

# AT&LU, CHAPA sign new collective bargaining agreement

*Story on Page 2*



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*Story on Page 6*

## AT&LU, CHAPA sign new collective bargaining agreement



**AT&LU General Secretary, Alrick Daniel**

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) has announced the successful completion of negotiations with the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) and the signing of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

AT&LU General Secretary, Alrick Daniel said the new CBA covers approximately 40 persons including the Line Staff of the authority as well as the field agents.

“The General Secretary of the AT&LU -Alrick Daniel, Industrial Relations Officer -Kerry Dyer, Shop Stewards and Management of the Authority, Mark Richards -Housing Executive Officer, Jose-Ann Smith -HR Manager along with their representative, the Antigua and Barbuda Employers’ Federation affixed their respective signature to the CBA on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Authority’s Head Office,” a statement from the AT&LU noted.

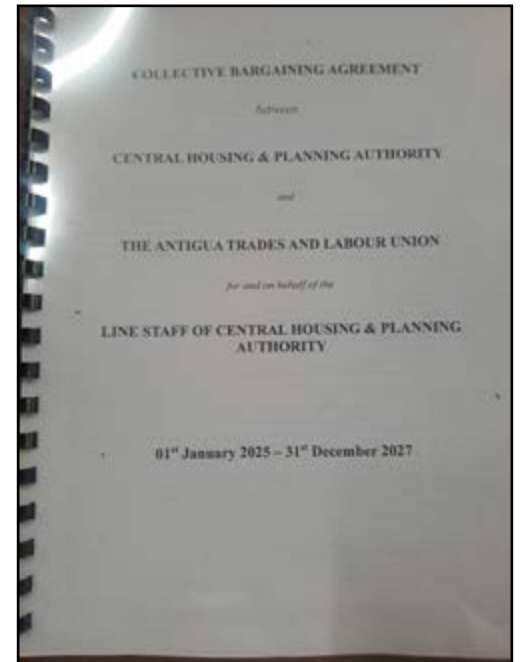
In the press statement, the union said the new Collective Bargaining Agreement covers the period 01st January 2025 to 31st December 2027. The CBA contains several new benefits that the staff will enjoy during the life

of the Agreement. These benefits include but not limited to:

- Personal Days;
- Mental Health Benefit;
- Incentive for Heavy Duty Operators when working on steep inclines;
- 8% salary increase.

Daniel described the negotiations as ‘very cordial’ acknowledging that it did get tough sometimes. “At the end of the day, this new CBA contains mutually beneficial conditions which would be pleasing to those in the bargaining unit,” Daniel stated.

He said the AT&LU is implementing a strategy to aggressively expand it



representation both in the public and private sectors.




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## Caribana 2025 described as ‘absolutely great’

The five-day Barbuda festival – Caribana – ended on a high note on Monday night with revelers dancing to recorded music in a ‘last lap’ celebration of a festival described by Coordinator, Matthew John, as ‘absolutely great’.

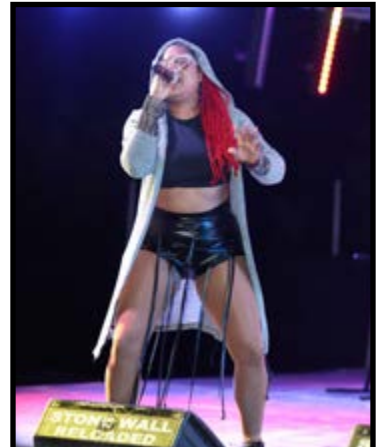
John said he was pleased with the overall festival as it was well supported by

the people of Barbuda and scores of Antiguans traveled to Codrington for the festival and this gave a boost to the overall festivities.

“This year we experienced some financial challenges, but in the end we were able to overcome these hurdles with support from the main contributor, the Barbuda Council, the Antigua and

Barbuda government and major sponsors such as PLH and Nobu Restaurant,” John explained.

There were no pageants this year as both the Teenage Pageant and the Miss Barbuda Pageant were called off from lack of participation. “I made an appeal for a pageant with three girls from Barbuda and thee from





# Local News



Antigua, which would have been a first. We even had a practice session. Unfortunately, one of the Barbudan girls withdrew and this led to the others withdrawing as well. In the end we called off the show and instead held the Caribbean Show featuring Claudette Peters and Rupee among others,” John explained.

However, John was particularly pleased with the support for the International Dhow that featured local artist, Tian Winter as well as Asa Banton from Dominica. That show had the biggest turnout and was very well

received.

Looking ahead, John said he plans to tweak some aspects of the programme if he is returned next year as Coordinator, such as the Opening Parade.

He also expressed his appreciation for the fact that this was the first Caribana since the introduction of flights by LIAT20 and the opening of the new airport. “While most people traveled to Barbuda by ferry, LIAT20 had full flight into Barbuda especially on the weekend ensuring that even more Antiguan were able to make the journey over,” John declared.







# CARNIVAL KAISO TENT

VENUE | TIME | **\$20**  
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## Prison Visiting Committee urged to focus on rehabilitation and re-integration of prison inmates



A ceremony was held at Government House on Tuesday when the members of the Prison Visiting Committee were re-appointed to another two-year term of office.

Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, who delivered the charge to the members, urged them, as re-appointed members, to make their experiences bring added value to the work ahead, especially in light of the fact that they are already familiar with the sensitivities of the environment, the challenges faced by prison staff and inmates, and the importance of impartial, humane oversight.

"I suggest that you use your experience and clout to insist on a greater emphasis on rehabilitation and re-integration programs,



bearing in mind that one of the main objectives of deprivation of liberty is the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the individual. In addition, these programmes will reduce recidivism.

"You may also wish to adopt regional and international best practice by promoting partnerships with public and private entities for the implementation of rehabilitation pro-

grams that facilitate the social reintegration of inmates," he advised.

Additionally, Sir Clare told the Visiting Committee members that their ability to engage with empathy, while exercising sound judgment and discretion, is what makes the Committee effective. "I urge you to continue approaching this responsibility with the same level of dedication and integrity that

warranted your reappointment," he noted.

Sir Clare also highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the committee. These are;

- Conducting frequent and unannounced visits to the prison;
- Listening to and reporting on prisoners' complaints;
- Periodically reviewing the character, conduct, and rehabilitation prospects of inmates;
- And submitting reports on any matter deemed worthy of attention to the Governor General.

Bishop Charlesworth Browne returns as chairman of the committee with the secretary, Victoria Dyer, and the other members, Ragji Burton, DeSilva Myers, Margaret Rose, Jacqueline Carter, Regina James and Phoebe Joseph.



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## Antigua and Barbuda showcases leadership on Blue Economy during Oceans Conference in France



A high-level expert delegation from Antigua and Barbuda has joined a major global gathering in Nice, France for the UN Oceans Conference, which takes place from the 9 – 13 June.

Antigua and Barbuda is using the opportunity to shine the spotlight on the Department of the Blue Economy and its work and vision for the protection and sustainable use of the country's marine resources.

This was the focus of a side event that was hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China on the margins of the conference being attended by over 10,000 delegates from around the globe, in a major push to address the increasing threats to the world's oceans.

The theme of the activity was Blueprints for the Future: Marine Spatial Planning, Financing, Ocean Data-driven making and Global Cooperation, and was organized as part of the Department's thrust to inspire action in support of the sustainable development of the blue economy. The event also sought to define Antigua and Barbuda's leadership in advancing Marine

Spatial Planning and forge stronger partnerships on sustainable marine resource management.

The country's delegation in France is led by Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Anthony Smith Jr, who explained Antigua and Barbuda's unique advantages in prioritizing its work in the blue economy.

"...we are advantageously positioned to pioneer research on the Blue Economy and Development in the Caribbean region and thus capitalise on the development potential of this emerging sector to fuel new economic activities and support industries and communities," Minister Smith explained.

The Five Islands Campus of the University of the West Indies in Antigua and Barbuda already has a Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy (COBE), another major strategic advantage that highlights Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to sustainable ocean development. In that connection, the Antigua and Barbuda delegation in France also includes the Executive Director of the Centre, Dr. Branson Belle.

"The Centre aims to strengthen institutional capacity in areas related to marine science and the blue economy, while capitalising on the economic opportunities for the Caribbean within this emerging sector, in areas such as aquaculture, marine renewable energy, biotechnology and sea vegetable farming," Smith further advised.

Also included in the team of diverse expertise attending the Oceans Conference are Ambassador at Large, Dean Jonas, and Climate Ambassador, Ruleta Camacho-Thomas.

The other members of the delegation include First Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission to the United Nations Asha Challenger and Project Development Officer at the Department of the Blue Economy Ann-Louise Hill.

Also collaborating with Antigua and Barbuda in organizing the event were the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the University of the West Indies (UWI).



## ABTA Canada launches call for Antiguan and Barbudan short film stories

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (Toronto, Canada Office) has launched a short film development project, 'Cinematic Connections', with a call for short stories/screenplays. Story submissions are open to secondary and tertiary education students in Antigua and Barbuda, ages twelve to seventeen.

Cinematic Connections, with support from the ABTA, is looking for a short story to make into a short film. Students who may not know how to write a screenplay are encouraged to give it a try by writing a short story. Submitted stories must be culturally relevant and deal with social issues. It can be written by an individual or a group. The story should be no more than 15 pages, single-spaced, font size 12, and must be an original piece. The deadline for submission is June 30th, 2025.

The project aims to bring youth storytelling and cinematic filmmaking into the spotlight as part of **Antigua and Barbuda Art Week**, taking place from November 26 – December 2, 2025.

For submissions, email [cinematic.connections2025@gmail.com](mailto:cinematic.connections2025@gmail.com) with names and contact details for writers involved.


The Cinematic Connection project is an evolution of the 'An Evening with Gil Bellows' event, an invite-only mixer of local film and TV professionals, which was held in January this year at the Copper and Lumber Store Restaurant, hosted by the ABTA - Toronto Office. Canadian Actor and Producer Gil Bellows, who was the featured speaker of the

event, was impressed with Antigua and Barbuda's youth storytelling talent, which he witnessed during his school workshop visits.

As a result, the ABTA, aided by Bellows and mentors, will select the storytelling team or individual from the call for stories from secondary and tertiary students. Casting, film crew selection, and location scouting will take place in the summer,

and filming of the short film is expected to take place between November and December 2025, timed to align with the creative momentum of Antigua and Barbuda Art Week.

The final production will be submitted to regional and international film festivals and provides an exciting opportunity to celebrate Antiguan and Barbudan creatives on an international scale.



**CINEMATIC CONNECTIONS**

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

**Calling all Storytellers ages 11-17**

You may not know how to write a screenplay yet, but give it a try. Cinematic Connections, with support from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, is looking for a short story to make into a short film.

Your story must be culturally relevant and deal with a social issue. It can be written by an individual or a group. Your story should be no more than 15 pages, single-spaced, font size 12, and must be an original piece.

The deadline for submission is June 30th, 2025. For submissions, email [cinematic.connections2025@gmail.com](mailto:cinematic.connections2025@gmail.com)



# Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim Earns Doctorate in Digital Governance



**Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs, has earned a Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) from Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM), Spain, through UniAthena.

His thesis, “Transformative Artificial Intelligence and Digital Government Innovation for Public Sector Performance Management,” explores how AI can improve transparency, efficiency, and citizen engagement in government—an area of growing importance across the Caribbean.

Ambassador Pilgrim described the milestone as deeply fulfill-

ing. “Balancing my responsibilities with this academic journey was no small task,” he said. “But this achievement reinforces my belief in lifelong learning and the power of innovation to transform public

service.”+

His research is being hailed as a timely contribution to the region’s digital transformation efforts and is expected to influence public policy and governance reform.



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY BRAND & COMMERCIAL MANAGER

DEADLINE: JUNE 17, 2025

The West Indies Oil Company Ltd (WIOC) is a premier oil storage and petroleum products provider in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and the rest of the Eastern Caribbean. We thrive on a strategic direction of performance, proficiency and professionalism thereby leading the charge in the execution of a transformative business model that has our customers at the core. We are an ever-growing energy company, seeking a dynamic professional for an exciting career opportunity.

### Role Profile:

The ideal candidate must drive the development of the company’s brand strategy and manage its commercial sales activities by delivering marketing innovation aligned to the Company’s business strategy. The professional must utilize innovative approaches to promote opportunities and resources to build the business as an energy solutions provider. Responsibilities include: the strategic assessment of market opportunities, trend tracking, concept validation, product and service delivery, working closely with internal teams to maintain and extend WIOC’s market share. Lead and manage the Company’s communication, public relations and marketing activities to its stakeholders in line with the company’s Mission, Values and overall Strategy, whilst providing strategic assessments and recommendations of new product/service opportunities.

### Experience:

- Minimum of 5 years’ experience in a Sales and Marketing role, preferably at an international company with a demonstrated track record of successful alignment of marketing strategy to overall company strategy, product campaigns, concept development and execution, validation and launches.

### Qualifications & Required Skills:

- Preferably a Masters degree in Marketing, or Business Management; A minimum of 5 years’ experience in a similar role.
- Strategic and Creative Thinking skills: ability to assess sophisticated situations and make decisions while clarifying the path to follow.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to influence and manage relationships across functions and job levels to achieve desired goals.
- Strong communication skills: strong command of grammar (oral and written), assertive, clear, able to convey technical content into easy-to-understand concepts and ideas.

### Application Process

Please apply by emailing your Curriculum Vitae to [recruitment@westindiesoil.com](mailto:recruitment@westindiesoil.com). Closing date for receipt of applications is **June 17, 2025**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

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# Chantel Crump laid to rest



Chantel Crump, the 9-year old girl from Grays Farm whose abduction and subsequent death sparked a national outrage earlier this year, has been buried following a funeral service at the St. John's Cathedral on Tuesday.

The funeral service was attended by family and friends as well as by faculty and students of the Five Islands Primary School

which she attended.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer as well as Parliamentary Representative, Richard Lewis and ABLP Caretaker for St. John's Rural West constituency, Sen Michael Joseph were also in attendance.

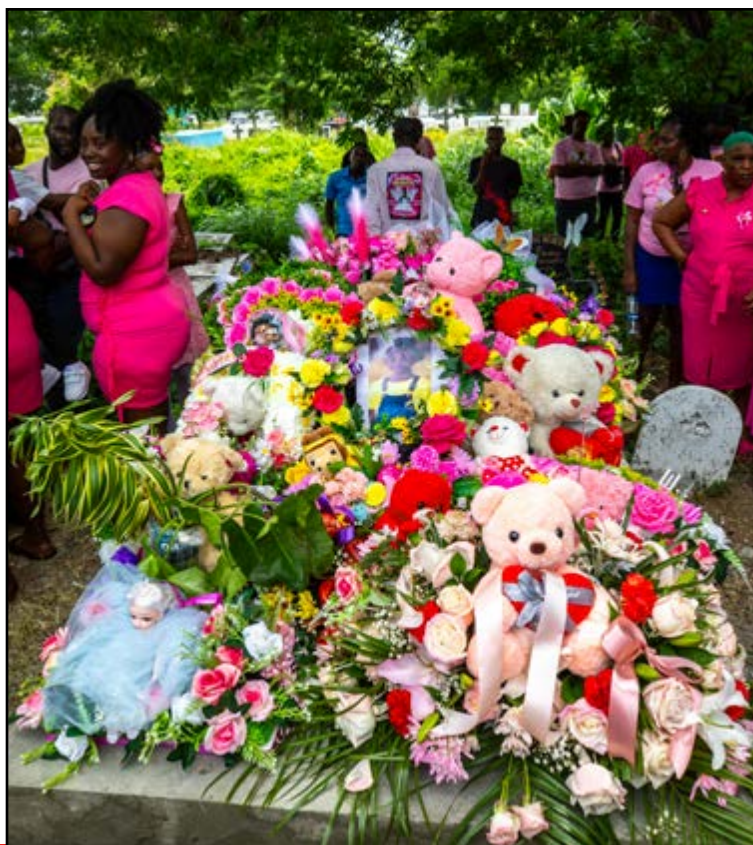
Chantel was abducted on her way home from school on March 12 and her body was

discovered at Weatherill's Beach two days later.

An autopsy has ruled the cause of death inconclusive. While the police have interviewed several persons in connection with her disappear-

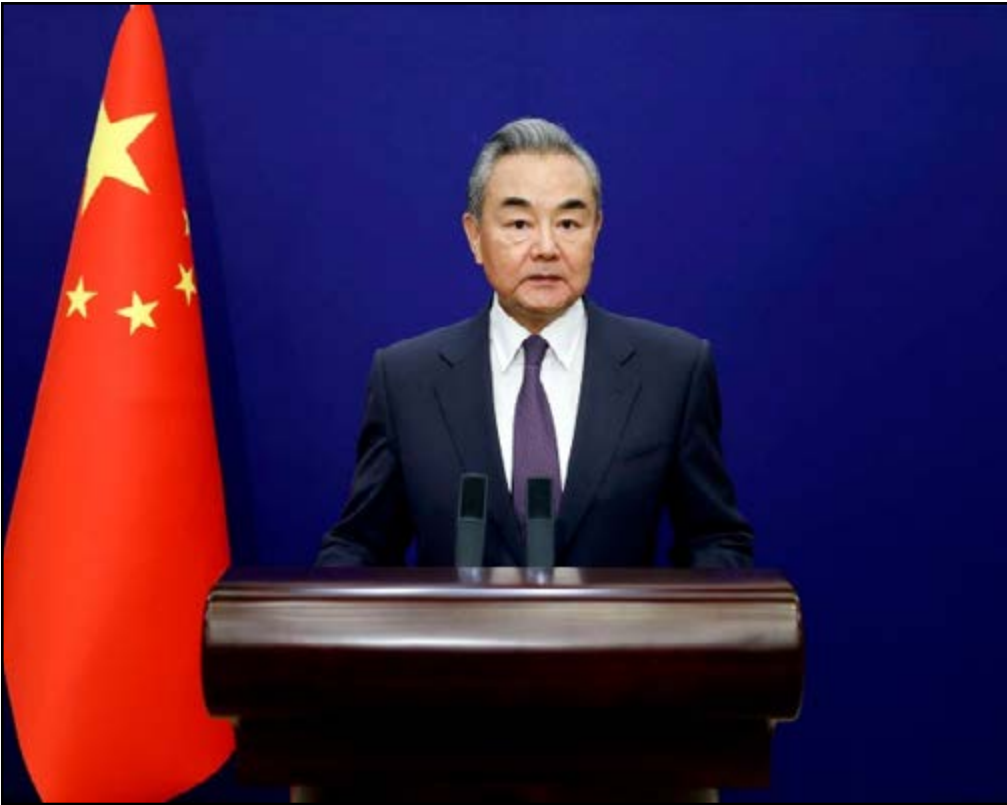
ance and death, there have been no arrests made. The police have sent certain evidence for DNA and other testing overseas and are awaiting the results.







## Promoting Dialogue Among Civilizations To Build a Better World



Remarks by H.E. Wang Yi

Member of the Political Bureau of the  
CPC Central Committee

And Foreign Minister of the People's  
Republic of China

At the Event to Celebrate

The International Day for Dialogue  
Among Civilizations

June 10, 2025

Distinguished Guests,

Friends,

June 10, 2025 is the first International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations of the United Nations. I am delighted to celebrate this special day together with friends all over the world.

In today's world, there are more than 200 countries and regions and over 2,500 nations. Human endeavors in production and life have nurtured many splendid civilizations that complement and inspire each other. They have made our global village diverse, colorful and vibrant, and our

entire human society an indivisible community with a shared future. In the face of the immense global impact from transformations unseen in a century, the value of civilizations has taken on an unprecedented significance, interactions among civilizations are of vital importance, and it is prime time to promote dialogue among civilizations.

Last year, with the unanimous support of all member states, the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution initiated by China and other 82 countries, which declares June 10 the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations. This echoes the common aspiration of people from all countries for promoting dialogue among civilizations and progress of humanity.

—**Dialogue among civilizations is a bond of peace.** On the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of

the U.N., peace remains the common pursuit of all people around the world. Dialogue among civilizations helps bridge divides and eliminate prejudice, which will reinforce the basis for mutual trust and safeguard common security.

—**Dialogue among civilizations is a driver for development.** In history, the ancient Silk Road connected the Eastern and Western civilizations and contributed to the development of human society. Today, in the age of globalization, dialogue among civilizations enables the exchange of minds and the sharing of technology, which will facilitate countries around the world in their pursuit of common development and global modernization.

—**Dialogue among civilizations is a bridge of friendship.** History proves eloquently that openness enhances mutual understanding and exchange deepens mutual trust. Dialogue among civilizations enables us to transcend differences and establish empathy, which will help people of all countries to learn more about each other, build closer bonds, and prosper together.

Friends,

The Chinese civilization took root and flourished in the soil of China. Over the long course of history, it has developed the defining features of continuity, creativity, unity, inclusiveness and peacefulness.

In 2023, President Xi Jinping solemnly put forth the Global Civilization Initiative, which calls for upholding the common values of humanity, emphasizing both heritage and innovation and strengthening international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.



# Opinion

PAGE 15

This initiative attests to China's efforts to facilitate dialogue among civilizations. As the world comes to a historic crossroads, China stands for advancing dialogue among civilizations in the following three aspects.

**First, upholding equality among civilizations.** No civilization is superior to others. It is important to respect the development paths and social systems chosen by people of different countries independently, repudiate clash of civilizations, oppose interference into others' internal affairs and resist unilateral bullying practices. We must defend fairness and justice and work to ensure equality and dignity for all. We should stand by true multilateralism, and support the U.N. in playing an instrumental role in dialogue among civilizations. We should aim for

cooperation and mutual benefit, reject confrontation and zero-sum games, and stay committed to peaceful coexistence among civilizations.

**Second, promoting exchanges among civilizations.** It is important for countries to step up exchanges and mutual learning, and draw inspirations from dialogue among civilizations to address global challenges and explore paths toward global modernization. China is giving positive consideration to hosting the Global Forum of the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations in 2028, and to providing funding to the U.N. body designated to promote inter-civilizational dialogue. We will continue supporting the work of mechanisms such as the Ancient Civilizations Forum with a view to enhancing the platform for dialogue among civilizations around the world.

**Third, advancing the progress**

**of civilizations.** The international community needs to encourage the normal flow of ideas, technologies and personnel, and keep pushing the frontiers of human knowledge. Under the principle of technology for good, we need to leverage emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, to facilitate the continuation and innovation of civilizations, keep increasing our common material and cultural abundance and build a community with a shared future where all civilizations thrive together.

Friends,

Humanity has only one Earth and only one shared future. Let our dialogues play a harmonious symphony and raise the sails on the voyage toward an even better future of human civilizations.

Thank you.



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# FRY - DAY

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

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# SEASONED FRIES

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# Building the Possible: Artificial Intelligence, Academic Ecosystems, and Economic Resilience in Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda, like many small island developing states (SIDS), stands at a critical inflection point. In the face of rising climate threats, economic shocks, and demographic pressure, the nation has an opportunity to redefine its growth trajectory. This paper proposes a forward-leaning model - one not yet implemented, but rich in potential-centered around the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), local talent development, and public-private-academic collaboration.

At the heart of this vision are two transformative institutions: the UWIFIC School of Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence, and the UWIFIC Annual AI Research Conference. Together, they serve as intellectual and operational catalysts for innovation, digital governance, and inclusive growth.

The model presented here - informally referred to as the “Antigua and Humana Framework” - emphasizes that economic transformation must be both technologically enabled and socially grounded. It is not AI for automation’s sake, but AI for economic resilience, social equity, and sustainable prosperity.

The School of AI and Computing plays a foundational role. It equips young Antiguan and Barbudans with the skills required to lead in sectors like fintech, cybersecurity, data analytics, and digital health. It also serves as an anchor institution for applied research that directly feeds into national development

priorities. By training students to not only use but shape AI technologies, the school ensures that innovation remains local, ethical, and impactful.

Complementing this, the Annual AI Conference acts as a platform for thought leadership, policy dialogue, and regional networking. It draws researchers, entrepreneurs, and government leaders into the same room, fostering collaboration

on issues ranging from disaster prediction to public service delivery. In doing so, it transforms academic output into real-world systems and solutions.

Crucially, both the School and the Conference are positioned within a broader framework of national readiness. The emerging FutureLogic platform - a proposed government data and planning hub - would harness AI to anticipate fiscal shocks,



ST. JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SJDC)

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### MAINTENANCE MANAGER

The **St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC)** is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the position of **Maintenance Manager**.

The successful candidate will be required to ensure smooth, safe, and efficient operation of the Corporation's facilities by overseeing all aspects of maintenance, including planning, scheduling, execution and quality control. This involves managing resources, leading a team and optimizing maintenance practices to reduce downtime, extend asset life and minimize cost. The Maintenance Manager will be required to work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support the Corporation's strategic goals.

#### Key Responsibilities include:

Overseeing daily maintenance of facilities, equipment, and machinery

- Managing and guiding maintenance staff
- Developing preventative maintenance schedules and procedures
- Coordinating with vendors and contractors
- Managing inventory, budgets, and maintenance records
- Ensuring compliance with safety regulations
- Supporting emergency repairs and disaster preparedness initiatives

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Degree or certification in Engineering, Facilities/Maintenance Management or a related field (BSc/BA in Business or Facility Management is an asset)
- Minimum 5 years' experience in maintenance management
- Strong technical knowledge in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and mechanical systems
- Proven leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills

#### Application Instructions:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

The Executive Director  
 St. John's Development Corporation  
 P.O. Box 1473  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

Or email: [hr@sjdcanu.com](mailto:hr@sjdcanu.com)

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**



guide sector investments, and track performance against resilience metrics. When fully realized, this platform will enable ministries to act not just faster, but smarter.

### *The strategy unfolds across four pillars:*

**Human Capital Development** - With formal training programs in AI, coding, and data science, the UWIFIC school bridges the future-of-work gap and enables inclusive participation in the digital economy.

**Digital Governance** - Through platforms like FutureLogic, AI is embedded in public systems, allowing for predictive budgeting, real-time citizen feedback, and smarter policy design.

**Innovation Ecosystem Growth** - A national ecosystem of hackathons, incubators, and startup networks-fueled by university partnerships - positions Antigua and Barbuda as a lab for Caribbean-scale solutions.

**Sectoral Diversification** - AI augments sectors like agriculture (smart farming), tourism (predictive analytics), health (non-communicable disease forecasting), and climate resilience (hazard modeling).

The integration of these components ensures a resilient, shock-absorbing economy. More importantly, it democratizes innovation-making it accessible to youth, rural communities, and micro-enterprises.

This model doesn't exist in a vacuum. It relies on strong ethical foundations, open data frameworks, regional cooperation, and the political will to support experimentation. It calls for ministries to collaborate with students, startups, and civil

society - not just through consultation, but through shared action.

Despite resource limitations, Antigua and Barbuda's small size becomes an asset. It enables agility, faster policy testing, and tighter feedback loops. With targeted investment, the country can leapfrog legacy challenges and design systems purpose-built for its reality.

This paper is not a report of outcomes-it is a statement of possibil-

ity. It is a vision for what can happen when technology is harnessed not as a tool of control, but as an instrument of opportunity.

By anchoring its development journey in local institutions like UWIFIC, and by inviting the region into collaborative innovation, Antigua and Barbuda positions itself not just to withstand future shocks - but to lead the Caribbean into a bold, AI-powered decade.



ABLP St. John's Rural West Youth Arm & Senator the Hon. Michael Joseph presents

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JUNE 2025  
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## STATEMENT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

For further information, please contact the University Marketing and Communications Office via email at



**Professor Hazel Simmons McDonald**



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

[unimarkcom@uwi.edu](mailto:unimarkcom@uwi.edu)

For Immediate Release

### HAILING HAZEL

#### Statement on the Passing of Emerita Professor Hazel Simmons Mc Donald

*The UWI Regional Headquarters, Jamaica W.I. Monday, June 9, 2025—Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Professor Sir Hilary Beckles issues the following statement.*

There are moments when sad hearings of a passing shatter the shield with which we surround our friends and loved ones. But they are quickly followed by a flood of feelings, enshrined in experiences that constitute a Milky Way of memories.

We hail Hazel Simmons-McDonald, professor of words and their languages, administrator and conceptualizer of higher education, and a poetess of power with popular acclaim.

Like many Lucians, she embraced The UWI, first at Mona and then spreading wings across the archipelago. She landed at Cave Hill, where she flourished as a teacher, Head of Department, and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education.

Many experienced her as a bundle of dizzying energy, never tiring and always inspiring. There was no surprise when she was called upon to serve as the first Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Open Campus, which was desperately in need of her special skills and commitment. Her contributions to the 'Open' and 'Global' Campus were an extension of her impressive investment at Cave Hill.

But she never forgot the significance of her first engagement as a scholar. Writing, speaking, publishing and editing remained the centre of her gravity. Traversing the region and the world beyond, her voice as a generous scholar was salient. She was admired and respected. Her ancestral Saint Lucia celebrated her as a 'piton' and enabled her to feel the sensation of the elevation.

We hail Hazel for all she did and meant. She moved smoothly and productively among us and into retirement, where there was no resting for the researcher.

From her beloved UWI, we send book loads of blessings and gratitude to blaze the trail of her eternal soul on its journey back home.



## SVG: PM Gonsalves says millions to be spent if country hit by tropical cyclone

Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves says the government has identified EC\$120 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) that can be spent in the event of a tropical cyclone impacting St Vincent and the Grenadines this hurricane season.

"I always try for us to put aside some money," Gonsalves said as he urged residents to prepare for the hurricane season.

Gonsalves said that the Contingency Fund to which one percentage point of the 16 percent value added tax (VAT) is contributed, with special laws governing how the money can be spent.

"We have dipped into the fund because we have the disasters. We have had COVID, Hurricane Elsa, the volcanic eruptions, Hurricane Beryl and so forth," Gonsalves said on the state-owned NBC Radio.

"I always try to see if we could have about EC\$120 million put aside," he said, adding that this includes EC\$50 million in the Contingency Fund.

"We use the instrument called the Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option at the World Bank. We have arranged, again, such a draw-down. We negotiate that in order to put that aside," the prime minister said.

He said the Cat DDO funds, a loan amounting to US\$20 million or EC\$54 million, can be accessed in the event of a natural hazard impacting the country. The repay-



ment period is 45 years.

"We had to pass a number of laws, do a number of regulations to fit with the World Bank requisites. So, 50 from the Consolidated Fund, 54 from the Cat DDO, that's 104. So, you see, almost reach 120. Then we will get a five million US dollar to borrow — that is EC\$13.5 million — easy from the Caribbean Development Bank," Gonsalves said.

He said that with the Barbados-based CDB, the country usually gets a loan having spent money in response to the natural disaster.

"But you know you have that for certain. So, you could always bridge it until you get that money. And then, a reliable friend like Taiwan will chip in with three, four, five million US, depending on the circumstances.

"I'm not talking about small amount of monies — a \$200,000, a \$50,000, which this or that agency or government may give when a disaster happens. Those monies, you hear about them, but they could hardly take care of the relief, much

less any recovery."

Prime Minister Gonsalves said that Hurricane Beryl left "a number close to one billion Eastern Caribbean dollars" in loss and damage when it moved across the country, affecting mostly the Southern Grenadines on July 1.

The Barbados-based Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology said on May 27 that its forecasters have a 70 percent confidence in their forecast that there will be 19 named storms, with nine becoming hurricanes and four of them major hurricanes, but noted that the forecast will be updated later in the hurricane season.

The prime minister said the government has inspected emergency shelters.

"We have 140 shelters listed for the 2025 season. And while we have a reduced number, it doesn't mean that there would not be enough places for persons to go to," the prime minister said, adding that he had met with the director of the National Emergency Management

Organisation (NEMO), Michelle Forbes and the permanent secretary.

He said NEMO has been preparing for the hurricane season by, among other things, conducting training in logistics, warehouse management, shelter management, forklift training, disaster planning with hoteliers throughout the country and with private sector organisations "and carrying them through the steps as to things which need to be done to prepare for a hurricane season.

"In collaboration with the Red Cross, we have been doing capacity building training and community strengthening programmes across the country, but especially so in the southern Grenadines, because they were worse affected by Beryl."

Gonsalves said the houses that his government have repaired or rebuilt are, "generally speaking, in a much better condition than they would have been before".

He, however, said he had received "some complaints that some of the contractors have short-changed in some of the repairs and some of it is not of the quality which we should have had.

"And that is a matter which I've raised with the Ministry of Housing, and they're doing their double checks and their supervisions and the like to try and improve," Gonsalves added. (*Loop Caribbean*)



# Regional News

## Guyana government denies housing made available to Venezuelan nationals



The Guyana government has denied social media reports that it has provided housing to foreign nationals at the new housing development at Little and Great Diamond, East Bank Demerara.

In a statement, the Ministry of Housing and Water – Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA), said that “contrary to the baseless rumours, not a single house lot or turnkey unit in the area has been allocated to non-Guyanese.”

“As a matter of policy, land allocation is strictly reserved for individuals who are legally recognized as Guyanese in accordance with the laws of Guyana,” it said, noting that the allottees in this scheme are former squatters who previously illegally occupied the river dam on the East Bank Demerara.

The CHPA said that a total of 291 squatter households were identified, and to date,

228 families have been allocated house lots or government-constructed homes.

The government said, “While 37 Venezuelans were found squatting in the area, they have been deemed ineligible under the housing programme, as it serves only Guyanese.”

“These former squatters were allocated lands near the four-lane Heroes Highway—a prime area poised for growth and development. Their placement guarantees increased property values for their homes and offers long-term socio-economic benefits for the beneficiaries,” the statement said.

It said only government-approved turnkey homes were constructed by the Ministry and that these buildings were constructed adhering to strict quality and design standards and were offered at a cost of GUY\$5.2 million (One Guyana dollar=US\$0.004 cents), not

seven million as falsely reported.

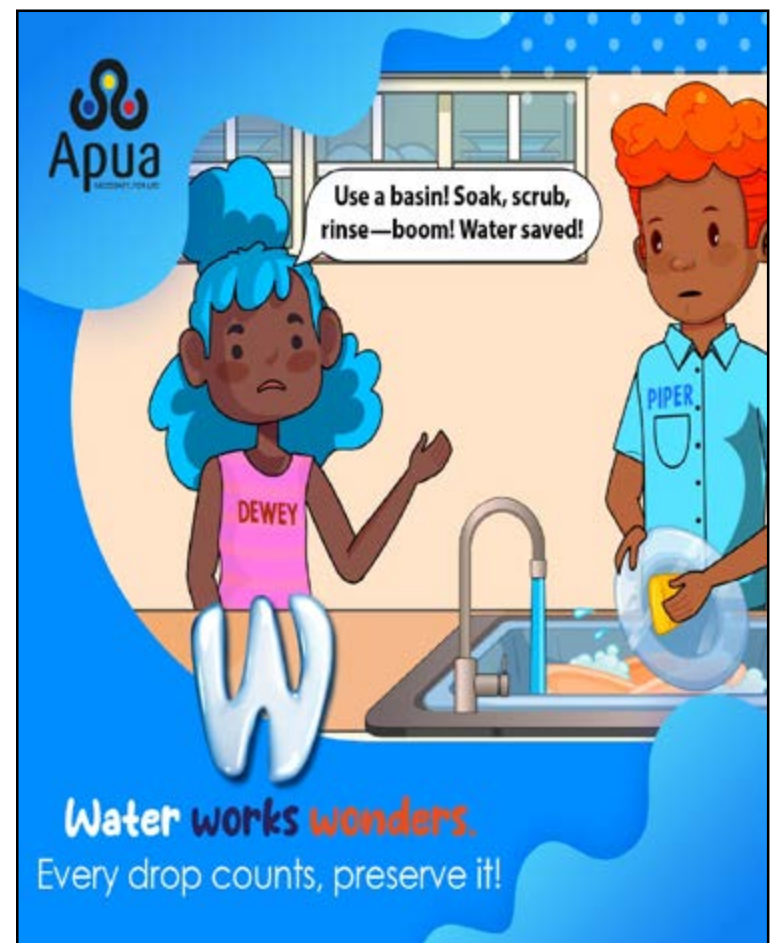
“The wooden structures seen in some parts of the scheme were constructed by the relocated squatters themselves, who were allocated land only. The Ministry has not been involved in the design or construction of these self-built homes.”

The government also indicated that on May 12, 2025, tenders were opened for the infrastructure upgrades and awarded to small contractors. It said that these works will be done in 39 lots, valued at GUY\$ 780 million, and include the construc-

tion of reinforced concrete roads, road shoulders, and drainage systems.

The contracts were awarded on June 5, 2025, and work is scheduled to commence by June 15, with completion expected by July 31, 2025. All contracts have been awarded in full compliance with the relevant procurement standards.

The ministry said it is urging “the public to refrain from sharing sensational claims that only serve to mislead citizens and discredit national housing programme and ongoing development efforts”. (*Loop Caribbean*)





## Soldier arrested in Suriname after body of man found in parked vehicle



Police in Suriname say a 36-year-old soldier has been arrested as they investigate the death of a man, whose body was found in a vehicle with a gunshot wound earlier this month.

The Police Public Relations said that the matter had been investigated by the Capital Crimes department, in collaboration with the Paramaribo Investigation Assistance Team and the intelligence service of the Suriname Police Force.

It said that the soldier, who is attached to the National Security Directorate, has been arrested and after consultation with the Public Prosecution Service, was transferred to the Military Police as the investigation continues by a

joint team of the police and the Military Police.

The police said that an autopsy will be conducted on the body of the man to determine the cause of his death.

The man's body was found in the vehicle on June 2. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



ST. JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SJDC)

### VACANCY

#### CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC) invites applications from suitably qualified professionals to fill the post of Chief Financial Officer.

The successful candidate will provide strategic financial leadership and oversee the Corporation's financial operations, including accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, treasury management, and compliance. The CFO will also supervise the Accounts Department and work closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support the Corporation's strategic goals.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Oversight of all financial activities including Payroll, Accounts Payable/Receivable, Cash Flow, and Debt Management.
- Prepare budgets, monitor performance, and conduct variance analysis.
- Manage internal and external audits.
- Ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Lead the development and implementation of financial systems, controls, and policies.
- Supervise and guide accounting personnel, including performance evaluations and training.

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- A Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration.
- Professional designation (ACCA, CPA, CGA) is required.
- A Master's in Business Administration (MBA) would be an asset.
- Minimum of 7 years' experience in a senior financial management role.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Excel, and QuickBooks.
- Excellent communication, analytical, and leadership skills.

#### Application Instructions:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter, detailed resume, and copies of relevant qualifications no later than June 15, 2025 to:

The Executive Director  
 St. John's Development Corporation  
 P.O. Box 1473  
 St. John's  
 Antigua  
 Or email: [hr@sjdcanu.com](mailto:hr@sjdcanu.com)

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



# Regional News



## Caribbean restaurants and destinations compete for World Culinary Awards 2025



### 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WORLD CULINARY AWARDS

The 6th annual World Culinary Awards has announced its Caribbean nominees, with establishments and destinations across the region vying for recognition in ten competitive categories.

The World Culinary Awards, which celebrates and rewards excellence in the culinary industry, is the sister event of the World Travel Awards, inaugurated in 1994.

The Caribbean nominees by category are:

Caribbean's Best Emerging Culinary City Destination 2025  
Bridgetown, Barbados  
Castries, St Lucia  
Gustavia, St Barths  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Anguilla

Caribbean's Best Fine Dining Experience 2025

Aria (Cayman Islands)  
Blue by Eric Ripert @ The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman  
PIMMS @ Belmond Cap Juluca Anguilla  
Stone Barn @ Park Hyatt St. Kitts  
Christophe Harbour  
Sugar Mill at Half Moon Jamaica

Caribbean's Best Fine Dining Hotel Restaurant 2025

Blue by Eric Ripert @ The Ritz-Carl-

ton, Grand Cayman  
Café Boulud The Bahamas  
Graycliff Restaurant (Bahamas)  
Ocean Club St. Barths Restaurant  
PIMMS @ Belmond Cap Juluca Anguilla  
Rhodes Restaurant @ Calabash Hotel  
Stone Barn @ Park Hyatt St Kitts  
Christophe Harbour  
Sugar Mill @ Half Moon Jamaica

Caribbean's Best Landmark Restaurant 2025

1919 Restaurant (Puerto Rico)  
CHILLIN' Serengeti at Hope Zoo (Jamaica)  
Graycliff Restaurant (Bahamas)  
Santana's Bar and Grill Exuma  
Terrace Café at St Nicholas Abbey (Barbados)

Caribbean's Best New Restaurant 2025

Akira Back, Aruba  
Aon Restaurant (Dominican Republic)  
Lua Restaurant (Turks & Caicos)  
Nourish at VIDA (Cayman Islands)  
RASA (Cayman Islands)  
SeaFire (Grenada)  
Caribbean's Best Rooftop Restaurant 2025

12 to 12 Ultra Lounge (Jamaica)  
Altitude, Jamaica

Burble Rooftop Bar (Dominican Republic)

Eter Rooftop & Lounge, Puerto Rico  
Marcus Up Top @ Marcus at Baha  
Mar Fish + Chop House

Moon Restaurant & Bar, Dominican Republic

Pom Pom (Cayman Islands)

Caribbean's Best Culinary City Destination 2025

George Town (Cayman Islands)

Montego Bay (Jamaica)

Nassau (Bahamas)

San Juan (Puerto Rico)

Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

Caribbean's Best Culinary Destination 2025

Bahamas

Cayman Islands

Dominican Republic

Jamaica

Puerto Rico

Caribbean's Best Culinary Festival 2025

Barbados Food and Rum Festival

Cayman Cookout (Cayman Islands)

Jamaica Food & Drink Festival

St Barth Gourmet Festival (Saint Barthélemy)

Caribbean's Best Culinary Training Institution 2025

A&B Masters (Dominican Republic)

College of Tourism Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Leisure @ University of the Bahamas

Culinary Arts Escuela de Gastronomía (Dominican Republic)

IVAEM College (Puerto Rico)

The Hospitality Institute @ Barbados Community College

Voting for the awards continues until August 15 on the World Culinary Awards website. (*Loop Caribbean*)



## Pentagon deploys 700 Marines to Los Angeles to respond to immigration protests

The Pentagon deployed about 700 Marines to Los Angeles on Monday to help National Guard members respond to immigration protests, officials said, as California prepared to sue President Donald Trump over his use of the Guard troops and demonstrators took to the city's streets for a fourth day.

The Marines are being deployed from their base at Twentynine Palms in the Southern California desert to protect federal property and personnel, including federal immigration agents, US Northern Command said in a statement.

The Marines and National Guard troops are not expected to do law enforcement duties, which are prohibited under the Posse Comitatus Act. Trump has not invoked the Insurrection Act to allow them to do law enforcement. It is not clear if he intends to.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said in a statement Monday afternoon he was confident in the police department's ability to handle large-scale demonstrations and that the Marines' arrival without coordinating with the police department presented a "significant logistical and operational challenge" for them.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the planned lawsuit over the use of National Guard troops by telling reporters that Trump had "trampled" the state's sovereignty.

"We don't take lightly to the president abusing his authority and unlawfully mobilising California National Guard troops" Bonta said. He planned to seek a court order declaring Trump's use of the Guard unlawful and asking for a restraining order to halt the deployment.

The arrival of the National Guard followed two days of protests that began Friday in downtown Los Angeles after federal immigration authorities arrested more than 40 people that day across the city.

The smell of smoke hung in the air downtown Monday, one day after



crowds blocked a major freeway and set self-driving cars on fire as police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

The law enforcement presence was heavy, with police cars from neighbouring cities blocking the street in front of the federal detention facility that was a focus of the protests.

The clashes unfolded over just a few square blocks in an immense city of some 4 million people, most of whom went about their normal business on peaceful streets.

On Monday, thousands flooded the streets around City Hall for a union rally ahead of a hearing for arrested labour leader David Huerta, who was freed a few hours later on a \$50,000 bond. Huerta's arrest on Friday while protesting immigration raids has become a rallying cry for people angry over the administration's crackdown. He is the president of the Service Employees International Union California, which represents thousands of the state's janitors, security officers and other workers.

Early protests Monday had a calm and even joyful atmosphere at times, with people dancing to live music and buoyed by Huerta's release.

Protesters linked hands outside the downtown federal detention centre where Huerta was being held, and at times sang in front of a line of police officers, who unsuccessfully asked people to move off the road and onto the sidewalk. Religious leaders joined the protesters, working with organiz-

ers at times to de-escalate moments of tension.

Chanting against a line of National Guard troops with Homeland Security officers behind them surrounding the federal buildings ramped up in the afternoon as people yelled, "Free them all!" and "National Guard go away."

Bonta accused Trump of fanning protesters' anger with his announcement of the deployment, saying he set off Sunday's clashes with law enforcement in downtown Los Angeles. "This was not inevitable," he said.

Trump said Monday that the city would have been "completely obliterated" if he had not deployed the Guard.

Later, at a White House event, he added that state leaders "were afraid to do anything."

US officials said about 1,000 National Guard members were in the city under federal orders by midday Monday. The full 2,000 members authorised by the president were expected to be on the ground by the end of the day. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the details of military operations.

Meanwhile, California Governor Gavin Newsom has repeatedly said that California authorities had the situation under control. He mocked Trump for posting a congratulatory message to the Guard on social media before troops had even arrived in Los Angeles.

The last time the National Guard was activated without a governor's permission was in 1965, when President Lyndon B Johnson sent troops to protect a civil rights march in Alabama, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

In a directive Saturday, Trump invoked a legal provision allowing him to deploy federal service members when there is "a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## Citing trade wars, World Bank sharply downgrades global economic growth forecast to 2.3%



President Donald Trump's trade wars are expected to slash economic growth this year in the United States and around the world, the World Bank forecast Tuesday.

Citing "a substantial rise in trade barriers" but without mentioning Trump by name, the 189-country lender predicted that the US economy — the world's largest — would grow half as fast (1.4%) this year as it did in 2024 (2.8%).

That marked a downgrade from the 2.3% US growth it had forecast back for 2025 back in January.

The bank also lopped 0.4 percentage points off its forecast for global growth this year.

It now expects the world

economy to expand just 2.3% in 2025, down from 2.8% in 2024.

In a forward to the latest version of the twice-yearly Global Economic Prospects report, World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill wrote that the global economy has missed its chance for the "soft landing" — slowing enough to tame inflation without generating serious pain — it appeared headed for just six months ago.

"The world economy today is once more running into turbulence," Gill wrote. "Without a swift course correction, the harm to living standards could be deep."

America's economic prospects have been clouded

by Trump's erratic and aggressive trade policies, including 10% taxes — tariffs — on imports from almost every country in the world.

These levies drive up costs in the US and invite retaliation from other countries.

The Chinese economy is forecast to see growth slow from 5% in 2024 to 4.5% this year and 4% next. The world's second-largest economy has been hobbled by the tariffs that Trump has imposed on its exports, by the collapse of its real estate market and by an ageing workforce.

The World Bank expects the 20 European countries that share the Euro cur-

rency to collectively grow just 0.7% this year, down from an already lackluster 0.9% in 2024. Trump's tariffs are expected to hurt European exports. And the unpredictable way he rolls them out — announcing them, suspending them, coming up with new ones — has created uncertainty that discourages business investment.

India is once again expected to be the world's fastest-growing major economy, expanding at a 6.3% clip this year. But that's down from 6.5% in 2024 and from the 6.7% the bank had forecast for 2025 in January. In Japan, economic growth is expected to accelerate this year — but only from 0.2% in 2024 to a sluggish 0.7% this year, well short of the 1.2% the World Bank had forecast in January.

The World Bank seeks to reduce poverty and boost living standards by providing grants and low-rate loans to poor economies.

Another multinational organization that seeks to promote global prosperity — the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development — last week downgraded its forecast for the US and global economies. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## World Cup host city organisers acknowledge immigration crackdown may impact next year's tournament



Philadelphia's host city executive for the 2026 World Cup says organisers accept that an immigration crackdown by President Donald Trump's administration may be among the outside events that impact next year's tournament.

"There are certainly things that are happening at the national level, the international level, there are going to be geopolitical issues that we don't even know right now that are going to affect the tournament next year, so we recognise that we're planning within uncertainty," Meg Kane said Monday at a gathering of the 11 US host city leaders, one year and two days ahead of the tournament opener.

The World Cup will be played at 16 stadiums in the US, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19 next year, a tournament expanded to 48 nations and 104 games. All matches from the quarterfinals on will be in the US, with the final at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

"Whether it's the Olympics, whether

it's a World Cup, whether it's a Super Bowl, you name it, anytime you've got a major international sporting event, geopolitics is going to have a role," said Alex Vasry, CEO of the New York/New Jersey host committee.

Kane said the host committees must adapt to decisions made by others.

"One of the things that I think we all recognise is that we have to be really good at operating within that uncertainty," Kane said. "I think for each of our cities, we want to be prepared to make any person that is coming and makes the decision to come to the United States or come to this World Cup feel that they are welcome. We do not play a role necessarily in what is happening in terms of the decisions that are made."

Trump's travel ban on citizens from 12 countries exempted athletes, coaches, staff and relatives while not mentioning fans.

"We allow for FIFA to continue having constructive conversations with

the administrations around visas, around workforce, around tourism," Kane said.

FIFA is running the World Cup for the first time without a local organising committee in the host nation. Asked in late April whether FIFA president Gianni Infantino was available to discuss the tournament, FIFA director of media relations Bryan Swanson forwarded the request to a member of the media relations staff, who did not make Infantino available.

Legislation approved by the House of Representatives and awaiting action in the Senate would appropriate \$625 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency "for security, planning, and other costs related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup."

The 11 US host committees have been consulting with each other on issues such as transportation for teams and VIPs, and for arranging fan fests.

At the last major soccer tournament in the US, the 2024 Copa America final at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, started 82 minutes late after fans breached security gates.

"Certainly we were not involved in the planning or the logistics for that particular match," said Alina Hudak, CEO of the Miami World Cup host committee. She said local police "have done an extensive review of the after-action reports related to that in collaboration with the stadium and so all of the things that happened are in fact being reviewed and addressed and I can assure you that everything is being done within our power to make sure that the appropriate measures are being placed, the appropriate perimeters." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## CWI thanks Pooran for service to West Indies cricket

Cricket West Indies has extended its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Nicholas Pooran for his outstanding contributions to West Indies cricket.

Nicholas officially informed the CWI leadership of his decision to retire from international cricket, ending a significant chapter in his career.

“A world-class player and a game changer, Nicholas leaves the game as the most capped West Indian in T20 Internationals with 106 matches and the leading T20I run scorer with 2,275 runs. His performances on the field and influence within the team have made a lasting impact on West Indies cricket,” CWI said in a statement issued on Monday afternoon.

“We salute his achievements and thank him for the moments he has given fans across the region and beyond. We wish him all the very best in the next phase of his journey.”

Pooran, one of the Caribbean’s most dynamic and gifted modern-day cricketers, on Monday, June 9, announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a career marked by breathtaking strokeplay, tenacity and moments of brilliance in maroon and gold.

The 29-year-old Trinidad and Tobago-born batter shared the news in a heartfelt statement on Monday, expressing deep gratitude for the opportunity to represent the West Indies.

“After much thought and reflection, I’ve decided to announce my retirement from international cricket,” Pooran wrote.

“This game we love has given and will continue to give me so much joy, purpose and unforgettable memories and a chance to represent the people of the West Indies. Wearing that maroon, standing for the anthem and giving everything I had each time I stepped on



**Nicholas Pooran**

the field... it’s hard to put into words what that truly means to me.”

He added, “To the fans – thank you for your unwavering love. You lifted me in tough moments and celebrated the ones with unmatched passion. To my family, friends and teammates – thank you for walking this journey with me. Your belief and support carried me through it all.”

Pooran’s international career was defined by both explosive performances and an inspiring personal journey. In 2015, a serious car accident threatened to derail his dreams before they truly began.

The young wicketkeeper-batter suffered a torn patella tendon and fractured bones in his leg, spending nearly a year in recovery. But with the backing of senior players like Kieron Pollard, he returned to the game, earning a CPL contract with the Barbados Tridents and beginning a journey that would soon light up global T20 leagues.

He made his breakthrough in West Indies colours in late 2018 with a 24-ball half-century against India in Chennai, and soon after was fast-tracked into the 2019 World Cup squad. In that tournament, he emerged as one of West In-

dies’ standout performers, scoring 367 runs at an average of 52.47, including a sublime 118 from 103 balls against Sri Lanka—his only ODI century and a lasting highlight of his career.

Pooran also served as West Indies’ white-ball captain, a role he called “a privilege I will always hold close to my heart.”

Though his international stats—54 ODIs for 1,634 runs at 36.31 and 88 T20Is for 1,848 runs at 25.34—tell part of the story, it was Pooran’s audacity and flair that captivated fans. His shot-making, particularly against spin, and his ability to accelerate an innings made him one of the most feared batters in the T20 format.

He has also been a mainstay on the IPL circuit. After initial stints with Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings, his stocks soared in 2022 when Sunrisers Hyderabad acquired him. He moved to Lucknow Super Giants in 2023 and made an immediate impact.

Pooran’s finest IPL season came in 2024 when he piled up 499 runs at a strike rate of 178.31. He followed that up with 524 runs in the 2025 edition, averaging 43.66 with a blistering strike rate of 196.25.

## West Indies Academy lose to Sri Lanka Emerging Players

The West Indies Academy suffered a 75-run loss to Sri Lanka Emerging Players on day three of their first Four Day encounter at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCC) in Antigua on Monday.

The Sri Lankans entered Monday's play on 141 for five off 37 overs in their second innings, leading the hosts by 219 runs and ended up being bowled out for 219 in 58.2 overs, meaning the Academy had a target of 297 to win.

Left-arm pacer Nathan Edward was the star of the show with the ball for the West Indians with six for 23 from his 14.2 overs, while left-arm spinner Joshua Bishop took three for 41 from 17 overs.

The West Indians subsequently had only four players score in double figures before being dismissed for 222 in 50.5 overs.

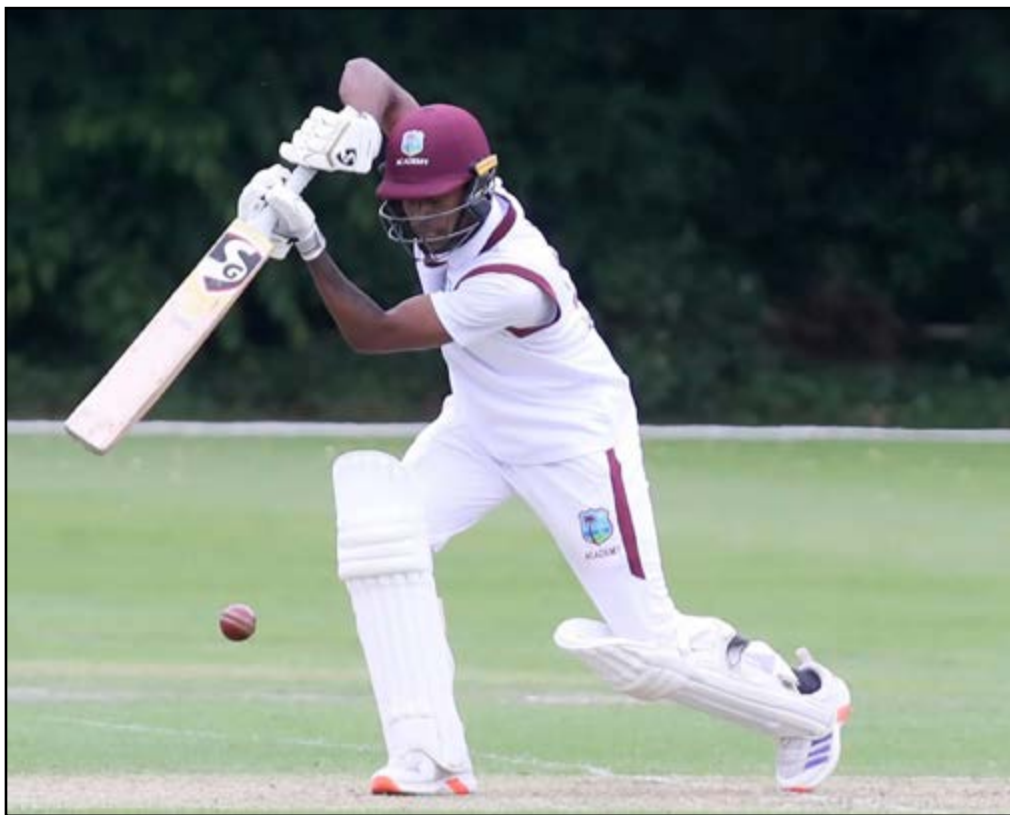
Ackeem Auguste was the only West Indian to pass the half-century mark with a well-compiled 82 off 95 balls, including seven fours and five sixes, while Carlon Bowen-Tuckett and Rivaldo Clarke made 43 and 36, respectively.

Left-arm spinner Dilum Sudeera picked up four for 51 from 14 overs, while left-arm seamer Dulaj Samuditha and off-spinner Ashian Daniel each picked up three wickets.

The second Four Day game starts on Saturday, June 14, while the first 50-Over game is on the Saturday, June 21.

Summarized scores: Sri Lanka Emerging Players 292 all out in 65.4 overs (Sohan de Livera 130, Shevon Daniel 47; Kelvin Pitman 7-28) & 219 all out in 58.2 overs (Ravindu Rasantha 65, Shevon Daniel 50; Nathan Edward 6-23, Joshua Bishop 3-41).

The West Indies Academy 214 all out in 50.4 overs (Rivaldo Clarke 42, Ackeem Auguste 41; Dulaj Samuditha 5-57, Ashian Daniel 3-45) & 222 all out in 50.5 overs (Ackeem Auguste



**Ackeem Auguste was the only West Indian to pass the half-century mark against the Sri Lankans.**

82, Carlon Bowen-Tuckett 43; Dilum Ashian Daniel 3-55). Sudeera 4-51, Dulaj Samuditha 3-46,



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# Sports News



## CWI announces women's squad for home series against South Africa



**South Africa's captain Laura Wolvaardt and West Indies women's skipper Hayley Matthews. (CWI Media)**

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the 15-member squad for the upcoming white-ball home series against South Africa Women, set to take place at the iconic 3Ws Oval in Barbados.

The series, scheduled for June 11-23, will feature three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and three T20 Internationals (T20Is).

The Maroon Warriors return to the Caribbean after a difficult tour of England, where they were unable to secure a win in the six-match ODI and T20I series.

Now back on home soil, the team is focused on regrouping, resetting, and reigniting their campaign in more familiar conditions as they aim to deliver stronger, more consistent performances on the international

stage.

Despite the disappointing results in England, the West Indies Women showed glimpses of their potential especially from international debutants Jahzara Claxton, the first woman from St. Kitts to play international cricket, and Guyana's Realeanna Grimmond, who scored a half century on her ODI debut.

Captain Hayley Matthews emerged as the standout performer with 177 runs and three wickets in the T20I series and was duly named player of the series.

The Proteas Women arrive in the Caribbean ranked higher than the West Indies in both formats, with South Africa positioned 5th in both ODI and T20I rankings, while the Maroon Warriors are ranked 9th in the former

and 5th in the shortest format.

Matthews will once again lead the squad, which sees one change from the England tour, with experienced all-rounder Chinelle Henry coming in for Cherry-Ann Fraser.

Miles Bascombe, CWI Director of Cricket, expressed confidence in the team's ability to bounce back.

"After a challenging tour, this home series offers the perfect opportunity for the team to regain their footing and reestablish their confidence playing in familiar conditions and in front of West Indian fans. We believe in this group's talent and resilience, and we look forward to seeing them play purposeful, passionate cricket," Bascombe said.

Head Coach Shane Deitz echoed the importance of the upcoming matches.

"Obviously, England's results didn't go how we wanted, but it was a great learning opportunity and a chance to bring some young players into our team and give them their first taste of international cricket.

"This is going to be wonderful series and a great opportunity for our girls to test their skills and abilities against one of the best teams in the world, so I am looking forward to getting out there putting on a great show for our West Indies supporters. We can't wait to hear and feel their support

when we go out to play on Wednesday," Deitz stated.

The team arrived in Barbados on Sunday ahead of the first ODI on Wednesday (today). The second T20I on Sunday, June 22, will be particularly special as it coincides with the prestigious CWI and West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) Awards ceremony, celebrating the achievements of Caribbean cricket stars across both men's and women's cricket.

Admission to the games is free and all matches will be broadcast live across the Caribbean and internationally on ESPN Caribbean.

**West Indies Squad:** Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbelle (vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Jahzara Claxton, Afy Fletcher, Shakiba Gajabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmond, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, and Stafanie Taylor.

**Team Management Unit:** Head Coach Shane Deitz, Team Manager Sheena Gooding, Assistant Coach Ryan Austin, Assistant Coach Damien Wright, Team Analyst Gary Belle, Physiotherapist Angelica Holder, Strength & Conditioning Coach Hector Martinez Charles, Performance Coach Dr. Nadine Sammy, and Media & Content Officer Nicholas Maitland.

## Champs Pytonz extend unbeaten run Men's Division 1 League

Having already secured their maiden title, the ABI Insurance and Cool and Smooth Pytonz have extended their unbeaten run in the Men's Division 1 competition of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local Club League.

The Pytonz, who have two games remaining, recorded their tenth win in as many games in the seven-team round-robin league with a hard-fought 3-2 victory against the Storming Lions at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday evening.

The Pytonz took an hour and 47 minutes to secure their 25-17, 22-25, and 25-20, 22-25, and 15-12 vic-

tory against the Storming Lions to their fifth defeat from



**The ABI Insurance and Cool and Smooth Pytonz men's volleyball team.**

Lions to remain at the top of the standings with an unassailable 44 points.

The result also ensured that the Storming Lions finished their campaign in third place after slumping

their quota of 12 games.

Last year's men's Division 1 champions, Theatric Lighting and Stage Effects and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville, advanced from third to second place by

pulling off a 3-0 victory via default against Vernon G. Edwards High Flyerz.

Stonville notched up their eighth win in 11 games after being awarded a 25-0, 25-0, and 25-0 victory against the High Flyerz, who were unable to field a team for their encounter.

The result allows the High Flyerz to remain in fourth place after suffering their fifth loss in 10 encounters.

The Men's Division 1 League will resume with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Thursday.

The High Flyerz will take on the Phoenix High Flyerz at 6:45 pm, and the Pytonz will meet the Invaders at 7:45 pm.

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The Dominicans claimed the bronze medal by prevailing 21-14, 20-22, and 15-7.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda's men's team of Khaliq Joseph and Miguel Lena Lugo finished seventh in the men's division competition.

Joseph and Lugo, who finished third in last year's event, won their playoff for seventh place with a 2-0 (21-18, 21-16) victory over Maduro Dunkley and Alexander Wheatley of the British Virgin Islands.

The Antiguan lost their playoff for fifth place 2-0 (21-14, 21-8) against Julian Bristol and Komarr Fraties of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Joseph and Lugo were also outed 2-0 (22-20, 21-13) by Jedediah Pencheon and Vikash Sundar of St. Kitts and Nevis in the men's quarter-finals.

Dominica's Mervin Mingo and Bill Frederick were crowned ECVA Under-21 Men's Beach Volleyball Champions for the second year in a row.

The Dominicans delivered a 2-0 win (21-17, 21-15) over St. Lucia's Victor Rio and Peter Emmanuel in the gold medal match.

In an exciting bronze medal match, Grenada's Walcott Zerick and Kibose Hamilton battled past home favourites Jedediah Pencheon and Vikash Sundar of St. Kitts and Nevis in a thrilling 2-1 victory (21-17, 12-21, 15-11).

Mervin Mingo and Bill Frederick of Dominica took a confident step toward back-to-back titles with a straight-sets semi-final victory 2-0 (21-18, 21-15)

against Grenada's Walcott Zerick and Kibose Hamilton.

St. Lucia's duo, Rio and Emmanuel, secured a 2-0 (21-11, 21-11) victory in their semi-final match against the Kittitian pair of Sundar and Puncheon.

The top three finishers in both male and female categories will move on to represent the ECVA at the NORCECA World Championships Qualifier Tournament, which will take place in the Dominican Republic from July 3 to 7.



## Antiguan women claim silver at ECVA's U-21 Beach Tournament



**Antigua and Barbuda's Jaya Carr holds the trophy alongside teammate Jassania Joseph, left, after clinching second place in the ECVA's Under-21 Women's Beach Volleyball Championships in St. Kitts on Sunday, June 8, 2025.**

Antigua and Barbuda have captured the runners-up spot in the women's division at the 2025 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Under-21 Beach Championships in St. Kitts.

The national female team comprising Jassania Joseph and Jaya Isaac Carr missed out on the title after losing 2-0 to the St. Lucian duo of Ericka Gaspard and

Clio Phillip in the final of the tournament, which took place at Marriott Beach in St. Kitts from June 6 to 8.

Gaspard and Phillip delivered a flawless performance, capturing the women's gold medal with an undefeated 5-0 record and without dropping a single set.

In the final, Gaspard and Phillip overpowered the Antiguan duo of Joseph and

**Khaliq Joseph (#1) and Miguel Pena-Lugo (#2) comprised the Antigua and Barbuda's Under-21 men's volleyball team. (Photos courtesy of the ABAVA)**

Carr in straight sets, winning 21-11, 23-21.

The St. Lucians advanced to the championship match by ousting Deandra Fleming and Lavesha Richardson of Anguilla 2-0 in the semi-finals, prevailing 21-16, 21-17.

In a hard-fought semifinal, the Antiguan pair of Joseph and Carr edged past Dominica's Alyssa Bully and Joy-an Pascal 2-1, winning 21-

12, 15-21, and 15-12.

After splitting the first two sets, Joseph and Carr led 13-9 in the decider before withstanding a late Dominican rally to secure their spot in the final.

Dominica's Bully and Pascal secured a 2-1 victory over Anguilla's Fleming and Richardson in the play-off for third place.

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