



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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Health officials hold retreat to chart the way forward

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Senior officials and technicians from the Ministry of Health at Tuesday's retreat

Health officials hold retreat to chart the way forward



Health officials along with technicians drawn from every division in the ministry and health care delivery system convened a retreat on Tuesday to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past and to charter the way forward.

Among those in attendance were Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister of State in the Ministry, Senator Michael Joseph, Permanent Secretaries, Ena Dalso-Henry and Stacey Gregg-Paige, the acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kamaria DeCastro as well as senior managers, technicians and heads of department.

PS Dalso-Henry said the retreat was an initiative from the Senior Minister, Sir Molwyn to bring all the top personnel of the ministry together to plan the priority areas for health for 2025. In his remarks, the minister described 2024 as a ‘challenging year’ filled with both trials and triumphs. Over the past year, the minister recalled that the ministry cel-

ebrated ‘significant achievements’ in its respective departments, but noted that it also faced serious obstacles that tested its resilience, creativity, and the capacity to adapt. According to the minister...the ministry finds itself in 2025 at a critical moment – one that demands reflection, recalibration, and renewed focus.

“We can all agree that we are living in extraordinary times. Our national health and social support systems are under immense pressure. The increase in non-communicable diseases, the rise in mental health disorders, the surge in cancer cases, and the alarming onset of these conditions at younger ages—these are trends that should deeply concern us. They are not just statistics; they represent real people—our families, our neighbors, and the communities we serve,” the minister observed. Sir Molwyn indicated that he is also worried about the situation emerging on the international stage that will

likely have a negative impact on Antigua and Barbuda.

“The withdrawal of financial and technical support from developed nations in critical areas such as healthcare and climate change adaptation has left Small Island Developing States like Antigua and Barbuda in an even more vulnerable position. We are being asked to do more with fewer resources. We are expected to provide high-quality healthcare, respond to emerging health crises, and address the social determinants of health—all while operating within tight fiscal constraints,” he emphasised. He explained the rationale for the retreat was to find answers to the questions; how do ministry officials and technicians move the healthcare system forward? How to strengthen the systems, optimize the resources, and ensure that the ministry can meet the growing demands of the people? “That is why we are here today,” he declared.

PS Gregg-Paige underscored

the importance of the attendees to the overall success of the ministry and she called upon them to approach the retreat with openness and to share their experiences so that improvements can be made.

“As senior health technicians, you play a vital role in ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare services to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Your expertise, dedication, and commitment are the backbone of our healthcare system, and I want to take a moment to sincerely express our appreciation for all that you do. “Today, we have the opportunity to openly discuss the challenges you face in your respective roles, share experiences, and, most importantly, work together to find practical solutions. Your voices matter, and this retreat is designed to ensure that your insights help shape the way forward,” she urged.

Rehabilitation of Buckley's Storage Tank progressing on target



Public Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas has expressed his satisfaction with rehabilitation works currently ongoing at the Buckley's Water Storage Tank. The Minister's remarks came on Tuesday as he inspected the works which aims to restore the over 700 thousand-gallons tank.

The rehabilitation of the Buckley's Water Storage Tank is part of an overall US\$40million investment by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda that will ensure increased production and delivery of water across the country.

According to Minister Nicholas, when completed and operational, the Buckley's Water Storage Tank will enhance and create a more reliable water supply for Buckley's Village, All Saints and St. Paul.

"This project sits alongside the one we have just completed in the south. As I have indicated, the reservoir system is critically important. We have earmarked to repair and build-out up to five million-gallons reservoir capacity. There is a similar tank, a bit larger, sit-



ting at the Crabbes Water Facility of 1.2million gallons, it too, is in need of repair, so the contract that has been provided allows for this project to be completed here first and immediately after he (the contractor) will turn his attention to the one at Crabbes", Minister Nicholas stated.

Minister Nicholas also confirmed that two tanks with a combined storage of 1.5 million gallons will be built between Friars Hill and Santa Maria to eliminate water shortages in the northern part of Antigua.

Project Mechanical Engineer at APUA Mr. Bryan Nicholas says work on the rehabilitation of the Buckley's Water Storage Tank is expected to be com-

pleted by May. The tank which operated for over 40 years, went out of commission in 2019 due to corrosion. The rehabilitation work includes, removal and replacement of the steel base, removing up to a foot of the base material to facilitate the installation of cathodic concentric rings, backfilling, welding and the use a special paint conducive to potable water storage tanks.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is committed to ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for all citizens and residents.

Cathodic concentric rings are a system of anode rings used to protect the bottom of above ground storage tanks from corrosion (rusting).

The agricultural sector contributed 7 percent to GDP in 2024



Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr

The Ministry of Agriculture says it is focusing much effort to see the sector’s contributions to the nation’s GDP continue to expand beyond the growth rate experienced in 2024 of 7 percent.

In remarks at a press conference on Tuesday where the central theme was national food security, Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr. revealed that agriculture contributed \$116 million to the GDP in 2024, which represents 7 percent.

As impressive as this may be, Minister Smith said he is not yet satisfied as there is much work left to be done. “While we are pleased with this growth, we recognize that there is still much work to be done. We are committed to improving agricultural productivity and ensuring that every citizen can access

nutritious, locally grown food.

“Food security is a complex issue. It is not just about the availability of food, but also about access, affordability, and sustainability. This means we must consider not only how much food we can grow but also how we ensure it reaches the market. At the Ministry of Agriculture, we are approaching this challenge with a comprehensive strategy that addresses the full spectrum of food security concerns,” he reported.

According to Minister Smith this involves addressing immediate challenges while laying the foundation for long-term sustainability. The ministry, he noted, is focused on building infrastructure, improving market access, and increasing the capacity of the agricultural sector

to meet the demands of a growing population. “Developing infrastructure in the agriculture sector is essential for attracting private investment and ensuring the long-term growth of the industry. By addressing key challenges such as water availability, transportation, and market access, the government can create a conducive environment for investment. Collaborations with the private sector, international development partners, and a clear, incentivizing policy framework will ensure that Antigua and Barbuda’s agricultural sector becomes attractive for investment,”

he remarked.

The minister listed a number of areas that will receive immediate attention. These include, improving infrastructure and feeder roads, rehabilitating the agricultural stations at Christian Valley, Cades Bay, and Green Castle, encourage youth involvement in agriculture, providing access to modern equipment and market to include improved market access through CMC as well as special projects such as the project to revive and propagate the iconic Antigua Black Pineapple on a wide scale.

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FEBRUARY | 2025

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
12	13	14

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Applicants Must:

- 18 years or above
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- Have an Active Bank Account (In Applicants name)

JOIN OUR TEAM AND SERVE UP SUCCESS!

More than thirteen thousand cruise passengers visited the country on Tuesday



with 2708 passengers. The Royal Clipper of Star Clipper Lines sailed into the Falmouth Harbour with 214 passengers. The overall total was 13,138 passengers.

Port officials are underscoring the value of the 5th Berth as it has allowed the country to be able to accommodate multiple vessels of the Quantum Class, as was experienced on Tuesday.

It was a busy day on Tuesday for those involved in the cruise tourism trade with more than thirteen thousand cruise passengers visiting the country.

They arrived aboard five cruise ships, four of which docked in the St. John's Harbour and one in Falmouth Harbour. The four vessels that were in the St. John's Harbour averaged more than three thousand passengers each.

These were; AIDAperla of AIDA Cruises with 3419 passengers, Enchanted Princess of Princess Cruises with 3551 passengers, Norwegian Viva of NCL with 3246 passengers and Costa Fortuna of Costa Cruises



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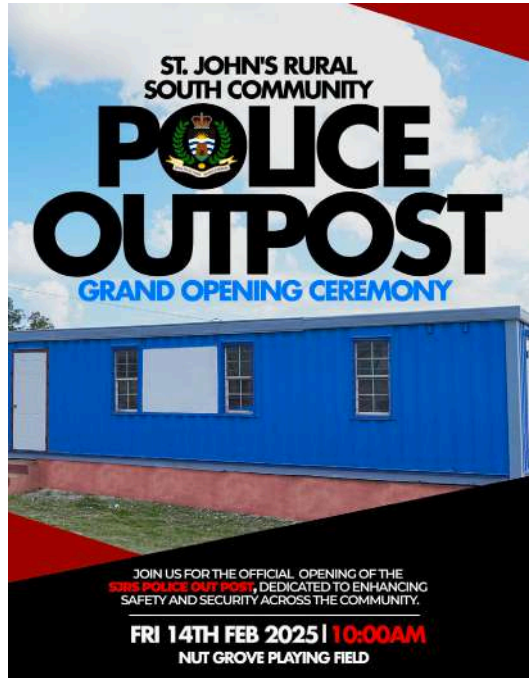
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A police outpost is set to open in Golden Grove on Friday

The safety and security of residents of the St. John's Rural South constituency will take a big step forward this Friday when the police commission an output in the area on Friday.

Parliamentary Representative, Daryll Matthew, who has been the driving force behind efforts to establish the outpost, said the event will mark a major milestone in community safety with the official commissioning and opening of the outpost.

The establishment of the Police outpost was the brainchild of Minister Matthew, who has long advocated for enhanced security measures to protect residents. "This outpost is a testament to our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in St. John's Rural South," said Minister Matthew. "I am excited to formally commission this facility, which will serve as a vital resource for our community."



The new outpost is expected to improve emergency response times, strengthen community-police relations, and provide a visible presence

to deter crime. Equipped with modern facilities, the outpost will be staffed by a dedicated team of officers focused on serving the needs of the constituency.

The commissioning ceremony will bring together residents, local officials, and law enforcement representatives to celebrate this achievement. MP Matthew expressed gratitude to the community for their support and emphasized the importance of collaboration in achieving safer neighborhoods.

As the constituency continues to grow, the Police outpost represents a proactive step toward ensuring the safety and security of all residents. The community is invited to attend Friday's ceremony and witness this historic moment in the ongoing efforts to build a safer St. John's Rural South.

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Antigua and Barbuda represented at regional meeting of parliamentary clerks



Two members of staff from the Office of the Clerk of Parliament in St. John's are in Trinidad and Tobago attending a three-day meeting of regional Clerks of Parliament.

Clerk of Parliament for Antigua and Barbuda, Rosemarie Weston along with, Zenia Barnes, are attending the meeting organized jointly by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK, in partnership with The Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and ParlAmericas, and which is designed to support and connect parliamentary clerks working across the Caribbean.

A media release from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK said thirty-three clerks from seventeen legislatures are at the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, also known as the Red House because of its distinctive colour and architecture. Sessions will include exploring what the role of clerks and parliamentary officials; codes of conduct and ethics, and improving efficiency using new technology and AI.

It is an opportunity for clerks, who are non-political and permanent officials, to share knowledge, expand networks and make new friends.

In her welcome remarks Sharla Elcock, Legal Officer II at the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, described clerks as the "chief cooks and bottle washers." She said,

"There must be a cadre of trusted, dedicated parliamentary officials to support the effective work of parliament and keep democracy rolling."

Two clerks from the UK Parliament, one from the House of Commons and one from the House of Lords, are in Trinidad to share their experience with delegates.

Mike Everett who works

at the House of Commons said, "Members of Parliament are the elected representatives, but members come and go. Parliament as an institution remains and so it's important that it has trusted, dedicated and impartial parliamentary officials to support the work and the democratic process. So one of the key objectives of this conference is to learn from one another and to develop so that we can go back and support our parliaments as effectively as we can."

The programme started on Tuesday 11th February and will finish on Thursday 13th February.

ABYSO gets \$135-thousand from the Calvin Ayre Foundation

Calvyn Ayre Foundation pledges \$135-thousand to help the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra stage its annual 'Playing to inspire' concert.

In a media release, CAF said the pledge reaffirms its commitment to the advancement of youth and the arts in Antigua and Barbuda by once again serving as the Platinum Sponsor for *Playing to Inspire 7*, the annual music festival featuring the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO).

"ABYSO is kicking preparation into high gear to host its flagship concert series, *Playing to Inspire 7*, set to take place on April 12th-2025. This highly anticipated musical event will again showcase the incredible talent of Antigua and Barbuda's young musicians alongside internationally acclaimed guest artists, such as the world-renowned Kanneh-Mason family. Also joining them for this year's staging, is Felix Klieser, an award-winning French horn virtuoso, whose remarkable journey has inspired audiences worldwide," the release stated.



According to CAF the donation supports ABYSO's continued pursuit to foster the artistic growth of local youth in their quest for musical excellence. This sponsorship is a testament to CAF's commitment to making a lasting impact in communities through philanthropic initiatives in arts and education.

"The Calvin Ayre Foundation is honored to support the incredible work of the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra. Music has the power to transform lives, and we believe in nurturing the talents of our youth," said Jamilla Kirwan, Manager of the Calvin Ayre Foun-

dation.

Managing Director of ABYSO, Claudine Benjamin, remarked on ABYSO's gratitude to CAF and the Foundation's continued support of the Orchestra's goals.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Calvin Ayre Foundation for their generous support of *Playing to Inspire 7*. Their commitment to the arts and youth development continue to make a meaningful impact, empowering our young musicians to reach new heights. This partnership underscores the power of

community and philanthropy in nurturing talent and inspiring excellence. Thank you, Ambassador Calvin Ayre and CAF, for believing in the vision and for playing a vital role in its success."

By supporting organizations such as ABYSO, CAF aims to inspire others to donate to worthy causes that enrich the lives and livelihoods of future generations.

The highly anticipated concert will take place on Saturday, April 12th, 2025, at the AUA Conference Centre, starting at 7:30pm.

The case against Reuben Forde on multiple gun-related charges adjourned until March

The case against Reuben Forde of Upper Gambles who faces multiple gun and ammunition charges, including shooting with intent, has been adjourned until March 10. Forde appeared before Senior Magistrate, Ngaio Emanuel on Tuesday to answer the charges. He faces one count of possession of a Bryco Jennings T. .380 pistol without having a firearms licence. This, the court was told, is

contrary to Section 6 (1) and 3 of the Firearms Act 171 of the Revised Edition 1992 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Secondly, Forde was also charged for discharging a firearm in a public road namely, Lower All Saints Road, on the same day contrary to the said laws.

Additionally, he is charged with shooting at Dwayne DeSilva with intent to do griev-

ous bodily harm contrary to section 20 of the Offences Against Person Act Chapter 300) of the Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

The police also slapped a charge of possession of one round of ammunition for the .380 pistol without having the licence to possess such ammunition.

A fourth charge is that Forde had ‘unlawfully and maliciously’ shot Dwayne DeSilva with

intent to commit murder.

As if that was not enough, Forde is charged with the possession of a second firearm, one Brown and Brass Colt 1851 Navy .36 revolver contrary to the laws of the country.

Magistrate Emanuel adjourned the matter until March 10.

Forde is currently on bail issued by the High Court



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in collaboration with the Honorable Minister Daryll S. Matthew presents:


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

The successful candidate will be responsible to perform upkeep tasks such as repairs and cleaning, applying basic fixes to building, equipment, machinery and ensure the general functionality of the facilities.

Job Functions:

- Perform routine maintenance around the building such as cleaning, painting, fixing and repairing,
- Repair broken or leaking plumbing to avoid water damage and restore full use of water fixtures; perform minor fixes such as repairing broken locks
- Perform cleaning activities, to include garden/yard upkeep, mowing lawn
- Apply preventative measures to the building to reduce the risk of future problems, such as using a sealant, replacing light bulbs etc.
- Collaborate with Management, workers and other professionals during renovations
- Fixing potential safety hazards to avoid injuries

Qualifications & Skills:

- High school diploma or other related certification
- Minimum 2 years' proven experience in the field of Maintenance
- Very good communication and interpersonal skills

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 21st February, 2025**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

Photo Story

FLOW takes message of Safer Internet to PMS



Flow Antigua and Barbuda's Country Manager, Wayne Hull, alongside the Principal, Head Boy, and Head Girl of Princess Margaret School, after addressing hundreds of students in recognition of Safer Internet Day 2025. This year's theme, 'Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Online Scams,' highlights the importance of digital safety and awareness.



Photo Story

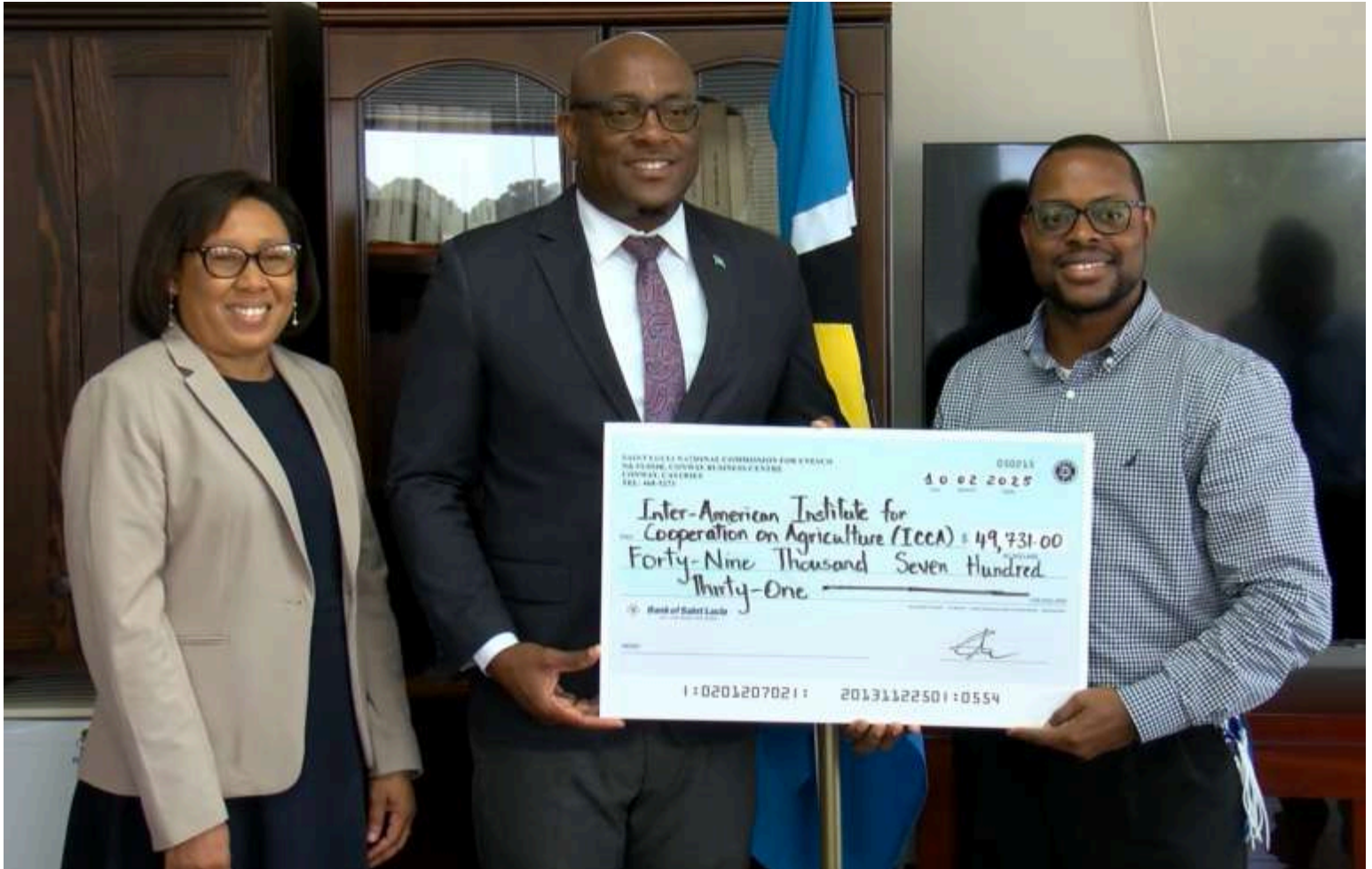


Indian rower, Ananya Prasad, who arrived on the island after rowing solo across the Atlantic Ocean to Antigua paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne at the Office of the Prime Minister.



Prasad was accompanied by her parents and she was introduced to PM Browne by the Indian Honorary Consul, Vijay Tewani.

UNESCO Funds Two Youth Development Projects in Saint Lucia



Two youth-focused projects in Saint Lucia have officially received funding under UNESCO's Participation Programme for the 2024/25 biennium.

A total of US\$38 500 has been awarded to support the initiatives aimed at youth development.

The cheques were presented on Monday to the representatives of the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation

on Agriculture (IICA) and their partners, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSPF), by Shawn Edward, Minister for Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training and Chairperson of the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO.

The Ministry of Youth Development and Sports received US\$20 000 for its project, Professionalisation of Youth Work in Saint Lucia (Youth Work Programme for Effective

Youth Work Practice). This initiative aims to deliver a competency-based curriculum to produce a cadre of skilled youth development workers who are equipped to deliver professional youth development services to the youth in Saint Lucia.

About this project, a statement from the Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO said: "Through the professionalisation of youth work, it is anticipated that the participants will receive better support systems

to promote their mental health; increase employment opportunities through education and entrepreneurship; improve the rights-based approach to youth development and transition into productive adults."

The second project receiving funding was IICA's Brown Gold: Operationalising a social entrepreneurship model for upskilling and employing youth vulnerable to the effects of poverty in the community of Bruceville, Saint Lucia.

Police pushing for higher heights in St Elizabeth's anti-crime fight

St Elizabeth, Jamaica – He is being showered with accolades for leading what's being described as a highly successful anti-crime fight in this south-central parish.

However, chief of police in St Elizabeth, Superintendent Coleridge Minto insists that he won't be resting on his laurels. Instead, he says, he and his team will be pushing even harder to ensure safety in communities under his watch during 2025.

"I wish to assure people of this parish that the police will remain focused to ensure law and order..." Minto told councillors and others at last month's regular meeting of the St Elizabeth Municipal Corporation.

His pledge followed applause across the political divide as he rose to report to councillors for the first time this year.

Big up Mr Minto," shouted mayor of Black River and chairman of the municipality, Richard Solomon (New Market Division, Jamaica Labour Party) as his colleagues tapped tables in support.

Police statistics show that major crimes in St Elizabeth declined by 29 per cent in 2024 compared to 2023. Murders – usually seen as the prime indicator for crime levels in Jamaica – fell by 20 per cent, from 40 in 2023 to 32 last year.

The downward trend for crime in St Elizabeth in 2024 largely reflected the situation nationally.

If anything, 2025 has started even better for the St Elizabeth police. The first murder in the parish this year was recorded late last week (early February) – a 20 year-old woman killed at her home in Thornton, a village in the parish's northern region. Her brother, said to be of unsound mind, has been taken into custody.



Statistics apart, local observers are especially pleased at what's being seen as increased presence of police on the streets of villages and towns. There is also a perception that Minto is much to the fore and very active in day-to-day police operations on the ground.

Albert Williams, Councillor for the Southfield Division (Jamaica Labour Party – JLP) triggered laughter when he told the meeting that he now felt so "safe" he was going home at 10:00 pm at nights, rather than three hours earlier which was previously the case.



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

Job Functions:

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

Qualifications & Skills:

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

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 21st February, 2025**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

Guyana strengthens health preparedness with SPAR development meeting



Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony

THE Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), is hosting a two-day meeting with the International Health Regulations National Focal Point Committee to develop Guyana's 2024 State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report (SPAR).

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, attended the first session of the meeting on Monday and he detailed Guyana's plans to improve surveillance and other key measures to ensure national preparedness for future outbreaks and pandemics. Reflecting on the COVID-19 experience, he emphasised the need for proactive measures and robust protocols to safeguard public health.

To bolster its response capacity, the government has secured a US\$7 million loan and received US\$15 million in grant-pandemic funding through a partnership with the World Bank in 2024. These resources will support safe specimen transport, quarantine for sick animals, and enhanced

monitoring of zoonotic diseases that could potentially affect humans.

Minister Anthony underscored the importance of molecular surveillance in understanding viruses.

Plans are in place to expand the capabilities of the National Public Health Reference Lab, strengthening both technical expertise and the surveillance system. Recruitment of additional technical personnel will aid in developing these systems over the next three years, with a focus on standardising reporting formats, training personnel and ensuring timely data collection and analysis.

A national response team will be established to investigate surges in illnesses, while efforts continue to improve health infrastructure across all regions. By the end of this year, six new hospitals will each

have their own laboratories, offering a range of diagnostic tests. These labs, located in Region Six at Number 75 Village, Bath, along the East Coast, East Bank, De Kinderen, and Bartica, will complement existing facilities, creating an interconnected network of labs through advanced software for seamless information sharing.

In addition, the ministry is introducing influenza vaccines for healthcare workers and the elderly, with an initial shipment of 12,000 doses expected soon. Public education campaigns will be launched to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination.



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

Job Functions:

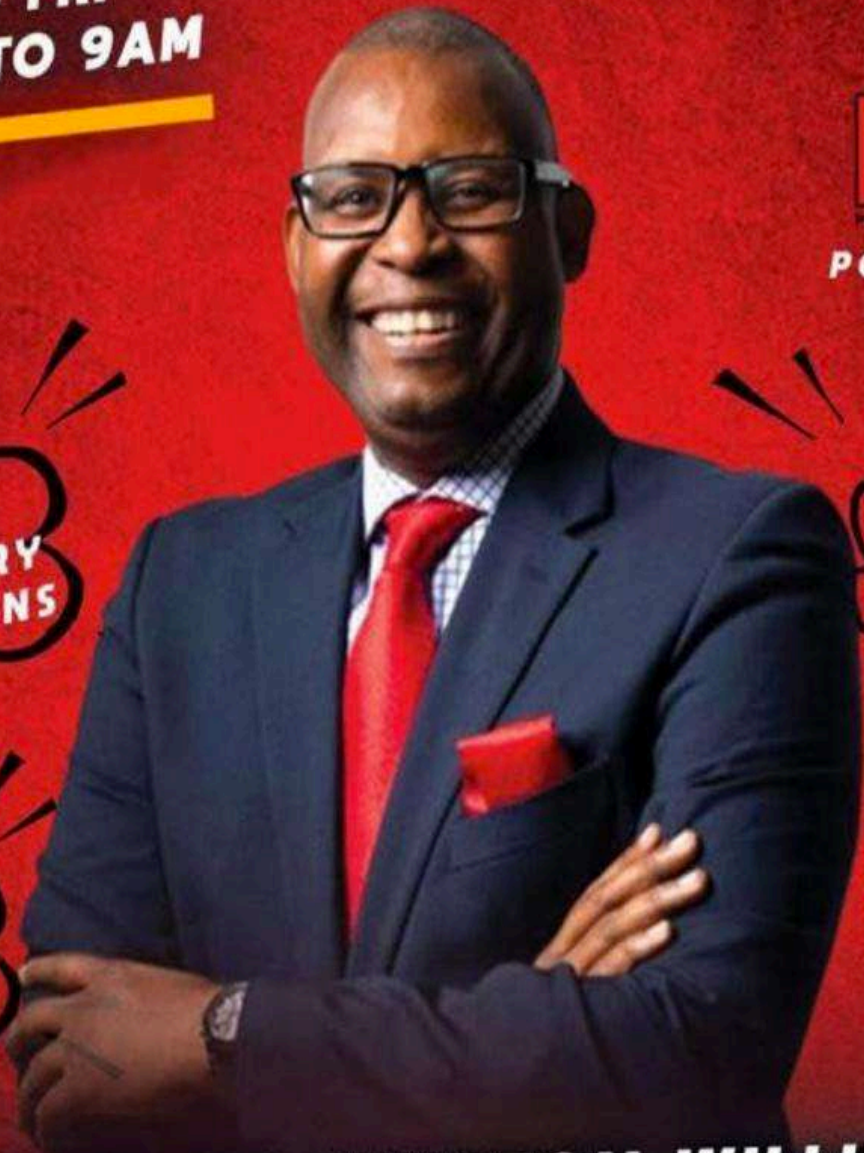
- Assist customers and vendors with loading and unloading of products/materials
- Maintain the operations of the Crusher, as well as, cubing, batching and operating machines and equipment
- Cleaning and maintaining machines and equipment
- Periodic inspection of plant equipment
- Complete all duties in accordance with company health and safety regulations.
- Demonstrate a continuous effort to improve operations, reduce turnaround times and streamline work processes.
- Work independently and collaboratively with other team members to achieve common objectives.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Prior experience working in a construction environment
- Previous experience with stocking and loading
- Multi-tasker and ability to work in a team environment

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 21st February, 2025**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

**MON - FRI
6:30AM TO 9AM**



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Israel says Gaza ceasefire will end if Hamas does not free hostages by Saturday



Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel's prime minister has warned Hamas it will end the ceasefire in Gaza and resume intense fighting if the Palestinian group "does not return our hostages by Saturday noon".

Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered Israeli forces to amass inside and around Gaza in response to Hamas's announcement that it was postponing freeing more hostages until further notice. Netanyahu did not specify whether he was demanding the release of all 76 remaining hostages, or just the three due to be freed this Saturday - but a minister said he meant "everyone".

Hamas has accused Israel of violating the three-week-old ceasefire deal, including by blocking vital humanitarian aid - a claim Israel has denied.

Following Netanyahu's statement, the Palestinian militant group said it was committed to the Gaza ceasefire deal, but said Israel had failed to "abide by its commitments".

It added that Israel was "responsible for any complications or delays" in the hostage release process.

The group's decision to delay this weekend's scheduled release prompted US President Donald Trump to propose that Israel cancel the agreement altogether and "let hell break out" unless "all of the hostages" were returned by Saturday.

Following a four-hour meeting of Israel's security cabinet on Tuesday, Netanyahu said in a video statement that he "welcomed President Trump's demand".

He added: "In light of Hamas's announcement regarding its decision to violate the agreement and not release our hostages, last night I instructed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to amass forces inside - and surrounding - the Gaza Strip.

"This action is being carried out at this hour and will be completed very soon."

He then issued an ultimatum that he said had the security cabinet's unanimous approval.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

ELECTRICAL RECONNECTION WORKS OF ELEVEN (11) HOUSEHOLDS FOR THE BARBUDA ENERGY RESILIENCE PROJECT (SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION)

1. The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) utilizing UKCIF funds which are being administered through the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF), invites you to submit a price quotation for the execution of the following works:

Electrical Reconnection Works of Eleven (11) Households for the Barbuda Energy Resilience Project (Supply and Installation) as per the attached Works Requirements at Section 2 of this document. These works are divided into the following three (3) Lots

- Lot 1 - Four (4) Houses
- Lot 2 - Four (4) Houses
- Lot 3 - Three (3) Houses

Bidders can bid on one lot, all or a combination of the lots.

2. The quotation must be submitted to Dropbox (link to be provided to those who confirm they will be submitting a bid) with the following:
 - Signed Letter of Quotation
 - Activity Schedule
 - Supplier Information Form
 - Signed Bid Securing Declaration
 - Evidence of electrical installation experience as specified
 - A Completion Schedule
3. Only a quotation from the eligible Bidder as defined in paragraph 2 of Section 1, Instructions to Bidder will be considered.
4. The quotation must be submitted by 14:00 hours Antigua time on February 19, 2025.
5. A non-mandatory site meeting will be held on February 12, 2025, at 10:00 hours Antigua Time on Barbuda. Bidders are to meet at the APUA Business office. APUA will provide transportation to the project locations, returning to the APUA Business Office at the completion of the tour.
6. There will be a pre-bid meeting on February 13, 2025, at 10:00 hours Antigua time via Zoom. This will include a workshop to clarify bidder questions and submission requirements.
7. A Bid Securing Declaration is required.
8. The successful bidders must pay attention to and provide the ESMP prior to commencement of the contract, as defined in Section 6 of this document.
9. Please confirm whether or not you will submit a quotation by email to: sroach@apua.ag quoting the reference by February 13, 2025.

The American goods that could rise in price from metal tariffs

A new 25% tax is set to be imposed on imports of steel and aluminum into the US from countries including Canada, Mexico, Brazil, as well as the European Union.

The new tariff measures announced by President Donald Trump will mean US businesses wanting to bring the metals in to the country will have to pay more.

But there is a risk that the companies will pass on the added costs, or some portion of it, to consumers.

Since steel and aluminum are key components in many goods, what items could get more expensive?

About 70% of the steel used in the US to make cans for food is imported today, coming in from countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, according to the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI), a business



steel used to make cans in the US.

Since then, steel manufacturers have cut production further, pushing up prices, warned the CMI, which sent a letter to the Trump administration

can manufactures to import steel tariff free, grocery prices for canned foods made in the US are likely to rise.

“While the president may believe that these tariffs are protecting the steel industry, they certainly are undermining our food security and our supply resiliency for American canned food, which Americans rely on every day,” Mr Budway said.

When it comes to aluminum, brewers and makers of fizzy drinks, such as Coca-Cola, have also warned the move will add costs and could lead to higher prices for customers.

“We control enough variables that we can adapt and mitigate our way through what is happening,” Coca-Cola chief executive James Quincey told investors this week.



group representing can-makers.

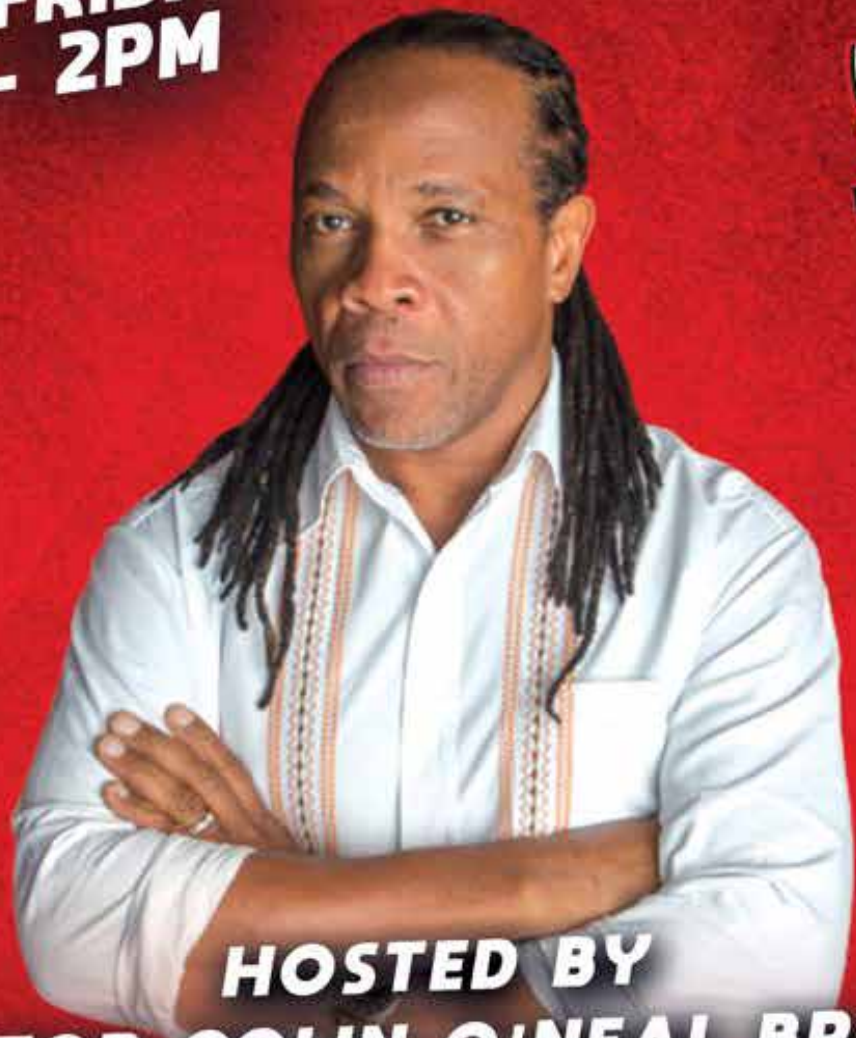
After Trump ordered tariffs on steel in 2018, many can-makers won “exclusions” from those import taxes, over the objections of steelmakers, given the limited production of the type of

earlier this month signed by big food companies including General Mills, Del Monte and Goya.

Robert Budway, president of the CMI, said without exemptions for

Trump has said there will be no exemptions from the rules this time either for individual products or for particular countries, however some sectors are hoping he will row back from that position.

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UK and US refuse to sign international AI declaration



The UK and US have not signed an international agreement on artificial intelligence (AI) at a global summit in Paris.

The statement, signed by dozens of countries including France, China and India, pledges an “open”, “inclusive” and “ethical” approach to the technology’s development.

In a brief statement, the UK government said it had not been able to add its name to it because of concerns about national security and “global governance.”

Earlier, US Vice President JD Vance told delegates in Paris that too much regula-

tion of artificial intelligence (AI) could “kill a transformative industry just as it’s taking off”.

Vance told world leaders that AI was “an opportunity that the Trump administration will not squander” and said “pro-growth AI policies” should be prioritised over safety.

His comments appear to put him at odds with French President Emmanuel Macron, who defended the need for further regulation.

“We need these rules for AI to move forward,” Macron said at the summit.

The UK has previously been a champion of the

idea of AI safety, with then prime minister Rishi Sunak holding the world’s first AI Safety Summit in November 2023.

Andrew Dudfield, head of AI at fact-checking organisation Full Fact, said the government’s decision not to sign the Paris communique put that in jeopardy.

“By refusing to sign today’s international AI Action Statement the UK Government risks undercutting its hard-won credibility as a world leader for safe, ethical and trustworthy AI innovation,” he said.

However UKAI - a trade body representing business-

es working in the sector across the country - said it was the right decision.

“While UKAI agrees that being environmentally responsible is important, we question how to balance this responsibility with the growing needs of the AI industry for more energy,” said its chief executive Tim Flagg.

“UKAI cautiously welcomes the Government’s refusal to sign this statement as an indication that it will explore the more pragmatic solutions that UKAI has been calling for - retaining opportunities to work closely with our US partners”, he added.

Ojays win again in ABBA's Division 2 league



The Cutie's Ovals Ojays continued their successful start to their campaign in the Second Division of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Monday evening.

The Ovals Ojays 2 made it three wins in as many games with an 84-38 drubbing of the EZ Fit Fly-

ers 2 in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tequan Brodie shot a game-high 27 points and claimed seven rebounds, Tajahron Davis produced 17 points and six rebounds, and Raheem Sawyer had 13 points and seven rebounds for the Ovals Ojays 2.

Harry Rashaun converted 11 points and grabbed nine rebounds, and Piper Hansel scored eight points and claimed 10 rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers 2.

It was the first defeat in two matches for the EZ Fit Flyers, who soared past Da Project 2 with a comfortable 74-45 victory

in their opening game.

But Monday's opening game between Spanish Heat 2 and Cristos United was not completed. The game was stopped at halftime due to technical difficulties encountered by the table officials with their live online statistics platform.

Cristos United was holding a slender 32-27 lead over Spanish Heat 2 at the time when the game was halted. Neville Chambers was leading Cristos United with 11 points and five rebounds, while Jesus Emmanuel had 13 points and 10 rebounds for Spanish Heat 2.

According to the general secretary of ABBA,

Carlena Humphreys, the match will resume at a later date so that the second half of the game can be completed.

Spanish Heat 2 won their opening game by pulling off a 96-82 victory against the Navigators on February 4, but Monday's game was the first outing for Cristos United.

The ABBA Second Division will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening (today).

Cristos United will face the EZ Fit Flyers 2 in the first encounter at 6:45 pm, and Spanish Heat 2 will take on Da Project 2 at 8:30 pm.

More success for Sir McChesney George in school basketball



The Sir McChesney George Secondary team that is contesting the junior boys division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League. (Photo courtesy of the school basketball league)

The Sir McChesney George Secondary on the sister isle of Barbuda was

once again among the winners in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Bas-

ketball League on Monday.

After launching their campaign in the Junior Boys Division with an impressive 42-27 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School, Sir McChesney George Secondary claimed their second win with an impressive 43-35 victory against St. Joseph's Academy at the JSC Sports Complex.

Eli Harris shot a game-high 19 points for the Sir McChesney George Secondary School.

But Princess Margaret School had mixed fortunes in the Inter-School Basketball League on Monday.

Elijah Charles produced

a game-high 23 points as Princess Margaret School notched up a 33-12 victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the Mini-boys Secondary Division.

However, Clare Hall Secondary romped to an emphatic 63-42 victory against Princess Margaret School in the Senior Boys Division.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 36 points, and Orion Seraphine converted 18 points for Clare Hall Secondary.

Tyrese White sank 15 points, and Gabriel De Souza scored 12 points for Princess Margaret School.

Softball teams compete in ABSCA's warm up matches

Several teams were involved in the Antigua Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Rudy Mathew 10 Overs Warm Ups at the Potters playing field on Sunday.

Buckley's 3Js defeated Potters by 10 wickets in a match reduced to seven overs per team. Potters were restricted to 87 for five off their seven overs.

Denley Thomas scored 12, and player of the match Makada Samuel captured two for 25.

Samuel guided Buckley's 3Js to victory at 90 without losing a wicket. Samuel hit 34 not out, including four sixes and two fours. Steve Martin was also not out on 13.

Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors/Dredgers prevailed by four wickets against the Jennings Rockets. The Jennings Rockets made 77



Makada Samuel for four off their 10 overs. Hesikiah Weston struck 23, including three sixes.

Co-player of the game Gurshan Millington took two wickets for seven runs, Sacha Michael claimed two wickets for eight runs, and Cerie Richards picked up a wicket for two runs.

In reply, Survivors achieved victory at 79 for six in nine overs. Co-player of the game Kimberly Anthony scored 14, while Hesikiah Weston bagged two wickets for two runs, and Patara Francis captured two for 15.

But the other scheduled encounter was not played. The Mix Up Stars failed to show up for their encounter and forfeited to the Police.

The warm-up matches, which involve both male and female players, are being used to help prepare the teams and players for the 2025 domestic softball season.



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Success for HCABSCE in school volleyball league

The Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE) continues to reap success in the Ministry of Sports JOMA Caribbean Inter-School Volleyball League.

The HCABSCE pulled off a 2-0 victory against Ototos Comprehensive School in the male division at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday. The HCABSCE prevailed 25-14, 29-27 for the victory.

It was the second win in as many games for the Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education in the male division.

The HCABSCE launched their campaign with an impressive 2-0 victory against defending male division champions Islands Academy on Friday. HCABSCE prevails 25-20, 25-15 over Islands Academy.

The first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-1) lost for the first time in the female division, losing 2-1 against the second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-2) on Monday. AGHS-2 pulled off a 25-15, 22-25, 15-9 victory against AGHS-1, which had won their previous two matches.

Defending champions Islands Academy prevailed 2-0 against Clare Hall Secondary 25-21, 25-17 in the female division on Friday.

In other results, the first team of the Antigua Girls High School beat the Sir Novelle Richards Academy 25-15, 25-7 in the female division.

The Antigua Grammar School defeated the Sir Novelle Richards Academy 25-19, 25-17 in the male division.



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Sports

WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2025



Jennings United go joint-top of First Division League



Jennings United have moved in to joint first place with the Ottos Rangers at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

Jennings United moved up the standings by recording their eighth win in 12 matches after coming from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against Police at the Jennings playing field on Monday.

All the goals were scored in the first half in which Terrel Richards put Police ahead with a conversion in the 15th minute. Jennings United equalized three minutes later via a conversion by Steven Roberts.

Shaquille Watkins scored in the 27th minute to snatch victory for Jennings United, who will advance from joint fourth place with Swetes and SAP FC to move into joint first place with leaders Ottos Rangers.

Jennings United advanced to 27 points, the same as the Ottos Rangers, who have a game in hand.

Police will remain third from the bottom of the standings on six points after suffering their 10th defeat in 12 encounters.

The latest result means that the Freeman's Village Scorpions and Empire FC drop from joint second to joint third place with 26 points each from 13 matches.

Swetes FC and SAP FC are now in joint-fifth place with 24 points from 12 matches.

Meanwhile, Lion Hill FC recorded their second win in 12 matches with a 7-0 drubbing of the bottom team, the Liberta Blackhawks, at the Freeman's Village playing field on Monday.

Three of the goals came from penalty kicks, and She-marah Andrew and Marcus Marquis both scored twice. Andrew opened the scoring with a fifth-minute conversion and scored his second by converting a penalty kick in the 61st minute.

Marquis converted a penalty kick in the 28th minute and scored his second goal in the 54th minute. Ky-Mani Francis scored an own goal in the 15th minute, and Lion Hill led 3-0 at halftime.

Mekhi Nathan also converted a penalty kick in the 57th minute, and Jaquan Joseph scored the seventh and final goal for Lion Hill in the 74th minute.

Algernon Hodge failed to convert a penalty kick in the 63rd minute for the Liberta Blackhawks, who will remain in the cellar on three points after suffering their 12th defeat in 13 matches.

Lion Hill will also remain fourth from the bottom of the standings by advancing to 10 points from 12 encounters.