

China to provide 200 more condominium units

Story on Page 2



Minister of State Senator Michael Joseph (centre) with the other members of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation

Story on Page 6

Local News



200 more condominium units coming courtesy of the PRC

The People's Republic of China continues to demonstrate its true benevolence towards Antigua and Barbuda by agreeing to extend its housing grant to construct more condominium housing units in the country.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is reporting that the Chinese construction company engaged in the construction of the Booby Alley Project has concluded discussions with the government to provide additional condominium houses for low income families in the country.

"I wish to announce that we had a visit from the Chinese construction company and they are about to commence the second phase of the housing grant; the Booby Alley project now currently under construction comprises the first phase. Now they will be constructing an additional 200-condominium units; 50-units will be constructed in Louie Hill in Barbuda and the other 150 units will be constructed in Jennings," PM Browne disclosed.

According to the prime minister the company will soon be carrying out preliminary studies such as soil testing over the coming months with the expectation that construction will start later in the year.



He said the site where the houses will be built has already been decided and the plan is to reserve some of the units to accommodate people living at Perry Bay in less than acceptable accommodations.

"We have to clean up Perry Bay as the area is like a social disaster because of the absence of toilet and other essential facilities. We want to clean out that area and move some of the residents into the Jennings Project so that we can resolve the Perry Bay issue," he reported.

Meanwhile, the work on the construction of the condominium units at Booby Alley is progressing smoothly.



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"April Autism Awareness Month"

Minister of Health provides update on Kishon John's cancer treatment in Colombia



Kishon John with Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph
 The Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, is reporting that he has received an encouraging update on Kishon John, who traveled to Colombia for urgent medical treatment for Hod-

gkin Lymphoma.

The Minister is said to be very pleased to hear that Kishon is making positive progress in his treatment and remains optimistic about his continued recovery.

Before departing for Colombia, Kishon and his mother met with Minister Joseph to personally express their gratitude for the government's assistance in facilitating his care. His journey was made possible through a collaborative effort between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda through the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) and the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF). The total cost was US\$80,000, with CAF and MBS each contributing 50% of the funds to ensure Kishon receives the necessary medical intervention.

The Minister expressed sincere appreciation to the Calvin Ayre Foundation for their generosity and continued dedication to charitable initiatives in

Antigua and Barbuda. He noted that the CAF's ongoing commitment to supporting critical healthcare needs and other social causes is highly commendable and a testament to their investment in the well-being of the nation's people.

In addition, Minister Joseph extended his gratitude to Chief Executive Officer-Kevin Silston, Board Secretary-Valsena Tannis and the MBS Board for their dedication and efficiency in executing government policy. Their commitment to ensuring financial assistance and access to urgent medical care for citizens in need continues to strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's healthcare system.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains steadfast in its mission to support citizens requiring specialized medical treatment that is not available in Antigua and Barbuda.



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ABEC addresses the need for order at polling stations



The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), is reminding key stakeholders that as part of its mandate outlined in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, No. 11 of 2002, its officers are required to maintain and enforce order at polling stations during an Election.

Additionally, only persons who applied for and are granted the necessary accreditation certified by the Commission will be given access to the above-mentioned locations. This list includes:

□ Members of the Media

□ Election Day Observers

Furthermore, the Commission draws attention to Section 35 of The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2002, No. 11 of 2002, which states:

(1) Any person who misconducts himself in a polling station, or fails to obey the lawful orders of the presiding officer, may immediately, by order of the presiding officer, be removed from the polling station by a police officer in or near the station or by any other

person authorized in writing by the returning officer to remove him, and the person so removed shall not, without the permission of the presiding officer, again enter the polling station during the day.

(2) Any person so removed may, if charged with the commission in the polling station of an offence, be dealt with as a person taken into custody by a police officer for an offence without a warrant.

(3) The powers conferred by this rule shall not be exercised so as to prevent a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having an opportunity of voting at that station.

(4) During the hours that the poll is open upon polling day no person shall, in any polling station or upon any public place within one hundred yards of any polling station, remain or seek to influence any elector to vote or refrain from voting for any candidate or political party or to ascertain for whom any elector intends to vote or has voted.

(5) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-rule (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars and a term of imprisonment of not more than two months.

According to Section 36:1 of The Representation of

the People (Amendment) Act 2001: No. 17 of 2001: The Commission shall, upon the issuing of the writ for an election, shall consult with ALL electronic and print media operating in Antigua and Barbuda to draw up a time table for:

a) Public Education Programmes for Voters

b) Political broadcast and access to the print media for political parties and candidates to promote their views through the electronic media and to have their messages printed in the newspapers circulating in Antigua and Barbuda.

Local, regional and international observers are briefed on their roles and responsibilities as observers of any electoral process prior to receiving accreditation from the Commission. It is important to emphasize that the names, organizations and photographs of all observers must be submitted to ABEC on or before any deadline which is published by the Commission in order to be considered duly accredited.

During last Wednesday's counting of the ballots in the Barbuda Council elections, one media personality who did not possess proper accreditation was escorted from the compound for violating the rules as stipulated by the ABEC officers who were present at the time.



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KAUTION BAND
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XXPLOSIVE BAND
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**MONDAY
JULY 21ST
2025**

**ANTIGUA
RECREATION
GROUNDS**

**PACK YOUR COOLER
AND COME**

Comptroller of Customs Boddu creates record at WCO

Antigua and Barbuda's Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, has been rewarded for his sterling stewardship of the finances of the World Customs Organisation, headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

Reports from the annual WCO meeting state that Comptroller Boddu has been unanimously re-elected as Chair Person of the Finance Committee of World Customs Organization for a record consecutive third term.

According to the reports... the United Kingdom proposed the re-election while the remaining members consisting of Azerbaijan, China, Dominican Republic, Gambia, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, the EU, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the USA all supported the motion.

The reports state that each country spoke eloquently about the stewardship of Antigua and Barbuda and lauded the contribution of the Caribbean nation in leadership in overseeing the finances of WCO.



Caption: Comptroller Raju Boddu (centre) flanked by the Secretary General Ian Saunders (USA) to his right and Ricardo Treveño, Deputy Secretary General (Mexico) to his left.



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Five-member delegation represents Antigua and Barbuda at NDC Finance Investment Forum 2025



Minister of State Senator Michael Joseph (centre) with the other members of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation



The plenary session of the Third NDC Finance Investment Forum in Grenada

Antigua and Barbuda is being represented at the Third NDC Finance Investment Forum in Grenada from March 31 to April 2, 2025.

Themed “Investing in Climate Action for a Resilient Future,” the forum is focused on mobilizing climate finance to drive sustainable development and climate resilience across the Caribbean.

The event, organized by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission in collaboration with the European Union’s Euroclima Caribbean Programme, is politically supported by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the NDC Partnership.

Representing Antigua

and Barbuda at the forum is a high-level delegation led by, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and the Environment, Sen. Michael Joseph. Accompanying him are, Debt Manager at the Ministry of Finance, Peter Abraham Jr.; Water Manager at Antigua Public Utility Authority, Jason Peters; Energy Officer at the Ministry of Energy, Mali Barnes and Technical Officer Responsible for Watershed Management and Protected Areas at the Department of Environment, Jaabari Reynolds.

The forum is providing a platform for discussions on innovative financing solutions, energy transition strategies, water security measures, and

resilient infrastructure development. Antigua and Barbuda’s delegation will engage with key stakeholders to explore funding opportunities and collaborative projects that align with the nation’s climate goals.

The discussions at the forum focus on critical areas, including Innovative Finance, covering youth economy, loss and damage funding, blue and green carbon markets, thematic bonds, and debt swaps. Energy Transition will address smart and resilient infrastructure, geothermal energy, electric vehicles, micro-grids, and sustainable energy transmission. Water Security topics will include resource management, water and food security, rainwater

harvesting, wastewater treatment, and reuse.

Finally, Resilient Infrastructure discussions are exploring urban flooding, sea-level rise, disaster risk financing, and green infrastructure development.

Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to enhancing climate resilience and securing sustainable financing for projects that support economic and environmental stability. Participation in the NDC Finance Investment Forum 2025 will help strengthen partnerships with global institutions, including CARILEC, IRENA, GGGI, the World Bank, and UN-Habitat, to drive climate action and investment in the region.

ABDF urges the public not to interfere with the training of its recruits



The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force has announced that its new recruits are to begin intense training in the southern areas of Antigua beginning on Wednesday

and it wants members of the public not to interfere with this training.

In a social media post, the ABDF said it is advising the

general public that as part of its basic recruit training course, it will be conducting a mid-term field training exercise, Exercise Green Sprout, from April 2 to 5

in the Christian Valley and Cades Bay in the south.

“During this period, members of the public are advised not to approach or interact with recruits participating in the exercise. This training is a critical component of their military development, and maintaining its integrity is essential,” the statement noted.

The ABDF says it appreciates the cooperation and understanding of the public as it continues to train and prepare its personnel.



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MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
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Local News

Statement from Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre on Recent Industrial Action



The Board of Directors and Executive Management of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre acknowledges the recent industrial action taken by some of our dedicated staff members regarding the outstanding retroactive payment. We fully understand the frustration this situation has created, and we sincerely apologize for any distress it has caused to both our staff and the patients we serve.

Prior to the industrial action, the hospital communicated with all staff regarding the outstanding retroactive pay, stressing that resolving this matter was a top priority for the institution, and expressing gratitude for their patience throughout the

process. In that communication, we notified staff that, as part of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to honoring its agreement on salary adjustments, monthly allocations would be made available to facilitate payments for the retroactive amounts owed to eligible employees.

This retroactive payment stems from the Government's decision to implement the remaining 9% of the previously agreed 14% salary increase for all public servants. The adjustment covers the period from January 1, 2018, to January 31, 2024.

In response to the concerns raised and after further review, a com-

mitment was made to pay all eligible staff at once, and by the end of the week. We believe

this approach will better address the needs of our staff and bring resolution to this matter more effectively.

While we regret the disruption caused by this industrial action, we remain committed to resolving this matter swiftly. The well-being of both our staff and the patients we serve is of paramount importance.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of the public.



The 8th Edition of the National Secondary Schools' Theatre Festival Set for April 22–25, 2025

The highly anticipated 8th edition of the National Secondary Schools' Theatre Festival (NS-STF) is set to take center stage from April 22 to April 25, 2025, at the re-imagined exhibition hall at the Multipurpose Exhibition and Cultural Centre in Perry Bay. Hosted by the Department of Culture, this year's festival will showcase the remarkable talents of Antigua and Barbuda's young thespians and dancers, featuring performances from:

- Jennings Secondary School
- Princess Margaret School
- Sir Novelle Richards Academy
- St. Mary's Secondary School

- Antigua Girls' High School
- Ottos Comprehensive School
- All Saints Secondary School
- Irene B. Secondary School

Beyond the stage performances, participants will have the invaluable opportunity to engage in developmental workshops on April 19th, led by esteemed regional professionals and festival adjudicators:

- Kevin Moore (Jamaica)
- Deslyn Williams-Johnson (St. Kitts and Nevis)
- Angelo Ascelles (Barbados)

The festival will not only cel-

brate the artistry of emerging choreographers, playwrights and directors from Antigua and Barbuda but will also provide a platform for youth to refine their craft through mentorship and hands-on experience.

Each day of the festival will feature matinee and nightly performances, offering audiences a variety of compelling productions. The culmination of the event will be the much-anticipated awards ceremony on April 26th, recognizing outstanding performances and contributions to the theatrical arts.



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS'
THEATRE FESTIVAL
2025**
APRIL 22-25
Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre

7 pm

\$15 students **\$25** adults

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS'
THEATRE FESTIVAL
2025**
APRIL 22-27

Performance Schedule

April 22 - 6:30 pm
Opening Ceremony and
Theatrical Presentation ASS & JSS

April 23 - 7 pm
Theatrical Presentation OCS & PMS

April 24 - 7 pm
Theatrical Presentation Irene B Secondary and
Dance Night 1

April 25 - 7 pm
Dance Night 2 and Theatre Improvisation

**All Showings are at the
Multi- Purpose Cultural Centre**

Bee keepers association introduces two local honey brands

The Antigua and Barbuda Beekeepers Cooperative Society (ABBC) proudly announces the launch of the Antigua and Barbuda Wildflower Honey and the Barbuda Logwood Honey, two premium 100% homegrown honey varieties introduced under its respective collective trademarks and unified by the ABBC collective mark.

This initiative strengthens sustainable beekeeping, brand integrity, and consumer trust, ensuring that ethically sourced, high-quality honey from authorized producers reaches both local and international markets.

The ABBC's collective marks reinforce the unique identity of its honey products, their authenticity, and competitive advantages, empowering local beekeepers to market their honey under a distinctive brand. Developed through a public-private collaboration by ABBC with the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office (ABIPCO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and Visual Echo, this initiative leverages intellectual property (IP) for growing business, enhances IP protection, and mitigates counterfeiting risks while promoting industry growth.

Building Local Capacity for Long-Term Impact

A key pillar of this initiative is knowledge transfer and capacity building, ensuring local stakeholders can sustainably manage and expand their IP assets. This was achieved through close, collaborative working arrangements, where indirect mentorship took place during the course of the project. These collaborations allowed local stakeholders to gain valuable hands-on experience and practical insights, equipping them to independently apply these lessons to future IP initiatives.

Registrar of ABIPCO, Ricki Camacho, highlighted the long-term benefits for Antigua and Barbuda's IP framework: "This initiative wasn't just about securing collective marks—it was about



equipping our local officers with the skills to apply these lessons across other industries. By being hands-on in this process, they are now better prepared to support similar initiatives and drive broader IP development locally." Jessamyn Honculada, WIPO Project Lead, underscored the broader value of IP: "At WIPO, we see intellectual property as a catalyst for economic empowerment. By investing in knowledge transfer, we help communities develop sustainable business models, protect their innovations, and strengthen their competitiveness in both local and global markets."

Key Benefits of the ABBC Collective Marks:

- Authenticity Guaranteed – Only locally produced honey that meets strict quality and sustainability standards carries the ABBC mark.
- Stronger Market Presence – Enhances brand recognition and expands export opportunities.
- Legal Protection Reinforced – Deters counterfeiting and ensures legal recourse against trademark misuse
- Sustainable Growth Encouraged – Attracts new producers while upholding high quality standards.

John Mussington, one of ABBC's few but growing number of beekeepers in

Barbuda, emphasized the initiative's significance: "The ABBC collective marks are more than just branding—they are a seal of trust, sustainability, and quality. Strong IP protections empower producers while ensuring consumers receive authentic, ethically sourced honey."

Davina Laville Joyce, President of ABBC added that: "Each jar of Antigua and Barbuda Wildflower Honey and Barbuda Logwood Honey represents the dedication of our Beekeepers to excellence. These varieties are not just products – they tell the story of our islands' rich biodiversity and our commitment to producing honey that is as pure as it is delicious."

Campaign Activation and Honey Tasting Events

During the next few weeks, ABBC will roll out a vibrant promotional campaign spanning radio, TV, electronic billboards, and social media. This campaign will highlight the unique qualities of their products and educate the public on the new branding and beekeeping. Honey enthusiasts can also look forward to tasting events and sales at select locations—be sure to follow them on social media to stay updated on these sweet opportunities!

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Commemorates World Autism Awareness Day 2025

Theme: "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

In celebration of World Autism Awareness Day, April 2, 2025, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) reaffirms its commitment to advancing neurodiversity and promoting inclusivity, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year's theme emphasizes the importance of recognizing and supporting the diverse abilities of individuals on the autism spectrum and the need for policies that foster acceptance and inclusivity in every facet of life.

Throughout the month of April, SLBMC is hosting a variety of activities to raise awareness and provide support to individuals on the autism spectrum and their families, in recognition of Autism Awareness Month.

Wear Blue Fridays: Light It Up Blue Campaign

As part of SLBMC's ongoing Light It Up Blue campaign, we invite the community to join us every Friday in April for *Wear Blue Fridays*. This initiative encourages individuals to wear blue as a sign of support for autism awareness. Light it Up Blue is a global campaign aimed at increasing visibility and fostering understanding for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Ongoing Speech & Language Clinic in Collaboration with CHATS

SLBMC continues to offer its Speech & Language Clinic in collaboration with the Center for the

Holistic Advancement of Therapeutic Services (CHATS). This clinic plays a pivotal role in addressing the communication challenges faced by individuals with autism. Language and communication are essential to the development and daily lives of autistic individuals, and the clinic provides practical guidance for parents to navigate these challenges. By equipping parents with the tools they need, the clinic helps to create a supportive environment that fosters positive communication and growth for their children.

Dr. Saleem Hughes, Chair of SLBMC's Pediatric Department, shared, *"Our collaboration with CHATS has been instrumental in ensuring that children with autism and their families receive the comprehensive support they need. Together, we are addressing the critical role that speech and language play in the development of children on the autism spectrum, empowering parents and caregivers with the knowledge to better support their children's communication needs. This partnership is a testament to our shared commitment to creating a more inclusive community for individuals with autism."*

Annual Sports Day with Adele School, CHATS, and Victory Center

On April 2, SLBMC will also host its annual Sports Day in collaboration with the Adele School, CHATS, and the Victory Center. This event originally established to support children with Down syndrome has evolved into a celebration of inclusivity, where we come

together to embrace and honor our differences through a fun-filled and joyful activity. Through play, individuals can enhance their motor skills, social interactions, and emotional development, contributing to a well-rounded and joyful experience. The event provides an opportunity for students, teachers, families and the medical community to come together in support of neurodiversity.

SLBMC Webinar for Educators: Supporting Communication in Special Needs Education

In line with our commitment to strengthening the support system for children with autism, SLBMC is pleased to announce the second year of our special webinar for educators, featuring UK-based Speech & Language Therapist, Vernisha Farrell. The webinar, which will focus on *Effective Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) Strategies*, is aimed at providing educators with the tools and techniques needed to support children with communication difficulties in special needs education.

"We believe that investing in the professional development of educators is essential to improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families," said Dr. Hughes. "By equipping teachers with the knowledge and skills to support communication, we are strengthening and creating a more inclusive education system. This aligns with the theme of 'Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals,' ensuring that everyone, regardless of ability, is

included and empowered to reach their full potential. Acceptance and inclusivity must be at the core of our policies and practices to drive positive change in both our education system and our communities. We encourage those interested in special needs education, as well as parents of children with speech delays, to attend this webinar. Our goal is to empower more individuals and inspire others to pursue careers in special needs education.”

Seeking Sponsorship for Educator Professional Development

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide specialized support, SLBMC is actively seeking sponsorship to support the continued professional development of educators in Antigua and Barbuda. By ensuring that educators receive the latest training and support, we aim to create an environment where children with autism are provided with the tools they need to succeed. This initiative will help build a stronger and more inclusive educational community for all children.

Join Us in Advancing Neurodiversity

SLBMC remains dedicated to promoting awareness, fostering inclusivity, and supporting the neurodiverse community. We invite everyone to join us in recognizing World Autism Awareness Day and continuing these efforts throughout the year. Together, we can create a society where individuals with autism are celebrated for their unique strengths and abilities.

For more information on SLBMC's Light It Up Blue Campaign, the Speech & Language Clinic, and other events, please contact us at 484-2792/2711.





GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Ministry of Finance, Corporate Governance and Public Private Partnerships

Updated March 26, 2025

SALE OF ALFA NERO TO YM Thunder (Yildirim Group) - July 2024	USD	ECD
<i>Sale brokered by Northrop and Johnson - Superyacht Brokerage</i>		
Sale Price	40,000,000.00	108,000,000.00
<i>Brokerage fee deducted by Northrop and Johnson</i>	<i>1,800,000.00</i>	<i>4,860,000.00</i>
Balance Remitted to Government of Antigua and Barbuda	38,200,000.00	103,140,000.00
Amount deposited to Government of Antigua and Barbuda Account at Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) on July 18 2024	36,000,000.00	97,200,000.00
Amount deposited to Government of Antigua and Barbuda Account at ECCB on September 5 2024	2,200,000.00	5,940,000.00
Payments/Reimbursement for Alfa Nero Crew, Fuel, Supplies and other Expenses		
Reimbursement to Port Authority for Alfa Nero Expenses	518,518.52	1,400,000.00
Reimbursement to Government of Antigua and Barbuda for Weekly Payments to Marina and Resort Lt. to meet Crew expenses (April 11-2023 to June 14, 2024)	1,736,000.00	4,716,538.40
Legal Fees - Christopher and Associates	300,000.00	810,000.00
Legal Fees- Anthony Astaphan	98,148.15	265,000.00
Payment to West Indies Oil Company for Fuel Supplies	694,385.19	1,874,840.00
Payment to Registrar of High Court - Consent Order - Marshall and Co. (Attorney for - Tina Westwood/Caribbean Concierge Services)	114,408.86	308,903.93
Payment to Marshall and Co. (Attorney for -Tina Westwood/Caribbean Concierge Services)	43,622.90	117,781.84
Payment to Registrar of High Court - Consent Order for Alfa Nero Crew	3,124,523.09	8,436,212.34
Payment to Marina and Resort Ltd. for Crew, Security and other expenses	2,962,426.61	7,998,551.85
Total Alfa Nero Expenses	9,592,033.32	25,927,828.36
Other Payments		
Lorna Nanton - Land Acquisition	370,370.37	1,000,000.00
BDO- Henry Estate - Land Acquisition	370,370.37	1,000,000.00
Software One	549,473.53	1,483,578.54
Canadian Bank Note	185,185.19	500,000.00
Caribbean Development Bank Loans	5,522,265.62	14,910,117.17
ECCB Advances	16,068,838.15	43,385,863.01
ECCB Debenture	2,877,524.07	7,769,315.00
Payment of Securities	1,119,724.90	3,023,257.24
World Bank Loan	187,041.63	505,012.40
IMF XDR Purchase	531,650.48	1,435,456.30
Abu Dhabi Fund	590,136.16	1,593,367.63
Richards and Co- HMB Judgement Debt	800,000.00	2,160,000.00
Stanford Development Company-Receiver - Judgement Debt	370,370.37	1,000,000.00
Total Debt Payments	29,542,950.85	79,765,967.29
Grant Total	40,934,984.17	110,553,795.65

Feature



APOSTILLE

(Convention de La Haye du 5 Octobre 1961) 40207

1. Country: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

2. This document hereto annexed has been signed by: **ARTHUR G.B. THOMAS**

3. Acting in the Capacity of: **NOTARY PUBLIC
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

4. Bears the seal and stamp of: **ARTHUR THOMAS
NOTARY PUBLIC
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

CERTIFIED

5. At the High Court of Justice, St. John's Antigua and Barbuda

6. The 16th day of July, 2024

7. The Registrar of the High Court, Cecile Hill

8. Number 594 of 2024

9. Seal/Stamp

10. Signature 
REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA






CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY

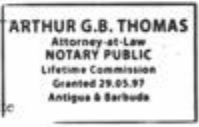
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I ARTHUR THOMAS of Thomas John & West Chambers, Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua, **NOTARY PUBLIC** by authority of the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court admitted and sworn **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the **Absolute Bill of Sale dated the 16th day of July, 2024** annexed is the true copy of the **Absolute Bill of Sale dated the 16th day of July, 2024** signed by **Darwin Telemaque, Port Manager and Mary Clare Hurst, Chairman** on the 16th day of July, 2024.

IN FAITH AND TESTIMONY WHEREOF I the said Notary have subscribed by name and set and affixed my seal at St. John's Antigua and Barbuda aforesaid this 16th day of July in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

SIGNED


Arthur Thomas
Notary Public
Antigua and Barbuda

My Commission is Indefinite



ABSOLUTE BILL OF SALE

VENDOR

The Port Authority of Antigua and Barbuda
Deep Water Harbour
St. John's
Antigua

PURCHASER

YM THUNDER 1 SHIPPING LIMITED (C-107119)
26, Ghar id-Dud Street, Sliema SLM1573, Malta

NAME OF VESSEL: **ALFA NERO**

IMO#: 1009376

YEAR AND PORT OF REGISTRY: April 11, 2023, Antigua

MOTOR VESSEL: Pleasure Yacht

TONNAGE/DISPLACEMENT: 2136

BUILDERS: OCEANCO

YEAR BUILT: August 2007

OVERALL LENGTH: (m) 81.27

BREADTH (Beam)(m): 13.8

DRAUGHT (Draft) (m): 3.9

Rated Power (k): 6984

We, the **PORT AUTHORITY OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA** (hereinafter, the "**Transferor**"), a company incorporated under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and having our principal place of business at the Deep Water Harbour, St. John's, Antigua, in consideration of the sum of **FORTY MILLION UNITED STATES CURRENCY (US\$40,000,000.00)** and other good and valuable consideration, paid to us by YM Thunder 1 Shipping Limited (hereinafter the

"**Transferee**") having their registered office 26 Ghar id-Dud Street, Sliema, SLM1573, MALTA, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, hereby transfer absolute title to 64/64 shares in the vessel named MV Alfa Nero, hereinafter called the "The Yacht" particularly described, and in her boats and appurtenances, (hereinafter "The Yacht") to the Transferee.

Further, We, the Transferor, for ourselves and our successors covenant with the Transferor and assigns, that we have the power to transfer in manner aforesaid the premises hereinbefore expressed to be transferred, and that the same are free from all restrictions, encumbrances, mortgages and maritime liens, claims or any other debts whatsoever.

Terms of Sale

1. Condition of the Yacht:

- The Yacht is sold "as-is" without any warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability.
- The Transferee acknowledges that they have had the opportunity to inspect the Yacht and are satisfied with its condition.

2. Documentation and Title Transfer:

- The Transferor represents that they are the legal owner of the Yacht, free from any liens, encumbrances, or claims.
- The Transferor will provide all necessary documents for the transfer of ownership, including the original Certificate of Documentation or Certificate of Title.

- The Transferee agrees to assume all responsibility for the Yacht, including but not limited to registration, taxes, and fees, upon the completion of the sale.

3. Indemnification and Liability:

- The Transferee assumes all risks and liabilities associated with the use, operation, and ownership of the Yacht from the date of sale.
- The Transferor shall not be held responsible for any accidents, damages, or losses incurred by the Buyer or any third party related to the Yacht.

4. Governing Law and Jurisdiction: This Absolute Bill of Sale shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda. Any disputes arising from this agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Antigua and Barbuda.

5. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the Seller and the Buyer regarding the sale of the vessel and supersedes any prior agreements or understandings, whether written or verbal.

6. Severability:

If any provision of this Agreement is found to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

7. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Vendor and the Purchaser have executed this Bill of Sale Agreement on the 16th day of July, 2024.

SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED by)
Mary Claire Hurst, Chairman and **Darwin**)
Telemaque, Manager)
 of Antigua Port Authority the Vendor)
 before and in the presence of **Jan Peltier**)
 a Solicitor of the Eastern Caribbean)
 Supreme Court the effect of the)
 above written Absolute Bill of Sale having)
 been explained by the said Solicitor to the)
 Vendor before the execution hereof:)

ARTHUR G.B. THOMAS
 Attorney-at-Law
 NOTARY PUBLIC
 Lifetime Commission
 Granted 29.05.97
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Public Communications Brief – Alfa Nero Yacht Lawsuit Response

1. Formal Summary of Government's Position

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GoAB) emphasizes that the seizure and sale of the Superyacht Alfa Nero were conducted lawfully, transparently, and with full international cooperation. The GoAB firmly maintains that the lawsuit filed in the United States by Ms. Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov – regarding the Alfa Nero – is baseless, malicious, and an abuse of legal process. This legal action is viewed as a “fishing expedition” aimed not at genuine discovery but at harassing senior Antiguan officials and tarnishing the country’s reputation.

Every step in handling the Alfa Nero was above-board, done in accordance with Antiguan law and with approval from the U.S. Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Importantly, the sale of the Alfa Nero was carried out under an official OFAC license after the yacht was removed from the U.S. sanctions list. It was sold in July 2024 to a vetted buyer for US \$40 million, and all proceeds were transparently accounted for and used for public purposes. There is no evidence whatsoever of any “missing” money or corrupt payments – claims to the contrary are entirely unfounded. The Government has published detailed financial records of the sale and expenditures, which refute any suggestion of impropriety.

Ms. Guryeva-Motlokhov – the daughter of a sanctioned Russian oligarch, Andrey Guryev – has no legal ownership stake in the Alfa Nero, yet she has pursued multiple court actions after the sale did not go in her favour. The GoAB views her U.S. lawsuit as a vindictive attempt to intimidate and extort the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Having failed in Antigua’s courts to halt or reverse the yacht’s sale, she is now trying to use U.S. courts to cast aspersions on Prime Minister Gaston Browne and others, hoping to compel a huge monetary settlement. Her allegations of corruption are unsubstantiated hearsay and have been categorically denied and disproven by the facts.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to full transparency in Antigua and Barbuda and globally and also to cooperation with international partners. We have kept U.S. authorities informed at every stage and even formally requested that U.S. Treasury/OFAC confirm our full compliance with all sanctions’ requirements. Any objective review of the evidence will vindicate Antigua and Barbuda’s actions and expose the lawsuit’s claims as false. We will continue to engage constructively with the United States and all relevant parties to ensure the truth is recognized and to protect Antigua and Barbuda’s good name.

2. Explanation of Engaging U.S. Counsel

Even though the Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GoAB) and its officials are not formal defendants in the U.S. court action, they have engaged attorneys in the United States as a protective and proactive measure. This step is crucial to safeguarding the country's reputation in the face of the calumnies and slanderous claims that have been submitted to the U.S. Court.

In these proceedings, the claimant has sought subpoenas targeting financial records of the Prime Minister and other Antiguan officials, held by third-party U.S. institutions, namely the Federal Bank of New York and the Clearing House Company. Such discovery requests may cast unwarranted suspicion on Antigua and Barbuda's institutions, risking reputational harm and affecting the country's ability use the banking system to send and receive money internationally. By retaining counsel, the Government can directly contest the misrepresentations and protect its institutions and their officials from false or misleading allegations.

Although the Government and its officials are not named as defendants, being identified in a discovery filing can still damage a nation's credibility and undermine public confidence, especially when accusations of wrongdoing are spread widely in media and political discourse. By proactively engaging U.S. legal experts, Antigua and Barbuda ensures its voice is heard in the proceeding. If necessary, counsel can move to quash or limit subpoenas that lack valid legal basis or that aim to propagate slanderous statements rather than obtain legitimate evidence.

Taken together, this engagement of U.S. counsel underscores Antigua and Barbuda's determination to defend its good name, protect its officials from unfounded allegations, and affirm the Government's lawful conduct in the Alfa Nero matter. It also signals respect for the U.S. judicial process while ensuring that no one-sided narrative goes unchallenged.

3. Summarized Legal Context

Engaging U.S. attorneys is a normal and prudent step when foreign governments or individuals are identified in American legal proceedings- even if they are not direct defendants. Under U.S. law, someone involved in a foreign dispute can request discovery from U.S.-based institutions, which may inadvertently pull in parties who had no direct role in the lawsuit itself.

By retaining U.S., those impacted parties—including the Government of Antigua and Barbuda—ensure they can promptly respond to any broad or intrusive requests, assert their rights, and challenge speculative or unjustified subpoenas.

Simply put, having U.S. legal representation prevents unfair outcomes, and ensures that any misrepresentations can be swiftly corrected before a U.S. judge. This is not an

admission of wrongdoing; it is a standard legal safeguard to preserve due process, protect the nation's reputation, and uphold the integrity of its officials.

4. Impact of Opposition Allegations and harm to the Nation

While the Government is prepared to refute all baseless allegations regarding the Alfa Nero, it is important to note that certain elements of the Opposition are repeating these claims for political gain. Unfortunately, these actions harm the nation's reputation and can negatively impact the economy, the banking system and job.

The following points are crucial:

- International Perception and Investment:
Publicly echoing false and unproved claims of corruption risks discouraging foreign investors, international lenders, and partners who are key to Antigua and Barbuda's growth and stability.
- Financial Services and Banking Sector:
Allegations of impropriety may erode confidence in local financial institutions, adversely impacting banking relationships, increasing compliance burdens to the banks and raising costs to clients, and potentially driving away investment that sustain jobs.
- Tourism and the Wider Economy:
Negative headlines tying Antigua and Barbuda to alleged corruption can weaken the country's appeal to tourists and luxury yacht patrons. Tourism and related services are economic mainstays that support thousands of families.
- Employment and Livelihoods:
As economic opportunities shrink, job creation is threatened. Hotel staff, port workers, tourism vendors, and many others may feel the impact of reduced economic activity linked to damaged international credibility.

The Government urges all parties to act in the nation's best interests by grounding public discourse in facts and evidence rather than unverified allegations. By perpetuating these unfounded claims, the Opposition is not only undermining the reputation of Antigua and Barbuda but also serving the purposes of Ms. Guryeva-Motlokhov and risking harm to the livelihoods of everyday citizens and the broader economy. Seeking political mileage should not come at the expense of patriotism and the country's hard-won economic development and international standing.

5. Key Talking Points for Public Outreach

Lawful Seizure of Alfa Nero and International Approval

- The Alfa Nero was lawfully seized by Antigua and Barbuda authorities after being effectively abandoned by its sanctioned owner, posing a grave hazard to the harbour in which it was moored and threatening jobs and revenue from the Yachting industry.
- This was done in close consultation with the United States – the yacht was removed from the U.S. sanctions list so it could be disposed of legally under an OFAC license.

Transparent Sale Process

- The yacht was sold in July 2024 for US \$40 million in a private sale, fully transparent and cleared by U.S. authorities. (See: *Attachment 1: Notarised Bill of Sale*)
- The buyer was thoroughly vetted for any criminal or sanctions concerns, and OFAC was informed of the buyer's identity with no objections.

All Proceeds Accounted For

- Every dollar from the yacht's sale is accounted for. The net amount received by the Government was US \$38.2 million, after the broker's commission. (See: *Attachment 2: Broker Agreement*)
- Those funds were deposited into the Government's account at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and allocated for public purposes, including Alfa Nero-related expenses and reducing government debt. (See: *Attachment 3. Finance Ministry Accounting*)

No Evidence of Corruption

- Allegations that Prime Minister Browne or any other persons secretly profited are completely false and unsupported.
- No credible evidence backs up these accusations, which come primarily from an investigator who was hired and paid by Ms. Guryeva-Motlokhov to produce a report citing unnamed sources. The report does not stand up to standards of evidence in any Court.
- The Government has published all financial documents showing the transaction's transparency.

Claimant's Lack of Rights & Motives

- Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov has no legal claim to the yacht. She was, at best, a discretionary beneficiary of a Trust associated with her sanctioned father's assets. The discretionary beneficiary of a Trust does not own the Trust's assets.
- She failed to block the sale in Antigua's courts and is now attempting to use U.S. court actions to harass Antigua's officials and create suspicion, hoping for a payoff.

Contesting Baseless U.S. Legal Manoeuvres

- The New York action is not a direct lawsuit against the Government; it is a fishing expedition seeking bank records in the desperate hope to find something to support unfounded allegations.
- Similar subpoenas were filed in Florida against the brokerage firm involved in the sale. Significantly, the Florida lawsuit against the Brokerage company has not been pursued. The company, Northrop & Johnson Yachts-Ships LLC, is internationally known and respected with offices in the US, France, the UK and elsewhere.

Public Interest First

- The Government's primary concern was protecting the public interest, especially given the high costs of maintaining the Alfa Nero yacht and potential disastrous risks if it remained in port.
- Selling the yacht quickly and lawfully converted a stranded asset into a public benefit and safeguarded the economy from potential harm.

Ongoing Transparency & Cooperation

- The Government has nothing to hide. It has shared information proactively with the U.S. authorities and published the pertinent documents.
- A government memorandum to the U.S. Treasury details every fact of the Alfa Nero matter, inviting further review.

Sanctions Implications

- If Ms. Guryeva-Motlokhov regained control over the yacht's value, it could potentially benefit her sanctioned father.
- She may be attempting to channel sanctioned assets, which undermines international sanctions.

Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Q: Has the Prime Minister or Government of Antigua and Barbuda been sued?

A: No. Neither the Prime Minister nor the Government itself is a defendant in the U.S. lawsuit. The filing in New York is a request for discovery from U.S. financial institutions, not a lawsuit for damages or wrongdoing by our Government.

Q: What is the Government's response to corruption allegations?

A: The Government and the Prime Minister categorically deny them. No credible evidence has ever been presented, and we have published all relevant financial records. These allegations rely on hearsay from a private investigator who was hired and paid by Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov to produce a baseless report which has no corroborating sources and cannot withstand scrutiny.

Q: Where did the money from the Alfa Nero sale go?

A: The entire US \$40 million was paid by a fully vetted buyer. The broker's commission was 4.5%, leaving US \$38.2 million. These funds were placed in the Government's account, used to cover Alfa Nero expenses (which the Government had already borne), and then applied to public debts. Every disbursement is documented.

Q: Who is the claimant, and what is her motive?

A: The claimant, Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov, is the daughter of Russian oligarch Andrey Guryev, who is under U.S. sanction, as well as sanctions from the UK and the EU. She was never an owner of the yacht but claims entitlement through a Trust linked to her father's assets. She appears to be using U.S. courts to harass Antigua and Barbuda's officials and extort money.

Q: Why was the yacht sold for \$40 million instead of the \$60 million previously mentioned at auction?

A: The auction with the higher bid fell through once the claimant launched legal action, scaring off potential bidders. Under mounting costs and hurricane risks, the Government accepted the best available offer of \$40 million in a private sale, which was vetted and approved.

Q: If Government and its officials are not named in the lawsuit, why engage U.S. Lawyers?

A: Engaging Counsel is Standard Procedure: Retaining lawyers in the United States is a standard precaution when our Government's name is drawn into a U.S. legal matter. We have a duty to defend Antigua and Barbuda's interests in any court, anywhere. This proactive step is about protecting our country's good name, not about hiding anything.

Not a Sign of Wrongdoing – A Sign of Determination: Hiring U.S. attorneys does not indicate that government officials have done anything wrong. In fact, it's because the

allegations are baseless that Government and others must fight them strongly, so that misinformation does not go unchallenged.

Protecting National Reputation and Transparency: Our government is completely confident in the legality and transparency of the Alfa Nero sale and how the funds were handled. We have nothing to hide. By appearing in the U.S. court, our counsel can present the evidence and facts that confirm everything was above board

6. Sample Quotes for Speeches and Media statements

- “Every penny from the Alfa Nero sale is accounted for and used for the public good – not a cent is missing or misused.”
- “Antigua and Barbuda acted by the book in the Alfa Nero matter – with U.S. approval at every step. No flashy lawsuit can rewrite those facts.”
- “This baseless lawsuit is nothing more than the sanctioned oligarch’s family trying to bully Antigua and Barbuda with false claims. We will not be intimidated.”
- “Let’s be clear: these allegations of secret pay-offs are pure fiction. The records are open, and the facts speak for themselves.”
 - “We couldn’t let a derelict superyacht threaten our harbour, our economy and the jobs of our people. We took responsible action – and we did so transparently and lawfully.”

is a desperate attempt at extortion, plain and simple. Antigua and Barbuda’s Government will stand up against such blatant extortion.”
- “The daughter of a sanctioned oligarch is upset she couldn’t reclaim his yacht, so now she’s slandering our officials. It’s outrageous and we will resist it”.
- “We refuse to let false or slanderous claims go unchallenged—engaging U.S. attorneys is simply the best way to defend our nation’s reputation in the U.S. courts.”
- “Although we aren’t the ones being sued, our name is being dragged into the proceedings. By hiring counsel, we protect Antigua and Barbuda’s image and ensure no baseless allegations stand.”
- “We have a duty to our citizens to uphold the country’s good name. If someone lodges damaging claims in a U.S. court, we will not sit by; we will respond vigorously, through legal representation.”
- Retaining American lawyers isn’t about admitting fault—it’s about making sure the truth is heard, and that Antigua and Barbuda’s interests are safeguarded.”

- “When accusations are levelled in any jurisdiction, we confront them head-on. That’s why we have engaged U.S. counsel, to ensure a fair hearing and to counter any unfounded allegations.”

7. Sample public responses to the Opposition Party

“Political point-scoring shouldn’t cost us our nation’s reputation. These baseless allegations only serve to scare off investors and harm our people’s livelihoods.”

“When the Opposition spreads rumours of corruption, it isn’t just the Government that is a victim —every hotel worker, every bank teller, and every dock worker in Antigua and Barbuda feels the impact, from the undermining of the nation.”

“International partners and investors want stability and truth. The Opposition’s repetition of unproven accusations jeopardize jobs, our financial sector, and the well-being of the very people they claim to represent.”

“This Government welcomes political debate, but malicious rumours that undermine Antigua and Barbuda’s credibility end up punishing the innocent - families, businesses, and workers across our islands.”

“Our economic growth depends on global confidence. By perpetuating unfounded claims, the Opposition is not attacking the Government alone; they’re risking the livelihoods of every citizen.”

“It appears that certain individuals in the UPP would rather see Antigua and Barbuda reduced to dust if it means seizing power. Their agenda clearly serves personal ambition over national interest.”

Regional News

Authorities in Haiti recapture town after gang attack



The Haitian National Police (PNH) said they had regained control of the town of Mirebalais, 30 miles northeast of the capital, after heavily armed members of the “Viv an sanm” gang burnt several houses and vehicles, and fired automatic weapons indiscriminately killing and injuring several residents.

PNH deputy spokesperson, Lionel Lazzarre, said that the gang members had on Monday attacked the police station, forcing the understaffed police officers to flee and setting fire to the premises. He said they also stormed the Mirebalais civil prison and opened all the cells, resulting in the escape of more than 500 prisoners.

In a video posted on social media, a man is seen hoisting an automatic rifle as people around him yelled, “We broke out the prisoners!” Soon after, they began chanting, “They can’t stop us!”

The action of the gang members caused wide-

spread panic, forcing many families to flee to neighbouring towns, including Lascahobas, Boucan-Carré, and Hinche. The action forced the closure of schools, shops, public markets, and supermarkets. Public transport was also paralysed.

The PNH said that faced with this offensive, members of a local resistance group, supported by the police attempted to repel the attackers but ultimately retreated due to the bandits’ firepower

Lazzarre said that SWAT units and members of the elite Research and Intervention Brigade (BRI) were transported by helicopter to Mirebalais and were able to repel the attackers.

He said the police station and the civilian prison were recaptured and that several of the gang members were fatally injured. Firearms and ammunition were also recovered by the PNH.

Lazzarre confirmed that the town of Mirebalais

is now under control and that several specialised PNH units have been deployed to the area.

Criminal gangs have been seeking to overthrow the government ever since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

The United Nations Security Council in 2023 passed a resolution for the

Kenya-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, aimed at combating gang violence and restoring stability in the country. Criminal gangs are seeking to take complete control of the capital Port-au-Prince, and have launched several attacks, killing women and children among others. (Loop Caribbean)



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highlights
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 COMPETITIONS START FROM 4:00PM UNTIL 6:00PM

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BVI: Prison officer attacked by inmate with mental health issues

An incident involving an attack on a prison officer by an inmate with known mental health challenges occurred at His Majesty's Prison in Balsam Ghut on Sunday, according to prison authorities.

The prison superintendent Jay Kendall, confirmed that staff responded swiftly and effectively, using appropriate and measured force to de-escalate the situation and ensure the safety of all involved.

Both the officer and the inmate were transported to Dr D Orlando Smith Hospital where they received treatment and were released the same day.

The superintendent expressed gratitude to the medical professionals for their prompt and compassionate care, while also commending prison staff for their professionalism, vigilance, and quick response during the incident.

"Their decisive actions prevented further harm and demonstrated the critical role our officers play in maintaining a secure and supportive environment while managing inmates with complex needs," he said in a statement.



According to an official statement, the "incident underscores the unpredictable nature of corrections work and highlights the ongoing challenges associated with mental health in custodial settings."

The Superintendent noted that over the past 18 months, they have worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Governor's Office to strengthen safety, security, and rehabilitation efforts within the prison.

These initiatives have reportedly in-

cluded enhanced officer training, mental health awareness programs, and upgraded protective equipment including improved communication tools for responding in critical situations.

While acknowledging meaningful progress, prison authorities emphasized that continuous improvement remains necessary. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to reviewing and enhancing policies, procedures, and resources to uphold high standards of care, security, and rehabilitation. (Loop Caribbean)



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Regional News



Caribbean told heatwaves will not be as intensive as past two years

The Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF), says a Caribbean heat season with heatwaves will most likely begin occurring as early as April and gradually ramping up, but is unlikely to match 2023 and 2024.

CariCOF in its latest Caribbean Climate Outlooks for the upcoming period April to June, released on Monday, said that this is due to El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions

in the Pacific, combined with unusually warm waters around the Caribbean and temporarily cooler waters in the eastern Tropical North Atlantic.

It is also predicting that in April, high evaporation rates, frequent short dry spells and buildup of any ongoing drought increases wildfire potential.

CariCOF says except for the mostly dry ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao), rainfall intensity and

shower frequency should rise towards May in the Bahamas, Guianas and Greater Antilles, or June in Belize and the Lesser Antilles “resulting in high to extremely high potential for flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards and associated impacts.

“Episodes of Saharan dust intrusion will likely be frequent; the more frequent these are, the more dryness and heat, and the more erratic the occurrence of severe weather,” CariCOF added.

In its latest drought situation, CariCOF said moderate, or worse, short-term drought has developed in the central and northern Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, parts of St. Croix, Sint Maarten and St. Bart’s.

It said long-term drought is evolving in southern Belize, northern Dominican Republic, southwest Jamaica, St. Bart’s, St. Vincent, southeast Suriname and northwest Trinidad. (Loop Caribbean)



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

PM Skerrit slams Thompson Fontaine's "misinformation" on electoral reform bills

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has strongly rebuked claims made by Dr Thompson Fontaine, political leader of the United Workers Party (UWP), regarding the recent passage of electoral reform bills in Dominica.

Skerrit described Fontaine's statements as "misinformation" and sought to clarify the facts surrounding the legislative process.

Fontaine had criticized the bills, claiming that the process was rushed and that only two individuals spoke on the bills during the parliamentary debate.

Skerrit quickly refuted this, calling it "an outright lie."

He pointed out that several ministers, including those for housing, education, national security, and the attorney general, made significant contributions to the debate. In addition, Skerrit noted that opposition members, including Senator Del-



bert Paris, Deputy Leader of the UWP, also spoke in support of the bills.

"Dr Fontaine has gone as far as to say that Delbert Paris, his own deputy leader, has made a mistake in voting for the bill," Skerrit remarked. He called this claim a "blatant contradiction," emphasizing that Paris had publicly explained his reasons for supporting key aspects of the reform.

Skerrit questioned Fontaine's motives, saying, "So, I must ask: Did Hon. Delbert Paris make a mistake, as Dr Thompson Fontaine has stated publicly? Or is Dr Fontaine so desperate to discredit this process that he would throw his own deputy under the bus?"

The Dominica Parliament recently passed three bills supporting electoral reform: a Bill for an Act to ensure

the effective operation of the Electoral Commission; a Bill for an Act outlining the election process for members of the House of Assembly and a Bill for an Act to introduce new provisions for the registration of electors.

The Prime Minister further criticized the UWP, pointing out that the party had spent years calling for electoral reform. However, when progress was made, he said, they chose to undermine their own representatives and spread falsehoods to sow discord.

"This is not leadership; it is irresponsibility," Skerrit stated.

Skerrit concluded by reaffirming his government's commitment to progress, declaring that Dominica deserves better. "We will continue to move forward with reforms that benefit the nation," he added. (*Loop Caribbean*)

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Stock markets fall worldwide as Trump's 'Liberation Day' approaches

President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" is fast approaching, and stock markets from Wall Street to Wellington, New Zealand, are falling Monday in advance of it.

In New York, the S&P 500 was down 0.4 per cent following one of its worst losses of the past couple of years on Friday. It's on track to finish the first three months of the year with a loss of 5.5 per cent, which could make this its worst quarter in nearly three years.

The index had been down as much as 1.7 per cent, but it pared its loss as the day progressed. The Dow Jones Industrial Average completely erased its early drop and was up 83 points, or 0.2 per cent, as of 1:19 p.m. Eastern time. But sharp slides for Tesla, Nvidia and other influential Big Tech stocks had the Nasdaq composite down 1.2 per cent.

The US stock market's swings followed a sell-off that spanned the world earlier Monday as worries build that tariffs coming Wednesday from Trump will worsen inflation and grind down growth for economies. Trump has said he's plowing ahead in part because he wants more manufacturing jobs back in the United States.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 index dropped 4 per cent. South Korea's Kospi sank 3 per cent, and France's CAC 40 fell 1.6 per cent. In New Zealand, the NZX 50 slipped a more modest 0.1 per cent.

Instead of stocks, which can be some of the riskiest possible investments, prices strengthened for things considered safer bets when the economy is looking shaky. Gold rose again to briefly crest \$3,160 per ounce.

Prices for Treasury bonds also climbed, which in turn sent their yields down. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.24 per cent from 4.27 per cent late Friday and from roughly 4.80 per cent in January. It's been falling as worries build about tariffs.

On Wednesday, the United States is set to begin what Trump calls "reciprocal" tariffs, which will be tailored to

match what he sees is the burden each country places on his, including things like value-added taxes. Much is still unknown, including exactly what the US government will do on "Liberation Day."

At Goldman Sachs, economists expect Trump to announce an average 15 per cent reciprocal tariff. They also raised their forecast for inflation and lowered it for US economic growth for the end of the year.

Altogether, they now see a 35 per cent chance of recession in the next year, up

from an earlier forecast of 20 per cent, "reflecting our lower growth forecast, falling confidence, and statements from White House officials indicating willingness to tolerate economic pain," according to Goldman Sachs economist David Mericle.

If the April 2 tariffs end up being less onerous than investors fear — maybe Trump includes no additional tariff increases on China, for example — stocks could rally. But if they end up being a worst-case scenario, which also gets businesses so fearful that



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PANDEMONIUM

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they start cutting their workforces, something that hasn't happened so far, stocks could sink much further.

Of course, there's also the chance that April 2 does little to clear the uncertainty. It could end up being merely a "stepping stone for further negotiations" instead of a big "clearing event" for the market, according to Michael Wilson and other strategists at Morgan Stanley.

"This means policy uncertainty and growth risks are likely to persist — it's a question of to what degree," Wilson wrote in a report.

One worry is that even if Trump's tariffs end up being less harsh than feared, all the uncertainty created by them could alone cause US households and businesses to freeze their spending, which would hurt an economy that had been running at a solid pace at the close of last year.

Either way, some familiar names were leading the way downward on Wall Street Monday.

Tesla fell 3 per cent to bring its loss for the year so far to 36.7 per cent. It's been one of the worst performers in the S&P 500 so far this year in large part because of fears that the electric-vehicle maker's brand has become too intertwined with its CEO, Elon Musk. Musk has been leading US government efforts to cut spending, making him a target of growing political anger, and protests have been swarming Tesla showrooms as a result.

It's a sharp drop-off following a surge of roughly 90 per cent in the weeks following November's Election Day, when the thought was that Musk's close relationship with Trump could help the company's finances. Tesla's stock is roughly back to where it was on November 5.

Other Big Tech stocks also helped to pull the market lower. They've been at the center of the recent sell-off in large part because of criticism that their stock prices had become too expensive. Critics pointed to how their prices rose much faster than their already quick-growing profits in recent years. Nvidia, which has ridden the frenzy around artificial-intelligence technol-

ogy to become one of Wall Street's most influential stocks, fell 3.5 per cent to bring its loss for the year so far to 21.2 per cent.

Stocks of companies that need customers feeling flush enough to spend were also among Monday's worst performers, as they've been so far this year.

United Airlines lost 2.5 per cent, and Delta Air Lines gave up 1.5 per cent.

On the winning side of Wall Street was Mr. Cooper, which jumped 14.4 per cent after the home loan servicer said it's being bought by mortgage company Rocket in an all-stock deal valued at \$9.4 billion. The deal comes just weeks after Rocket acquired real

estate listing company Redfin, and Rocket's stock fell 10.4 per cent.

In stock markets abroad, Thailand's SET lost 1.5 per cent after a powerful earthquake centered in Myanmar rattled the region, causing widespread destruction in the country, also known as Burma, and less damage in places like Bangkok.

Shares in Italian Thai Development, developer of a partially built 30-story high-rise office building under construction that collapsed, tumbled 26.9 per cent. Thai officials said they are investigating the cause of the disaster, which left dozens of construction workers missing. (*Loop Caribbean*)



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	2:00 PM	Steelpan Maintenance & Care Presenter: Veron Henry & Team Villa Polyclinic
04 FRI	1:30 PM	Masterclass with Andre White Villa Polyclinic
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Two NYPD officers charged with burglary and forcibly touching sex worker

Two New York City police officers have been suspended after being charged with burglary and forcibly touching a sex worker while responding to a complaint about an illegal brothel, prosecutors said Monday.

Officers Justin McMillan and Justin Colon intentionally turned off their body cameras as they broke into a residential building, stole money and forcibly touched a woman while on duty last July, according to Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz.

The patrol officers, who were still on probationary status after entering the police academy in 2023, had been responding to a report of prostitution inside the building.

Prosecutors say the two shut off their bodycams before approaching a woman leaving the building and taking a key to the residence from her.

They returned eight



hours later, unlocked the door and found a woman having sex with a man, who immediately fled, according to Katz's office.

McMillan then stole money from the woman's purse and groped her.

The woman ran away and eventually called 911 with the help of others, prosecutors said. The officers, meanwhile, returned to their station house without reporting the incidents.

McMillan, 27, of Long Island, and Colon, 24, of Queens, pleaded

not guilty during their arraignment hearings Monday in Queens. They were released and are due back in court April 28, according to Katz's office.

They each face one count of forcible touching and petit larceny, two counts of burglary, and four counts of official misconduct.

Lawyers for the two didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

The officers have been suspended without pay. They were placed on modified duty last August as the NYPD's

internal affairs bureau and Katz's office investigated, according to police.

"We hold our officers to the highest standard of professionalism and integrity, and failing to meet that standard is disqualifying," Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said in a statement. "Let me be perfectly clear: Any officer who violates their oath will be investigated, exposed, and held fully accountable. That standard will never change." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Federal prosecutors to seek death penalty for Luigi Mangione in UnitedHealthcare CEO's killing



United States Attorney General Pam Bondi said Tuesday that she has directed prosecutors to seek the death penalty against Luigi Mangione, the man accused of gunning down UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, following through on the president's campaign promise to vigorously pursue capital punishment.

It is the first time the Justice Department has sought to bring the death penalty since President Donald Trump returned to office in January with a vow to resume federal executions. Bondi's decision to do so in the high-profile case against Mangione, who has drawn a following of supporters upset with the health care industry, underscores the attorney general's commitment to carrying out the president's push for new death penalty cases.

Trump oversaw an unprecedented run of executions at the end of his first term and has been an outspoken proponent of expanding capital

punishment. Bondi's order comes weeks after she lifted a moratorium on the federal death penalty that that had been imposed under former President Joe Biden's administration.

"Luigi Mangione's murder of Brian Thompson — an innocent man and father of two young children — was a premeditated, cold-blooded assassination that shocked America," Bondi said in a statement that described Thompson's killing as "an act of political violence."

Mangione, a 26-year-old Ivy League graduate, is accused of gunning down Thompson in December outside a Manhattan hotel where UnitedHealthcare was about to hold an investor conference. Thompson, who was 50 and had two children in high school, worked for decades within UnitedHealthcare and its parent company.

Mangione, faces separate federal and state murder charges for the killing, which rattled the busi-

ness community while galvanizing health insurance critics.

The federal charges include murder through use of a firearm, which carries the possibility of the death penalty. The state charges carry a maximum punishment of life in prison. Mangione has pleaded not guilty to a state indictment and has not entered a plea to the federal charges.

Prosecutors have said the two cases will proceed on parallel tracks, with the state case expected to go to trial first. It wasn't immediately clear if Bondi's announcement will change the order.

A message seeking comment was left for a spokesperson for Mangione's lawyers.

Thompson's killing alarmed the corporate world, where some health insurers hastily switched to remote work or online shareholder meetings. The case also channelled some Americans' frustrations with health insurance companies. Mangione's writings and words on bullets recovered from the scene reflected animus toward health insurers and corporate America, authorities have said.

Surveillance video showed a masked gunman shooting Thompson from behind. Police say the words "delay," "deny" and "depose" were scrawled on the ammunition, mimicking a phrase commonly used to describe insurer tactics to avoid paying claims.

Mangione was arrested in Altoona, Pennsylvania, about 230 miles (about 370 kilometres) west of New York City, after a five-day manhunt. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

PAHO issues new epidemiological alert amid rising yellow fever cases in the Americas

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Monday issued a new epidemiological alert in response to an increase in yellow fever cases across the Americas

aches, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and weakness.

Severe symptoms include high fever, yellow skin or eyes (jaundice), bleeding, shock, and organ failure.

appearing in areas not previously affected in past years.

“In these regions, activities such as agriculture represent a risk factor for exposure to the virus. The increase

larger outbreak, it added.

While the figures released by PAHO did not include any Caribbean country, it warned nonetheless that yellow fever is a serious viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, which can be fatal but is preventable through vaccination.

It said the vast majority of the cases detected have involved individuals who were not vaccinated.

PAHO has since called for intensifying vaccination efforts in at-risk areas, aiming for coverage rates above 95 per cent.

“Vaccination is the most effective tool to combat the disease. PAHO also recommends that countries review their vaccine stocks, ensure rapid response plans for outbreaks, and make sure travellers to endemic areas are informed and vaccinated.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



during the first months of 2025.

It said that the number of confirmed human cases as of March 22 has more than doubled compared to the total recorded in all of 2024, raising concerns about a potential expansion of the disease.

Initial symptoms of yellow fever can include fever, chills, severe headache, back pain, general body

PAHO said that in the first three months of this year, 131 human cases have been confirmed, with 53 deaths as compared with 61 cases reported throughout last year, 30 of which were fatal.

PAHO said that particularly concerning are the new cases reported since October 2024 in the department of Tolima, Colombia, which indicates the virus is

in cases and their geographic spread highlights the urgent need to strengthen surveillance, prevention, and control measures to contain the disease.”

In addition, the epidemiological situation in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, with 34 cases and 19 deaths, is worrying due to its proximity to densely populated urban centres, increasing the risk of a

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

CWI CEO & President Calls for Restructuring of Crickets Global Financial Model



Cricket West Indies (CWI) CEO Chris Dehring and President Dr. Kishore Shallow are raising fresh concerns about the inequitable distribution of international cricket revenue, calling for a restructuring of the global financial model that continues to disproportionately benefit the “Big Three” India, Australia, and England at the expense of smaller full-member nations like the West Indies.

Speaking in separate but aligned remarks at Monday’s quarterly press conference, both executives emphasized the urgent need for fairness as West Indies cricket seeks to remain viable in the increasingly commercialized global game.

Dehring noted that while resource disparity has long been an issue for West Indies, the current system is now starting to impact other smaller cricketing

nations as well potentially creating momentum for a wider conversation on reform

CWI President Shallow echoed those sentiments, stressing the global value of West Indies cricket and the need for strategic positioning as the game grows.

While advocating for a fairer global revenue structure, Shallow emphasized that CWI must also control what it can by strengthening its product and growing the game within and beyond its borders.

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Sports News



All Saints Officially Crowned 2024-25 ABFA Premier League Champions

All Saints United FC has officially been declared the 2024-2025 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) Premier League Champions. After Sunday's final round of matches, All Saints United finished on 52 points, with Grenades FC who finished in second place on 45, while Old Road FC secured third position with 37 points by goal difference over Garden Stars.

The Golden Boot award went to Raheem Deterville of All Saints United FC with 19 Goals, while the MVP of the Season was taken out by D'Andre Bishop also of All Saints United.



Leeward Islands Hurricanes have announced two changes

With the sixth round of the West Indies 4-Day 'First-Class' Championship all set to bowl off Tuesday, the Leeward Islands Hurricanes have announced two changes for their clash against Guyana Harpy Eagles, at Warner Park in St Kitts.

Leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr and fast bowler Chamiqueko Landerfort join the squad, replacing Alzarri Joseph and Cameron Pennyfeather.

Captain Rahkeem Cornwall leads the 13-man squad that includes Karima Gore, Jewel Andrew, Jahmar Hamilton, Mikyle Louis, Kadeem Henry, Oshane Thomas, Javier Spencer, Keacy Carty, Daniel Doram, and Justin Greaves.

The Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) has announced the inclusion

of left-arm spinner Ashmead Nedd and fast bowler Isai Thorne in the Guyana Harpy Eagles squad.

Nedd strengthens the spin department, while Thorne's return bolsters the fast-bowling unit, both crucial as the Harpy Eagles push to retain their title.

Thorne's presence enhances the team's ability to secure vital fast-bowling points in the upcoming rounds," the GCB said in a press release.

Two rounds remain in this season's championship and the Hurricanes currently sit third on the table with 79.6 points, behind leaders and defending champions the Guyana Harpy Eagles who are on 102.6 and Trinidad & Tobago Red Force who are on 101 points in second place.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

ABAA names 19-Member Team for 52nd CARIFTA Games



Tyra Fenton

The Antigua & Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA) on Tuesday unveiled a 19-member squad to take part in the 52nd staging of the CARIFTA Games set for April 19-21, at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

2024 Antigua and Barbuda National Junior Sportswoman of the Year, Tyra Fenton, will compete in the Under-17 Female 200m and 400m, while Zonique Charles will contest the Javelin and Ranique Richards will take part in the Shot Put.

Fenton took home bronze in both the U-17 200m and 400m at last year's CARIFTA Games, in Grenada.

Like Fenton, Javon Simon will compete in the 200-400m double, in the Under-17 Male category, while Haneif Jones will contest the sprint double.

Geolyna Dowdye will contest the Under-20 Female 100m and 200m, and Kasiya Daley will attempt the U-20 Male equivalent of those two events, while Hannah Charles will take part in the 1500m and 3000m.

Dowdye won 100m bronze



in the same category at last year's CARIFTA Games.

Other field athletes to compete, are Naeem Simon

Former national athlete Jamille Nelson will serve as Head Coach of the team,



Geolyna Dowdye

and Marcus Henry who will be a part of the High Jump, and Maliek Francis will compete in the Javelin.

Francis set an Under-17 record of 68.84m to take gold at last year's edition of the Games at the Kirani James Stadium, in Grenada.

with four-time Olympian Heather Samuel-Daley and Oswald Baptiste working as Assistant Coaches.

Gillian Matthew will serve as Manager of the team that is set to depart the island on April 17.