe initiative which eased the burden of high oil prices.

However, such gratitude can be eroded by overt infractions of democracy and international law by the Venezuelan government.

For the 11 Caribbean nations to maintain credibility as advocates for democracy and justice, particularly when seeking economic and climate justice on the global stage, they cannot ignore breaches of these principles by any country, including Venezuela.

Therefore, if Maduro's government wants to retain and strengthen the support of its Caribbean friends, it

must demonstrate readiness to uphold democracy and honour the international conventions to which it is a signatory.

The Venezuelan government knows better than anyone else that it has already lost the trust of many of its traditional friends in South and Central America, and that the countries of North America are already intent on isolating it.

One of the conventions to which it should show respect and adherence is the “Convention on Diplomatic Asylum,” concluded in Caracas in 1954 with Venezuela as an original signatory. Article 1 of this Convention states: “Asylum granted in legations, war vessels, and military camps or aircraft, to persons being sought for political reasons or for political offenses shall be respected by the territorial State in accordance with the

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## Three men accuse Diddy of rape and sexual assault in new lawsuits



By Samantha Granville

Three more men have accused Sean “Diddy” Combs of rape and sexual assault in new lawsuits alleging the rapper drugged them with laced drinks and assaulted them while they were unconscious.

The complaints, filed separately in New York State Supreme Court on Thursday, involve incidents that allegedly occurred between 2019 and 2022.

Two of the plaintiffs allege they went to parties with Mr Combs, where he “personally offered” them alcoholic drinks which made them unconscious – and then he raped them.

His lawyers dismissed the lawsuits calling them “full of lies”. He remains in custody at a Brooklyn jail.

“We will prove them false and seek sanctions against every unethical law-

*cont'd on pg 16*

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provisions of this Convention.”

Yet, the Maduro government is accused by 14 neighbouring states in The Americas of violating this principle. It lies at the crux of the present tension between Venezuela and Argentina.

At the OAS meeting, Brazil’s Ambassador to the OAS, Benoni Belli explained the situation. He told the Meeting that since August 2024, the Argentine diplomatic premises have been under Brazil’s custody at Argentina’s request and with Venezuela’s consent, in keeping with adherence to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which mandates the inviolability of diplomatic premises and the protection of mission properties, even in cases of severed relations.

However, on September 6, Venezuela revoked Brazil’s authorization, accusing the asylees of having conspired to commit terrorist acts—claims unsupported by any publicly presented evidence. The Ambassador emphasized that, to date, no alternate custodian has been appointed by Argentina or accepted by Venezuela, leaving Brazil to continue its custodianship.

This impasse further deepens the international community’s concerns over Venezuela’s commitment to the Vienna Convention and the Convention on Diplomatic Asylum.

For Venezuela, this situation presents both a challenge and an opportunity. While its actions may be dictated by domestic political considerations, adherence to international law offers a path to rebuilding trust among its neighbours in the Americas.

By upholding the inviolability of Argentina’s diplomatic premises and granting safe passage for the asylees, Venezuela can demonstrate a renewed commitment to the principles of diplomacy and international cooperation. This could ease regional tensions and open doors to economic and political cooperation, ultimately benefiting the Venezuelan people.

This issue transcends domestic political considerations; it is a test of Venezuela’s willingness to respect established norms and conventions that underpin global order. The international community has made its sentiments clear that compliance with these norms is a legal obligation.

However, for Venezuela, compli-

ance could also be an important step toward mending strained relations in the region.

That is why the Maduro government should carefully consider the repercussions of its actions. Neighbouring states value democracy and justice too deeply to ignore transgressions.

Venezuela’s actions will determine whether it continues down a path of isolation or begins to restore its place of respect among its regional and global peers.

The path forward is clear: uphold international law, honour commitments to diplomatic conventions, and respect human rights—values championed, particularly, by Caribbean countries.

Taking these steps will ensure the safe passage of the asylees under international law. It will also send a powerful signal that Venezuela is ready to reengage with the international community in good faith.

*(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))*

# Regional News



## Guyana: Taxi driver charged with \$50M armed robbery

Deryck Carl Holder, a 40-year-old taxi driver from Meadow Bank, Georgetown, has been arrested and charged with armed robbery after allegedly stealing over \$50 million from a Lusignan businessman.

According to police reports, the incident occurred around 3:00 AM on October 12, 2024, when three gunmen invaded the businessman's two-story residence at Lusignan, East Coast Demerara.

The victim's brother, a doctor who was present during the incident, was initially confronted in his bedroom. When initially threatened, he surrendered

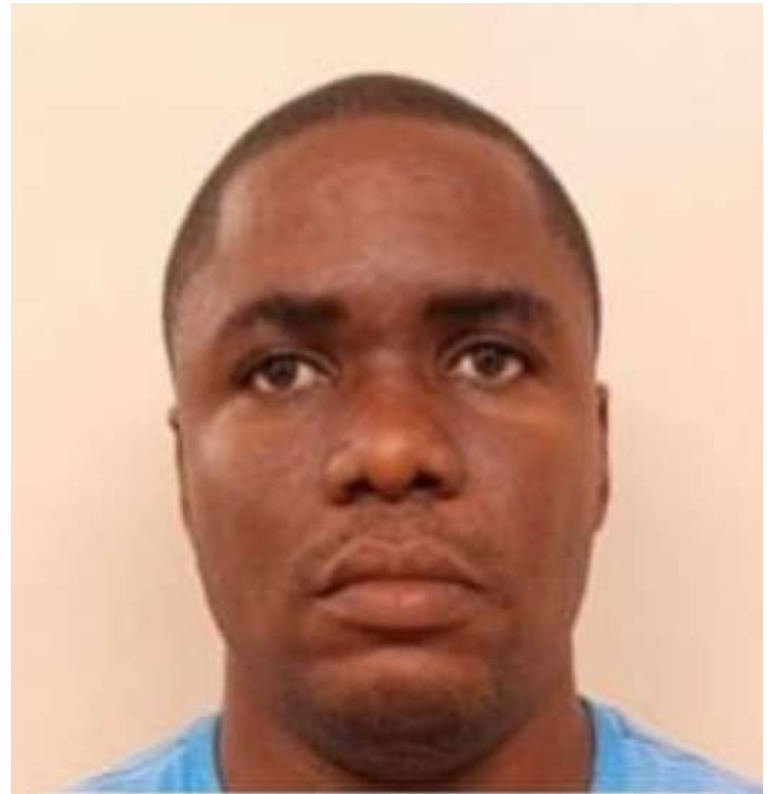
approximately \$100,000 in Guyanese currency.

Fearing for his life, he then directed the assailants to the lower flat of the building, which houses the family's hardware store.

The perpetrators located a black plastic bag containing \$50,160,000 in cash, which they subsequently seized before escaping in a getaway vehicle.

During a hearing at Vigilance Magistrate's Court yesterday, the matter was adjourned to December 19, 2024.

Holder was unable to be present in court as he is currently on remand for another armed robbery matter.



Deryck Carl Holder. Photo: Guyana Police Force.

### *cont'd from pg 15*

yer who filed fictional claims against him," the rapper's legal team told the BBC in a statement.

The three lawsuits add to the over thirty civil cases against Mr Combs, many of which involve similar accusations of assault dating back to the 1990s.

The rapper has been denied bail three times and is currently being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

In one of the new lawsuits, an anonymous plaintiff listed as John Doe accuses Mr Combs of assault following an encounter at Marquee nightclub in New York in 2019.

According to his complaint, he joined Mr Combs and 10 other individuals for a private afterparty when the hip-hop mogul "personally offered" him a cocktail, after which he

felt disoriented. The plaintiff alleges that Mr Combs noticed his disoriented state and said, "He is ready to party".

The man claims he blacked out and during brief moments of consciousness, he said he noticed a man and a woman recording as he was being raped by the musician.

The following morning, the man claims he was given approximately \$2,500 (£1,969) by the man and woman recording the assault, who said the money came from Mr Combs.

Another anonymous plaintiff alleges that he attended a party at Mr Combs' East Hampton home in the summer of 2020. After consuming alcohol provided by Mr Combs, the man claims he began to lose consciousness. While "fading in and out of consciousness", he alleges that Mr Combs and others from Bad Boys Entertainment "took turns raping him".

The third John Doe claims he met Mr Combs in 2006 and began working for him. He alleges that in February 2020, he met Mr Combs at a hotel to discuss unpaid wages and during that meeting he claims the rapper prepared him a drink that he believes was drugged. He says he lost consciousness and awoke to find Mr Combs assaulting him.

When he woke up, Mr Combs allegedly told him he would look like an idiot if he went to the police and no one would ever believe him.

Authorities allege the star orchestrated a long-running scheme involving sexual abuse and exploitation, including arranging drug-fuelled events featuring male sex workers.

Mr Combs has pleaded not guilty to all the accusations. His legal team has repeatedly asserted his innocence. The trial is scheduled for May.





(From Left to Right) PS Peron Johnson, Ministry of Climate Resilience, The Environment and Renewable Energy, Rebecca Fabrizi - UK Special Envoy for SIDS, PM Dickon Mitchell, Baroness Chapman, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean, Victor Clark, Resident British High Commissioner, Amelie Gericke from the Minister's Private Office. Photo: GIS Grenada

## UK commits £10 million to support Grenada's green energy transition

The United Kingdom has announced a £10 million funding package to support Grenada's Geothermal Energy Development Project.

During a meeting in St George's, UK Minister for Latin America and Caribbean Baroness Chapman unveiled the investment aimed at exploring Grenada's geothermal energy potential.

The funding will support critical resource testing, including drilling exploratory wells to assess the viability of geothermal electricity generation.

"This investment will help Grenada reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and transition to a more sustainable, locally sourced energy future," Baron-

ess Chapman stated. She emphasized that the project would lower energy costs for households and businesses while reducing carbon emissions.

Grenadian Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell expressed gratitude for the UK's support. "This funding will allow us to assess the geothermal potential of Grenada and take further steps towards building a clean, sustainable, and more affordable energy system," he said.

The investment addresses a critical challenge for Caribbean nations, which currently rely heavily on expensive imported fossil fuels. The average Caribbean consumer pays double the electricity rates of those in the United

States, creating a significant economic burden. If successful, the exploration could unlock potential for a geothermal power plant that could displace 55% of the country's electricity generation from diesel, enhancing energy security and reducing costs for citizens and businesses.

This funding builds on the UK's previous £19.3 million investment in renewable energy initiatives across six Caribbean countries since 2015.

The project aligns with the UK's commitment to championing a low-carbon future and supporting global efforts to limit global warming, as outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement.

## Children as young as 10 will face adult jail time in Australian state

By Hannah Ritchie

The Australian state of Queensland has passed laws which will see children as young as 10 subject to the same penalties as adults if convicted of crimes such as murder, serious assault and break-ins.

The government says the harsher sentencing rules are in response to “community outrage over crimes being perpetrated by young offenders” and will act as a deterrent.

But many experts have pointed to research showing that tougher penalties do not reduce youth offending, and can in fact exacerbate it.

The United Nations has also criticised the reforms, arguing they disregard conventions on the human rights of children and violate international law.

The Liberal National Party (LNP) - which won the state election in October - made the rules a hallmark of its campaign, saying they put the “rights of victims” ahead of “the rights of criminals”.

“These laws are for every Queenslander who has ever felt unsafe and been a victim of youth crime across our state,” Premier David Crisafulli said after parliament passed the bill on Thursday.

Leading up to the vote, both sides of politics had claimed that Queensland was in the grips of a youth crime wave, and that a more punitive approach was necessary to combat the issue.

But data from the Australian bureau of statistics, shows that youth crime has halved in Queensland across the past 14 years, that it hit its lowest rate in recorded history in 2022, and has remained relatively steady since.

Figures from the Queensland Police Service and the Australian Institute of Criminology also demonstrate a clear



Queensland's government says the new laws will reduce youth crime but experts argue the evidence suggests otherwise.

downward trend.

Dubbed by the government as “adult crime, adult time”, the new laws list 13 offences which will now be subject to harsher prison sentences when committed by youths, including mandatory life detention for murder, with a non-parole period of 20 years.

Previously, the maximum penalty for young offenders convicted of murder was 10 years in jail, with life imprisonment only considered if the crime was “particularly heinous”.

The laws also remove “detention as a last resort” provisions - which favour non-custodial orders, such as fines or community service, for children rather than incarceration - and will make it possible for judges to consider a child's full criminal history when sentencing.

The Queensland Police Union has called the changes “a leap forward in the right direction”, while Queensland's new Attorney-General Deb Frecklington says it will give courts the ability to “better address patterns of offending” and “hold people accountable for their actions”.

But in a summary, Frecklington

also noted the changes were in direct conflict with international standards, that Indigenous children would be disproportionately impacted and that more youngsters were likely to be held in police cells for extended periods because detention centres are full.

Queensland already has more children in detention than any other Australian state or territory.

Premier Crisafulli said on Thursday that although there may be “pressure in the short-term” his government had a long-term plan to “deliver a raft of other detention facilities and different options”.

Australia's commissioner for children, Anne Hollonds, described the changes as an “international embarrassment”.

She also accused Queensland's government of “ignoring evidence” which suggests “the younger a child comes into contact with the justice system, the more likely it is that they will continue to commit more serious crimes”.

“The fact that [the bill's] provisions are targeting our most at-risk children

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Ethiopia and Somalia agree to end bitter Somaliland port feud

Ethiopia and Somalia have agreed to end their bitter dispute over Addis Ababa's plans to build a port in the breakaway republic of Somaliland following talks in Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan welcomed the "historic agreement", which he said would eventually ensure landlocked Ethiopia's access to the sea.

At the press conference he held hands with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who both agreed to respect one another's "sovereignty".

The two neighbours have been at loggerheads since January when Ethiopia signed a maritime deal with Somaliland - which Somalia considers as part of its territory.

It prompted fears of a wider regional conflict as Egypt has been backing Somalia - largely due to its anger with Ethiopia for building a dam on the River Nile.

Turkey has in recent years become an important geopolitical player in the Horn of Africa as it has close economic ties with Addis Ababa and security deals with Mogadishu.

Erdogan said the agreement - announced on Wednesday night in the Turkish capital, Ankara - was "the first step towards a new beginning".

"I congratulate both my brothers for reaching to this historic reconciliation with devotion and thank them for their constructive attitude," he said.

**cont'd from pg 18**

makes this retreat from human rights even more shocking," she said in a statement on Wednesday.

Other legal experts, who gave evidence to a parliamentary hearing on



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (C) said the agreement was "the first step towards a new beginning".

President Mohamud said his country was "ready to work with the Ethiopian leadership and the Ethiopian people".

While Prime Minister Abiy insisted Ethiopia's efforts to secure and reliable access to the sea did not threaten Somalia and the two had "addressed the misunderstandings that have occurred over the past year".

The feud began on New Year's Day, when Abiy signed a controversial deal with Somaliland to lease a 20km (12-mile) section of its coastline for 50 years to set up a naval base.

In exchange, Ethiopia - the world's most-populous landlocked nation - was to reportedly recognise Somaliland as an independent country, although Addis Ababa never explicitly confirmed this.

Somaliland, which broke away

the bill last week, said the laws could have unintended consequences for victims, with children being less likely to plead guilty given the tougher sentences, resulting in more trials and longer court delays.

from Somalia more than 30 years ago, has long been pushing for recognition - but Mogadishu described the move as an act of "aggression".

According to the Ankara joint declaration, the two Horn of Africa neighbours are to reconvene in February to hold "technical talks".

In the interim they will strive to reach "mutually beneficial commercial arrangements" to ensure Ethiopia gains access to the sea "under Somalia's sovereignty".

It is not clear if Ethiopia has discarded the deal it signed with Somaliland - something demanded by Somalia at earlier mediation efforts.

Last month, Somaliland elected a new president - former opposition leader Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi - who promised to «review» the maritime deal.

During his inauguration speech on Thursday morning he made no mention of it.

Somaliland is located in a strategic part of the world, and is seen as a gateway to the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

# Sports News



## Senior Benna Girls to compete in Leeward Island Challenge Series

The Antigua and Barbuda senior national women's team, the Benna Girls, will be contesting the inaugural Leeward Island Challenge Series in Anguilla from this weekend.

The one-week tournament, which will be contested by four teams, will take place at the Raymond E. Guishard Technical Centre from December 15 to 21.

The Benna Girls will be facing off against teams from Anguilla, St. Kitts, and the United States (US) Virgin Islands in round-robin matches.

The top two teams at the end of the round-robin matches will advance to the



Players of the senior national women's team in training at the ABFA Technical Centre earlier this year. (ABFA Media)

final, while the other teams will meet in a playoff for third place.

Hosts Anguilla will face the US Virgin Islands in the opening match of the tournament on Sunday at 6:30 pm.

Antigua and Barbuda

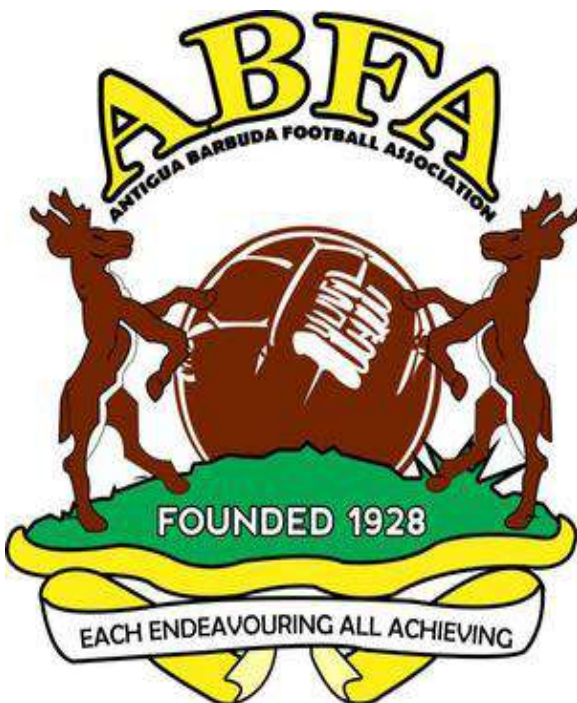
will launch their campaign the following day against St. Kitts at 6:30 pm. The Benna Girls will face Anguilla on Tuesday, December 17, at 6:30 pm.

Antigua and Barbuda's women will play the final

round-robin match against the US Virgin Islands on Friday, December 20, at 6:30 pm.

The final will take place on Saturday at 7 pm, and it will be preceded by the playoff for third place at 3:30 pm.

## English Harbour stay atop of Second Division League



National Parks English Harbour continues to lead the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

English Harbour consolidated their position at the top of the standings by notching up their sixth win in eight matches with a 4-0 drubbing of Glanville's at the Glanville's playing field on Wednesday.

Following a goalless first half, Delroy Simpson broke the deadlock with a 51st-minute conversion, Oshane Blackwood scored in the 54th minute, Akeem Weekes had a 79th-minute conversion, and Jaheem Joseph scored the final goal in the 86th minute.

The result allows English Harbour to advance to 19 points from eight encounters. Glanville's will remain on one point after suffering their fifth defeat in six matches.

Success as well for Earthquake FC, which recorded their fourth win in seven matches with a 3-0 victory against Blackburn Palace at the PMS playing field.

The result allows Earthquake FC to advance to 12 points, while Blackburn Palace FC will remain on nine points after suffering their third defeat in six matches.

But there were no winners at the Golden Grove playing field, where

*cont'd on pg 21*



## Mahijah Davis academy to stage Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp

Former national forward Mahijah Davis is continuing his drive to develop young basketball talent in Antigua and Barbuda with the staging of the 8th Annual MDBA Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp next week.

Davis, creator of the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA), will be hosting the one-week event for boys and girls aged 15 years and under at the JSC Sports Complex from Monday, December 16, to Friday, December 20, from 2:30 pm to 5 pm daily.

Davis said this month's camp is being held after replacing the annual MDBA's Summer Camp with the inaugural Under-15 Youth Summer Basketball Splash Invitational, which was hosted by the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) at the JSC Sports

Complex from August 15 to 19.

"We are hosting the 8th annual Christmas fest because we didn't host our annual summer camp and instead hosted a tournament in August this year. So we are hosting this Christmas camp for all the children who did not get a chance to participate in the summer camp this year," Davis said.

"This will also provide an opportunity for those children who often travel overseas in the summer the chance to attend the basketball camp because they are usually at home in Antigua during the Christmas holidays.

"So it is just another opportunity to have those who did not get a chance to be with us in the summer a chance to play some basketball at Christmas time."

The camp is being held

as well to give the youngsters that opportunity to learn the fundamentals of basketball, play some games, meet old friends and make new ones, and also have some clean fun.

A fee of EC\$100 per person is being charged to participate, and registration will be done at the venue on the first day of the camp.

Interested persons can call 721-2264 for more information. Light refresh-

ments will be provided to the participants.

"We made the fee to participate very affordable because we want as many youngsters as possible to be a part of this camp," Davis stated.

"We will provide the participants with a vest and light refreshments, so we want them to come out to the camp and learn to play the game of basketball while having some fun at the same time."



**8TH ANNUAL MDBA CHRISTMAS FIESTA**

# BASKETBALL CAMP

**\$100 EC**

**For Boys & Girls Age 15 & under**

**2:30 pm – 5 pm**

**16-20 DECEMBER**  
JSC SPORTS COMPLEX

Light refreshments will be provided as we try to get our youth equipped with the fundamentals

**More Information: Phone: 1 (268) 721-2264**

*cont'd from pg 20*

Real Blizzard and TAMO FC fought to a goalless draw.

It was the second draw in seven matches for Real Blizzard FC, which will advance to 11 points.

TAMO FC will move on the seven points after recording their first draw in seven matches.

However, the Second Division encounter between the CPTSA Wings and West Ham FC at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium was postponed.

The CPTSA Wings will remain on eight points from six encounters. West Ham FC, which is yet to record a point, will remain in the cellar of the second division after losing all five matches.

## CWI names Windies squad for T20I series against Bangladesh

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the squad for the upcoming three-match CG United T20 International (T20I) home series against Bangladesh, which will be held from December 15 to 19, at the Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The series, which will be the final series for the year on home soil, will see the return of the experienced Johnson Charles, who has been sidelined for the past two series due to injury.

Additionally, Keacy Carty has earned his first T20 International call-up following an impressive Caribbean Premier League season, strengthening the middle-order options for the West Indies. The team will be captained by Rovman Powell, with Brandon King as vice-captain.

Head Coach Daren Sammy welcomed the inclusion of Carty, who notched a maiden century against England in November, emphasizing the importance of depth in the batting lineup for a competitive series.

“He has shown us that he could be a batter in that format, and playing against Bangladesh, a team we cannot take for granted, we need all hands-on deck,” Sammy said.

Shai Hope and Sherfane Rutherford will not be avail-



Players of the West Indies T20 team. (File photo)

able for this series as they are fulfilling commitments in the Big Bash League in Australia.

Akeal Hosein will also miss the final match of the series for similar reasons. Jayden Seales will replace Akeal Hosein after the first two games of the series.

The squad was selected with a clear focus on continuity and preparation for the 2026 International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 World Cup.

Sammy added, “The squad was carefully selected with the players available to us, and I believe this is our most settled squad with the experience needed to win championships.”

Sammy expressed the

importance of closing the year on a high, particularly for fans in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“We all would love to give the Caribbean people a good pre-Christmas gift by winning the series to close off the year, especially for the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines who didn’t get to see the West Indies team during the World Cup.”

The first T20 will take place on Sunday, the second on Tuesday, December 17, and the third and final match will be held on Thursday, December 19.

West Indies CG United T20I Squad: Rovman Powell (captain), Brandon King (vice-captain), Keacy Carty,

Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Justin Greaves, Terrance Hinds, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Evin Lewis, Obed McCoy, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Romario Shepherd, and Shamar Springer.

Team Management Unit (TMU): Head Coach: Daren Sammy; Manager: Rawl Lewis; Assistant Coach (Bowling): James Franklin; Assistant Coach (Fielding): Rayon Griffith; Assistant Coach (Batting): Floyd Reifer; Physiotherapist: Denis Byam; Strength & Conditioning Coach: Ronald Rogers; Massage Therapist: Darc Browne; Analyst: Avenesh Seetaram; and Media and Content Officer: Jerome Foster.



## Agriculture and Hermitage to clash in Business football league final

The Ministry of Agriculture and Hermitage Hotel have advanced to the final of the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

Both teams booked their spots in the championship decider by claiming victories in the semi-finals at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Wednesday evening.

The Ministry of Agriculture was awarded victory by default against DEWS Pro Builders in the first semi-final. DEWS Pro Builders did not participate in a penalty shootout to decide the match after both teams battled to a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation.

The match was ruled to have been abandoned by DEWS Pro Builders and the Ministry of Agriculture was declared the winner.

During regulation play, Andre Nicholas scored in the second minute for DEWS Pro Builders, and the Ministry of Agriculture equalized in the 25th minute via a conversion by



Players of the Ministry of Agriculture football team.

Haldain Spencer.

Hermitage snatched a 2-1 victory against Sandals in the second encounter. Sandals took the lead via a conversion by Peter Byers in the 34th minute.

Roy Gregory scored the equalizer for Hermitage Hotel in the 46th minute, and teammate Rodney Lawrence struck the winner in the 56th minute.

The Ministry of Agriculture, which has played unbeaten in this year's competition, and Hermitage

Hotel will clash in the final in the last game of a triple header at the ARG on Saturday evening.

The final, which will kick-off at 8 pm, will be preceded by a playoff for third place between losing semi-finalists Sandals and DEWS Pro Builders at 7 pm.

His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United will take on a business league all-star team in an exhibition opening encounter at 5:30 pm.



Director of Sports Heather Samuel-Daley presents the trophy to a player of Under-14 Boys Division champions Antigua Grammar School at the Antigua Recreation Grounds on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

*cont'd from pg 24*

Henry's teammate Johnathan Francis gave Princess Margaret School the lead with a fourth-minute conversion, and Glenord Ambrose scored an equalizer in the 12th minute for Clare Hall Secondary.

The result allows Clare Hall Secondary to claim the runner-up position with a goal difference of plus 24, and Princess Margaret School finished in third place with a goal difference of plus 23.

The secondary school football competition will

continue with the semi-finals of the Under-20 Boys Division at the ARG on Friday (today).

Princess Margaret School will face All Saints Secondary in the first encounter at 2:15 pm, and defending champions Antigua State College will clash with the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continued Education (ABICE) in the second semi-final at 3:40 pm.

The two semi-final winners will advance to the final, which will take place at the same venue on Friday, December 20.



## AGS captures Under-14 Boys Division title

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) has captured the Under-14 Boys Division title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup in the Secondary Schools' Football Championships.

Antigua Grammar School secured the title by virtue of a superior goal difference to Clare Hall Secondary and defending champions Princess Margaret School after all three teams finished the 10-team round-robin competition with 22 points apiece.

Antigua Grammar School finished with a goal difference of plus 28 after romping to a 5-0 victory against St. Joseph's Academy in their final match at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Wednesday.

Lamar Samuel scored twice with goals in the 11th and 43rd minutes, Kissaire Joseph had a ninth-minute conversion, Tafari Parker scored in the 12th minute, and Kimarie Joseph netted the final goal in the 50th minute.

St. Joseph's Academy finished their campaign in



The Antigua Grammar School celebrates with their trophy after capturing the Under-14 Boys Division title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup competition at the Antigua Recreation Grounds on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. (Photos courtesy the Ministry of Sports)

fifth place with 14 points after suffering their third defeat in their quota of nine matches.

Antigua Grammar School entered their final encounter tied with Princess Margaret School on 19 points, two adrift of lead-

ers Clare Hall Secondary School.

However, Clare Hall Secondary suffered their first and only defeat of the competition when they were beaten 2-1 by Princess Margaret School in their final encounter at the ARG on

Wednesday.

The competition's chief marksman, Alan Henry, who won the golden boot award with 18 goals, struck the winner in the 43rd minute to snatch victory for Princess Margaret School.

*cont'd on pg 23*