

PM Browne: 'Heads are going to roll', no more incompetence

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SITTING THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2025

Local News



PM Browne: 'Heads are going to roll', no more incompetence



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has issued a stern warning to public servants in Antigua and Barbuda, 'shape up or ship out' as his government will no longer to 'putting up' with the lethargy and incompetence that have plagued

the public sector for many years.

Speaking in the House of Representatives on Thursday, PM Browne said the inefficiencies within the system have reached the point where drastic actions must take place. "There is a lot of lethargy within the public sector especially among low level staff and let me say that as of now, heads are going to roll; we have had ten years protecting incompetence in this country; it is finished," he declared.

The prime minister noted that at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting he was chided by one of his colleagues who noted that as prime minister, he did not want to fire anyone.

"Public servants have a right to protect their jobs by performing and I am saying here that type of benevolence is finished. So I am signaling to pub-

lic servants; do your jobs or suffer the consequences. We are not discriminating against anybody, but this idea that we just use this 'soft-hand' and we try to protect them, it is finished. I have done enough of that," he emphasized.

The prime minister explained that as someone who grew up in abject poverty, he never wants to see anyone loses his/her job. This, he noted, was his overarching philosophy, however, when persons are frustrating the government's operation through their inaction, then something has to give.

PM Browne said his statements should not be interpreted as a threat to anyone, however, as prime minister he is calling on all public servants to perform the tasks assigned to them in the interest of Antigua and Barbuda.

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Education Minister Matthew accuses the ABUT President of 'bad faith'

Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, is accusing the president of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT), Casroy Charles of 'bad faith' over his handling of the recent industrial action by teachers in the public school system.

Addressing the nation on the matter in the House of Representatives on Thursday, Matthew even suggested that there was 'sinister motives' in the way the ABUT behaved during the work-to-rule.

The minister noted that the negotiations with the ABUT and the government were done in a spirit of respect and without hostility with the government even suggesting additional benefits for senior teachers above what the union had proposed.

He explained that the ministry was constantly upgrading teachers as is required by the collective agreements and that payments were regularly being made to teachers.

Regarding the industrial action, Minister Matthew further explained that by Friday May 9, as far as the ministry was concerned, all the cheques were either received by teachers or were awaiting collection.

However, he reported that on Saturday, May 10, he received word that the ABUT planned to continue the industrial action into Monday, May 12. According to the minister when he sought clarification from the then permanent secretary, he was told that the ABUT President Charles had queried two cheques and he was told that the cheques would be ready for collection at 8:00 am on Monday.

"Notwithstanding that he was told that the cheques, two out of 200, would be ready for collection on Monday morning, Mr. Charles went ahead to instruct his members to continue the industrial



Education Minister, Daryll Matthew

action into a new week. When he was asked about this, his response was that the notice was sent prior to him getting

clarity regarding the cheques. Knowing that the cheques would be ready and proceeding with the industrial action says to me that there is a more sinister motive why the industrial action would continue into Monday, even after being assured that the cheques in questions would be ready for collection," Minister Matthew reported.

The education minister said it is important to expose the lies and misinformation surrounding the industrial action and the claims that the government was uncooperative or that neither the ministry of the treasury was doing its work. "That was simply not true. For the union to instruct its members to continue the industrial action speaks to bad faith and one of the most glaring examples of irresponsible behavior that I have ever witnessed," he declared.



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Government is setting up a new tertiary institution: The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies



DR E. JONAH GREENE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The government is creating a new tertiary institution in the country, the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) by bringing four institutions that currently operate independently under a single management structure.

Education Minister, Daryll Matthew led off debate on the legislation that will establish ABCAS at a meeting of the House of Representatives on Thursday.

“This bill provides for the establishment of ABCAS as an institution of higher education and the teaching and training persons in Antigua and Barbuda in the fields of study offered by the institution. The College is effectively an amalgamation of four tertiary institutions in Antigua and Barbuda; the Antigua State College (ASC), the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT), the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) and the Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE),” he revealed.

According to the minister there are some very valid reasons why the government is moving into this direction with regard to its education policy.

“Mr. Speaker, the reason for this is that as a small country with limited resources, we do not have the benefits of scale. So here is a cases of multiple institutions, some of which offer similar

courses, at similar price points thus effectively cannibalizing yourself, competing with yourself and not operating in the most efficient manner possible. In order to consolidate these institutions, we have been working over the past two years putting together a plan of action of which passing this legislation is one component of the entire implementation process,” he detailed. The Minister gave credit to Deputy Director of Education, Dr. Ezra Jonah Greene, who has been the focal point working on the project with assistance from other senior officers in the ministry and with input from the ministry of legal affairs. The heads of the four campuses have also been involved in the discussions and decision-making regarding the establishment of the ABCAS.

The education minister said the plan

is being implemented in phases as he provided details of what will happen under phase One.

Phase 1: Putting the legal and management framework in place including the setting up of an interim management committee comprising of the following persons;

Chairman: Dr. E. Jonah Greene, Dr. Na-Ajele Williams-Buffonge, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, the Director of Education, Clare Browne, Crowne Counsel, Desiree Markham, Senior Labour Relations Officer, Caris George, Dr. Andrew Hunt of the UWI FIC, Educator, Hyram Forde, Anita Francis, Onell Walker Harris of ABIIT, Arlene Weste of HCABSCS, Raynel Carroll of ABHTI, Robin Nathaniel of ASC, S Roberts and Nicole Marajah.

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE

Magistrate's Court
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Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

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I, Fadi Shahda, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 3rd July, 2025 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "The Shawarma Station" situated Sea View Farm, in the Parish of St. Paul's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 15th day of May, 2025

.....
Fadi Shahda
268-77-7607

Government still compiling documentation for roadworks loan



Prime Minister Gaston Brown

The government is still putting together all the documentation required ahead of finalizing the loan agreement for the massive road

repair and rehabilitation programme that it will undertake on both islands.

Word of this comes from

Prime Minister Gaston Browne as he responded to a question posed to him by Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, during the 'Questions to the Prime Minister' segment of Thursday's meeting of parliament.

"Mr. Speaker, the documentation is not completed as yet. We are awaiting the finalization and we are hoping that within the next 14 days the documentation would be completed and then we should commence drawings so that we can accelerate the road programme," he stated.

The government had previously announced that it will seek to borrow \$100 million

from a consortium of banks to enable it to undertake the nationwide road rehabilitation programme.

Earlier, the government increased motor vehicle licence fees with the expectation that this would go towards amortizing the loan.

In response to a question regarding whether or not private contractors will be used implement the road programme, PM Browne confirmed that there will be a role for private contractors in carrying out aspects of the road programme.



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Senator Newton delivers policy statement at the China-CELAC Internet Development and Cooperation Forum



Chairman of the Free Trade and Processing Zone, Senator Lamin Newton,

Chairman of the Free Trade and Processing Zone, Senator Lamin Newton, has underscored the importance of technology as countries strive to achieve economic growth and social development.

Sen. Newton made the point in an address to the China-CELAC Internet Development and Cooperation Forum in Xi'an, People's Republic of China.

During his speech, Senator Newton encouraged the audience to embrace the benefits associated with the digital economy, as this would be critical for economic development and social progress. He stated that "As we find ourselves in the midst of a digital revolution, it is essential to understand just how we can harness technology to create innovative solutions that benefit all members of society".

The Senator mentioned the need for the sharing of technology from developed countries to developing countries, to ensure that they were not left behind, and assess to digital marketplaces remain a reality for entrepreneurs to spur economic growth and further empower communities. He further mentioned the importance of digital transformation in areas such as education and healthcare, where technology was being implemented to improve lives.

Additionally, Senator Newton

called for collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society to create the necessary frameworks to support digital economic growth. However, he advised that investments must be made in programmes for workers to equip them with the necessary skills to thrive in the evolving global marketplace.

In closing, Senator Newton encouraged the audience to continue to share insights and ideas that would be utilized to realize the full potential of the digital economy.



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Local News



16-year old, adult male in custody over alleged motor vehicle theft

The police are questioning two male suspects in connection with the alleged theft of a motor vehicle.

Reports are that around 2:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department were conducting mobile patrols in the Villa Area when they intercepted a silver Toyota Vitz that had been reported stolen.

Two occupants, a 16-year-old and an adult male, were apprehended and taken into police custody. The said vehicle was reportedly stolen from the owner on Tuesday, May 13, in the vicinity of the Antigua Grammar School. It was taken to the Police Headquarters for further forensic examination. Further investigations are ongoing into the incident.

Anyone with information that can further assist the police with their investigation is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/14 or call Crimestoppers at 800-TIPs (8477).

Meanwhile, the police have arrested and formally charged 33-year-old Ericson Williams of Potters with Attempted Murder.



The charge stems from an incident that occurred on April 21 in Potters, where Williams allegedly sprayed Josh Charles, also of Potters, with a hazard-

ous substance. Charles sustained severe injuries as a result and remains hospitalized at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Williams was expected to make his first court appearance on Thursday.

The police continue their investigation and urge anyone with additional information to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914.

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The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Investment, manages the operation of the V.C. Bird International Airport and the Barbuda International Airport.

We are soliciting suitable vendors to submit tenders/proposals to supply the Airports with sixteen (16) **Wheeled Fire Extinguishers** to aid in heightening the safety of our airside operations. The required specifications of the fire extinguishers are as follows:

- 125lbs Purple-K wheeled fire extinguishers.
- Class B extinguisher suitable for flammable liquids.
- Minimum discharge range: 20 feet.
- Minimum discharge time: 50 seconds.
- Corrosion-resistant construction.
- Meets NFPA and UL standards.
- Rechargeable and refillable.

Vendors submitting tenders should be registered with the Antigua & Barbuda Intellectual Property of Commerce Office and the Inland Revenue Department. Tender proposals must include a quotation, with detailed product specification as stated above, the unit cost and extended cost of the items, name and contact details of the vendor, and the vendor's taxpayer identification number (TIN).

All tenders and supporting documents should be sealed and delivered to the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority on or before **June 6th, 2025**. After this period, no tender will be accepted; submitted documents will be opened in a confidential and transparent setting and reviewed within the setting in the presence of the necessary department leaders and executive staff.

Please address package to contact below:

Mr. Kareem Floyde
Purchasing officer
Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority
V.C. Bird International Airport
Pavilion Drive, Antigua & Barbuda
Telephone: (268) 484-2387

Local News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Courts Ready Cash Unveils It's Exciting Carnival Campaign dubbed "Experience Carnival with Courts Ready Cash", With a Chance to Win \$10,000.

Courts Ready Cash Antigua, on April 9, 2025, launched its vivacious Carnival Campaign, designed to enhance the celebration experience for clients across the OECS region.

Running from April through June 30, 2025, this campaign gives customers the chance to enjoy Carnival without the financial stress. By taking a loan of \$3,000 or more, clients can cover expenses like costumes, event tickets, travel, accommodations, and more—all while getting a shot at winning the grand prize of \$10,000 in cash.

The campaign reflects Courts Ready Cash's ongoing commitment to empowering customers with flexible

financing that supports their lifestyle and cultural experiences.

In addition to providing convenient loan solutions, Courts Ready Cash is proud to stand with the Carnival community—including bands, event promoters, and revelers—who make the season come alive with music,

color, and unmatched energy.

Customers are encouraged to visit their nearest Courts Ready Cash or Courts location to apply and learn more about how they can take part in this exciting opportunity.

For more information, visit www.courts.com.

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U.S. Immigration Laws: A Message for Caribbean Nationals



By Sir Ronald Sanders

“A nation without borders is not a nation”. That is the opening line of an advisory issued by the U.S. Department of State on May 15. It goes on to say, “Our government prioritizes the prosecution of offenses for illegal entry and illegal presence in the United States, as well as criminal offenses by foreign nationals.”

While this statement may resonate with a particular political base in the United States, it also affirms a principle universally upheld. That principle is: every country has the sovereign right to enforce its immigration laws.

Caribbean countries, like all others, expect their immigration laws to be respected. The United States is no different. It is neither extraordinary nor unjust for a government to arrest and deport persons who breach the terms of their stay. That is the rule of law, and it applies regardless of origin, including to nationals of Ca-

ribbean Community (CARICOM) states.

The facts are clear. With the exception of Haiti, whose unique economic and political fragility forces a flow of asylum seekers, CARICOM nationals are not part of the mass refugee or irregular migration trends into the United States. However, there is no denying that a number of CARICOM nationals enter the U.S. on legitimate visitor visas and then make the deliberate decision to remain beyond their authorised stay. In doing so, they step outside the bounds of the law and assume the risk of arrest, detention, deportation, and a permanent bar from re-entry.

When this happens, the diplomatic reach of their home governments is limited. The most that Embassies and Consulates can do is to engage with U.S. authorities, particularly Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), to ensure that their nationals are treated with dignity and in accordance with international human rights norms. What foreign missions cannot do is shield those who have wilfully violated the laws of the United States.

The recent advisory issued by the U.S. government is unambiguous. It states that foreign nationals who overstay their visas may face arrest, incarceration, deportation, and permanent bans. It goes further to announce **“an historic opportunity”** for those unlawfully present to voluntarily leave the country, with the possibility of receiving financial and logistical assistance to do so - provided they register via an Internet

App, set up by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

This is not rhetoric. U.S. President Donald Trump campaigned on a promise to stop illegal immigration and irregular border crossings. It was a key plank of his re-election platform and one that resonated with millions of voters. That pledge is now being aggressively implemented, and there is little political appetite in the United States to challenge it. Foreign nationals - Caribbean nationals included - should take this reality seriously.

There are many legitimate reasons to travel to the United States: tourism, business, specialised medical care, and education, among others. But those who abuse their visas cast a long shadow over others whose intentions are lawful and honourable. Worse still, they jeopardise the credibility of their countries in visa issuance processes, and they create burdens for their own diplomatic missions, who must deal with requests for assistance with limited resources and within the confines of U.S. law.

Equally important, the recent advisory warns that the U.S. “will not tolerate those who facilitate illegal and mass immigration.” It states quite clearly that new visa restrictions would be placed “on foreign government officials and others deemed complicit”. The message is blunt: countries that fail to act responsibly in discouraging illegal migration may see broader consequences.

We in the Caribbean must be clear-eyed about the global context of mi-

gration. The hardening of immigration policy in the U.S. and Europe will have knock-on effects, globally, especially to countries such as ours which are doing better than most economically. We may soon see an increase in people attempting to enter our own countries - some seeking asylum, others simply looking for work as migration avenues close elsewhere. Our economies, already fragile, will not be able to bear such strain without careful planning and legal safeguards.

Many of our **countries** are also tourism-dependent. They will have to exercise special care and put judicious mechanisms in place to identify genuine tourists and business visitors

from potential illegal immigrants. Immigration systems will have to be fortified - not to close borders, but to manage them with fairness and foresight.

At the same time, there is room for constructive diplomacy with the U.S. and other countries, such as Canada. The labour shortages already emerging in the U.S. in hospitality, construction, and agriculture offer an opportunity for dialogue on regularised seasonal and temporary work programmes. CARICOM countries could benefit from well-managed migration frameworks that provide legal pathways for temporary work and return, ensuring the interests of both sending and receiving states are

met.

The path forward should be neither protest against U.S. efforts to end illegal immigration nor denial that such violations exist. It should be grounded in realism and responsibility, coupled with creative proposals that open channels for legitimate, temporary work opportunities and the assured return of Caribbean nationals.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the Dean of the Ambassadors of the Western Hemisphere Group accredited to the U.S. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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Is it the Death of our Sacred Foods?

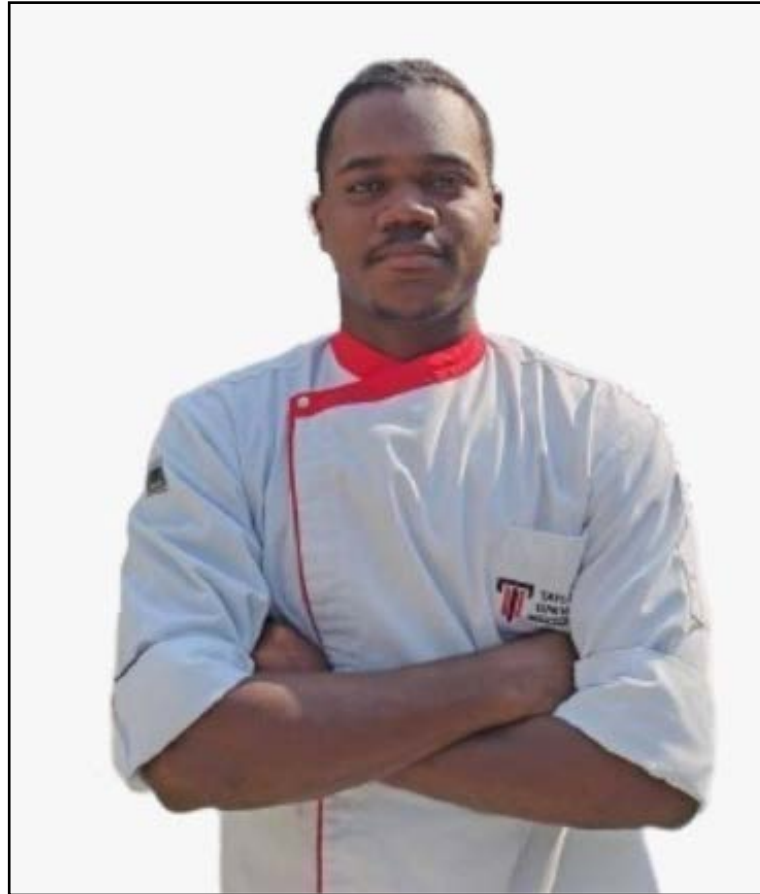
You smell it first — thick, sweet air, heavy with roasted ham and cloves. Once, that smell meant something. Christmas morning with children skating across bleached floors, walls scrubbed clean, windows crystal-clear. The rattle of foil, the nervous excitement. The smell of a day that mattered.

Now? It's just another Tuesday morning at the bread shop. "*Christmas ham*" hacked into sandwiches, shoved into wax paper and tossed across the counter between loose change.

Sacred foods — the ones whole seasons and lives were built around — aren't dying with ceremony. They're dying quietly. Cheaply. Fast.

Before, food like maw and saltfish meant survival. Dry, tough saltfish, packed into barrels and sent across oceans, would be soaked, boiled and beaten into something almost holy. Big chunky white dumplings and sugar water stretched to feed a dozen hungry mouths.

Goat water wasn't just



soup; it was a reckoning of life breaking and beginning again, simmered slowly to mark births, weddings and deaths.

Black cake wasn't dessert; it was longing. A whole year's hopes and griefs soaked into memory like dried fruits in dark rum.

Sorrel wasn't just a drink; it was a blood-red drumbeat, thick with cloves and ginger, a slow sacred goodbye to the old year.

But now? Souse is scooped into disposable

bowls. Conch chowder nuked in oversized office microwaves. Christmas cake sweating under shrink-wrap by the cash register.

Food that once demanded patience, time, and respect has become another half-eaten thing while we scroll through our phones.

This isn't about hating local food. It matters — desperately — to support local. Supporting the woman under the blue tent, the man bent over the oil-drum grill, the auntie selling soup

out of her car trunk. That's survival. That's dignity.

Certain things should be sacrosanct though and convenience is killing the ritual. And if I sound disappointed know that I am disappointed in myself too.

I've bought bottled sorrel. I've sold the plastic-wrapped black cake. I've chosen speed over memory, same as everyone else. That's how sacred things die — not with outrage, but with shrugs. Tiny tradeoffs and small surrenders. Hunger at the wrong moments, in the wrong places.

Once, visiting the *barbecue man* was a pilgrimage: salt still on your skin from beach days, and the divine smell of charcoal smoke curling into the sky during late night food runs. Now, he flips meat for workers on their lunch break who barely chew before rushing back to their desks.

It's not the vendors' fault. They are only satisfying demand. It's the instant world we've built. One that demands

that our sacred foods behave like fast food. Extraordinary flavors, foil-wrapped and conveniently priced to be ready on demand.

We're not marking occasions anymore. We're not passing down flavours and rituals that stitched generations together. We are now just filling the blank spaces between emails, deadlines, commutes, and the routine.

We still love you, Blow Way Bakery and Dagon but a ham sandwich is no longer Christmas morning.

A drunken black cake slumped under plastic isn't a grandmother's gift of love.

A bottle of sorrel isn't the sound of folks laughing themselves silly at the end of a hard year, cheeks blush from spiked drinks and survival.

It's just food now. Quick. Easy. Forgettable. With every mindless bite, we kill the sacred a little more. It's a culture bloated on *big-backness*, all of us too numb to taste the abundance anymore.

Our food was nev-

er just about eating or perfection. It was remembering the turkey at Christmas that we all enjoyed even though it was a little dry, that lemonade that took on the colour of the brown sugar sweetener and the Sunday cakes that only a few managed to get right.

It was about saying: We were here. We survived. We mattered.

If we keep treating our sacred foods like snackable, replaceable commodities we will not just lose recipes but end up watering down our food culture until it is no lon-

ger distinguishable.

Soon our local food will no longer speak to our soul, with the nostalgia of that moment and once the soul starves, no drive-thru special will ever bring it back.

The writer Xavier Louard is a graduate of the Baptist Academy of Antigua and a Food Scientist with a Bachelor of Science degree (Hons) in Food Science with a specialisation in Food Product Development from Taylor's University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



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(JELLY BEANS)

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY BY THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS) ON THE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) extends its firm support and solidarity to the Government and people of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) as they continue their journey toward achieving a full measure of self-government and realizing their aspirations for constitutional advancement and political self-determination.

The OECS commends the BVI on the successful completion of the most comprehensive governance reform programme in its history—an unequivocal demonstration of its commitment to good governance, transparency, accountability, and democratic values. This reform agenda is not only a significant domestic milestone but also a model of responsive leadership that deserves international recognition.

We acknowledge the clear and measured aspirations articulated by the elected Government of the BVI, particularly their call to:

- Initiate constitutional negotiations with the United Kingdom on full in-

ternal self-government under a new pre-independence constitution.

- Ensure the full respect of the executive and legislative authority already devolved to the democratically elected institutions of governance.
- Lift the existing Order in Council that allows for unilateral constitutional suspension.
- Avoid any politically motivated economic impositions that would undermine the territory's financial services sector or economic stability.

The OECS also welcomes and endorses the findings of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, as articulated in the official report of the visiting mission to the BVI in August 2024. The recommendations made by the Committee - including the implementation of a national education programme on independence, the establishment of a roadmap toward self-government, and the facilitation of dialogue with the United Kingdom, potentially mediated by the United Nations - are timely, measured, and

consistent with international law and principles of self-determination.

We note that the UN report reflects the genuine will of the people of the BVI and provides a sound framework for the Territory's forward movement along the path of decolonization.

The OECS reaffirms its commitment to supporting this process in alignment with its longstanding advocacy for the right of all peoples to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.

As the BVI continues its constitutional review process and engages its citizens in shaping the future of the Territory, the OECS stands ready to provide any support necessary - technical, diplomatic, or political - in solidarity with this legitimate pursuit of democratic self-governance.

The OECS remains confident that, with principled leadership and the constructive engagement of all partners, including the United Kingdom and the United Nations, the British Virgin Islands can chart a future that honours its people's aspirations, respects its democratic institutions, and ensures its sustainable development.

We salute the people and Government of the British Virgin Islands for their vision, courage, and steadfast commitment to building a just, sovereign, and prosperous future.



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- Koscab J'ouvert Troupes
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Sports News



University of Alberta students in Antigua on revived IHERE programme



Some of the students from the University of Alberta at the JSC Sports Complex during the recent CPTSA Wings Youth Basketball Festival. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings)

Several students from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, are currently visiting Antigua and Barbuda on a revived International Health Education and Research Experience (IHERE) programme.

The contingent of 15 students arrived in Antigua on May 4 and will return to Alberta, Canada, on June 14.

The University of Alberta students are in Antigua on a similar programme, which was held for several years with students of the University of Fraser Valley in British Columbia, Canada.

The programme with the University of Fraser Valley, which was in existence for at least 12 years, came to a halt after the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019.

After a hiatus of five years, the leader of the programme, Dr. Joanna Sheppard, has been instrumental in its revival. Sheppard, who initiated the programme with the University

of Fraser Valley, joined the University of Alberta in 2023.

The programme is a unique educational experience opportunity that allows undergraduate students, called the “Champions”, to engage in meaningful teaching, research and community outreach alongside local partners.

Over a six-week period, Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation (KSR) students will be contributing in multiple areas, such as Elementary Health & Physical Education at elementary schools, promoting physical literacy, health habits and inclusive movement opportunities.

It is being done in collaboration with the Antigua & Barbuda Ministry of Education, Sport and Creative Industries, and Kelichi Kemnele, a PhD candidate from Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

The students are supporting the rollout of an island-wide health sur-

veillance system, targeting Grade 5 students.

Also included in the programme is inclusive physical activity and disability support. The University of Alberta will be working directly with children with disabilities through school-based programmes and community partnerships, helping to foster inclusive physically active environments.

Meanwhile, the University of Alberta students will have some other community engagement. This is through a growing partnership with the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, delivering after-school programming, supporting community events, and helping build local capacity for sport and recreation.

The visiting students have been engaged with officiating during the 10th Wings Youth Basketball Festival, which was held at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, May 10.

The University of Alberta students will also be assisting and participating at the CPTSA Wings Sports Club’s 31st Whit Monday 4 x 1.5-mile road relay and 10K run, which are scheduled for June 9.

Overall, the programme “is a great example of international experiential education,” said Dr. Joanna Sheppard, Experiential Learning Lead in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation at the University of Alberta.

“Our students are building their skills in teaching, research, and inclusion while contributing meaningfully to youth health and community sport development in Antigua,” Dr. Sheppard added.

ABCA names squad for LICB T20 Festival in Antigua



All-rounder Kofi James

All-rounder Kofi James and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie have been named in a strong Antigua and Barbuda 14-member squad to contest the inaugural Leeward Islands Cricket Board's T20 Festival in Antigua at the end of the month.

Both players produced impressive performances for the Leeward Islands Thunder, who claimed the runners-up spot at the recent inaugural six-team Cricket West Indies (CWI) Breakout T20 League in Trinidad.

James and McKenzie topped the batting and bowling aggregates, respectively, during the West Indies Breakout T20 League that took place from April 25 to May 10.

James, an attacking right-handed batsman and off-spinner in the mould of his father, Stanford "Hardy" James, finished as the leading run scorer with a tally of 240 runs in seven matches.

His recent mature batting displays in the West Indies Breakout League gave glimpses of James' immense talent. The national selectors will be hoping that James, who will be considered as one of the more experienced players on the Antiguan senior team, will deliver and fulfill his potential.

The 17-year-old McKenzie, who has represented Antigua and the Leeward Islands at the youth level (under-13,



Leg-spinner Micah McKenzie

under-15, under-17 and under-19), finished as the leading wicket-taker with 12 wickets in six matches.

McKenzie has honed his skills at Empire Nation (formerly Empire Cricket Club) under the guidance of coach Ian Tittle, who is a former Antiguan and Leeward Islands cricketer.

McKenzie has now received his first call-up to the Antigua and Barbuda senior national team on the back of his outstanding performances at the West Indies Breakout T20 League, in which he gained rave reviews from cricket pundits during live broadcast of matches in the competition.

McKenzie is one of five newcomers to the senior national team. The others are all-rounder Michael Haynes Dover of All Saints Pythons, fast bowler Jedidiah Martin of Jennings Tigers, and wicketkeeper/batsmen D'Ahri Francis of Jennings Tigers and Bartlette Henry of the New Winthorpes Lions.

The experienced off-spinner, batting all-rounder, and Leeward Islands Hurricane skipper Rahkeem Cornwall will captain the team. Karima Gore, who led Antigua to title honours in the Leeward Island 50-Over Championship in St. Kitts and Nevis last October, will be vice-captain of the Antigua and Barbuda team.

Gore also captained the Leeward Islands Thunder in the recent CWI Breakout T20 League. The squad also includes experienced West Indies leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr.

Two reserves are also chosen. They are all-rounder Amahl Nathaniel of Liberta Blackhawks and all-rounder Ishmael Peters of the New Winthorpes Lions.

The team is being guided by head coach and former national left-arm seamer Pernel "Shafto" Watley and Purnell "Roxie" Joseph, who is the manager.

Six teams, comprising all eight member territories, will participate in an inaugural Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) T20 Festival in Antigua and Barbuda at the end of the month.

The event will take place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound from Saturday, May 31, to Sunday, June 8.

Players from Montserrat and St. Maarten will team up to represent the Combined Islands, while players from the British and United States Virgin Islands will join forces to compete at the Virgin Islands team.

The other four participating teams are host Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Nevis, and St. Kitts.

The LICB T20 Festival will bowl off with the first triple-header on Saturday, May 31. The Combined Islands will take on Nevis at 11 am, Anguilla will meet the Virgin Islands, and St. Kitts will clash with Antigua and Barbuda at 7 pm.

Antigua and Barbuda Squad: Rahkeem Cornwall (captain), Karima Gore (vice-captain), Michael Dover, Tyrone Williams Jr., Kofi James, D'Ahri Francis, Bartlette Henry, Elroy Francis Jr., Hayden Walsh Jr., Nino Henry, Glen-ton Williams, Jedidiah Martin, Micah McKenzie, and Javier Spencer. Reserves: Amahl Nathaniel and Ishmael Peters. Pernel Watley (coach) and Purnell Joseph (manager).

Sports News



Da Squad maintains perfect run in women's volleyball league



The Da Squad women's volleyball team

Reigning three-peat champions Cool and Smooth and JOMA Caribbean Da Squad maintained their unbeaten run in the Women's Division 1 competition in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League on Wednesday evening.

Da Squad claimed their seventh win in as many games to remain at the top of the six-team Division 1 standings by pulling off

a 3-0 victory against Print Xpress and Auto Craze Royal Cruisers in their encounter at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Da Squad took an hour to prevail 25-8, 25-18, and 25-18 against the Royal Cruisers women, who remain in the cellar after losing for the seventh time in eight games.

The Storming Lions leapfrogged defending champions Theatric Lighting &

Stage Effect and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville into second place in the seven-team Men's Division 1 League on Wednesday evening.

The Storming Lions jumped from third to second place by recording their sixth win in nine games with a 3-1 victory against the Renegades.

It took the Storming Lions an hour and 35 minutes to prevail 23-25, 25-17, 25-17, and 25-17 against the Renegades, who remain second from the bottom of the standings after losing for the seventh time in nine games.

The Pytonz currently lead the Men's Division 1 League with a record of seven wins in as many games.

The ABAVA's Second Division Development League will resume with one match at the YMCA Sports Complex on Friday evening (today).

Dynasty Queens 2 will take on defending women's second division champions Paragons 2 at 5 pm.

In Sunday's second division triple-header, Chargers Eagles 1 will face Royal Cruisers 2 at 3 pm, and High Flyerz Valkyries will clash with Chargers Eagles 2 at 4 pm in the women's division.

Chargers Velocity will tackle the Sharks in a Men's Division 2 encounter at 5 pm.

The ABAVA's First Division Local League will continue with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

Starz 1 will take on the Jets in a women's Division 1 affair at 6:45 pm, and Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz will face defending men's Division I league champions Stoneville at 7:45 pm.

AGS and Clare Hall Secondary reach Under-15 school cricket final

The Antigua Grammar School and Clare Hall Secondary have advanced to the final of the Ministry of Sports Schools' Cricket Under-15 30-Over Championship.

Both teams booked their spot in the final by securing victories in the semi-finals on Wednesday. Antigua Grammar School claimed a 10-wicket victory against All Saints Secondary at the

Rising Sun playing field.

All Saints Secondary was dismissed for 44 in 12 overs. Isiah Harris snapped up three wickets for four runs, T'Andre Charles grabbed three wickets for nine runs, while Deshawn Hoyte and Leonardo Ducrey each picked up a wicket.

In reply, Antigua Grammar School achieved victory by scoring 45 without losing a wicket. Ducrey hit

an unbeaten 19, and Shane Walsh scored 16 not out.

Clare Hall Secondary clinched a four-wicket win against Jennings Secondary at the Clare Hall playing field.

Jennings Secondary was restricted to 70 for eight in 11.2 overs. Oziah Robertson hit 14, and Estan Hill scored 11. Ian Jeremiah snapped up four wickets for seven runs.

In reply, Clare Hall Secondary achieved victory at 72 for six in 10.3 overs. Charles Abbott struck 22, and Jayden Charles scored 17. Dequan Cochrane captured five wickets for 19 runs.

Clare Hall Secondary and the Antigua Grammar School will clash in the final at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG) on Friday (today), starting at 12 noon.

Cricket West Indies insists on Olympic inclusion



Cricket West Indies (CWI) has formally written to the International Cricket Council (ICC) insisting that the unique configuration of West Indies cricket be fairly accommodated in ongoing discussions with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding qualification for cricket at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

In its correspondence, CWI outlined two inclusive and practical qualification pathways that would enable sovereign Caribbean nations—many of which have deep Olympic legacies—to participate in Olympic cricket in accordance with the values and requirements of the Olympic Charter.

Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of Cricket West Indies, made a compelling call for fairness and inclusion.

“The Caribbean has always punched above its weight at the Olympics, inspiring the world with our athletic brilliance. Cricket’s return to the Games in 2028 must not exclude our young cricketers from the same dream that has inspired our athletes.

“The Olympic Charter emphasizes fairness, transparency, and universality. We are simply asking that these principles be upheld—not just in spirit, but in structure. West Indies cricket must have a pathway, and fully deserves an opportunity to compete.”

Cricket West Indies’ proposal comes in light of the current Olympic rules that would exclude West Indies men

and women teams from Olympic participation.

Given this situation, CWI is advocating for either: If rankings are used and West Indies men and women teams technically qualify, an internal qualifying tournament among its Olympic affiliated member countries will determine which country represents the West Indies; or A global qualifying pathway that includes associate ICC members in the 5 ICC Development Regions plus member countries of the West Indies.

CWI’s submission to the ICC cites the Olympic Charter’s Bye-law to Rule 40, which mandates that qualification criteria must be “fair and transparent” and designed in line with the core principles of the Olympic Movement. These include universal representation, equal access, and the participation of the best athletes from all regions.

Chris Dehring, Chief Executive Officer of CWI, emphasized the need for meaningful engagement.

“All we are asking is that our indi-

vidual nations’ exceptional Olympic legacy be considered in the conversation. The structure of West Indies cricket is unique—men and women teams representing 15 individual nations and territories, each with its own Olympic identity.

“We cannot let this once-in-a-generation opportunity for national development pass without creating a way for our countries to participate. The spirit of the Olympic Games that we have played an important global role in fostering, demands nothing less.

“Our nations—have proudly flown their individual flags atop Olympic podiums as perennial gold medalists. Now, with cricket’s inclusion, we must ensure that our cricketers are not shut out of history. We are ready to collaborate. We are ready to compete. But above all, we are asking for fairness.”

CWI is committed to constructive dialogue with the ICC and welcomes the opportunity to work together in shaping a qualification process that respects both the Olympic ethos and the realities of cricket in the Caribbean.



Sports

FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2025



Flyers advance to finals of Division 1 playoff series



Top seed and defending ABBA Division 1 champions EZ Fit Flyers. (File photo)

Top seed and defending champions EZ Fit Flyers have advanced to the finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division playoff series.

The Flyers, who have already retained their Division 1 league title, wrapped up their best-of-three semi-final series 2-0 against fourth-seed New Generation All Saints Slam at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

The Flyers, who took Game 1 96-72, soared to a commanding 86-59 victory against All Saints Slam in the second en-

counter.

The Flyers were led by Adonis Humphreys, who sank 15 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, and Selassie Brathwaite with 13 points and five rebounds.

In support, Alexis Jackson converted 11 points and claimed nine rebounds; Devonte Daley also scored 11 points; Kenya Ahcom produced nine points, six assists, and five rebounds; Xavier Meade contributed nine points and nine rebounds; and Kwame Brathwaite chipped in with eight points and 11 rebounds for the Flyers.

Humroy Wright shot a game-high 24 points, and Iornie Joseph scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for All Saints Slam.

Meanwhile, league champions and top seed Cuties Ovals Ojays have advanced to the playoff finals in ABBA's Second Division.

The Ovals Ojays advanced to the finals after wrapping up their best-of-three semi-final series 2-0 against fifth seed EZ Fit Flyers 2 at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

After pulling off a 75-62 victory in Game 1, the

Ovals Ojays prevailed 82-49 against Flyers 2 in the second encounter.

The Ovals Ojays once again led from start to finish, soaring to a 28-10 advantage at the end of the first quarter. They outscored their opponents 22-14 in the second quarter to take a commanding 50-24 lead against Flyers 2 at halftime.

The Ovals Ojays consolidated their position by outscoring the Flyers 22-16 in the third quarter and preserved their lead in the fourth quarter to wrap up their victory.

The Ovals Ojays were led by Tequan Brodie with 25 points and five rebounds, and Tajahron Davis, who produced 19 points and five assists.

In support, Jayleyle Joseph converted 10 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Rashaun Harry sank 10 points and claimed six rebounds, Tyrese White converted nine points, and Naheem Joseph scored eight points for Flyers 2.