

Broad support for Cultural Heritage (Protection) Bill, 2025

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (brown jacket, standing) and Governor General Sir Rodney Williams (seated, grey suit) aboard the new Coast Guard vessel SWORDFISH at its commissioning on Tuesday

Broad support for Cultural Heritage (Protection) Bill, 2025

There was broad support in the house of Representatives on Tuesday as the members debated the Cultural Heritage (Protection) Bill, 2025, with members on both sides giving their full support for the measure.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, who has portfolio responsibility for the National Park Authority, the lead agency that will oversee the implementation of the Bill, reported that a select committee of the House had met to go through its provisions before it was tabled in parliament. According to Minister Greene, except for the National Park area in English Harbour, there are no historical sites in the country that have legal protection backed by legislation. He emphasized that under the waters of the nation's coastline there are hundreds of shipwrecks and on land, scores of historical and pre-historical sites. "It is known that around our waters, there are an estimated 250 shipwrecks. These by themselves will create, can create employment, can add to our tourism product and certainly, the research component which we encourage through UWI FIC amongst our young people, will also be areas of benefit as we proceed on this path. It is also instructive to note



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene

that we have over 56 forts, over 100 pre-historic sites, some dating back over 3,000 B.C. Over 200 sugar cane estates, churches and architectural buildings," he revealed.

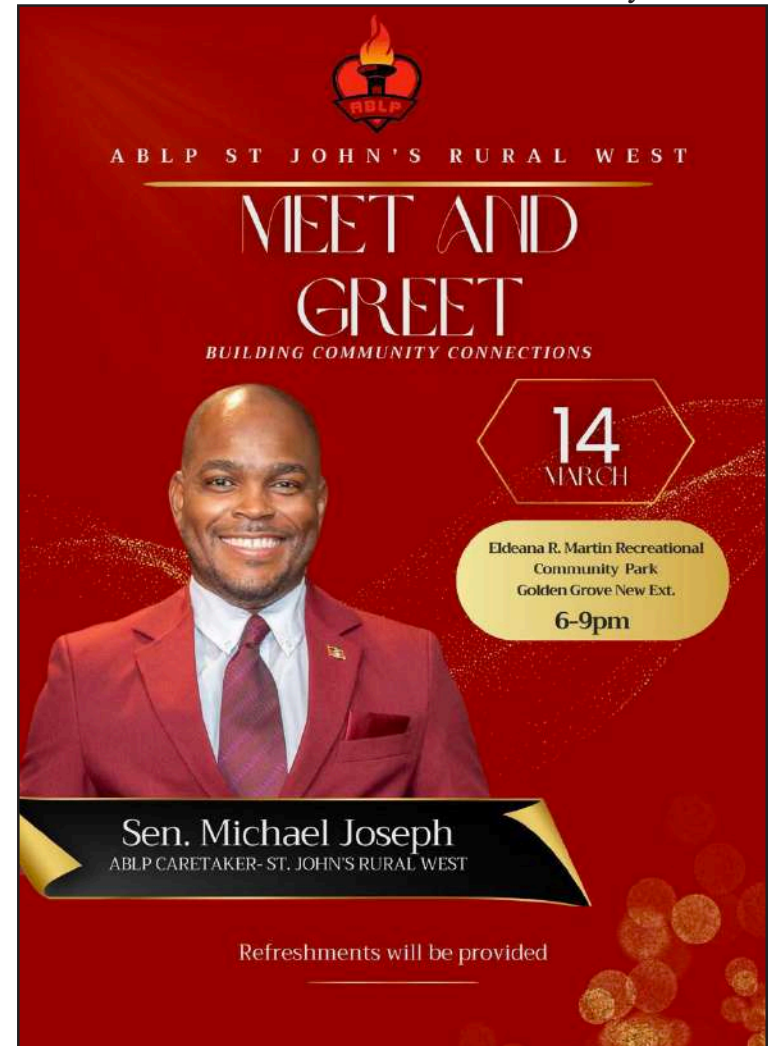
He explained that the preservation of these sites is the chief reason why the government introduced the Bill at this time.

Culture Minister, Daryll Matthew, joined in supporting the bill and explained that as Culture Minister his area of concern included mainly the performing arts, but that the Bill was rightly placed under the purview of the NPA, which falls under Minister Greene's portfolio.

"There is no confusion here and in fact, because of the fantastic work that the NPA has been doing, it is the appropriate place to vest the authority of over-

seeing the adherence of the legislation," he added.

Support also came from Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister Melford Nicholas and Sir Steadroy Benjamin on the government side as well as Barbuda Representative, Trevor Walker and the Member for St. John's Rural West Richard Lewis on the opposition beach were among members supporting the Bill. All parliamentarians spoke of the timeliness of the Bill and especially the need to closely monitor the trade in rare artifacts as quite often visitors come to the country with this intention and secretly take things out of the country.



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Sen. Michael Joseph
ABLP CARETAKER- ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST

Refreshments will be provided

House of Rep. approves measure for hearing remand cases virtually

The House of Representatives has paved the way for magistrates to conduct virtually hearing for persons in prison on remand.

Mover of the Bill, Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, explained that the current law provides for those persons on remand must appear before the court every eight days to have their matters reviewed.

However, he noted that there may be times when it is difficult to have the prisoners taken to the court due to a number of factors.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Speaker, the magistrate was able to do the remands virtually. It worked very well then. We want to make it now a matter of law; so that the magistrate now can, based on the law, do the remands as the law requires, virtually. This is a move in the right direction,” he observed.

Sir Steadroy told his fellow parliamentarians that already this system is in operation in the magistracy in other OECS territories, which share a common judicial system, as well as in the OECS Supreme Court system.

“Therefore, it is only a natural consequence that this accommodation is made for the magistrate to now hear remand cases virtually,” he stated.

The Explanatory Memorandum attached to the Bill explained that the measure modernizes remand pro-



Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

cedures by allowing magistrates to conduct remand hearings on a virtual platform when necessary or desirable.

Sir Steadroy said the measure provides for the effec-

tive functioning of the court as he urged the House’s approval.

In offering support for the measure, MP for St. John’s Rural West, Richard Lewis, noted that the amendments

were necessary given the realities of the world today.

“There have been many lessons learnt from COVID 19, and one of those lessons is that life can exist in the virtual space, and, there is no going back to what we consider to be ‘normal life’. So life today has become a hybrid between the physical presence and the virtual world. Technology, over the years, has allowed us to bridge that physical gap and allowed us to minimize logistical challenge, and possibly minimize costs,” he remarked.

Therefore, he added, the nation’s laws must be amended to reflect these new realities.

The Bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration before heading for the Office of the Governor General to be signed into law.



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AG wants parliamentarians to act 'responsibly'



Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, has chided his fellow parliamentarians for their tardiness for repeatedly showing up late for sittings of the House of Representatives.

Sir Steadroy did not single out whether the guilty parties sat on the government or opposition bench, but spoke generally, noting that as parliamentarians they all have a duty to attend the parliamentary sitting, but to also be on time.

“I am asking our parliamentarians to be responsible; you represent people. Attendance on time is very essential, so please in the future, kindly address your businesses in such a way that you can attend the session on time. The people who voted for you will see that you are conducting the business on their behalf,” he advised.

Late arrivals of members of the House have in the past delayed

the start of the sessions as there needs to be a quorum of eight

members before the meeting can begin.



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Members of the Assessment Board to Review Compensation for the Cancer Centre Acquisition take office



Photos: (L-R) Justice Nicola P Byer and Sir Rodney Williams

The Assessment Board appointed under the Land Acquisition Act, Chapter 233 was officially sworn in to oversee the valuation and compensation process regarding the Government's compulsory acquisition of the Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean.

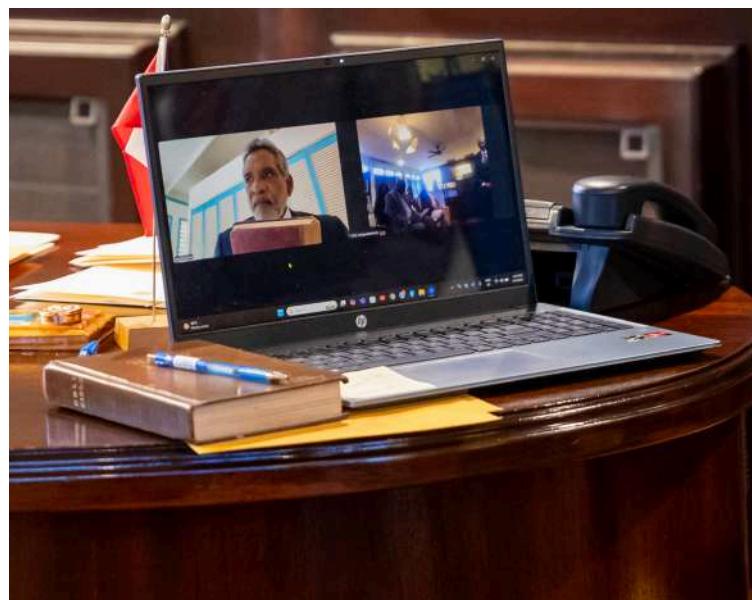
The swearing-in ceremony was presided over by the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, at Government House on Tuesday. The Board is chaired by Justice Nicola P. Byer, with former Chief Surveyor for the Government, Vernon Bird, serving as the Government-appointed member. James Bristol KC, a distinguished attorney-at-law from Grenada, was sworn in virtually as the nominee representing the property's majority owner.

The Board has been constituted in accordance with Section 12 of the Land Acquisition Act, which mandates the appointment of a three-member panel to determine fair compensa-

tion when there is a dispute regarding the valuation of land acquired for public use. This follows the Government's compulsory acquisition of the Cancer Centre, a move aimed at facilitating its reopening to address urgent national and regional healthcare needs.

In his remarks, the Governor General underscored the critical role of the Board in ensuring that the assessment process is transparent, fair, and guided by legal and valuation principles. He noted that the resolution of this matter will not only impact the future of healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda but will also reinforce the integrity of the land acquisition process.

The Government has invoked Section 3 of the Act, citing the Cancer Centre's reopening as a matter of public interest, given the increasing demand for cancer treatment services across the Eastern Caribbean. The Board will now proceed with its independent review



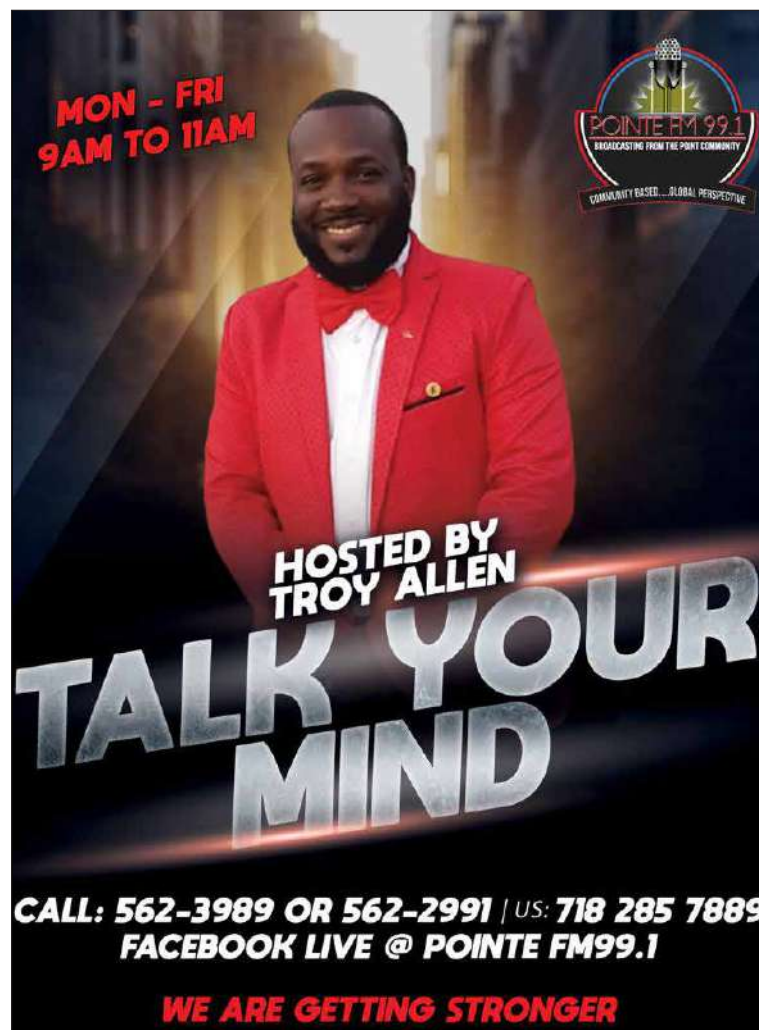
James Bristo

to determine appropriate compensation in keeping with the rules outlined in Section 19 of the Act.

The Assessment Board is

Vernon Bird

expected to begin its deliberations as soon as possible, with all parties committed to an expedient and just resolution.



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 COMMUNITY BASED...GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

New vessel to enhance Coast Guard's capabilities



The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) Coast Guard commissioned its latest asset, the 38-foot interceptor CG 11-1 **SWORDFISH**, on Tuesday.

Chief of Defence, Brigadier Telbert Benjamin, stated that this addition to the Coast Guard's fleet serves to strengthen maritime security and the Coast Guard's ability to patrol the nation's 110,000 square kilometres of waters.

According to the Chief of Defence Staff the **SWORDFISH** will expand the unit's capabilities in combating narcotics trafficking and illegal fishing and even smuggling.

The men and women of the Coast Guard have expressed confidence in the vessel's operational impact. The **SWORDFISH** underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding national waters and enhancing maritime safety.





One deserving female student has an opportunity to study in Jersey, Channel Islands

The Jersey College Foundation (JCG Foundation), in collaboration with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education and the Department of Youth Affairs, has announced the second Leadership and Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme (LEAP) scholarship for Antigua and Barbuda. The scholarship will allow one deserving Antiguan and Barbudan female student to attend the LEAP 2025 Summer leadership programme on the island of Jersey in the Channel Islands.

In 2024, the scholarship recipient, Ms Jo-Anna Gasper, was accompanied to Jersey by the Deputy Director of Education Dr E. Jonah Greene. High Commissioner, Karen-Mae Hill who developed this partnership with the JCG Foundation, delivered the keynote speech on the opening day of the programme and will do so again in 2025.

The first scholarship winner, Jo-Anna Gasper, shared her experience: "Attending the LEAP Programme in Jersey was a transformative experience that expanded my perspective on business and personal growth. I was able to enhance my leadership skills, which I have since applied to my business. Working with other teens from all over the world and networking with entrepreneurs taught me how to market my brand,

identify my target audience, and share my country's unique culture. My time in Jersey gave me the confidence to push forward with

very much look forward to welcoming [Dr Greene] to Jersey and LEAP. It is also our great pleasure to have High Commissioner Hill as

managing directors and other experts. In addition, the scholar will form international friendships and connections. The funding available will also cover a teacher to accompany the recipient and participate in the programme.

Application instructions

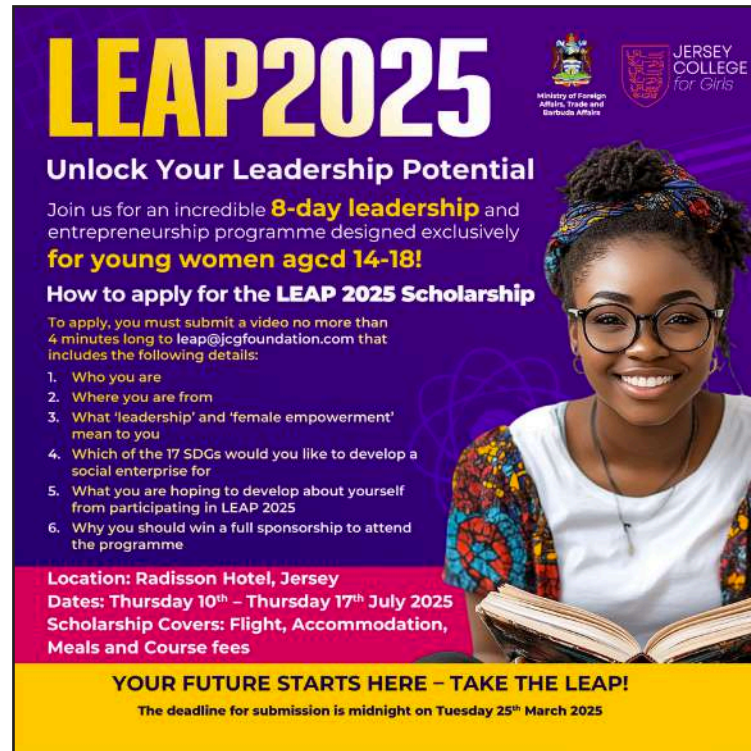
To apply, you must submit a video to leap@jcgfoundation.com that includes the following details:

1. Who you are
2. Where you are from
3. What 'leadership' and 'female empowerment' means to you
4. Which of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would you like to develop a social enterprise for
5. What you are hoping to develop about yourself from participating in LEAP 2025
6. Why you should win a full scholarship sponsorship to attend the programme

Videos should be no more than 4 minutes long and should illustrate your unique self.

Programme Details

- Location: Radisson Hotel, Jersey, Channel Islands
 - Dates: Thursday 10th - Thursday 17th July 2025
 - Participants: Age 14-18 (Girls only)
 - Scholarship covers flights, course fees, food and accommodation
 - Submission Deadline: 25th March 2025.
- The deadline for the application is midnight on Tuesday 25th March 2025.



LEAP2025

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Sustainable Development

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How to apply for the LEAP 2025 Scholarship

To apply, you must submit a video no more than 4 minutes long to leap@jcgfoundation.com that includes the following details:

1. Who you are
2. Where you are from
3. What 'leadership' and 'female empowerment' mean to you
4. Which of the 17 SDGs would you like to develop a social enterprise for
5. What you are hoping to develop about yourself from participating in LEAP 2025
6. Why you should win a full sponsorship to attend the programme

Location: Radisson Hotel, Jersey
Dates: Thursday 10th - Thursday 17th July 2025
Scholarship Covers: Flight, Accommodation, Meals and Course fees

YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE - TAKE THE LEAP!
 The deadline for submission is midnight on Tuesday 25th March 2025

my goals, knowing that success is built on knowledge, resilience, and community."

Alison Morgan, the CEO of the JCG Foundation, the charity which runs LEAP, stressed, "At the Jersey College for Girls Foundation, we believe in the power of young women to shape a better future. Our LEAP programme isn't just about business; it's about building confident, resilient leaders who can tackle the world's most pressing challenges. We're equipping girls with the confidence, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills they need to make a real difference. We

one of our key note speakers at LEAP Jersey for a second year."

The LEAP Scholarship, which covers flights, accommodation, food, course fees and attendance of the LEAP programme, is open to any female Antiguan and Barbudan student age 14 to 18.

The student will work with delegates from all over the world on designing, scoping and then pitching a social enterprise project to a team of investors. The scholarship recipient will receive training on business development, social impact, entrepreneurship, and leadership from CEOs,



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Local News

The National Literacy Festival takes place this week



The Ministry of Education will host the National Literacy Festival, from March 6th and 7th in secondary and primary schools across Antigua and Barbuda.

This year's theme, "Promoting Responsible Expression: Literacy for Integrity, Empathy, and Respect," underscores the vital role of literacy in shaping individuals who can contribute positively to society and advance the ideals of equity, inclusivity and

accessibility as expressed in the Ministry of Education's Sector Plan.

The festival, aimed at engaging students, teachers, parents, and the wider community, will feature a range of activities, including storytelling, drama, essay competitions, poetry readings, spoken word presentations, and panel discussions at the schools.

Education Officer responsible for Language Arts at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Desryn Collins, under-

scores the importance of the festival in highlighting the role literacy plays in academic success, overall personal wellbeing, national development, and social harmony.

The Ministry of Education urges all citizens to participate actively. For more information on festival activities, contact the Ministry of Education or the school you would like to support.

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LIAT (2020) Soars Global with Groundbreaking GDS Partnership



In a major leap forward for Caribbean air travel, LIAT (2020) has joined forces with industry powerhouse Hahnair, adding to its leading partner portfolio of over 350 partner airlines worldwide. This strategic partnership places LIAT20's flights at travel consultants' fingertips across 190 markets through the X1 code integration in major Global Distribution Systems (GDSs).


The partnership marks a significant milestone in LIAT's rapid expansion since its August 2024 launch. LIAT (2020) 5L operates under the brands LIAT20 and LIAT, embodying the legacy and future of Caribbean aviation from its base in Antigua and Barbuda. From its maiden flight to Castries, Saint Lucia, LIAT20 has swiftly established itself as a vital link in Caribbean aviation, now serving 13 destinations through an impressive network of 25 routes. Operating from its main hub at Antigua's V.C. Bird International Airport (ANU), LIAT (2020) has become instrumental in weaving the Caribbean's islands closer together.

This integration with Hahnair Technologies revolutionizes booking ac-



cessibility, enabling travel consultants worldwide to seamlessly book and issue LIAT20 flights through their preferred GDS platforms, with tickets issued on HR-169.

The move represents a significant step in LIAT20's mission to enhance Caribbean connectivity and streamline travel experiences.

For comprehensive details about LIAT (2020) and Hahnair's extensive partner network, visit the Partner Carriers section of our website.



Did you know?

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE

DOWN SYNDROME TYPE

Mosaicism

Happens when some cells have three copies of chromosome 21, while others have the usual two copies.

It is the least common type, affecting about 2% of people with Down syndrome.

Because not all cells are affected, individuals may have milder intellectual disabilities and less noticeable physical features compared to other types of Down syndrome.

Support
AWARENESS
 Down Syndrome

**ANTIGUA
CARNIVAL 2025**

**SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS**

PRE-EVENTS

**THURS
FEB 27**

CARNIVAL LAUNCH

**SUN
JULY 13**

AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S KIDDIES FETE
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS
JULY 17**

CALYPSO MONARCH SEMI-FINALS
CARNIVAL CITY

**FRI
JULY 18**

PARTY MONARCH SEMI-FINALS
CARNIVAL CITY

**SAT
JULY 19**

WITNESS YA FITNESS
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

MR AND MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT
CARNIVAL CITY

**SUN
JULY 20**

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
CARNIVAL CITY

**MON
JULY 21**

INVASION BAND CLASH
CARNIVAL CITY

**TUES
JULY 22**

JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY

**WED
JULY 23**

JUNIOR PARTY MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY

**FRI
JULY 25**

FACE OFF
CARNIVAL CITY

**SAT
JULY 26**

T-SHIRT MAS
ST. JOHN'S

**SUN
JULY 27**

GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE
COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND
JUNIOR CARNIVAL COMPETITIONS
PARADE, PRINCE AND PRINCESS
ST. JOHN'S/CARNIVAL CITY

**MON
JULY 28**

JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW
CARNIVAL CITY

**TUES
JULY 29**

**KARI SOCA INTERNATIONAL
SOCA MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY

**WED
JULY 30**

**BURNING FLAMES 40TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS
JULY 31**

DRINK TILL YA WEAK
BOAT CRUISE

MELTING POT
CARNIVAL CITY

WATCH NIGHT
ARG / BOTANICAL GARDENS

**FRI
AUG 1**

CALYPSO MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY

**SAT
AUG 2**

RISE
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS CRICKET STADIUM
CARNIVAL DREAMZ
HODGES BAY
PANORAMA
CARNIVAL CITY

**SUN
AUG 3**

D BREAKFAST FETE
SPLASH ANTIGUA
PARTY MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY

**MON
AUG 4**

J'OUVERT
ST. JOHN'S
MONDAY MAS PARADE
ST. JOHN'S

**TUES
AUG 5**

PARADE OF BANDS
CARNIVAL CITY
LAST LAP
ST. JOHN'S

**OFFICIAL
CARNIVAL EVENTS**



H2A ViBe

Greek non-resident ambassador wants to strengthen ties

Greece's newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Theodore N. Tsakiris, wants to see stronger ties between his country and Antigua and Barbuda, noting that among other things, Greece is a member of the European Union and that this may be of some benefit.

Ambassador Tsakiris made the observation on Tuesday when he presented his credentials to Governor General Sir Rodney Williams at Government House.

He acknowledged that June this year will mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between both countries. "Our countries have strong maritime ties and a commitment to international cooperation. Greece seeks to strengthen partnerships with Antigua and Barbuda as well as with the other members of CARICOM in education, tourism, climate resilience and food security," he stated.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney highlighted the strong collaboration between Antigua and Barbuda and Greece in multilateral settings such as the United Nations, particularly on climate change, human rights, international peace, and matters related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Governor General also recognized Greece's global leadership in addressing environmental challenges, an area of mutual



interest for both countries as Antigua and Barbuda continues to prioritize climate resilience and sustainable development.

Additionally, opportunities for economic and trade cooperation were underscored, including:

- **Tourism development:** *Greece's renowned expertise in tourism could serve as a foundation for enhanced partnerships in destination management, investment, and sustainable tourism practices.*
- **Maritime and shipping industries:** *With Greece's prominent role in global shipping and Antigua and Barbuda's strategic geographic location within the Caribbean, both nations could explore trade facilitation, port services, and shipping sector collaborations.*
- Cultural and educational

exchanges: Strengthening cultural diplomacy through events and partnerships, as well as fostering higher education collaborations in fields such as diplomacy, maritime studies, and hospitality management.

Ambassador Tsakiris expressed his enthusiasm for expanding bilateral cooperation and assured that Greece remains committed to furthering ties with Antigua and Barbuda in meaningful ways.

As the newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic (Greece) to Antigua and Barbuda, Ambassador Tsakiris will work closely with local authorities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and cultural engagements.

The ceremony concluded with expressions of mutual goodwill and a shared vision for enhancing Antigua and Barbuda-Greece relations in the years ahead.

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



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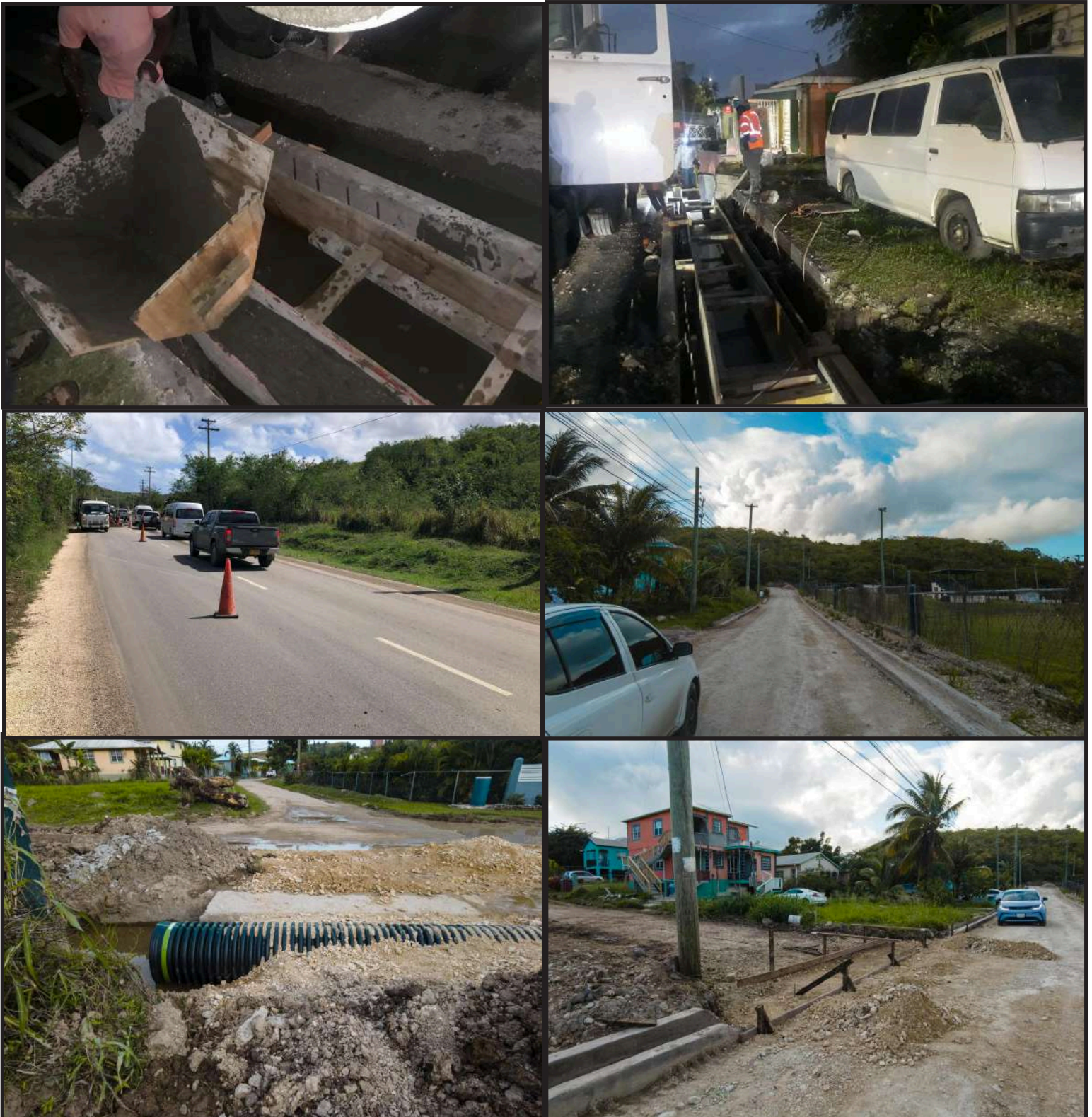
Photo Story

Road works continue across the country

Sidewalk rehabilitation continued on Valley Road last night in front of Golden Grove Primary School. Single-lane traffic was implemented in the vicinity of the works to facilitate residents travelling in the area.

APUA's Water Business Unit has also embarked on works on Valley Road, prompting the Project Implementation Management Unit within the Ministry of Works to issue a single-lane traffic advisory to motorists traveling north and south of Big Creek Bridge.

Meanwhile, the Public Works Department team has started base and preparation works in Follies within the John Hughes community which will lay the foundation for improved road conditions and ensure safer and smoother travel.



**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

DR: Over 1.2 million pounds of cocaine seized, two arrested

The National Directorate of Drug Control (DNCD) announced a major drug interdiction on Tuesday, reporting the seizure of 548 packages of cocaine through a joint operation with the Navy (ARD) and Air Force (FARD) along the coasts of Pedernales province.

Forensic analysis by the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) confirmed the total weight of the seized cocaine at 564,665 kilograms or 1,245,175 lbs.

Two Dominican Republic nationals have been arrested and are currently in custody, having been caught aboard a speedboat south of Beata Island with the drug packages. (*Loop Caribbean*)



Emmalin Pierre officially appointed Grenada's opposition leader

Emmalin Pierre officially appointed Grenada's opposition leader succeeding Keith Mitchell.

Dr Keith Mitchell took on the role of Opposition Leader after the 2022 election and has now transitioned out of that position.

The New National Party's (NNP) was defeated in the June 2022 general election, where the party lost to Dickon Mitchell's National Democratic Congress (NDC) with a 9-6 margin.

Pierre received her instrument of appointment in a ceremony, which she briefly described on Facebook. "MY APOLOGIES to my family, close friends and supporters. I was presented this morning with my



instrument of appointment as Leader of his Majesty's

Opposition. Since I had no prior notice, I was unable to notify or invite you to the ceremony. Thank you sister Kate and sister Clarice who were there and shared the moment with me," she wrote.

This appointment marks a significant moment in Grenadian political history, as Pierre becomes only the second female Leader of the Opposition in the country's House of Representatives.

Both women who have held this position have represented the St Andrew South East constituency. The first was Winifred Strachan, who served in this role between 1991 and 1995. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Machel Montano is the GOAT PAGE 19

Congratulations are in order to Machel Montano on winning the Chutney Soca Monarch 2025. You, sir, won that title as soon as you entered it. And if he didn't enter it, he would've still won because the man is a boss; he is legendary—the greatest of all time.

As usual, not a single chutney song is on the airwaves—only rum, beating the wife, Indian wedding, river and rip-offs of old Bollywood music.

Even Kes sang a better rendition of “Jep Sting Naina” at Kuchela in Couva, at that majority East Indian fete. Chutney music was scarce, because it was all rubbish, the same “pungalunks” beat and the knocking the glass bottle in the background over and over again.

On the other hand, soca by all Afro-Trinbagonian and other artistes was amazing, real original, quality music. This year, 2025 has some incredible songs from GBM Nutron, Mical Teja, Blaka Dan, Nailah Blackman and Bunji Garlin, who always comes good.

I can't remember a time we had such a great season of music since 2014 when Machel had his Monk Monte event, and an album of partnerships with Major Lazer, Sean Paul and Nicki Minaj, to name a few.

Chutney music is dead and East Indian producers killed it. The likes of Ravi B, Kavita Ramkissoon, Dil-e-Nadan and the rest of the lame chutney producers need to reinvent themselves, because chutney music is

now noise pollution.

Big up to Joshua Regrello. He has made the pan touch every creed and race. Keep the positivity flowing, bro—we love it.

I thank Machel Montano once more for his kind donation to Queen's Royal College. He didn't have to, in spite of the neglect by the school authorities and the People's National Movement Government, but we, the Q-munity, really appreciate it from the bottom of our hearts.

I don't think anybody could argue otherwise. Machel Montano has cemented himself as the official GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) in Carnival history, and build that man a statue. *(Trinidad Express)*



DAILY PROGRAMMING




EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA

THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

Regional News

Jamaica concerned over US visa policy targeting Cuban medical missions

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, says the Government is concerned about the United States' recent visa restriction policy targeting officials from countries that engage Cuban healthcare workers and is seeking clarification on the matter.

"Jamaica has had quite a long history of participation in the Cuban medical co-operation programme, and in fact, that is replicated throughout the Caribbean, so the statement has been received with some concern," Johnson Smith said.

Last week, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced an expansion of the US-Cuba visa restriction policy to include foreign government officials



and their families whose countries are involved in Cuba's overseas medical mission programme.

Rubio, who is Cuban American, described Cuba's overseas medical missions as an oppressive programme that enriches the Cuban government and

deprives ordinary Cubans of optimum healthcare.

Speaking at this morning's post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House, Johnson Smith said the Jamaican government, along with other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) members, has been seeking more

details from the US on the new policy.

"The Jamaican government is also examining the operation of our system. We have over 400 participants from the Cuban medical programme at different levels—doctors, nurses, biomedical engineers, and technicians—so their presence here is of importance to our healthcare system," she said.

The Minister also shared that a meeting is to be held shortly with CARICOM foreign affairs ministers, as they anticipate more information from US embassies across the region.

"At that time, we should be better able to navigate the potential impact and the way forward," she said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

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Deadline March 14th 2025

Sports News

More success for Clare Hall and State College in Senior Boys Division

Clare Hall Secondary and Antigua State College maintained their unbeaten run in the Senior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Ministry of Sports Inter-School Basketball League on Monday.

Clare Hall Secondary School won for the fourth time in as many games, pulling off a 65-45 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School in the latest round of matches at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 33 points, and Orion Seraphine sank 30 points for Clare Hall Secondary, while Yohan Nicholas converted 23 points for St. Mary's Secondary



Tajahron Davis, left, and Orion Seraphine led Clare Hall Secondary to victory against St. Mary's Secondary School in the Senior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Ministry of Sports Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, March 3, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the Inter-School Basketball League)

School.

The Antigua State College also notched up their fourth win in as many games in the Senior Boys Division, snatching a narrow 36-34 victory against Princess Margaret School.

Naeem Joseph scored 12 points for Antigua State College, while Tyrese White shot a game-high 16 points for Princess Margaret School.

But Princess Margaret School achieved success in the Miniboy's Secondary Division, pulling off a 23-17 victory against Clare Hall Secondary.

Elijah Charles converted 16 points for Princess

Ojays extend unbeaten run 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 six wins in as many games with a 66-33 drubbing of Michael Joseph Phoenix in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 31 points, and Raheem Sawyer had 12 points and six steals for the Ovals Ojays 2.

Shalom Bloodman



scored 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and Daysher Samuel produced 11 points and nine rebounds for Michael Joseph Phoenix, who suffered

their fifth loss in six games.

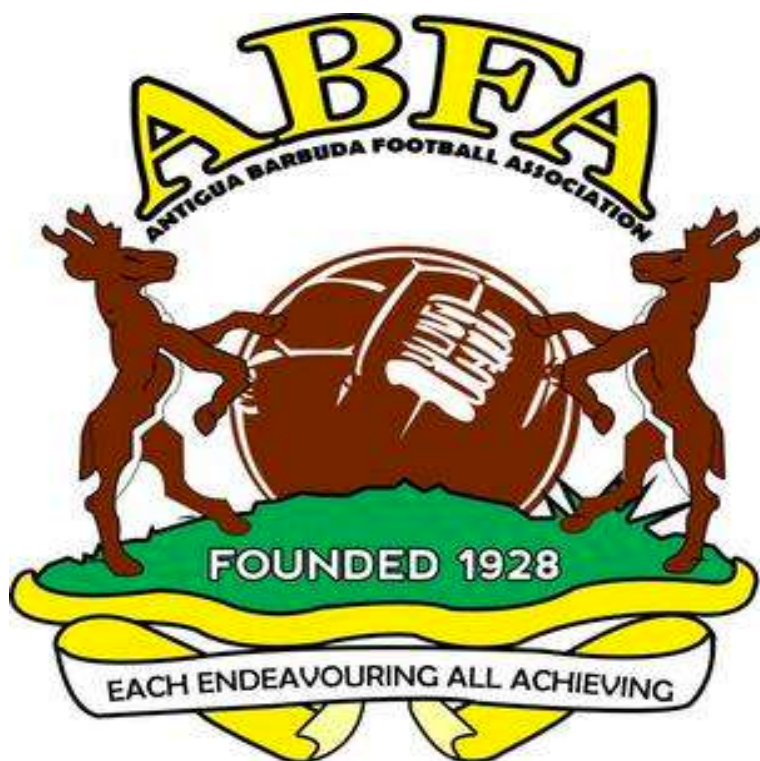
Success as well for the EZ Fit Flyers 2, who notched up their fourth win in seven encounters by snatching a 76-68 victory

against Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the second game of Monday's double-header.

Amare Browne scored 27 points; Piper Hansel produced 14 points, 10 rebounds, and five assists; and Harry Rashaun converted 14 points and claimed six rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers.

Takeem Martin shot a game-high 29 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; Joel Christian sank 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and Rafiki Harris contributed nine points, seven rebounds, seven assists, and five steals for the Fearless Crew, who lost for the third time in seven games.

Guydadli FC among winners in Second Division League



Guydadli FC was among the winners in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Monday.

Guydadli FC consolidated their position in sixth place, recording their ninth win in 14 matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against the Young Lions of Old Road at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Michael Peters scored the only goal of the match in the 40th minute for Guydadli, who will advance to 27 points from 14 encounters.

ters.

The Young Lions will remain in ninth place on goal difference with 19 points after suffering their fifth loss in 14 matches.

West Ham beat the CPTSA Wings 2-0 at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, Royal Richards broke the deadlock and put West Ham ahead with a 60th-minute conversion, while Rahiem Andre added a second with a goal in the 85th minute.

West Ham FC will remain in 13th place by advancing to 13 points after achieving their

fourth win in 14 matches.

The CPTSA Wings remain in 10th place with 19 points after suffering their sixth loss in 15 matches.

Despite losing three players to red card offenses, Bethesda somehow managed to snatch a 3-2 victory against Glanvilles at the Glanvilles playing field.

Kurt Richards converted a penalty kick in the fifth minute, and Kyano Goodwin scored twice with goals in the 13th and 30th minutes to give Bethesda a three-nil lead.

Roshane Burton reduced the deficit for Glanvilles by scoring just before halftime with a conversion in the 41st minute. Then four players received red cards and were all expelled in the 54th minute.

Jameer Daniel was sent off along with Jawakie Joseph, O'Shale Simon, and Dessler Joseph of Bethesda. In the remaining time, Glanvilles managed to score a second goal, which was converted by Jayquanie Nanton in the 57th minute.

The result allows Bethesda to remain in 12th place by advancing to 17 points after securing their fifth win in 14 matches. Glanvilles will remain second from the bottom of the 17-team standings with five points after tumbling to their 12th defeat in 15 matches.

The Young Warriors beat Herberts 2-1 at the Buckley's playing field.

Andrew Wright struck both goals for the Young Warriors by scoring in the eighth minute and converting a penalty kick in the 81st minute. Ian Michael scored for Herberts FC with a 50th-minute conversion.

Herberts FC also finished the game with 10 men after Andon Hutson received a red card and was expelled in the 74th minute.

The Young Warriors jumped from 15th to 14th place by advancing to 10 points after recording their third win in 15 matches.

Herberts FC is yet to win a match and will remain firmly rooted in the cellar with four points after crashing to their 11th defeat in 15 matches.

Daniel revels in Leeward Islands historic Women's Super50 victory



Percy Daniel

The Leeward Islands head coach Percy Daniel was beaming with pride and emotion as he reflected on his team's historic triumph in the CG United Women's Super50 Cup.

Daniel's side registered their first-ever victory in the 50-over format of the tournament when they edged defending champions Jamaica by a single wicket in a dramatic run chase at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Monday.

Jamaica posted a formidable total of 253 for nine, but Leeward Islands responded in emphatic fashion to get to 257 for nine and claim a stunning victory.

It was a performance defined by grit, teamwork, and individual brilliance, with several players stepping up in crucial moments to etch their names into the history books.

For Daniel, the significance of the moment was overwhelming.

"Not only the first win, but the first win in a 50-over in this tournament. I'm more than elated. This is long overdue," he said while still processing the magnitude of the achievement.

Leeward Islands' win was built on outstanding all-round performances, particularly from Antiguan Kimberly Anthony, who took a sensational five 34 and contributed a vital 37 runs with the bat.

Captain Amanda Edwards, also of Antigua, led from the front with an unbeaten 88 after earlier taking two for 42, while Jahzara Claxton chipped in with two for 49 and a valuable 34.

Along with those stand-out performances, Daniel also singled out Antiguan Chey-Anne Moses for her small but crucial 11-run contribution, which he felt exemplified the team's determination.

"One of the staff has been constantly asking me



Players of the Leeward Islands women's team celebrate to play Moses because he felt like she had something to offer. And she did something in this game that is unusual but rewarding to the team. We are really grateful for that performance from Chey-Anne," he declared.

For Daniel, what stood out most was how his team executed the game plan.

"In our team meetings, we've always said that a top-order batter must carry the innings deep. That was exactly what Amanda did. We've been asking for one of our players to step up, and she did it for the first time in this tournament. We are grateful for that," Daniel noted.

With the game going down to the wire, the mental strength and composure shown by his players in pressure moments were just as impressive as their physical skills.

Daniel also heaped praise on Anthony, who not only dismantled Jamaica's batting lineup with the ball

but also played a crucial role with the bat in the chase.

"She decided that today (Monday) was going to be her day. She said it this morning, and I told her, 'All you need to do is prove to us that you can do what you've been promising over the years.' And she did just that," Daniel revealed.

"One thing I would say, though, is game awareness. She wasn't even aware that the fielder had come in from the long-on position. Had things gone differently, the outcome might have been different. But that's all part of the learning process, and we appreciate everything she did today. She said she was going to perform, and she did. We are grateful for that," he added.

The Leeward Islands will be hoping to add to their success when they challenge Barbados Women at St. Paul's Sports Complex in St. Kitts on Wednesday (today).

Shallow nominated to serve second term as CWI president

Cricket West Indies (CWI) confirmed on Tuesday that Dr. Kishore Shallow has been nominated unopposed as President of CWI to serve a second consecutive term. Vice President Azim Bassarath, has also been nominated unopposed.

The term will officially commence on March 29, 2025, at CWI's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Antigua, where the organization is headquartered.

This would mark the second successive election in which president Shallow would be elected unopposed, reflecting the confidence and support he continues to receive from the cricketing fraternity across the region.

Shallow's nomination was put forward by the Trinidad & Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB) and the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB).

Vice President Bassarath's nomination came from the Jamaica Cricket Association (JCA) and the Windward Islands Cricket Board (WICB), reinforcing the broad-based support for the leadership team as



Dr. Kishore Shallow

they continue to drive the development and progress of West Indies cricket.

President Shallow expressed gratitude for the continued trust placed in him, stating, "Being unopposed for a second term is a strong endorsement of the leadership and direction we have taken at Cricket West Indies. It speaks to the level of confidence in our vision and the progress we have made in stabilizing and advancing West Indies cricket.

"Now, we must build on that progress, staying focused on the task at hand and not allowing ourselves to be distracted from our ultimate goal. We are one in purpose, working together for the betterment of West Indies cricket.

"I understand full well the responsibility that comes with this position, and I remain committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and good governance.

"I want to sincerely

thank the Trinidad & Tobago Cricket Board and the Leeward Islands Cricket Board for their nomination, as well as all our stakeholders for their continued support. It is truly humbling to serve in this capacity, and I do not take this trust lightly."

Vice President Bassarath echoed similar sentiments, saying, "It would be a privilege to continue serving as Vice President of Cricket West Indies. The passion and dedication of everyone involved in our cricketing ecosystem inspires me every day.

"As we seek to embark on a new term, I am committed to ensuring we continue to make decisions that benefit our players, fans, and the future of West Indies cricket. I thank all our members for their confidence, and I look forward to working together for the betterment of the game."

President Shallow and Vice President Bassarath's unopposed nominations were confirmed on February 27, 2025, at the close of the nomination period.

Browne wins opening race of 2025 domestic cycling season

Young sensation Tahje Browne has won the first race of the 2025 domestic season of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation.

Browne was the standout performer of the day, winning the Jenel Warner Annual Race, which comprised one lap from the Pan Am Base in Coolidge to Ms. Welsh Supermarket in Pares Village and back, on Sunday.

With a total time of 43 minutes and 37.59 seconds and a best lap speed of 35.826 kilometers per hour, Browne won the Junior Male category and emerged as the overall winner of the race.

Aiden Tonge came second, and Jomari King finished in third place behind Browne in the Junior Male category.

Elite Thomas stole the show to win the 11-14 Cadets category, which competed over a shorter course than the other classes in the race.

Thomas clocked a total time of 17 minutes and



Champion Tahje Browne, center, stands on the Junior Male winners' podium alongside race sponsor Jenel Warner. Aiden Tonge, left, came second and Jomari King, right, finished in third place. (Photo courtesy of the ABCF) 46.19 seconds and posted the fastest lap of the race, reaching an impressive speed of 88.669 kilometers per hour.

Jahaziel Santana came in second, and Luis Ozuna finished in third place in the 11-14 Cadets category.

Delvin Peters emerged victorious in the Elite Male category with a time of 44 minutes and 07.51 seconds, narrowly edging out Marcos Ozuna and Newell Mack, who finished in second and third places, respectively.

Tiziano Rosignoli claimed the win in the Masters category with a total time of 44 minutes and 08.25 seconds. His experience was evident as he finished just ahead of Wayne Henry, who took second place, and Vaughn Gomes in third.

Brent George won the Sports Class category with a time of 49 minutes and 02.47 seconds. Steve Scott came in second, and Dexter Simmons captured third place.

Telesha Choy took the female category with an impressive time of 59 minutes and 56.18 seconds. Her best lap speed of 26.074 kilometers per hour was enough to secure the top spot in a strong field of competitors.

However, veteran cyclists Shawn Weathered and Neil Lloyd did not finish the race but gave it their all and displayed incredible resilience.

A total of 31 cyclists participated in the opening race of the new ABCF's domestic season.