

Multiple government agencies welcome ArriveAntigua.com launch

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Dr. Deborah Brosnan, Marine Scientist & Climate Risk Expert, Ruleo Camacho, Marine Ecologist & Consultant, National Parks Authority, Johnella Bradshaw, Redonda Ecosystem Reserve Coordinator, Environmental Awareness Group, Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez and Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Director of Environment – Antigua and Barbuda.

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Multiple government agencies welcome ArriveAntigua.com launch



Information Technology Minister, Melford Nicholas,



Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu



ABAA CEO Wendy Williams

Several key government agencies gathered on Monday to celebrate the launch of the new ArriveAntigua.com electronic ED cards that have replaced the paper-based system.

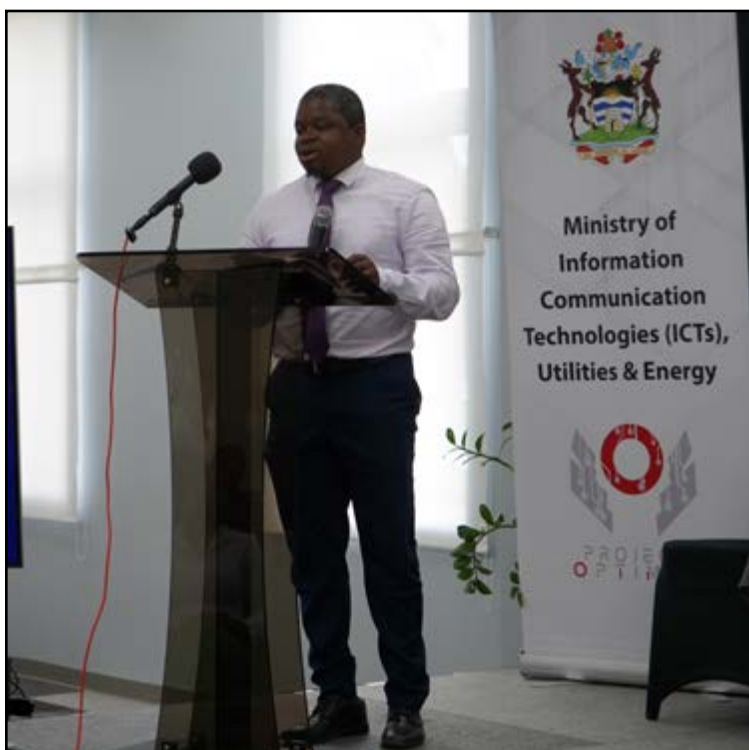
Information Technology Minister, Melford Nicholas, gave an overview of the processes that led to Tuesday's launch of ArriveAntigua.com and the additional benefits that the system will provide to various government agencies. Along with the ministry of tourism, for obvious reasons, Minister Nicholas noted that the Ministry of Finance has also expressed an interest in the data that the system provides.

"From across the government standpoint, the Min-

istry of Finance is taking an interest in this as well. Simply because the capture of the data at the airport gives other agencies of government, including the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) immediate access to the collected information that comes to us in the form of the number of people visiting. You can imagine that the Ministry of Finance has to hold the hotel sector accountable for tourism arrivals. They now have within their own control, a tool and an instrument that can give them immediate information as to the number of persons who are traversing our borders," he remarked.

The minister described the system as 'truly flexible'

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Deputy Commission of the IRD, Jermaine Jarvis



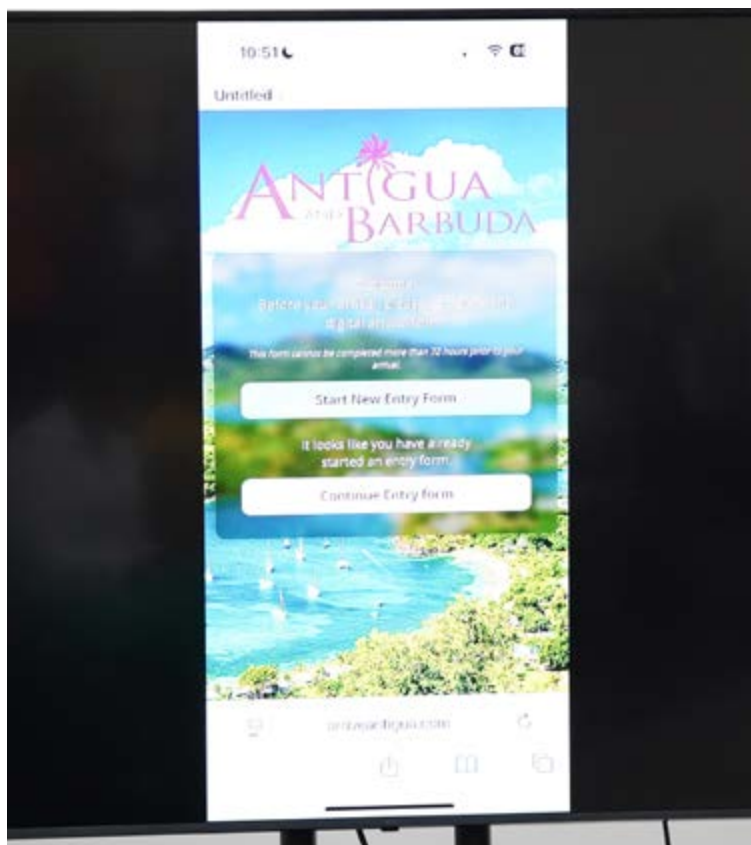
Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood

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and its mobility gives both Immigration and Customs the ability to meet people where they are.

Deputy Commission of the IRD, Jermaine Jarvis, also highlighted the significance of the data which the new electronic cards will capture. "This data provides a reliable record of travel dates, frequency of visits and duration of stays – key information that has profound implications for tax compliance in the accommodation and other sectors," he noted.

He said the IRD welcomes the digital ED card and looks forward to the increased efficiencies that it brings. "We will make every effort to ensure that this increased efficiency is translated to increase compliance and dollars and cents," he declared.



Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu said his department strongly believes that leveraging the emerging technologies would be helpful in making visitor experiences pleasant. "The

new system – ArriveAntigua.com – will assist Customs to speedily and efficiently process the passenger traffic, the advance information keyed in by the visitors could be used for risk analy-

sis and for the formation of countermeasures for risky travelers," he stated.

Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood, reflected on the fact that Antigua and Barbuda had been working on implementing an electronic ED card for several years to the extent that the other territories had moved ahead and implemented their own systems.

However, she noted that the new system ArriveAntigua.com has features that utilize AI that no other Caribbean territory has. "We have moved from last to first by our delay in adapting this system," she explained.

ABAA CEO Wendy Williams also sings the praise of the new system noting that already the feedback from passengers who used it to travel in and out of VC-BIA has been overwhelmingly positive.

Antigua and Barbuda Leads Regional Call for Sustainable Tourism at Caribbean Tourism Travel Forum



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez

Antigua and Barbuda hosted a high-level Caribbean Tourism Travel Forum Panel under the theme “Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean: Charting a Resilient Future” on Monday, May 19, 2025, at Sandals Grande Antigua.

The forum was held as part of the 43rd Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) Caribbean Travel Marketplace,

The session was opened by Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, who reminded delegates that the future of Caribbean tourism lies at the intersection of climate resilience and sustainable development.

“As we stand on the brink of the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season, we must confront the hard truth: climate change is no longer a distant threat. “These are no longer once-in-a-century events,” he stated, referencing the devastation of Hurricane Irma in Barbuda and Hurricane Maria in Dominica. “Sustainable tourism is not a buzzword. It is a regional imperative.”

It is here, now, and it demands bold, urgent action,” said Minister Fernandez. “Tourism is our economic lifeblood, but without sustainable practices and environmental stewardship, we risk compromising the very assets that



Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Director of Environment – Antigua and Barbuda.



Johnella Bradshaw, Redonda Ecosystem Reserve Coordinator, Environmental Awareness Group

attract the world to our shores.”

Minister Fernandez underscored the need to challenge outdated vulnerability metrics, push for climate justice on the international stage, and invest in green infrastructure that benefits local communities. He cited Barbuda’s low-density eco-tourism, Redonda’s remarkable restoration, and reef renewal initiatives as blueprints for the wider Caribbean.



Ruleo Camacho, Marine Ecologist & Consultant, National Parks Authority.



Dr. Deborah Brosnan, Marine Scientist & Climate Risk Expert,

He also emphasized the role of workers in the tourism sector as “vital agents of change,” pointing out their unique ability to champion environmental stewardship, educate guests, preserve culture, and drive innovation.

The forum featured a dynamic and solution-driven panel of experts and practitioners at the forefront of sustainable tourism and climate resilience:

Opening the panel of experts was Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Director



of Environment – Antigua and Barbuda. With over 30 years in environmental policy and project financing, Ambassador Black-Layne spoke on the increasing shift among developers toward Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) over the last decade.

“The debate between protection and development will always exist,” she acknowledged, “but we are finally having the conversation, and that’s progress.”

The discussion followed a real-life example of the importance of conservation and restoration by Johnella Bradshaw, Redonda Ecosystem Reserve Coordinator, Environmental Awareness Group

Bradshaw delivered a passionate and vivid presentation on the transformation of Redonda—from a barren, rat-infested island to a thriving ecosystem. She framed the effort as a triumph of community-based conservation and

island resilience.

The passionate story of Redonda was followed by important and illustrative presentation by Ruleo Camacho, Marine Ecologist & Consultant, National Parks Authority.

Camacho emphasized that healthy reefs are not only vital to marine life but are deeply intertwined with economic activity and tourism viability.

“Tourism actions can, and must, support reef restoration,” he said, outlining best practices for sustainable marine tourism, such as using reef-safe sunscreens and avoiding anchoring on coral beds.

Anchoring the discussion in actionable solutions was Dr. Deborah Brosnan, Marine Scientist & Climate Risk Expert, Deborah Brosnan & Associates.

Bringing global perspective, Dr. Brosnan tied environmental resilience directly to investment return, citing case

studies where nature-based solutions averted disaster and preserved infrastructure.

“Nature is part of the tourism value chain,” she said. “When we integrate nature-positive solutions, we not only enhance biodiversity but protect communities and deliver economic returns.”

She highlighted:

- A wetland and dune restoration project integrated into a golf course that now supports over 60 bird species and local jobs;
- A \$200,000 dune restoration in St. Barths that protected a \$90 million development from hurricane damage;
- And OceanShot, a large-scale reef regeneration initiative that created new marine habitats supporting 36 fish species within a year.

ABEC renews appeal for persons to replace expired Voter ID Card



The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) is renewing its appeal for members of the public who have not yet replaced their expired Voter ID Cards to do so without delay.

According to the commission's data, as at May 9th 2025, a mere sixteen thousand and forty-one (16,041) individuals have completed the process. The constituencies of St. Peter (76%) and Barbuda (69%) have recorded the highest replacement rates, largely due to recent elections.

The Commission emphasizes that the Voter's Identification Card is a key document that confirms the eligibility to vote. A valid Voter's ID Card is crucial, not only for participating in elections but also for various transactions that require official identification at businesses and govern-

ment departments.

The Commission has made the replacement of the Voter's ID cards accessible and as simple as possible, taking no more than seven minutes per person. Registration Units across the state are open and ready to serve with teams that remain committed to assisting every eligible voter in updating their demographics.

ABEC urges persons to be proactive and to complete the process early to avoid long lines and any last-minute rush.

The Expired Voter's ID Card Replacement Programme began on August 12th 2024 in all 17 constituencies. As part of the process, eligible voters are asked to walk with their expired Voter's ID card, a valid government issued ID, a proof of address and any documents updating their marital status. Cards will be updated with a new photo, signature, validated with fingerprints and will be available from the same Registration Unit within three weeks of an application.

#		COUNSTITUENCY	JANUARY 2025										FEBRUARY 2025										MARCH 2025										APRIL 2025										MAY 2025										GRAND TOTAL	% Complete				
			SUB-TOTAL	1ST-5TH	6TH-12TH	13TH - 18TH	19TH-24TH	25TH-31ST	TOTAL	3RD-7TH	10TH-14TH	15TH-21ST	22TH-28TH	TOTAL	3RD-7TH	10TH-14TH	15TH-21ST	22TH-28TH	31ST	TOTAL	1ST-7TH	7TH-14TH	14TH-18TH	19TH-24TH	28TH-30TH	TOTAL	1st-2nd	3rd- 5th	6th- 8th	TOTAL																												
1	ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST	508	4	16	18	11	14	63	14	10	10	5	39	8	9	4	3	3	27	3	8	4	3	2	20	3	4	7	664	28%																												
2	ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST	299	8	5	8	9	9	39	7	4	7	6	24	2	5	5	3	3	18	9	2	3	2	3	19	0	3	3	402	25%																												
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4	ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST	989	16	20	32	20	15	103	16	14	9	25	64	6	8	6	9	2	31	8	11	9	5	2	35	2	3	5	1227	27%																												
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7	ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH	786	12	41	13	22	12	100	12	5	11	12	40	9	10	9	8	3	39	2	4	1	8	4	19	9	3	12	996	29%																												
8	ST. MARY'S NORTH	886	13	27	20	20	12	92	21	8	16	9	54	10	12	18	18	0	58	5	1	6	3	6	21	2	2	4	1115	27%																												
9	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	640	6	8	14	10	8	46	4	4	11	8	27	5	6	3	1	2	17	2	6	9	3	1	21	1	2	3	754	35%																												
10	ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE	837	16	35	25	13	12	101	12	6	11	8	37	5	8	8	9	7	37	2	6	2	5	1	16	1	1	2	1030	31%																												
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13	ST. PETER	1312	232	500	98	2	0	832	1	3	1	2	7	0	5	1	1	1	8	1	3	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	2166	76%																												
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16	ST. PAUL	756	7	19	23	11	10	70	4	17	19	13	53	5	7	13	6	3	34	5	9	10	2	4	30	2	4	6	949	35%																												
17	BARBUA	316	4	28	14	9	56	111	19	14	18	38	89	36	19	39	92	0	186	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	705	69%																												
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MONTHLY TOTAL		12050											2105											749											731											334											72	16041



Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission

OFFICIAL REPORT



NODS leads review of the impact of weekend rains



The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) on Monday led a review of the impact of Saturday's heavy rainfall and the vulnerable areas that were exposed by the heavy downpours that caused flooding in some areas.

The meeting brought together representatives from the Development Control Authority (DCA), the Public Works Department, the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and the Ministry of Health along with the team from NODS to carry out the national assessment.

The review team identified several areas of concern; among them are Pigotts, Cashew Hill, Liberta, Yorks, Ce-



dar Grove, Upper Fort Road among others. These hot spots were assessed by NODS per-

sonnel and district disaster teams on Sunday after a trough brought between 2-4 inches

of rain on Antigua on Saturday which led to flooding in some parts.

It was noted that some of the waterways in these areas need cleaning to allow water to flow freely. Another concern is that roadways are being undermined by the flow of water from heaving rain.

Based on reports received by NODS, several hotels and homes were flooded. NODS continues to do its assessments to determine the full extent of the impact on the various communities.

A report along with recommendations will be compiled and submitted to the relevant agencies.

Local News



St. Lucian exporters explore opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda

A delegation of Saint Lucian exporters currently in Antigua and Barbuda for the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's (CHTA) annual event paid a courtesy call on Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim on Monday morning.

The visit formed part of the broader 2025 OECS Trade Mission, which is designed to strengthen regional commercial ties and boost the visibility of OECS-based products and services across diverse sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, and health and wellness.

Ambassador Pilgrim warmly welcomed the delegation, commending their initiative and underscoring the value of regional cooperation.

"We need to continue to come together," the Ambassador stated. "What you have, our nation doesn't — and what we have, Saint Lucia doesn't. That is why these types of engagements are so important to the collective success of our region."

Also in attendance was Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Jomica Carbon, who praised the visit as a meaningful opportunity for both trade advancement and policy exchange.

"This kind of collaboration is essential not only for business development but for fostering innovation and deeper integration across the OECS," she said.

While in Antigua and Barbuda, the delegation will continue to engage in networking activities, site visits, and stakeholder meetings as they explore avenues for trade and partnership within the region.



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim

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AUA Supports SLBMC's Digital Transformation with Laptop Donation

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has received a generous donation of 10 laptops from the American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine, supporting key departments including the Emergency Department, Pharmacy, and other clinical and administrative areas during a pivotal phase of digital transformation.

The donation arrives as SLBMC is actively implementing a new Hospital Information System (HIS)—a major upgrade that will enhance the hospital's ability to manage patient records, coordinate care, and improve service delivery across the board.

"This donation is more than just equipment—it's a reflection of partnership and purpose," said Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis, SLBMC's Medical Director. "We've already begun implementing our new Hospital Information System, and these laptops are critical to ensuring that staff across departments can access and utilize the system effectively."

The laptops will help streamline clinical docu-



mentation, enable quicker access to digital patient data, and improve overall communication between care teams. In the Pharmacy Department, the devices will also assist with prescription processing and inventory management, both of which are being integrated into the HIS platform.

"Technology is essential to modern healthcare," said Osbert Josiah, SLBMC's IT Manager. "As we digitize more of our operations, having the right tools in the hands

of our staff is critical. This donation helps us address pressing gaps and is a practical step toward building a more responsive, connected hospital system—especially as we continue rolling out our new Hospital Information System."

The continued collaboration between SLBMC and AUA reflects a shared commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery and supporting the systems that make high-quality care possible.

"We are proud to stand

with SLBMC as they take bold steps toward a more connected, patient-centered future," said Vernon Solomon, Chief Operating Officer of AUA's Antigua Campus and Senior Vice President of the university. "This contribution is one way we can help ensure the hospital's digital transformation is successful and sustainable."

SLBMC thanks AUA for its continued collaboration and commitment to advancing healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda.

Local News

Doctor Dr. Deidra Rawlins achieves another milestone



Dr. Deidra Rawlins, a proud daughter of Antigua and Barbuda, has earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the prestigious Boston University School of Public Health, with a concentration in Health Equity. This latest achievement builds on her credentials as a licensed medical doctor (MD) and marks a significant milestone in her mission to improve health outcomes for underserved populations.

Dr. Rawlins' pursuit of the MPH reflects a deep commitment to lifelong learning, a core principle in the ever-evolving field of healthcare. By blending her clinical expertise with public health training, she is uniquely positioned to advocate for sys-

tems-level change that ensures access, dignity, and equity in health.

"The power of combining the MD with an MPH is that I now have both the lens to treat the patient in front of me and the tools to address the social and systemic barriers affecting entire communities," said Dr. Rawlins. "Specializing in health equity has reaffirmed my passion for ensuring that no one is left behind—regardless of their income or background."

Dr. Rawlins was joined at the graduation by her husband Marlon Rawlins, daughter Madison, son Matthew, mother Nalda Peterson, and mother-in-law Generis Rawlins—a circle of

support who traveled from near and far to celebrate the occasion in Boston on Saturday 17 May 2025.

Currently based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Dr. Rawlins remains deeply rooted in her Antiguan identity and has made clear her intention to return home in the near future.

With unwavering pride in her Antiguan roots and a passion for global impact, Dr. Deidra Rawlins embodies what it means to lead with purpose, compassion, and courage. Dr Rawlins is a graduate of the St. Andrews Primary School, Antigua Girls High School, Antigua State College and University of the West Indies.



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Mental Health Talk Antigua goes to church



Mental Health Talk Antigua at St Barnabas Anglican Church

Mental Health Talk Antigua (MHTA) has announced a partnership with St. Barnabas and St. Paul's Anglican Church to launch a new mental health ministry within the church. This collaboration is designed to provide vital emotional and psychological support to the congregation while hosting meaningful activities for the broader St. Paul's community.

This ministry will serve as a faith-based platform for mental wellness, offering support, education, and outreach aimed at nurturing both spiritual and emotional well-being. With this step, the church becomes a beacon of healing and hope, where mental health conversations are welcomed and support



Mental Health Talk Antigua with Jamion Knight

systems are accessible.

In celebration of **Mental Health Awareness Month**, the organisation has expanded our efforts with a series of impactful initiatives, including:

□ **Mental Health Pin Drive** – Show your support by purchasing our green mental health awareness pins for \$2 or

\$5. Proceeds will go toward mental health outreach and programming.

□ **School Engagements** – MHTA is actively visiting selected schools to educate and engage young people in conversations about mental health and wellness.

□ **Wear Green Campaign** –

The organisation encourages everyone to wear green throughout the month as a symbol of solidarity and support for mental health awareness.

□ **Social Media Awareness** – Join the movement online by following its posts, sharing its message, and using its official hashtag to spread awareness.

□ **Mental Health Talk LIVE** – Its weekly live Facebook broadcast continues, featuring stories and discussions that inform, uplift, and inspire.

Mental Health Talk Antigua also extends a special thank you to everyone who came out to support its annual flagship event, Mindful.

Local News

Missing national expected to return to Antigua today



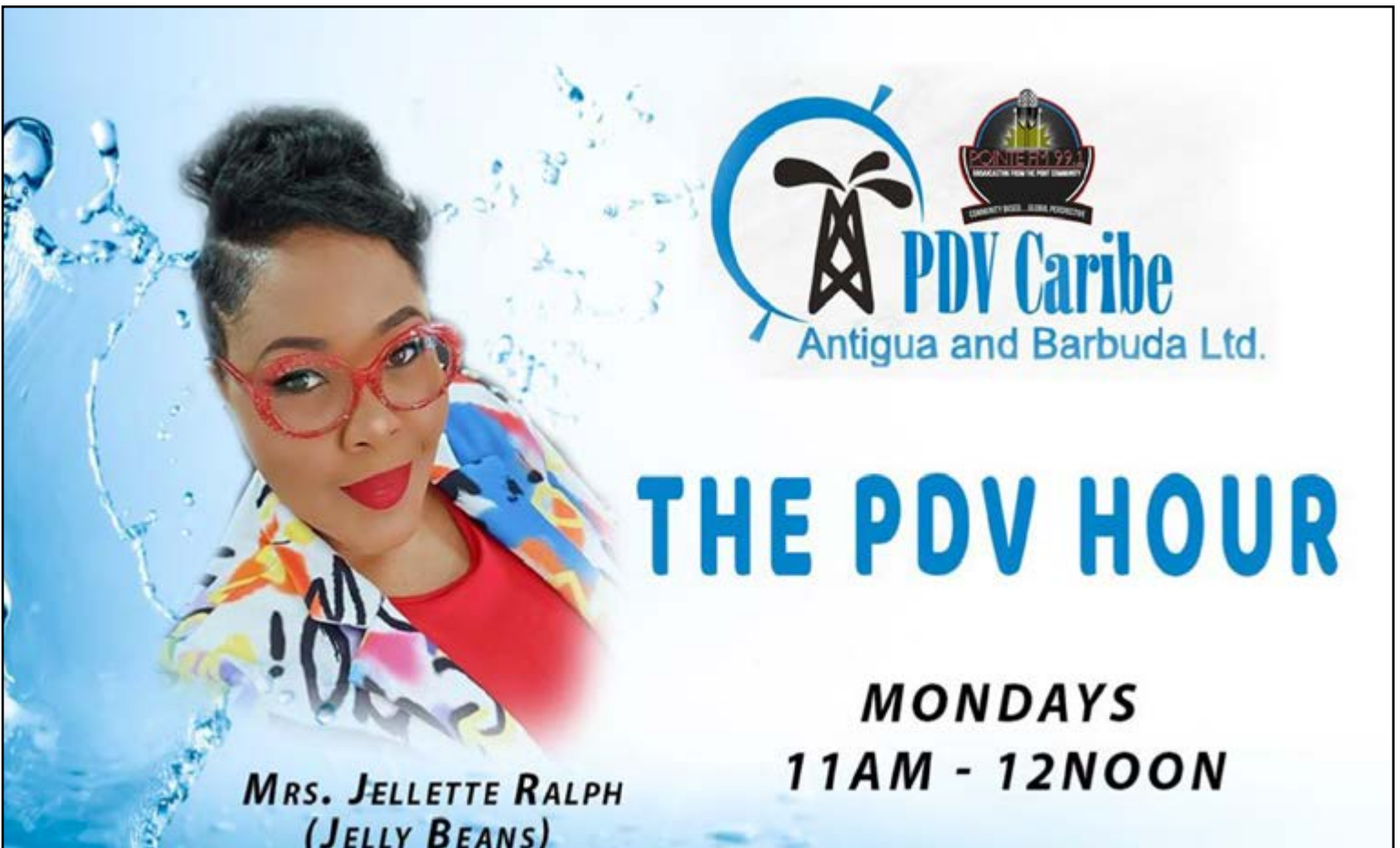
The Antiguan female reported missing for over 34 years has been reunited with family members in Caracas, Venezuela.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne made

the announcement in a social media post as he explained that the government sponsored those relatives to travel to Caracas to repatriate her.

“My friend, President Nicolas Mad-

uro, has benevolently authorized a private charter to fly her and family members back to Antigua on Tuesday. God is good!” wrote PM Browne.



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Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)



REGISTRATION

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CATEGORIES:

- Carnival Floats
- The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Junior Calypso Monarch
- Junior Party Monarch
- LIAT 2020 T-Shirt Mas Troupes
- Koscab Junior Carnival
- Calypso Monarch
- APUA INET Pary Monarch
- Koscab J'ouvert Troupes
- Individual Mas
- Road March
- Monday Wear
- Mas Troupes
- Vendors & Booth Operators

WHERE TO COLLECT FORMS:

- National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street
- Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road (Upstairs KFC/INET Building)

HOURS:

MON - THURS

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FRI

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

mail: info.nof@ab.gov.ag or WhatsApp: (268) 727-9201. For inquiries, call (268) 462-4707

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO:

- National Festivals Office, 1st Floor,
Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley
& Redcliffe Street

ANTIGUA Carnival 2025

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"THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL"



@Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission



@antiguacarnival

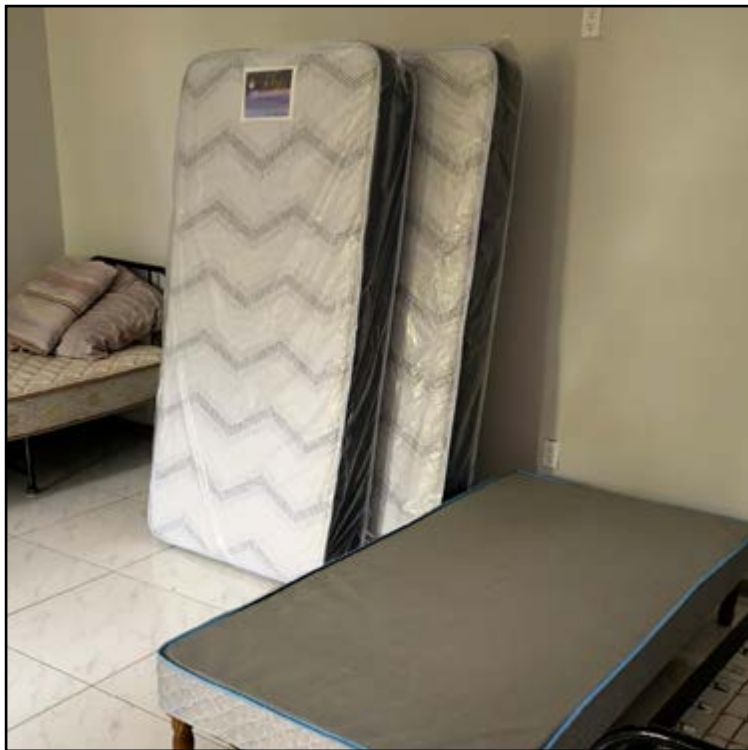


@antiguacarnival



@antiguafestivalsofficial

MP Smith makes timely donation to All Saints Police station



The Member of Parliament for the All Saints West constituency, Anthony Smith, Jnr., has donated a number of essential items to the men and women who are stationed there.

“We had the privilege of making a timely intervention at the All Saints Police Station—delivering essential items, equipment, and furniture to support the hard-working officers of

All Saints West.

“With these upgrades, our officers are now better equipped to perform their duties and have a more comfortable space to re-charge after long shifts.

This gesture is part of our ongoing commitment to stand with those who serve and protect our communities,” Smith stated in a social media post.

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



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

IHO and SIDS CSO Coalition Deepen Commitment to ABAS Implementation at 2025 SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum at UN Headquarters



SIDS CSO Engagement Forum

At the recently held 2025 SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum at the United Nations (UN), Integrated Health Outreach (IHO), represented by Director of Operations, Britney McDonald, actively contributed to the high-level discussions, sharing insights gathered from weeks of consultations held after the 4th International Conference for Small Island Developing States (SIDS4).

IHO and representing the SIDS CSO Coalition played a key role in coordinating the development of the SIDS Civil Society Roadmap and Action Plan documents which were co-created with partners such as the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO), the SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH), and others, representing voices from across

the Caribbean, Pacific, and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) regions.

The Forum, held from May 12–13 at the UN Headquarters in New York, brought together a diverse and dynamic group of 27 civil society actors from across the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) regions. The event served as a direct follow-up to the SIDS4, which was held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024, at which the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) was adopted as the 10-year blueprint for sustainable development.

IHO's inputs to the SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum were built on momentum created through public consultation and through the SIDS CSO Expo and Global CSO Summit—events organised around



**Director of Operations,
Britney McDonald**

SIDS4 by IHO in conjunction with the SIDS CSO Coalition, where more than 95 organisations mobilised to provide coordinated inputs into the ABAS. As the SIDS agenda transitions from commitment to implementation, the forum emphasised the importance of strengthening civil society's capacity and embedding civil society leadership, local knowledge, and community priorities in every stage of the process.

IHO's Britney McDonald highlighted the importance of building functional bridges between local communities and international frameworks. "One of the outcomes we advocated for through written statements and dialogue was for stronger connectivity with and between civil society

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From page 16

groups. This engagement responds to that call. Civil society organisations, engaged and strengthened, are assets to the ABAS implementation process,” she said.

In the lead-up to the forum, IHO published a working document to capture and validate reflections and recommendations from civil society consultations. It remained open for public comment through May 13, allowing continued input and transparency. During the forum, Britney

McDonald shared interventions, including the need for greater civil society access to the participatory processes, to funding, and to opportunities to foster engagement with local communities.

“From our consultations, we have a clear picture of the barriers for civil society and on behalf of the Caribbean Region, and SIDS, we called for increased civil society connection in a sustainable manner and access to capacity building resources that make use of dynamic and respon-

sive resource mobilisation,” she noted. Among other interventions made, fellow civil society representatives shared issues for indigenous communities, youth, and persons with disabilities. Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the UN, Dr. W. Aubrey Webson, acknowledged civil society inputs and recognised the importance of civil society’s close participation in the sustainable development process.

Participation in this pivotal forum was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Clara Lionel Foundation and the Equality Fund. Their support enabled organisations like IHO and the SIDS CSO Coalition to bring regional expertise and lived experiences into global policy discussions. Their contributions reflect a broader commitment to equity, inclusion, climate justice and strengthening the role of women-led and community-rooted organisations in shaping sustainable futures for island states.

A follow-up virtual debrief hosted by IHO will be held on May 28th, 2025, to share outcomes from the forum with CSOs and to explore opportunities for deepening implementation across national and regional contexts.

Useful links:

- Watch the Day 2 Interventions forum: <https://qrco.de/bg0bBj>
- Learn more about the SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and Roadmap (2024-2034) here: <https://qrco.de/bg0bB1>
- Review the SIDS Civil Society Engagement Forum Programme here: <https://sdgs.un.org/2025SIDSCSOForum#documentation>

Regional News



Farley gears up for THA election... promises to push case for autonomy

TOBAGO People's Party (TPP) political leader Farley Augustine is calling on supporters to get ready for the upcoming Tobago House of Assembly (THA) election.

During a Thanksgiving event at Rovanel's Resort last Saturday, Augustine cited the Bible parable of the ten virgins and the five who were foolish. He warned supporters to be wise.

"I am saying to you area representatives, I am saying to you action groups, none of us in this room including myself we don't know at this time when the next election date would be, but I am saying that we know for sure that one would be approaching as Act 40 of 1996. You better get your lamps trimmed and burning. Those who are wise and have their lamps trimmed and burning they would be ready for whenever that day would be. Those who are unwise and would be ill-prepared for that time you would find yourself on the losing end of the stick. So, prepare and be ready," he said.

Augustine told party faithful that the TPP will face future challenges head-on.

His remarks came during the party's Thanksgiving service in one of a week-



end of activities celebrating the party's victory over the People's National Movement in the two Tobago seats in last month's general election.

"I have every confidence that this party will make it through the next hurdle and the next and the next," Augustine said.

Following the party's victory on April 28, securing both the Tobago East and West parliamentary seats, he said the real work has only just begun. "I want to say to you, TPP family, that we have a long road ahead of us, that this victory should not confuse us into thinking that this is done. The task is not yet done. We are grateful

to God for our Member of Parliament for Tobago East and our Member of Parliament for Tobago West and on the 23rd of this month we would find a way to find ourselves in Trinidad to watch them be sworn in officially at their first parliamentary sitting in Port of Spain," he said.

Augustine, who is also THA Chief Secretary, reaffirmed the party's commitment to Tobago's autonomy, urging citizens to keep faith and continue pushing for self-governance.

"The one thing that we are yet to try about the autonomy thing is Jesus and perhaps we need to put it into the hands of Jesus with you two men leading

the charge and watch God overturn this thing (and) soften the hearts of the 39 parliamentarians to give Tobagonians exactly what Tobagonians want out of the autonomy equation. So we are trying Jesus," he said.

Tobago East MP-elect David Thomas and Tobago West MP-elect Joel Sampson also took to the stage thanking voters for them for their support.

The weekend of celebrations wrapped up on Sunday with a thank-you motorcade across Tobago East and West, marking the TPP's victory over the PNM in both constituencies. (*Trinidad Express*)

Advocate makes plea for asylum consideration as more Haitians land in Portland



Founder of Freedom Imaginaries Malene Alleyne, who is advocating for the rights of Haitians fleeing their war-torn homeland to Jamaica, says she is hoping the Government will give consideration to the civil unrest in Haiti and consider the likelihood of providing asylum to those turning up on the island's shores.

Alleyne's comments come against the background of the arrival of approximately 40 Haitians, including men, women and children, who landed by boat near Ross Craig in east Portland on Sunday, shortly after 6 a.m. Among the children was a baby.

The Haitians claim that they are fleeing persecution, gang warfare, and sexual violence, wherein gang members are allegedly raping women and children indiscriminately. They also claim that gangsters are actively engaged in mur-

der and plundering throughout sections of the country, including the capital, Port-au-Prince. "According to reports, the situation continues to deteriorate, because what the reports are saying is that the gangs are

trying to expand their control and are really confronting law enforcement," she said.

"The situation of women and children is particularly devastating, because there are about a million people displaced so far because of the violence, and over half of that number would be women and children. What is happening now is, the scale of violence you're seeing – these mass attacks, massacres, and systematic practices of sexual violence, which is being used as a weapon of war. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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Regional News

Healthcare workers stage protest over attack on nurse by driver



Nurses and other healthcare workers this morning gathered at the University Hospital of the West Indies in St Andrew to protest last week's assault of a nurse by a driver in a rage-filled attack.

They called for justice for the injured nurse.

The protesters were joined by Health and Wellness Minister Dr Christopher Tufton, who repeated his condemnation of the incident.

"Any act of violence against any individual must be condemned, but our nurses are essential workers; they are out on the street day and night, and justice must take its course in this incident,"

said Tufton.

"We are supporting the victim, but we want to send a clear message, which is why the nurses are here, and which is why I am here," he continued.

Businessman Robert Bell was on Saturday charged with the assault of a nurse, which was captured in a now-viral video.

The 65-year-old St Andrew resident is charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, assault at common law, possessing a firearm with intent to commit a first schedule offence, and possession of a firearm with intent to cause injuries.

The police say about 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, the nurse practitioner was on her way to work when her vehicle was impeded by a vehicle driven by Bell.

A dispute ensued between the two individuals, during which the woman was physically assaulted multiple times.

The following day, Bell was apprehended by the police.

He was subsequently charged after a question-and-answer interview in the presence of his attorney.

The police say they also seized his licensed firearm. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)




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Public support growing for single-use plastics ban in St Kitts and Nevis



Statistics and consumer feedback indicate a growing national momentum for the ban on single-use plastics in St Kitts and Nevis.

The Customs and Excise Department has analyzed shipping data that shows a “significant reduction” in the importation of banned items including t-shirt plastic bags, styrofoam food containers and plastic straws.

During the May 15, 2025, sitting of the National Assembly, Senator Joyelle Clarke, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Action, described the declining numbers as a “positive indication of growing compliance and behavioural change among businesses and consumers.”

Clarke told Members of Parliament and the nation that the momentum aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 12, which calls

for Responsible Consumption and Production. She encouraged all businesses to apply for duty-free concessions on alternative, environmentally friendly products to the banned items using Customs Procedure Code F21.

“The new system of operation requires that importers of bioplastics must obtain a license from the Department of Environment. Importers of other suitable alternatives such as paper, bamboo and wood products can do so without a license and will still enjoy duty-free concessions,” Minister Clarke stated.

She further explained, “In accordance with the Act, all t-shirt plastic bags, including bioplastics, are banned. The Department of Environment has been proactive in directly disseminating this information through consultations and direct correspondences to small

businesses and food establishments and will continue its stakeholder engagement to clarify regulatory requirements.”

The Minister thanked the public for cooperating with efforts to reduce and eliminate single-use plastics. She also commended the business community for their growing commitment to a more sustainable future for the country through the use of safer and greener alternatives.

Currently banned in St Kitts and Nevis are the importation of t-shirt shopping bags, styrofoam food containers, plastic egg crates, and plastic straws. The local distribution of t-shirt plastic bags is also banned. The distribution of styrofoam food containers, plastic egg crates and plastic straws will be banned effective July 31, 2025. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Military and economic deals in pipeline as UK looks to EU reset



The United Kingdom and the European Union are close to concluding agreements to boost military and trade ties as they seek to mend ties disturbed by Brexit.

The British government announced on Monday that new agreements had been sealed on defence cooperation, food trade and border checks. The announcement came as Prime Minister Keir Starmer prepared to host the leaders of the 27-member EU, including European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President

Antonio Costa in the first formal summit since the UK left the bloc in 2020.

The two sides reached the agreements after talks in the British capital extended overnight into Monday with an eye on removing barriers as they navigate a shifting world order under the influence of United States President Donald Trump.

A defence and security pact is expected to allow Britain access to a 150-billion-euro (\$169bn) loan programme to rearm Europe.

NATO allies are dealing with significant uncertain-

ties over the Trump administration's commitment to the military alliance.

In particular, Europe is eyeing the ramifications of more than three years of Russia's war on Ukraine with Trump having established direct talks with Moscow while sidelining Kyiv, Brussels and London.

The urge to reset ties was made clear as the UK offered a major concession on fishing that will allow EU vessels access to British waters for 12 years. UK vessels will have the same access to EU waters.

As part of the deal, there will also be a permanent reduction in paperwork and border checks that have come about as a result of the UK leaving the EU five years ago.

The restrictions had mostly hampered small food producers from exporting to Europe. The British government believes the agreement will boost trade and help create more jobs in the UK.

British travellers are also expected to reap the benefits of faster e-gates access at EU airports. (*Al Jazeera English*)

Sesame Street' inks deal with Netflix, new season to stream this year

"Sesame Street" is coming to Netflix with a new season later this year.

The show, which has been a hallmark of children's TV for over half a century, will release a new season with "fresh format changes" and the return of fan-favorite segments like "Elmo's World" and "Cookie Monster's Foodie Truck," Sesame Workshop said in a press release.

The deal announced Monday comes months after Warner Bros. Discovery said it was not renewing its deal with the long-running children's show.

In the new season, Cookie Monster will open his own Cookie Cart on Sesame Street, and Abby Cadabby's Fairy Garden will be home to "surprising and delightful magical creatures," the release states. The episodes will also center on one 11-minute story to allow for "even more character-driven humor and heart."

"Sesame Street" will continue to be available on PBS Kids. Season 56 will be released in three batches.

"We are excited to announce that all new Sesame Street episodes are com-

ing to @netflix worldwide along with library episodes, and new episodes will also release the same day on @PBS Stations and @PBSKIDS platforms in the US, preserving a 50+ year relationship," the show said in a post on X.

"The support of Netflix, PBS, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting serve as a unique public-private partnership to enable Sesame Street to continue to help children everywhere grow smarter, stronger, and kinder. (NBC News)

Biden has been diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer

Former President Joe Biden has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, his office said Sunday.

Biden was seen last week by doctors after urinary symptoms and a prostate nodule was found. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer on Friday, with the cancer cells having spread to the bone.

"While this represents a more aggressive form of the disease, the cancer appears to be hormone-sensitive which allows for effective management," his office said. "The President and his family are reviewing treatment options with his physicians."

Prostate cancers are given a score called a Gleason score that measures, on a scale of 1 to 10, how the cancerous cells look compared with normal cells. Biden's office said his score was 9, suggesting his cancer is among



the most aggressive.

When prostate cancer spreads to other parts of the body, it often spreads to the bones. Metastasised cancer is much harder to treat than localised cancer because it can be hard for drugs to reach all the tumours and completely root out the disease.

However, when prostate cancers need hormones to grow, as in Biden's case, they can be susceptible to

treatment that deprives the tumours of hormones.

The health of Biden, 82, was a dominant concern among voters during his time as president. After a calamitous debate performance in June while seeking re-election, Biden abandoned his bid for a second term. Then-Vice President Kamala Harris became the nominee and lost to Republican Donald Trump, who returned to the White House after a four-year hiatus.

But in recent days, Biden rejected concerns about his age despite reporting in the new book *Original Sin* by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson that aides had shielded the public from the extent of his decline while serving as president.

In February 2023, Biden had a skin lesion removed from his chest that was a basal cell carcinoma, a common form of skin cancer. And in November 2021, he had a polyp removed from his colon that was a benign, but potentially pre-cancerous lesion.

In 2022, Biden made a "cancer moonshot" one of his administration's priorities with the goal of halving the cancer death rate over the next 25 years. The initiative was a continuation of his work as vice president to address a disease that had killed his older son, Beau. (Jamaica Gleaner)

After US cuts funding, WHO chief defends \$2.1B budget request by comparing it with cost of war



Stripped of US funding, the World Health Organization chief on Monday appealed to member countries to support its “extremely modest” request for a \$2.1 billion annual budget by putting that sum into perspective next to outlays for ad campaigns for tobacco or the cost of war.

After nearly 80 years of striving to improve human lives and health — which critics say it has done poorly or not enough -- the UN health agency is fighting for its own after US President Donald Trump in January halted funding from the United States, which has traditionally been WHO’s largest donor.

“Two-point-one billion dollars is the equivalent of global military expenditure every eight hours,” WHO

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

“Two-point-one billion dollars is the price of one stealth bomber, to kill people.”

“And \$2.1 billion is one-quarter of what the tobacco industry spends on advertising and promotion every single year. Again, a product that kills people,” he told the WHO’s annual assembly. “

It seems somebody switched the price tags on what is truly valuable in our world.”

Tedros made no specific reference to the US cuts but has said previously the US pullout was a “mistake” and urged Washington to reconsider.

WHO has presented a budget for

the next two years that is 22% less than originally planned, largely in response to US and other Western funding cuts, and says it has landed commitments for about 60% of that. But it still faces a budget gap of \$1.7 billion.

“We know that in the current landscape, mobilizing that sum will be a challenge. We are not naive to that challenge,” Tedros said.

“But for an organization working on the ground in 150 countries with a vast mission and mandate that member states have given us, \$4.2 billion for two years — or \$2.1 billion a year — is not ambitious. It’s extremely modest,” he said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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UWI campuses face off in volleyball showdown in Antigua and Barbuda

Teams from The University of the West Indies will stage a three-day volleyball tournament later this month, pitting campus teams against each other and local clubs in what organizers hope will become an annual showcase.

The UWI Volleyball Invitational Games 2025, scheduled for May 23-25 at the YMCA Sports Complex, will feature matches between the Mona and Five Islands campuses, along with participation from top Antiguan club teams.

“This tournament represents a significant step in developing volleyball across our campuses and strengthening ties with local communities,” said Oshane Grant, Chair of the Local Or-

ganising Committee.

The event, co-hosted by the Office of the Campus Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, UWI Faculty of Sports, The UWI Mona Volleyball Team and the Antigua & Barbuda Volleyball Association, will welcome local powerhouse clubs Pytonz, Da Storming Lions, Stoneville, Da Squad and Jets.

The competition begins on Friday afternoon with matches continuing through Sunday evening. Organizers have scheduled the competition across the three days, with winners receiving trophies and medals.

This marks the first major sports tournament hosted by The UWI Five Islands Campus since its establishment

in Antigua and Barbuda. The UWI Mona Volleyball team from Jamaica enters as favorites based on their established volleyball program.

Local volleyball fans anticipate strong showings from Antiguan clubs following their strong showings in recently held local leagues.

The tournament which was originally part of UWI Games is part of the resurgence of intercampus activities which were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges faced by the regional university. UWI Games The tournament runs May 23 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., May 24 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., and May 25 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



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CFU announces groupings and format for the 2025 CFU U-14 Challenge Series Girls



- Trinidad and Tobago to host the 2025 edition of the U-14 Challenge Series Girls

- 23 Member Associations to compete in the two-tier competition
- Tier I will feature eight teams and Tier II will feature 15 teams.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (May 19, 2025)—The Caribbean Football Union has announced the grouping and format for the 2025 CFU U14 Challenge Series Girls, which will be hosted in Trinidad and Tobago from August 15- 24.

Twenty-three Member Associations will participate in the girls' edition of the competition, with eight teams competing in Tier I and 15 in Tier II.

Tier I will consist of two groups of four teams each.

Tier I

Group A: Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Bermuda, Martinique

Group B: Aruba, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

The Tier I group stage will see teams compete in a round-robin format. At the end of the group stage, group winners and runners-up will advance to the semifinals and then to the Tier I finals, which will be played on 24 August 2024.

Third-place finishers will play one playoff match against each other to determine the 5th and 6th place ranking, and the fourth-place finishers will play one playoff match against each other to determine the 7th

and 8th place ranking.

Tier II will have three groups consisting of 5 teams each.

Tier II

Group A: St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Bonaire, US Virgin Islands, Saint Lucia.

Group B: Grenada, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, French Guiana, Suriname.

Group C: Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, Guyana.

Teams in each group will play each other once in a round-robin format, with the three group winners advancing to the Tier II semifinal. The second-place team with the highest number of points between the three groups will join the group winners

in the Tier II semifinal.

The group winner with the highest number of points will face off against the best second-place team in the first semifinal, while the second and third-best group winners will compete in the second semifinal.

Tier II will kick off on August 15, while action in Tier I will begin one day later on August 16.

Further details regarding the official schedule will be confirmed at a later stage.

About the CFU U14 Challenge Series

Introduced in 2018, the CFU U-14 Challenge Series is a holistic developmental competition that caters to boys and girls in alternating years. It is the introduction to international competition for players. It aligns with the CFU's developmental agenda and FIFA's focus on further developing grassroots football in the region.

The Challenge Series is also pivotal to the CFU's Next Generation Referee Course. It affords regional match officials with the requisite skills to advance to the FIFA International Refereeing Lists technical and practical training.

The series also trains match and venue coordinators.

Sports News



Steelers advance to finals of Division 1 playoff series



Second seed Total Imports EMC's Potters Steelers have advanced to the finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division playoff series.

The Steelers clinched their best-of-three semi-final series 2-1 against third seed Da Project at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

The Steelers, who won the opening game 81-64, snatched a narrow 73-69 victory against Da Project in the Game 3 series decider.

Keroi Lee produced 14 points, 12 rebounds, and five assists; Leroy Wilkinson sank 12 points and snatched eight rebounds; Cohen Desouza converted 10 points and grabbed 16 rebounds;

and Lindsay McDonald scored 10 points for the Potters Steelers.

Terry Dawkins shot a game-high 30 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew sank 18 points and snapped up 13 rebounds, and T-Shawn Lewis converted 14 points and snatched 27 rebounds for Da Project.

The Potters Steelers will face defending champions and top seed EZ Fit Flyers in the First Division playoff finals. The Flyers dispatch fourth-seed New Generation All Saints Slam 2-0 in the other best-of-three Division 1 semi-final playoff series.

The Steelers and the Flyers will clash in Game 1 of their best-of-five Division 1 playoff finals at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday (today) at 8:30 pm.

Meanwhile, the Navigators also advanced to the finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's Second Division playoff series.

The second-seeded Navigators clinched their best-of-three semi-final series 2-1 against third seed Spanish Heat 2 at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

The Navigators booked their spot in the final by pulling off a 66-57 victory


against Spanish Heat 2 in their deciding Game 3.


De-Lorng Jules sank 24 points and claimed nine rebounds; Ariel Quallis narrowly missed out on achieving a triple-double by producing 11 points, 16 rebounds, nine assists, and six steals; and Baldwin Anthony and Ricky Willock each contributed eight points for the Navigators.

Wester Baptiste produced 24 points, six rebounds, and five steals; Erwin Rodriguez contributed seven points, nine rebounds, and six steals; Jesus Emmanuel chipped in with seven points, 10 rebounds, and nine steals; Rohland Hamilton sank six points and grabbed 11 rebounds; and Charlie Daniel scored six points and claimed 10 rebounds for Spanish Heat 2.


The Navigators will face league champions and top seed Cuties Ovals Ojays in the finals. The Ovals Ojays ousted fifth seed EZ Fit Flyers 2 two-nil in their best-of-three Division 2 semi-final playoff series.


The Navigators and the Ovals Ojays will clash in their opening game of their best-of-five Division 2 playoff finals at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday (today) at 6:45 pm.





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West Indies women cruise to victory over ECB Development XI



Players of the West Indies women's cricket team

The West Indies Women put together a dominant all-round performance to defeat the ECB Women's Development XI by 80 runs in a warm-up clash at Millfield School on Saturday, as they gear up for their upcoming T20I series against England.

Batting first after losing the toss, the Caribbean side posted an imposing 175 for four from their 20 overs, anchored by a brilliant 62 off just 35 balls from left-hander Qiana Joseph.

Her innings, which included 10 fours and two sixes, set the tone for a commanding display with the bat. Joseph was eventually retired out at the halfway mark, giving others an opportunity to get time in the

middle.

Captain Hayley Matthews contributed 20 from 19 balls, while Aaliyah Alleyne added a brisk 20 from 16 deliveries.

There were also valuable contributions from Shemaine Campbelle and Stafanie Taylor, who both retired hurt on 14 and 13 respectively, and Jannillea Glasgow who bludgeoned an unbeaten 18 off just six balls to finish the innings on a high.

Phoebe Brett was the most successful bowler for the home side, claiming two for 35 from her four overs. Chloe Skelton also picked up a wicket, finishing with figures of one for 19.

In reply, the ECB Devel-

opment XI struggled to keep pace with the required run rate against a disciplined West Indies bowling attack and were eventually restricted to 95 for seven from their 20 overs.

Leg-spinner Afy Fletcher led the way with two for 18 from her three overs, striking key blows in the middle overs, including the wicket of captain Katie Jones.

Off-spinner Karishma Ramharack was equally impressive, taking two for 11, while Jahzara Claxton and Ashmini Munisar picked up a wicket apiece. Claxton's two-over spell included a maiden and cost just four runs, showcasing her control and maturity.

Charlotte Stubbs top-

scored for the hosts with 35 from 31 deliveries, but lacked support as wickets fell regularly around her. The next best score came from Bethan Miles, who remained unbeaten on 15, but the required rate had long spiralled out of reach.

The result will serve as a confidence booster for the West Indies Women as they look ahead to their three-match T20I series against Ireland, which begins next week.

With several players getting valuable game time and the bowling unit showing strong form, the visitors will be optimistic about carrying this momentum into the official matches.

Chase relishing challenge of leading West Indies Test team

“Born to lead and not to follow.” That is the mantra driving Roston Chase, who will become the 38th Test captain to represent the West Indies when he steps onto the hallowed grounds of Kensington Oval to spin the toss against Australia on June 25 in the opening Test of the coveted Sir Frank Worrell Trophy series.

Standing at six feet five inches tall, Chase—raised in Christ Church, Barbados—is embracing the moment. From childhood dreams on local pitches to now steering the ship of West Indies Test cricket, he finds himself on the brink of a new chapter, charged with leading a revival of pride and performance in the longest format of the game.

The 33-year-old etched his name into West Indies folklore in his debut series in 2016 against India, where he scored a century and took a five-wicket haul in the same Test—becoming just the fifth West Indian to achieve that rare feat.

Since then, he has recorded four more centuries and three additional five-wicket hauls, including a match-winning career-best eight for 60 against arch-rivals England on home soil.

Already living the dream of representing the West Indies, Chase now steps into an even greater honour—leading a region of millions of proud Caribbean nationals who long to see the maroon reign supreme once again.

“I am honoured to be given the opportunity to lead the West Indies Test team. This is a real privilege, and I’m excited about getting started this summer against Australia and looking forward to what this team can achieve in the future,” Chase said.

“Playing for the West Indies means everything to me so I’m ready for the responsibilities which come with the



Roston Chase

job at hand which includes showing that passion and desire to our loyal fans in the region and across the world.”

Though the magnitude of the job is not lost on him, Chase has never shied away from leadership. Still, captaincy wasn’t always in his sights.

“I always had leadership skills when I was younger, but I did not see myself at this stage at the start because I only wanted to play and win games for the West Indies,” Chase shared.

“I never really thought about it, but as you get older and you understand the game a bit more you realize certain things and then obviously you hear people saying stuff you then sit and think about all the possibilities because captaining the West Indies is a great job to have and a legacy is attached to it.”

Despite the excitement of 2025, Chase’s path to prominence was shaped by an honest conversation with his mother at age 18, following his first-class debut for Barbados against Jamaica.

While childhood heroes like Brian

Lara, Courtney Walsh, and Sir Curtly Ambrose filled his imagination, his real-life superhero was his father.

“My father was more the driving force because he would come and watch all my games and talk to me about the game where I need to improve or I need to work on the dos and don’ts that could take me to the next level,” he said.

Interestingly, Chase started out as a fast bowler before transitioning into becoming a spinner through a process of trial and error. He credits former coach Henderson Springer for helping him find the right balance between bat and ball.

Having previously served as vice-captain, Chase now steps into the lead role, focused on setting a tone that encourages excellence both on and off the field.

With Chase at the helm, West Indies cricket enters a new era—led by a man of humility and purpose, who wears the maroon with pride, reverence, and an unshakeable commitment to regional glory.

Trinidad and Tobago to host India for Deaf Cricket series



Trinidad & Tobago's Deaf Cricket Team

The Trinidad and Tobago's national deaf cricket team will get an opportunity to show off their talent when the nation's deaf cricket association (TTDCA) hosts the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) for two One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and three Twenty/20 matches in Trinidad from May 23-29.

The series will be the first of its kind in the Caribbean, with the ODIs being played at the National Cricket Centre (NCC) in Balmain, Couva on May 23 and 25, and the T20s being held at the Queen's Park Oval from May 27-29.

The limited-overs series are the result of constant communication with TTDCA president Tenille Smith, the Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC) and the IDCA which initially started before the emergence of Covid-19.

"We're proud to lead this initiative. This isn't just a cricket tournament. This represents a major step forward for deaf sports in the Caribbean," Smith said, via a May 8 release.

"It provides an opportunity for visibility, talent development and international collaborations. We're not just making history; we're building a future."

The Indian team is expected to arrive in Trinidad on Tuesday.

"The TTDCA is calling on the public, government stakeholders, and corporate TT to come out and support this historic moment—not just as spectators, but as champions of inclusion, equality, and progress. Let's make some noise for those who play in silence, but (speak) through the game they love," the release said.

lease said.

The TTDCA secretary Qushiba La Fleur, who also serves as the team's sign language interpreter, says the eventual plan is the formation of a Deaf West Indies team.

"Yeah, there are plans to play other series. However, matches against Caribbean countries aren't possible because this is the first deaf cricket team in the Caribbean," La Fleur said.

"The goal, though, is that we could eventually develop our Deaf West Indies team so that they can play series and tournaments and matches throughout the Caribbean. Not just against other deaf teams, but others as well."

Since becoming fully active in January this year, the team has been training assiduously under the guidance of head coach Anthony Dharson, batting and fielding coach Earnil Ryan and fitness coach Anthony Crichlow.

At present, they train four-five days a week and their training regimen has included treks up Lady Chancellor Road, practice sessions at the Queen's Park Oval, fitness sessions at Las Cuevas Beach, as well as participation in the North Zone's T20 cricket tournament.

TT deaf cricket squad to face India: Devon Andre (captain), Shemuel Cadogan (vice-captain), Jimeel Boneo, Amir Boodoo, Christopher Goomansingh, Jason Jokhan, Nigel London, Joel Lord, Nicholas Mohammed, Orion Murray, Nyron Noel, Joel Piper, Rohan Subdhan, Allan Thomas, and Valdano Tobias.

Sports

TUESDAY 20TH MAY 2025

Chargers Eagles 1 stay top of Women's Division 2 Volleyball League



The City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours, Chargers Eagles 1 women's volleyball team.

The City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles 1 have maintained their perfect record and continue to lead the standings in the women's division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Second Division Development League.

The Chargers Eagles 1 claimed their fifth win in as many games after being awarded a 2-0 victory by default against DHS, Print Xpress and Auto Craze Royal Cruisers 2, who were unable to field a team for their encounter at the indoor

volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

The Chargers Eagles 1 were awarded victory via a 25-0, 25-0 scoreline against Royal Cruisers 2, who remain second from the bottom of the nine-team round-robin competition after suffering their fifth defeat in six games.

Chargers Eagles 2 also claimed victory by default after High Flyerz Valkyries failed to show up for their Women's Division 2 League encounter.

The Chargers Eagles 2 were awarded victory via a 25-0, 25-0 scoreline to se-

cure their third win in four games, while the Valkyries lost for the third time in five encounters.

Defending Women's Division 2 champions Paragons 2 notched up their second win in five games by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Dynasty Queens 2.

The Paragons 2 took 58 minutes to record their 25-8, 25-14 victory against Dynasty Queens 2, who remain winless and in the cellar without any points after suffering their fifth loss in as many games.

TOA Media & MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity won their latest match to

join Stoneville 2 at the top of the four-team Men's Second Division League.

The Chargers Velocity defeated the Sharks 2-0 to record their fourth win in five games. The Chargers Velocity took 46 minutes to prevail 25-15, 25-23 against the Sharks, who remain in the cellar after suffering their sixth loss in seven encounters.

Stoneville 2, who are yet to lose a match, are now joint leaders with Chargers Velocity with a perfect four wins from as many games.