



# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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## Antigua and Barbuda's path to development explained

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (Left) and Sergio Diaz-Granados Guida (Right) sign agreement for Antigua and Barbuda's membership of CAF

# Antigua and Barbuda chooses a path focusing on opportunities, not challenges

Antigua and Barbuda's path towards sustained development is predicated on seizing the opportunities that present themselves, rather than focusing on the challenges or obstacles along the way.

This was one of the key points raised by Prime Minister Gaston Browne in a speech Thursday as a keynote speaker at the 1<sup>st</sup> Latin America and the Caribbean International Economic Forum (CAL) taking place in Panama City, Panama.

The theme of the discussion, "Overcoming Growth Challenges in Caribbean Small Island States," which according to the prime minister touches the core of the region's shared experiences and aspirations, as nations that face unique vulnerabilities yet remain steadfast in their commitment to sustainable development.

PM Bird highlighted some the challenges that Small Island Developing States face. These include their vulnerability to climate



change, the small size of their economies, the fact that they are locked out from concessionary financing, stifling debt burdens, technological challenges and brain drain among others.

According to the prime minister Antigua and Barbuda has not allowed obstacles along the way to hinder its growth, instead, it seeks to pursue the opportunities that lie within.

"We recognize that economic resilience begins with diversification. Tourism remains a cornerstone of our

economy, however, we are actively developing other sectors to reduce reliance on a single industry. For instance: we have diversified into health education with the establishment and operation of two medical schools. We have also diversified our economy into the provision of block chain and crypto technologies, stem cell and cannabis therapies," he observed.

These industries, the prime minister noted, especially the stem cell therapies, are showing great promise. He

added that the government is also diversifying the tourism product into the more lucrative luxury tourism product and sister island Barbuda is now poised to become a marque luxury destination within the region.

Other areas of focus include investments in alternative energy, noting the advances made in this regard in Barbuda, agricultural diversity as the country moves to become more food secure and creating financial and cultural industries.

## Antigua and Barbuda to become a full member of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Executive President of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, Sergio Diaz-Granados Guida

Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Executive President of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, Sergio Diaz-Granados Guida signed two agreements on the margins of a special ministerial session in Panama focused on Accelerating Development Financing for the Caribbean: Agility, Flexibility, Impact, paving the way for Antigua and Barbuda becoming a full member of the bank.

The two men signed an Agreement on Immunities, Exemptions and Privileges and an Agreement on Ordinary Capital Share Subscriptions on the mar-

gins of the inaugural International Economic Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean 2025. In May of last year, on the margins of the Small Island Developing States SIDS Summit here in Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Browne and Executive President Guida commenced the process of admitting Antigua and Barbuda to the bank, which has an asset base of over US \$70 Billion dollars.

During the two-day special ministerial session, Prime Minister Browne joined his fellow Finance Ministers from across the region, discussing agile

and flexible financing solutions to accelerate the execution of development projects tailored to addressing the needs of Caribbean SIDS. The sessions will also highlight development financial opportunities and modalities, showcase successful projects from CAF's member countries that can be tailored to the Caribbean context, and explore how CAF's expertise can support national development priorities across the region.

Prime Minister Browne said that he will actively participate in the discussions with the aim of gaining practical insights into CAF's project approval process, timelines, interest rates, contract modalities as well as examining areas critical to advancing sustainable and inclusive growth in the region.

The High-Level meeting is also expected to provide a unique platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and partnership-building with a view to expanding the financing options available for advancing national as well as regional development priorities.

Prime Minister Browne is accompanied to the meetings by Debt Manager in the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, Peter Abraham Jr.

## Cabinet orders survey of ocean floor at Crabbes and St. John's Harbour ahead of further dredging

The Cabinet has mandated that a survey of the rock formatting found on the ocean floor at Crabbes peninsula and the St. John's Harbour before any additional dredging is done at either site.

That's the word from Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst, while addressing reporters at the weekly Cabinet Press briefing on Thursday.

Hurst was asked about the section of the Cabinet Notes which reported that the Minister of Tourism gave a report on his meeting with the two firms that are undertaking dredging near the Crabbes Peninsula and the St. John's Harbour.

It was noted that the dredging was initially assigned to a local firm called Blue Ocean, in which the government has a significant investment interest; the principals in turn subcontracted Dutch Dredging to remove hard rock that was found at both sites.

According to Hurst previous survey did not determined the density or size of the hard rock

found on the ocean floor at both sites that has held up the completion of the dredging.

The delay in the completion of the dredging has resulted in the

postponement of larger vessels carrying cement to the storage facility at Crabbes. The demand for cement is extremely high as the construction industry continues to expand.

It is with this in mind that the Cabinet wants a further survey so that the precise amount of rock to be removed is known before the work resumes.

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## Sir Molwyn urges CARICOM to remain united

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) must remain unified and assertive in advocating for solutions that address the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDs).

Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, delivered the charge during remarks at the opening of the virtual Second Annual Ministerial Post-Conference of the Parties (COP) Debriefing, which he chaired on 24 January. Minister Joseph is Chair of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Environment and Sustainable Development.

Over 100 delegates attended the half-day debriefing, including 13 Ministers with responsibility for the Environment, senior officials, and representatives of Regional Institutions. It was convened against the backdrop of a very active 2024 on the multilateral front for the region, with three COPs (UN Conference on Biodiversity (UNCBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as well as negotiations on the Plastics Treaty.

Minister Joseph indicated that during his Chairmanship of the COTED on the



Environment and Sustainable Development, focus will be placed on strategic leadership and regional cohesion.

He said the region's ability to influence outcomes at the negotiation table relies heavily on timely and strategic ministerial engagement. Political leadership lends weight to the technical groundwork laid by CARICOM negotiators and underscores the urgency of regional priorities, he added.

The outcomes from Climate COP29, the biodiversity discussions in Cali, the UNCCD meeting in Riyadh, and the experience at INC5, he said, remind all of the need for coordinated regional efforts. A harmon-

ised approach enhances the Region's ability to advocate effectively, the Minister pointed out and added that Member States must continue to foster collaboration and ensure that the region's collective voice is amplified.

"With key meetings on the horizon, it is crucial that we remain not only proactive, but also agile and responsive in our approach. We must continuously assess progress, identify emerging challenges, and adjust our strategies accordingly. Our ability to adapt and engage strategically will be critical in securing favourable outcomes that align with our regional priorities and development goals," the Chair said.

Dr. Wendell Samuel, Senior Economic Advisor to the Secretary-General, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Assistant Secretary-General (Ag.) of the Directorate of Economic Integration, Innovation and Development, stressed that enhanced coordination is needed both at the national and regional levels to address the increasing complexity and multidisciplinary nature of the negotiations.

He cautioned that while the world seems to be increasingly looking within their national borders, CARICOM has no choice but to look to each other since our very survival depends on it.

## Consumers urged to beware of recalled Potato chips

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division advises consumers of an ongoing recall of **Lay's** classic potato chips over undeclared milk allergen as the US Food and Drug Administration officials issued a Class

1 recall meaning exposure to or eating the chips may have serious health outcomes.

In a media statement, the Division said according to the manufacturer, Frito-Lay,

this recall only affects the Lay's Classic Potato Chips 13 oz. (368.5 grams) party size with the following details:

Must have both "Guaranteed Fresh" date of 11 FEB 2025 AND one of the

following the Manufacturing Codes 6462307xx OR 6463307xx.

The following is the full text of the release issued by Prices and Consumers Affairs.



**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Prices & Consumer Affairs  
 Tel: (268) 462- 4347/0834  
 (268) 562-2732/3 Fax: (268) 562-7556  
 Email: [consumeraffairs@ab.gov.ag](mailto:consumeraffairs@ab.gov.ag)

**Ministry of Trade**  
 Redcliffe Street & Corn Alley  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

30th January 2025

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Lay's potato chips recall now at highest risk level**

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division advises consumers of an ongoing recall of Lay's classic potato chips over undeclared milk allergen as Food and Drug Administration officials issued a Class 1 recall meaning exposure to or eating the chips may have serious health outcomes.

According to the manufacturer, **Frito-Lay**, this recall only affects the Lay's Classic Potato Chips 13 oz. (368.5 grams) party size with the following details:

Product Description	Size	UPC	Code Date & Manufacturing Code	Representative Image
Lay's Classic Potato Chips	13 oz. (368.5 grams)	28400 31041	<p><b>Must have both</b></p> <p>"Guaranteed Fresh" date of <b>11 FEB 2025</b></p> <p>AND</p> <p>one of the following the Manufacturing Codes</p> <p><b>6462307xx</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>6463307xx</b></p>	

In December 2024, the Food and Drug Administration issued a recall for 6,344 bags of 13 oz bags of Lay's Classic Potato Chips. These recalled products were distributed in Oregon and Washington. Considering the increased movement of people and goods over the Christmas period, consumers should check their pantries for this product and verify the Code Date and Manufacturing Code to determine if the product is a part of the affected lot. Consumers with the affected product should discontinue use and return it to the place of purchase for a refund.

## Government to verify US list of nationals to be deported

The government will scrutinize the list of persons deemed to be living in the United States illegally who the Americans suggest are Antigua and Barbuda citizens. Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister Lionel Max Hurst said this has been the practice developed over time between the two countries. He indicated that this is necessary as quite often there are persons on the list who may have lived in Antigua and Barbuda prior to departing for the US but who in fact are not citizens of this country.

In these cases, Hurst notes, the list is purged of these individual.

It is not known if the current Trump Administration will adhere to the protocols that have been established and which according to Hurst have worked well in the past. Nonetheless, he said the plan is to place some of these individuals to work in the construction sector immediately after they are returned to the country.

“What we are hoping is if they are males, we will be able to find work for them in the construction sector almost immediately. Many nationals who go abroad do acquire in

the construction industry and we are hopeful that some of them will have skills in this area,” he remarked

However, Hurst noted that those who may have been engaged in criminal

activities will be handled differently.

“There is a different treatment and different protocols for these individuals and arrangements are usually made with local law enforcement,”

he disclosed.

According to an ICE List that is being circulated some 110 Antigua and Barbuda nationals have been placed on the list for deportation.



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Ms. Shenique Barry - 1(268) 782-2165  
 Ms Samantha Albert - 1(268) 775-1719  
 Mr. Shane Marsh - 1(268) 770-8293  
 Ms. Sanka Riley - 1(268) 781-0182

# Local News



## Terri London Brings Support and Excitement to Jennings Primary Sports Day

The energy was high, the cheers were loud, and the community spirit was strong as Ms. Terri London joined students, teachers,

and parents at Jennings Primary School's Sports Day today, Thursday, January 30, 2025. As part of her ongoing commitment

to education and community development in the St. Mary's North constituency, Ms. London's presence added an extra layer of excitement to the event, which celebrates teamwork, discipline, and school spirit. But her support doesn't stop there. Ms. London has pledged to return for the second day of the school's sporting activities, where she will be donating hot dogs to every child, ensuring that the young athletes and spectators alike enjoy a well-deserved treat. In addition to supporting

the school's sports day, Ms. London is also making a lasting contribution to Jennings Primary's administration by covering half the cost of a new recordkeeping software that will enhance the school's ability to efficiently manage student information. This initiative underscores her dedication to improving educational resources and ensuring that schools in St. Mary's North have access to the tools they need to succeed. Speaking on her involvement, Ms. London shared, "Sports teach children valuable life lessons—discipline, teamwork, perseverance. I'm happy to be here celebrating their efforts and even happier to contribute in a way that benefits both the students and the school long-term." Her generosity and hands-on approach have been met with appreciation from school officials and parents, who commend her for going beyond words and taking meaningful action to support both education and youth development in the constituency. As Jennings Primary School continues its sports festivities, students and staff eagerly anticipate Ms. London's return, not just for the hot dogs, but for the encouragement and investment in their future that she so passionately delivers. With initiatives like these, Ms. London and her team are proving that leadership is about more than just policies—it's about presence, action, and genuine care for the people they serve.



Mrs Solomon, principal of Jennings primary school



Yellow house cheerleader



A happy parent





## Cuba rejects U.S. decision to incarcerate migrants in the Guantanamo Naval Base

### *Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Cuba rejects the decision announced by the President of the United States to use the Guantanamo Naval Base to imprison tens of thousands of migrants he has proposed to forcibly expel. It is a demonstration of the brutality with which that government is acting to supposedly correct problems created by the economic and social conditions of that country, the government's own management and its foreign policy, including hostility towards countries of origin.

Many of the people the U.S. is expelling or intends to expel are victims of that government's own plundering policies and fill labor needs that have historically existed in agriculture, construction, industry, services and other sectors of the U.S. economy. Others are the result of border facilitations to enter the country, of selective and politically motivated rules that welcome them as refugees, and also of the socioeconomic damage caused by unilateral coercive measures.

A significant portion contribute and have contributed to the U.S. economy. They have jobs, homes, have created families and planned their respective lives in the United States.

The territory where it is proposed to imprison them does not belong to the United States. It is a portion of Cuban territory in the eastern province of Guantanamo, which remains under illegal military occupation and against the will of the Cuban nation. That military installation is internationally identified, among other reasons, for housing a torture and indefinite detention center, outside the jurisdiction of U.S. courts, where people have been

held for up to 20 years, never tried or convicted of any crime.

Its irresponsible use would generate a scenario of risk and insecurity in that illegal enclave and its surroundings; it would threaten peace and lend itself to errors, accidents and misinterpretations that could alter stability and cause serious consequences.

*Havana 29 January 2025*

### NOTICE

TO: HIS WORSHIP  
 The Licensing Magistrate  
 Magistrate's Court  
 High Street  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

TO: HIS WORSHIP  
 Magistrate for District "A"  
 Magistrate's Court  
 High Street  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
 Police Headquarters  
 American Road  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENSE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERD AS Life Lessons Snackette

I, Sheldon Lake DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 3rd day of April, 2025 next ensuing for a Bottle License in respect of premises known as "Life Lessons Snackette" situated at Hand Street, Villa Area in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 31st January 2025

S.Lake  
 Sheldon Lake  
 719-7870

# Moving Beyond the Politics of Noise: What About the Rules?



By Hon. E. P. Chet Greene  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs

Politics is often portrayed as an unprincipled, chaotic engagement. But at its core, politics is the science of life; governed by rules and the decisions made within it that impact people's lives in profound ways. Social and economic progress or stagnation, are the results of political decisions, frequently referred to as "policy interventions". If we acknowledge this truism, we must also accept that honesty and decency are fundamental to national success. As a

Christian community, we can draw on several biblical passages in support of this principle.

Recent events in Barbuda exemplify just how political noise, if left unchecked, can obscure truth and hinder national development. The manufactured controversy surrounding land ownership is not just misleading; it is counter-productive. Rather than fostering constructive discourse, some opposition elements seem intent on sowing confusion and

division, disregarding the legal and political realities that govern our nation.

Let's examine some indisputable facts:

1. Land Ownership in Antigua and Barbuda is Settled Law.

All lands in Barbuda that are not privately owned belong to the government of Antigua and Barbuda (the crown). This has been reaffirmed through no fewer than six court rulings, culminating in a decision by the British Privy Council (final appellate court). The matter is no longer up for debate.

2. Attempts to rewrite the law are disingenuous and any argument suggesting otherwise is not just misleading but actively harmful to national development. Continuing to stoke baseless fears undermines efforts to modernize Barbuda's economy and empower our people.

3. No administration before the current Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) government has placed such a high priority on Barbuda's development. The Gaston Browne Administration's policy interventions are transformative, moving the island beyond subsis-

tence living and towards a modern, diversified economy.

4. The transition in land ownership policy is not an attack on Barbudans but an empowerment tool. It provides security of tenure, access to capital and opportunities for investment, all key elements for economic growth.

One of the most tangible demonstrations of this progressive policy is government's proposed housing project at Louie Hill. By offering subsidized land ownership to Barbudans, the administration is enabling individuals to secure assets, build homes and contribute to economic growth. This initiative, combined with other development efforts, starkly contrasts with the "do-nothing" approach of past administrations.

The reality is clear: a vibrant, self-sustaining island economy is now taking shape. This will expose and debunk the historical claims that have been used to justify stagnation.

The recent confrontation with law enforcement by a small faction of opposition members in Barbuda was not surprising. The

*con't on pg 9*

*con't from pg 8*

timing coincides with the upcoming Barbuda Council elections in March 2025. The opposition's playbook remains unchanged, exploiting the "protect the land" narrative in a bid to sway voters. However, this strategy has lost its impact. Barbudans are increasingly aligning themselves with the government's agenda of development and empowerment, rather than the empty rhetoric of obstructionist politics.

The vision laid out by Arthur Nibbs, focusing on a modernized Barbuda with robust investments

in education, health, tourism, fisheries, entrepreneurship and trade is no longer an abstract concept. Before our eyes is becoming reality.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne's 2013 vision of Barbuda as a "diamond in the rough" is materializing. Less than a decade after the devastation of Hurricane Irma, the island is witnessing unprecedented growth. Infrastructure projects, economic diversification efforts and increased government investment are reshaping Barbuda into a model of resilience and development and equal to the develop-

ments on Antigua.

In a subsequent article, I will outline the ongoing and upcoming development projects that are transforming Barbuda. These initiatives are not just theoretical; they are happening now. Barbudans must engage with these opportunities and recognize that the focus of this era is people's empowerment and economic self-sufficiency.

For national development to succeed, political actors must evolve. The old narratives of land theft and exploitation are outdated and irrelevant. The future of Barbuda

is about modernization, economic opportunity and empowerment. Political discourse must shift from obstructionist rhetoric to constructive engagement.

Barbudans deserve a future built on facts, development and shared prosperity, not fear mongering and political theatrics. It is time to move beyond the politics of noise and focus on the rules that govern real progress.

Truth matters. Laws must be respected. Progress must not be hindered by misinformation.



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**CIBC Caribbean Bank (Barbados) Limited - Antigua Branch**  
*[formerly FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited]*  
**Summary Financial Statements for the Year ended October 31, 2024**  
 (Expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars unless otherwise indicated)

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

To the Shareholder of CIBC CARIBBEAN BANK (BARBADOS) LIMITED - ANTIGUA BRANCH

**Opinion**

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at October 31, 2024, the summary statement of income, summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in head office account and summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of CIBC Caribbean Bank (Barbados) Limited - Antigua Branch for the year ended October 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

**Summary Financial Statements**

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by IFRS Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

**The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon**

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated January 22, 2025.

The audited financial statements and the summary financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Summary Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Note 1.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Summary Financial Statements**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing ("ISA") 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

St. Lucia  
January 22, 2025

**Note 1**

The summary financial statements are prepared in accordance with criteria developed by management. Under management's established criteria, management discloses the summary statement of financial position, summary statement of income, summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in head office account and summary statement of cash flows. These summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of CIBC Caribbean Bank (Barbados) Limited - Antigua Branch for the year ended October 31, 2024, which are prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME**

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Interest and similar income	83,270	66,713
Interest and similar expenses	15,508	13,436
Net interest income	67,762	53,277
Operating income	32,249	27,906
	<u>100,011</u>	<u>81,183</u>
Operating expenses	49,759	41,566
Credit recovery on financial assets	(789)	(7,931)
	<u>48,970</u>	<u>33,635</u>
Income before taxation	51,041	47,548
Income tax expense	19,048	20,340
Net income for the year	<u>31,993</u>	<u>27,208</u>

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024	2024
	\$	\$
Income for the year	31,993	27,208
<i>Other comprehensive gain/(loss), net of tax, to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods</i>		
Net gain/(loss) on debt securities at fair value through OCI	1,666	(103)
Net other comprehensive gain/(loss), net of tax, to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods	1,666	(103)
<i>Other comprehensive income, net of tax, not to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods</i>		
Re-measurement gain on retirement benefit plan	12,306	290
Net other comprehensive income/(loss), net of tax, not to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods	12,306	290
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	13,972	187
Total comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	<u>45,965</u>	<u>27,395</u>



**CIBC Caribbean Bank (Barbados) Limited - Antigua Branch**  
*[formerly FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited]*  
**Summary Financial Statements for the Year ended October 31, 2024**  
 (Expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars unless otherwise indicated)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and balances with Central Bank	172,172	132,138
Due from banks	189,285	161,462
Other assets	34,251	131,546
Taxation recoverable	10,115	24,059
Securities	701,765	286,794
Loans and advances to customers	1,033,358	897,261
Property and equipment	23,512	19,042
Deferred tax assets	7,223	7,527
Retirement benefit assets	25,987	17,683
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,197,668</b>	<b>1,677,512</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Customer deposits	1,655,371	1,123,313
Other liabilities	375,794	431,634
Deferred tax liabilities	7,358	4,709
Retirement benefit obligations	402	3,412
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,038,925</b>	<b>1,563,068</b>
<b>HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT</b>		
Reserves	68,389	56,083
Due from Head Office	90,354	58,361
<b>TOTAL HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>158,743</b>	<b>114,444</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>2,197,668</b>	<b>1,677,512</b>

Approved by the Board of Directors on January 22, 2025.



Carl Lewis  
Director



Donna Wellington  
Managing Director

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT**

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Due from		Total
	Reserves	Head Office	
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at October 31, 2022	55,896	31,153	87,049
Net income for the year	-	27,208	27,208
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	187	-	187
Total comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	187	27,208	27,395
Balance at October 31, 2023	56,083	58,361	114,444
Net income for the year	-	31,993	31,993
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	12,306	-	12,306
Total comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	12,306	90,354	44,299
Balance at October 31, 2024	68,389	90,354	158,743

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Income before taxation	51,041	47,548
Credit recovery on financial assets	(789)	(7,931)
Interest income on investment securities	(18,586)	(7,832)
Depreciation on property and equipment	6,051	5,181
Gain on sale of PPE	(541)	-
Interest expense incurred on lease liabilities	32	44
Net cash flows used in/from operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities	37,208	37,010
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>		
Increase in due from banks	(10,778)	(16,681)
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	104,105	(101,300)
Increase in loans and advances to customers	(135,118)	(34,285)
Increase/(decrease) in customer deposits	532,058	(11,353)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	(61,662)	222,134
Income taxes paid	(2,178)	(18,840)
Net cash generated from operating activities	463,635	76,685
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(9,981)	(5,393)
Purchases of investment securities	(10,316,747)	(949,624)
Proceeds from disposals and redemption of investment securities	9,906,504	840,996
Interest income received on investment securities	14,671	8,178
Net cash used in investing activities	(405,553)	(105,843)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Interest expense on lease liabilities	(32)	(44)
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(971)	(954)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,003)	(998)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents for the year	57,079	(30,156)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	232,059	262,215
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year	289,138	232,059

# Commentary

## The Community, the Church, and the Benefits of Farming: A Foundation for Growth and Unity

by Winston Williams Jr.

In a world increasingly driven by urbanization and digital connectivity, the timeless relationship between community, the church, and farming remains a cornerstone of human development. These three pillars have long served as bedrocks for societal growth, spiritual enrichment, and economic stability. By fostering connections between people, faith, and the land, the synergy of these forces creates a sustainable foundation for physical nourishment, spiritual well-being, and communal prosperity. This article delves into the unique interdependence of community, the church, and farming, highlighting their historical significance, modern-day relevance, and the benefits they collectively bring to society.

Farming is more than a means of producing food; it is an activity that sustains lives, creates livelihoods, and strengthens communities. For centuries, agricultural practices have shaped the development of societies, forming the basis of economies and cultures. The act of cultivating the land not only provides sustenance but also encourages collaboration, resilience, and shared responsibility. In rural communities, like



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st. Mary's North, farming serves as the primary economic activity, directly supporting families and indirectly benefiting local businesses, schools, and public services. Local farmers often act as stewards of the land, preserving the environment and ensuring sustainability for future generations. Moreover, community farming initiatives, such as cooperatives and community-supported agriculture (CSA), bring people together, fostering collaboration and solidarity. In urban settings, farming has also found a foothold in the form of urban agriculture and

community gardens. These initiatives provide fresh produce to underserved neighborhoods, reduce food deserts, and promote environmental consciousness. They also serve as gathering spaces where people connect, share knowledge, and build relationships.

The church has long played a central role in shaping the moral and spiritual fabric of societies. Its mission extends beyond religious rituals to encompass outreach, education, and support for those in need. At its core, the church is a gathering place where peo-

ple come together to worship, find solace, and forge bonds. Throughout history, the church has been a champion of agriculture, recognizing its vital importance to human survival. In medieval Europe, monasteries were centers of agricultural innovation, introducing crop rotation and irrigation techniques. Similarly, many churches in modern times have embraced farming as part of their mission, using church-owned lands or leased government lands for community gardens or organizing farmers' markets to provide fresh, affordable food. The church also serves as a moral compass, advocating for fair treatment of farmers, ethical land use, and sustainable agricultural practices. Faith-based organizations often collaborate with farming communities to address issues like poverty, hunger, and environmental degradation, creating a partnership that uplifts both the body and the soul.

The relationship between the church and farming is deeply rooted in history. Biblical texts are rich with references to agriculture, from parables about sowing seeds to metaphors about reaping what one sows. These passages highlight the spiritual lessons embedded in the agricultural cycle, such as patience,

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hard work, and trust in divine providence.

In many communities, the church has historically acted as a hub for agricultural education and support. It has hosted harvest festivals to celebrate the bounty of the land, organized prayer sessions for rain or good weather, and provided aid during times of drought or famine. These practices reflect the church's understanding of the profound connection between humanity, the earth, and the divine.

Even today, many churches continue to integrate farming into their ministries. Some establish gardens to teach children about the value of hard work and environmental stewardship, while others partner with local farmers to distribute food to those in need. This integration of faith and agriculture creates a holistic approach to community development, addressing both spiritual and physical needs.

As small islands like Antigua and Barbuda grapple with challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and social isolation, the interconnection between community, the church, and farming has taken on renewed importance. Across the globe, grassroots movements are bringing these three forces together to create solutions that are both innovative and deeply rooted in tradition.

1. Community-Supported Agriculture and Faith-

Based Farming

Many churches have embraced community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs as part of their mission. These programs connect local farmers with consumers, ensuring a steady market for agricultural products while providing families with fresh, healthy food. Churches often act as distribution centers for CSA boxes, reinforcing their role as a place of gathering and support. Faith-based farming initiatives, such as church-sponsored community gardens, must take hold in Antigua and Barbuda. These projects will provide much needed opportunities for congregants to work the land together, fostering a sense of unity and purpose. They also teach valuable lessons about sustainability, nutrition, and the importance of caring for God's creation.

2. Addressing Food Insecurity

The church has always been at the forefront of addressing hunger, and farming is a natural extension of this mission. By partnering with local farmers and food banks, many churches are working to combat food insecurity in their communities. Programs such as gleaning, where surplus crops are harvested and distributed to those in need, exemplify the church's commitment to feeding the hungry.

Urban agriculture initiatives led by churches are particularly impactful in

low-income neighborhoods, where access to fresh produce is limited. By transforming vacant lots into thriving gardens, these programs not only provide food but also create safe, green spaces that uplift communities.

3. Environmental Stewardship

As awareness of environmental issues grows, the church has increasingly embraced its role as a steward of creation. Many faith-based organizations advocate for sustainable farming practices that protect the earth and preserve its resources for future generations. By promoting organic farming, crop diversification, and soil conservation, these initiatives align agricultural practices with spiritual values of care and responsibility.

The collaboration between community, the church, and farming offers numerous benefits, both tangible and intangible. Farming stimulates local economies, creating jobs and supporting small businesses. By promoting fair trade and ethical practices, the church can ensure that farmers receive just compensation for their work. Working together on agricultural projects fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose. It breaks down social barriers, builds trust, and strengthens relationships within the community. Farming teaches patience, humility, and gratitude, qualities that res-

onate with spiritual teachings. The church provides a framework for interpreting these lessons, encouraging individuals to find deeper meaning in their work.

Access to fresh, nutritious food improves physical health, while the act of farming itself promotes mental well-being through connection to nature. By advocating for sustainable practices, the church and community can work together to protect the environment and combat climate change.

The relationship between community, the church, and farming is a testament to the enduring power of tradition and collaboration. Together, these forces address the fundamental needs of humanity—nourishment, connection, and spiritual fulfillment. In an era marked by rapid change and growing challenges, this synergy offers a blueprint for resilience and renewal. As we look to the future in St. Mary's North and by extension other communities across Antigua and Barbuda, it is essential to nurture this partnership, investing in initiatives that bring people together, honor the earth, and uplift the human spirit. I strongly believe that by embracing the wisdom of the past and the opportunities of the present, communities, churches, and farmers can work hand in hand to build a more sustainable, equitable, and united society and Nation.

## Public servants in St Vincent to receive 2.5 per cent salary increase



now start at \$50,292 with a maximum of \$65,268 in 2025.

This latest increase comes in addition to the ongoing supplementary income program for healthcare workers, where Nurses, Nursing Assistants, and Nursing Aides receive an extra 5 percent on their salaries. This supplementary payment program has been extended beyond its initial six-month proposal. (Loop Caribbean)

Public servants in St Vincent and the Grenadines will receive a 2.5 per cent salary increase effective January 30, 2025, the third consecutive year of wage increases for government employees.

The new increase follows previous raises of 2.5 per cent in 2023 and 2 per cent in 2024, bringing the total increase over three years to 7 per cent.

The adjustment will apply across all salary grades and will also be calculated into any incremental increases due in 2025.

Budget Analyst Anson Latchman from the Ministry of Finance provided an example of how the increases have impacted wages.

According to Latchman, a Grade F public servant who would have started at \$48,108 with a maximum of \$62,436 in 2023 will

  
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## Boat with dead bodies discovered off the coast of Nevis

Police say a boat with 13 dead bodies on board was discovered off the coast of Nevis on Wednesday. They said that the St Kitts and Nevis Defense Coast Guard, responding to a report of a drifting boat off the coast, made the gruesome discovery just after midday, local time. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cromwell Henry,

said that the bodies were severely decomposed and it is not known whether there were children among the dead.

The boat has been towed back to St Kitts as the investigations continue and the authorities say crime scene investigators are still at the scene.

Police say that it is still too early to determine whether

or not there is a connection between the boat and dead bodies found and a similar discovery off the coast of Trinidad and Tobago last weekend.

The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) said that a pirogue carrying the decomposing remains of five unidentified individuals sunk while being towed to Trinidad.

While the circumstances surrounding the vessel remain unclear, including the cause of death of those on board, the TTCG said the pirogue bore a “striking resemblance” to a boat discovered off the coast of Tobago in May 2021, which reportedly drifted from West Africa with migrants on board. (Jamaica Observer)

## French authorities open judicial investigation of involuntary manslaughter into fatal plane crash

Authorities in Martinique have opened a judicial investigation of involuntary manslaughter into a plane crash in Dominica that took the lives of four French nationals.

The decision was taken following a crisis unit meeting on Monday, January 27 under the direction of the prefect of Martinique and in the presence of the French Ambassador in Castries, French news outlet RCI has reported.

The investigation is being led by the Prosecutor of Fort-de-France on counts of involuntary manslaughter for breach of obligation of prudence or safety. It will also establish the exact circumstances which led to the tragic crash.

According to RCI, the investigation will be carried out by a highly specialized team from Air Transport of Paris, which at the time of publication was on its way to Martinique, and the Bri-



gade of Gendarmerie of the Air Transport of Lamentin. The plane departed Douglas-Charles Airport at 3:46 p.m. on Sunday, January 26th, 2025 and was en route to Martinique when it crashed in mountains near the village of La Plaine. The wreckage was spotted on Monday afternoon with no signs of life. Since the area is difficult to access, attempts to reach it will begin on Tuesday with

specialized teams from the Martinique Fire Brigade (SIS972).

The names of the victims of the crash has been made public by the Prosecutor. They are pilot Jean-Benoit A. (23), co-pilot Marving B (41), Kylian B. (23) and Marcelline M.(25).

RCI reported that in agreement with the judicial authorities, emergency psychological assistance will be put in place for the

families of the victims from Tuesday (January 28).

According to the dictionary as judicial investigation is “a formal legal investigation conducted into a matter of public concern by a judge, appointed by the government.”

In law, involuntary manslaughter is used to refer to the unintentional killing of a person through gross negligence or recklessness. (Dominica News Online)

## Acquitted longest-serving death row inmate seeks US\$1.3m from Japan



The world’s longest-serving death row inmate is demanding the Japanese government pay him more than US\$1.3 million in compensation after his conviction was quashed, his lawyer said Thursday.

Iwao Hakamada, 88, was declared innocent last year of a 1966 quadruple murder for which he spent over four decades in confinement, mostly on death row.

A regional court ruled in a September retrial that police had tampered with evidence, and the ex-boxer had suffered “inhumane interrogations meant to force a statement” that he later withdrew.

Prosecutors later said they would not appeal

the acquittal, putting an end to one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in Japan’s history.

Hakamada, now a free man, and his defence team filed a claim with the Shizuoka District Court on Wednesday seeking more than 200 million yen (US\$1.3 million) in compensation from the government.

That is the maximum possible amount under Japan’s criminal compensation law, which stipulates the payment of up to 12,500 yen (US\$81) for each day spent in detention once an acquittal is finalised.

“The amount is far from sufficient given he suffered the worst possible form of physical confinement for

so long, as a death row inmate”, his lawyer, Hideyo Ogawa, told AFP.

Decades of detention — with the threat of execution constantly looming over him — have taken a toll on Hakamada’s mental health, his lawyer had previously said, describing him as “living in a world of fantasy”.

“We hope the financial compensation will help give him and (his sister) Hideko the peace that they deserve, for

the time they have left in their lives,” Ogawa said.

Japan and the United States are the only major industrialised democracies to retain capital punishment, which has broad support from the Japanese public.

Hakamada is the fifth death row inmate granted a retrial in Japan’s post-war history. All four previous cases also resulted in exoneration. (*Jamaica Observer*)

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## The passengers who were on board American Airlines flight that crashed with no survivors

At least 30 bodies have been recovered from a Washington DC aircraft collision, including a TikTok skating star and a famed athlete couple. Figure skater, Spencer Lane, 26, alongside Russian couple Evgenia Shishkova, 53, and Vadim Naumov, 56, have been confirmed dead after a regional passenger jet and the US Army helicopter crashed into the Potomac River after a midair collision.

The plane had been approaching Reagan Washington National Airport on Wednesday night when the crash occurred, officials said.

More than 60 people were onboard and all died, officials said. At least 28 bodies have been recovered, according to DC Fire Chief John Donnelly said.

‘We will work to find all the bodies and reunite them with their loved ones,’ he said at a Thursday press conference.

US figure skating has confirmed that several skaters, coaches and their family members were on board the flight, and had been returning home from the National Development Camp which is held in conjunction with the national championships. ‘We are devastated by this unspeakable tragedy and hold the victims’ families closely in our hearts. We will continue to monitor the situation and will release

more information as it becomes available,’ the sport governing body said in a statement.

American figure skater



John Maravilla, as reported by RIA Novosti, said: ‘I don’t want to name names, but there were around 14 figure skaters on the plane, not counting their parents and several coaches.’

CBS News reported that a dive team had recovered one of the two data recorders, the so-called black boxes, from the plane.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said both the helicopter and the airplane had been flying normal flight patterns. ‘This was not unusual,’ he said. The Pentagon said it was launching an investigation. In a post on Truth Social, President Donald Trump questioned the actions of the helicopter crew and air traffic controllers on what

he described as a clear night.

‘This is a bad situation that looks like it should have been prevented. NOT

GOOD!!!,’ he wrote.

Shishkova and Vadim Naumov won the World Figure Skating Championship in pairs in 1994.

The married couple was travelling back to DC on Flight 5342 after attending the US Figure Skating Championships in Kansas. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed that Shishkova and Naumov were aboard the plane.

‘Unfortunately, we see that this sad information is being confirmed,’ Peskov said.

‘There were other fellow citizens there. Bad news today from Washington. We are sorry and send condolences to the families and friends who lost those of our fellow citizens who

died in the plane crash.’

When asked whether Russian President Vladimir Putin planned to offer condolences to US President Donald Trump in a phone call, Peskov said there were no plans for high-level contacts for now.

Ludmila Velikova, who trained the couple when they were children, called the loss devastating.

‘They were my favorite sports people,’ she told Reuters. ‘They were part of my first attempt at the world championship and became champions in 1994. They were talented and beautiful people.

‘Apart from anything else, they were my children.’ Shishkova started training with Veilkova at the age of 11 and Naumov at 14. ‘What’s happened is awful,’ she said from St. Petersburg. ‘The best people have been taken away from us.’ Veilkova confirmed the pair’s son, Maxim, did safely return to Boston.

Spencer Lane uploaded the photo around 7pm ET Wednesday, which appeared to show the jet taxiing on the runway at Wichita Airport in Kansas before it took off for its final flight.

He captioned it ICT -> DCA - the codes for Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. (Daily Mail)

## DR Congo president vows 'vigorous' fight to halt M23 rebel advance

Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi has vowed to restore government authority in the east, where Rwanda-backed M23 rebels have seized control of the city of Goma and are reportedly advancing south to take more territory.

In a televised address to the nation, he said a "vigorous and coordinated response" against what he called "terrorists" was under way.

He criticised the international community for "inaction" and for not doing enough in the wake of the escalating security crisis. The weeks-long offensive by the rebels has prompted warnings of a looming humanitarian crisis and growing international pressure to end the fighting.

During Wednesday night's address, Tshisekedi rallied all Congolese to join together and support the army's fight to retake control. "Be sure of one thing: the Democratic Republic of Congo will not let itself be humiliated or crushed. We will fight and we will triumph," he said.

The fighting has forced about 500,000 people from their homes, worsening an already dire humanitarian crisis, according to the UN. Since the fighting began, the city has been cut off from electricity and water and food is in scarce supply.

An East African regional bloc virtual summit on Wednesday evening con-

vened by Kenya's President William Ruto, which Tshisekedi snubbed, called for a "peaceful settlement of the conflicts".

It was attended by Rwanda's Paul Kagame, alongside the leaders of other member countries Burundi, South Sudan, Tanzania and Somalia.

The heads of state "strongly urged the government of the DR Congo to directly engage with all stakeholders, including the M23 and other armed groups that have grievances".

Tshisekedi has been refusing to talk directly to the M23 - insisting on only talking to Rwanda.

The East African leaders also called for a joint summit of the bloc and leaders of the southern African regional community (Sadc) to "deliberate on the way forward". DR Congo is a member of both the East African Community and Sadc.

Sadc is due to hold a special summit in Zimbabwe on Friday of the bloc's heads of state to discuss DR Congo.

Tshisekedi paid tribute to the Sadc soldiers "fighting alongside us" and UN forces who had died in the wake of the rebel assault on Goma.

Thirteen South African peacekeepers have been killed in the deadly conflict in Goma, leading to heightened tensions between South Africa and Rwanda.

On Wednesday night, Kagame said Rwanda was ready for a confrontation with South Africa if necessary, following a claim by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa that M23 fighters and Rwandan forces were responsible for the deaths.

In a strongly worded statement directly responding to Ramaphosa on X, Kagame accused him of distorting their private conversations about the volatile situation. "If South Africa wants to contribute to peaceful solutions, that is well and good, but South Africa is

in no position to take on the role of a peacemaker or mediator. And if South Africa prefers confrontation, Rwanda will deal with the matter in that context any day," he said.

Kagame also said that the Sadc mission in DR Congo, SAMIDRC, was "not a peacekeeping force, and it has no place in this situation".

The exchange marks a significant escalation in tensions between the two nations, whose relationship has been fragile for several years. *(BBC News)*

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## Willikies Super Stars B and Double Six Ice lead three-hand domino contest



Players compete in the opening three-hand competition of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's domestic season at the ABNDA's headquarters in Lower Ottos. (Photo courtesy of the ABNDA)

The Willikies Super Stars B team and Double Six Ice are current joint leaders of the opening three-hand competition of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) domestic season.

Both teams have eight points each after three matches to lead the round-robin three-hand competition that is being contested by 19 teams at the ABNDA's headquarters in Lower Ottos.

Four teams are narrowly trailing the two front-runners with seven points apiece. They are the A team of the Bolans Revellers, Double Six Diamond, Legacy Thunder, and the A team of the Willikies Super Stars.

Next are the Parham Strikers with six points, followed by the B team of the Bolans Revellers, Eagle Eye International, Full Clip, Legacy Lightning, and the Ramplers, all with five points.

The Rising Star and Triple Dynamite are currently occupying the cellar with three points each.

The Willikies Super Stars are currently leading the opening four-hand competition of the 2025 domestic season that is being contested by six clubs.

The Willikies Super Stars have won all three matches thus far to top the standings with a perfect six points.

S.K. Eagles and Dominatrixx have each won two of their three matches to occupy joint second place with four points apiece.

The Bolans Revellers and Double Six each have two points after winning one of their three matches.

The Ramplers are firmly rooted in the cellar without any points after failing to win any of their three matches.

## Double wins for Five Islands in school basketball



The players of the Five Islands Primary Minigirls Primary Division team listen to their coach Oslyn 'Pigeon' Gregory prior to the start of their game against Post Millennial Academy in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the school basketball league)

The Five Islands Primary recorded two wins in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Wednesday.

Five Islands Primary secured victories against Post Millennial Academy and Cedar Grove Primary in Zone B of the Minigirls Primary Division at the JSC Sports Complex.

Stevia Carr sank four points to lead Five Islands Primary to a 6-1 victory

against Post Millennial Academy.

Stevia Carr also converted six points to propel Five Islands Primary to an 8-0 victory over Cedar Grove Primary.

Esther Hunte produced a game-high 12 points to lift Greenbay Primary to an 18-3 drubbing of the Villa Primary School in Zone A of the Minigirls Primary Division.

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Players of the Cedar Grove Blue Jays

## Blue Jays soar into top two in Second Division League

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays have leapfrogged National Parks English Harbour and moved into second place behind leaders Sea View Farm in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays achieved the feat by soaring to their 10th win in 12 matches with a 3-0 victory against Blackburn Palace at the Cedar Grove playing field on Wednesday.

Jahrohn Thomas wrapped up their latest victory by scoring twice in the second half with conversions in the 34th and 63rd minutes after teammate Amos Christian opened the scoring with a 15th-minute

conversion to give the Blue Jays a one-nil halftime lead.

Blackburn Palace will remain on 12 points after suffering their sixth defeat in 10 matches.

The result allowed the Cedar Grove Blue Jays to jump from third to second place by advancing to 31 points from 12 matches.

It also allows the Blue Jays to move within three points of leaders Sea View Farm, who have played 13 matches.

The Blue Jays latest win means English Harbour has slipped from second to third place with 29 points from 12 matches. Golden Grove occupies fourth place with 27 points from 12 matches.

Belmont FC is in fifth

place with 24 points from 12 matches, and Guydadli FC is in sixth place with 18 points from 11 matches.

The top two finishers at the end of the Second Division League will gain automatic promotion to compete in the ABFA's First Division next season.

The teams that finish in third and fourth places in the First Division will get another chance at gaining promotion as they will contest a playoff with the 10th place finishers in the Premier Division.

The winner of that round-robin playoff will compete in the Premier Division next season.

Meanwhile, the group, or second phase of the Premier Division, will com-

mence with a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

FC Aston Villa Lions will face Green City at 4 pm, Pigotts Bullets will tackle the Willikies Warriors at 6 pm, and All Saints United will take on Parham at 8 pm.

In Sunday's triple-header, Jennings Grenades will oppose the Greenbay Hoppers at 4 pm, Old Road will challenge Five Islands at 6 pm, and Garden Stars will clash with the Attacking Saints at 8 pm.

John Hughes and the Potters Tigers receive byes during the opening round of matches.



## West Indies women romp to series-sealing win over Bangladesh

Qiana Joseph's explosive 63 and Deandra Dottin's blistering 49 set the stage for a comprehensive 106-run victory for the West

Indies women piled up an imposing 201-6 in their 20 overs, with Joseph leading the charge in a breathtaking 36-ball knock that

blasting three fours and five sixes in a display of raw power. She fell just short of a half-century, caught off the bowling of Shorna Akter, but her knock had already given West Indies a commanding total.

Shabika Gajnabi added a valuable 24 not out off 12 balls in the latter stages, ensuring the home side crossed the 200-run mark.

Rabeya Khan, who took two for 26, and Fahima Khatun, who claimed three for 38, were the most successful bowlers for Bangladesh, but the visitors struggled to contain the aggressive West Indies batting lineup.

In reply, Bangladesh Women never got going, struggling against a disciplined and varied West Indies bowling attack.

Cherry-Ann Fraser, who bagged two for 15, struck early, removing both openers within the first four overs, while Zaida James with one for 17 and Ashmini Munisar with one for 20 maintained the pressure.

Matthews then chipped in with two wickets for just six runs in her two overs, while veteran leg-spinner Afy Fletcher captured two for 21 ripped through the middle order, removing captain Nigar Sultana and Fahima Khatun.

Only Sharmin Akter (22) and Shorna Akter (16) offered brief resistance, but Bangladesh could only muster 95 for nine in their 20 overs. Extras accounted for 20 of their runs, highlighting their struggles against the Windies attack.



Qiana Joseph

Indies women over Bangladesh women at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Wednesday.

The win gave the hosts an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, securing the series victory with one match to spare.

After being sent in to bat,

included 11 fours and two sixes.

Captain Hayley Matthews provided early fireworks with 27 from just 18 balls, striking six boundaries before falling to Rabeya Khan.

Dottin then took over, smashing 49 from just 20 deliveries,

# Sports

FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
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## ABCA begins 2025 domestic season with two-day contest

Like last year, the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) will begin its 2025 domestic season with its two-day competition this weekend.

Ten teams will once again be contesting this season's competition, and they will all be in action during the opening round of two-day matches across five venues in Antigua on Saturday.

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Libertas Black Hawks, who won the competition for the past three seasons, will begin their title defense away against the Bolans Blasters at the Bolans playing field.

Libertas had won last year's title after beating Empire Nation by nine wickets in the final at the Pigotts playing field.

The Bolans Blasters will be hoping for an improved showing in this year's competition after finishing in the cellar of last year's contest.

Last season's losing finalist, Empire Nation, will launch their two-day campaign against Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at the Bethesda playing field.

The Golden Eagles will be seeking to soar with a much better showing this season after finishing a dis-



Libertas Black Hawks Coach Wilden 'Polo' Cornwall with the ABCA Two-Day Championship Trophy. (File photo)

appointing second from the bottom of the standings in last year's competition.

Pigotts Crushers, who lost to Empire Nation in last season's semi-finals, will begin their campaign at home in Pigotts against Tertiary Institutions and School, formerly Combined Schools, which finished in eighth place last year.

The other two opening round matches will feature the New Winthropes Lions against the All Saints

Pythons at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints and the Jennings Tigers against the WES Rising Sun at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's.

The Jennings Tigers reached last season's semi-finals, in which they lost on first innings against the Libertas Blackhawks in a drawn encounter.

The New Winthropes Lions will be hoping to improve on last year's productive season in which

they narrowly missed out on reaching the semi-finals by finishing in fifth place in the round-robin preliminary stage of the two-day contest.

The Rising Sun Spartans and the All Saints Pythons, who finished in sixth and seventh places, respectively, last season, will also be aiming for an improved showing in this year's two-day competition.

Unlike previous years, the winner of this year's two-day competition will be the team with the most points at the end of the 10-team round-robin contest.

Under the new format, there will be no semi-finals and finals this year. In previous years, the top four teams in the standings at the end of the round-robin preliminary stage would advance to the semi-finals.

The winners of the two semi-finals would advance to the final to decide the title winners of the two-day competition.

The ABCA plans to host four other competitions in its 2025 domestic season. The teams will contest the ABCA's Super-40 Cup limited overs competition, the ABCA T20 Championship, the ABCA T10 contest, and the ABCA Two-Day President's Cup competitions.