

Government to acquire a mobile dental care unit



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Ceremony held at the Copper and Lumber Store in Nelson's Dockyard for the volunteers who gave their services during the just-concluded Organisation of American States (OAS) 55th Regular Session of the General Assembly

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Local News

Government to acquire a mobile dental care unit

The government is following through on its commitment to provide dental services to various groups in the society, especially the youth.

This comes as the Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph provided an update to his Cabinet colleagues of the free health care services provided at a health fair last week.

Sir Molwyn gave a comprehensive report on the fair in which he disclosed that the health fair produced a saving for the government of approximately 2.5 million dollars.

“Based on the report on dental services provided, Cabinet agreed to the immediate purchase and outfitting of a mobile unit to provide dental care specifically cleaning of the



Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph

teeth for school children 5-14 years old,” Cabinet sources reported.

This unit is expected to become operational by the start of the new school year.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet learnt that plans are progressing smoothly for the merger of the Glanville’s and Pares Secondary schools.

The Cabinet was told that the Board of Education and the Ministry of Works continue to ready the plant for the opening in September.

In addition, to aid in the smooth transition, government approved the grant of three pairs of regular uniforms and one dress uniform to Glanvilles Secondary students who will start the new school year at Pares Secondary.

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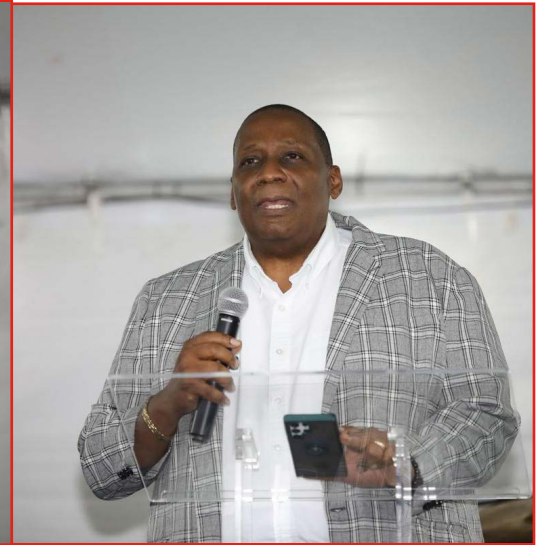
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FA Minister Greene issues a call for more volunteers ahead of CHOGM



Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene



Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene



Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene has made a clarion call for more residents of Antigua and Barbuda to come forward to serve as volunteers for the several major meetings which the country will host.

The minister was speaking at an appreciation ceremony held at the Copper and Lumber Store in Nelson's Dockyard for the volunteers who gave their services during the just-concluded Organisation of American States (OAS) 55th Regular Session of the General Assembly held in St. John's from June 25 to 27.

Minister Greene said the government of Prime Minister Gaston Browne has made a conscious decision to promote Antigua and Barbuda as a host venue for major international events and conferences and as a consequence, there will be a need for a cadre of volunteers who will be ready to perform national service for these events.

"I want to encourage all of us into volunteerism; everything cannot be about money. There are some things that transcend money. The confidence you exude during the hosting of this meeting I am sure will inspire others to get involved in volunteerism. As we sell our communities, we sell our country and we want to take that spirit of



Local News



volunteerism back to our communities and workplaces so that we can have a cadre of volunteers ready to serve, ready to perform national duties,” he remarked.

Antigua and Barbuda will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting next year and according to the minister this will be an even bigger event that both the SIDS4 conference held last year or the OAS meeting held in June.

Also addressing the volunteers was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim who underscored the value of the work performed by the volunteers.

“Hosting this important body required not only logistics, diplomacy, and planning — but more importantly, it required heart, humility, and hands

willing to serve. You, our volunteers, became the quiet architects of international hemispheric trust.

“You were the smile at the airport, the steady hand behind every protocol folder, the unseen yet indispensable link in the chain of regional diplomacy. You are not just volunteers — you are national champions. Champions of hospitality. Champions of pride. Champions of unity.

“Tonight, we do not merely say “thank you.” We say, we saw you. We recognize your sacrifice. And we honour your spirit,” he stated.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the group leaders with the other volunteers set to get their certificates directly from the ministry. One of the highlights of the evening was a draw for prizes donated by several businesses.





THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development.

The School of Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence of The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus is seeking a candidate to fill the position of **Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in the fields of Statistics, Mathematics, Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence**. As a leading academic institution, we are committed to fostering innovative research and providing the highest quality education to our students. We are looking for a dynamic and experienced individual who is passionate about teaching, research and service to join our distinguished faculty.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Exhibit a record on innovative pedagogy in a face-to-face environment, as well as online, keeping up to date with developments in Computing, Mathematics and related fields with a specialized focus on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.
- Develop students' appreciation and passion for the study of Data Science, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. This may include designing course syllabi, preparing and delivering lectures, conducting class discussions and exercises, grading student work, and holding office hours for student consultations.
- Contribute to the academic community through publications in reputable journals and conference presentations.
- Participate in service activities such as serving on academic committees, advising and mentoring students, and contributing to departmental or institutional initiatives.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- A Ph.D. in Data Science/Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Mathematics or a related field from an accredited institution.
- Demonstrated ability to teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and a track record of conducting cutting-edge research that has resulted in publications in top-tier academic journals.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience teaching related courses at the University level.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to work effectively in a team, collaborating with other faculty members and contributing to the development of the school and the institution.
- Display a record of peer-reviewed publications in top journals and conferences focused on Data Science, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence and related fields.

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form**, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 18th July, 2025**. Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua by **August 1, 2025**. An attractive salary package is offered.

The University of the West Indies is an equal opportunity employer. The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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FLOW

AG Sir Steadroy Benjamin welcomes a proposal to go to judge alone trials in the UK

Antigua and Barbuda has welcomed a proposal for the introduction of judge-alone trials in the UK to deal with the mounting backlog of cases similar to what was done here four years ago.

Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin said this move only serves to validate the decision of the government to go the route of judge-alone trials back in 2021 to deal with the issue of backlogs as well as all the other issues that arose as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We did this (judge alone trails) years ago. It shows that we are well ahead of most nations and even England when it comes to being original and trend-setting in our judicial system,” Sir Steadroy told Point Express newspaper.

According to Sir Steadroy this development confirms the fact that Antigua and Barbuda is a leader and will always be so. “We continually punch above our weight class. As some have said, ‘we like but we tallawah’.

Media report out of the UK said thousands of cases that would normally be heard in front of a jury should be decided by judges alone, according to recommendations made by a former senior judge.

Sir Brian Leveson was asked by the Lord Chancellor to come up with a series of proposals to reduce the backlog of cases in the criminal courts.

There are almost 77,000 cases waiting for trial in the Crown Court in



Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin

England and Wales - meaning some defendants and victims are waiting

years for justice.

After reviewing the state of the criminal courts, Sir Brian suggested “fundamental” reforms to “reduce the risk of total system collapse”. But some barristers argue juries are essential for fair justice - and scrapping them is wrong.

To fix what he calls a broken system, Sir Brian has suggested having judge-only trials for certain cases such as fraud and bribery.

Antigua and Barbuda’s move towards judge-alone trials has brought widespread support especially among members of the legal service.



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Antigua and Barbuda participates in regional workshop focusing on water security

A high-level delegation from Antigua and Barbuda joined regional partners in Grenada this week for a multidisciplinary workshop aimed at advancing integrated approaches to water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

The event brought together key representatives from the health, environment, tourism, and agriculture sectors, reinforcing the urgent need for cross-sector collaboration in building a water-secure Caribbean.

Antigua and Barbuda's del-



Group photo of delegates attending the Grenada water secure workshop



break-out session for the Antigua and Barbuda delegation at Grenada workshop



In session at the Grenada water secure workshop

egation included: Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health Colin O'Keffe, Director of Agriculture Gregory Bailey, Sustainable Tourism Officer Dr. Adelle Blair and Technical Officer responsible for Watershed Management and Protected Areas Jaabari Reynolds.

Throughout the workshop, participants explored innovative solutions for managing water resources, mitigating climate impacts, and

promoting sustainable livelihoods.

The team from Antigua and Barbuda actively contributed to sessions focused on policy harmonization, community engagement, and practical tools for improving watershed and protected area management.

As Caribbean nations continue to face growing threats from climate change, the Grenada workshop underscored the shared com-



Members of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation at Grenada workshop

mitment to sustainable development and regional solidarity in the journey toward water security.



Dear Valued Customers,

We acknowledge the ongoing challenges many of you have experienced with our ATM services, and we sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused. The level of downtime you've encountered is not acceptable, and we take full responsibility.

To address this, ACB Caribbean has invested in a new fleet of Smart ATMs, which are already in Antigua & Barbuda and are currently undergoing final testing. While this process has taken longer than expected due to technical and logistical factors, we are committed to deploying these upgraded machines as quickly and safely as possible.

To ensure continued access to cash and banking services, we are implementing the following temporary measures:

Extended Opening Hours at all branches in Antigua

- **Monday to Friday: Now closing at 3:00 PM**

Saturday Banking Now Available at our Village Walk branch:

- **Starting Saturday, July 12, 2025: Open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon for teller transactions only.**

These revised hours will remain in effect until further notice.

We understand your frustration and appreciate your patience as we work diligently to improve your banking experience. Our team is fully committed to restoring the reliability you expect and deserve.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Joanna Charles
General Manager
ACB Caribbean Group



Local News

James Spencer takes his Oath of Office as a member of the Public Service Appeal Board

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams has administered the Oath of Office and secrecy to James Spencer to be a member of the Public Service Appeal Board.

Spencer becomes the newest member of the board and he was nominated by the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association. The Public Service Board of Appeal is the statutory body that hears and adjudicates appeals by public and police officers in disciplinary and removal cases under constitutional and legislative provisions.

It is chaired by attorney Colin Derrick.

During the ceremony, Spencer (right of Sir Rodney Williams) was congratulated by ABPSA President Joan Peters (to his left) and General Secretary Janelia Evanson (extreme left)



PUBLIC SERVICE APPEALS BOARD APPOINTMENT CEREMONY FOR MR JAMES SPENCER.





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SJA Alumni Association Donates \$13,400 to School for Teachers' Room A/C Units



(from left to right): Mr. Orden Joseph, Treasurer of SJAAAI Dr. Lenworth Johnson, Esq., Secretary of SJAAAI (handing over the cheque) Mr. Rudolph Davis, Principal of SJA Dr. Dane N. Abbott, President of SJAAAI Mr. Colin Derrick, Esq., Vice President of SJAAAI

The St. Joseph's Academy Alumni Association Inc. (SJAAAI) has presented a donation of \$13,400.00 to their alma mater, St. Joseph's Academy, for the installation of two air conditioning units in the Teachers' Room.

This week, members of the Association handed over the cheque to Rudolph Davis, Principal of SJA, in a brief ceremony at the school. The A/C units—already installed and visible in the background—represent

SJAAAI's ongoing commitment to improving the teaching and learning environment at the institution.

Pictured at the handover were (from left to right): Mr. Orden Joseph, Treasurer of SJAAAI Dr. Lenworth Johnson, Esq., Secretary of SJAAAI (handing over the cheque) Mr. Rudolph Davis, Principal of SJA Dr. Dane N. Abbott, President of SJAAAI Mr. Colin Derrick, Esq., Vice President of

SJAAAI

Also contributing to the initiative but not pictured was Dr. Ken Samuel, Esq., Chairman of the SJAAAI Fundraising Committee.

This donation marks just the beginning of a larger undertaking by the Association. The next major goal is to raise over \$100,000 for critical repairs to the Thomas Armstrong Wing, the original and historic wing of the school. SJAAAI is calling on all alumni to lend

their support—whether through financial contributions, in-kind donations, or other means—to help preserve and restore this vital part of SJA's legacy.

Persons wishing to contribute can contact Orden Joseph, Treasurer, at 764-6454, or reach out to any SJAAAI officer via WhatsApp through the alumni group chat.

As always, the Association moves forward with its motto in mind: "Ne Timeas" – Fear Not.



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The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus invites applications for a **full-time faculty position** in the **School of Humanities and Education**. We are seeking an experienced and dynamic educator with an established track record in teaching and research in one of the following areas:

- **Special Education**
- **Language and Literacy Education**
- **Educational Leadership**

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Deliver high-quality instruction at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Conduct innovative and impactful research in your area of expertise.
- Supervise student research projects and dissertations.
- Develop and review curriculum to meet the evolving needs of the education sector.
- Engage in service to the university, including committee work and student advising.
- Collaborate with colleagues across the School and the broader UWI community to promote academic excellence.

Essential Qualifications and Experience:

- A **PhD** or equivalent in, **Special Education, Language and Literacy Education, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology** or a related field.
- Proven teaching experience at the tertiary level with a commitment to student-centered learning
- An established research profile, with publications in peer-reviewed academic journals or authored books with peer-reviewed publishing houses.
- Strong commitment to fostering inclusive education and supporting diverse learning needs.
- Ability to contribute to curriculum development and innovative pedagogical practices.
- Experience in mentoring students and supervising research.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to engage with emerging educational technologies and online teaching tools.
- Demonstrated leadership and collaborative skills within an academic environment.
- A passion for enhancing educational outcomes in Caribbean contexts, with a focus on equity and access.

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications**. These should be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu and addressed to the **Employee Success Department, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 18th July, 2025**. Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua by **August 1, 2025**. An attractive salary package is offered.

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Local News

Emerson Alexander Charged with Unlawful Possession of Firearm and Ammunition



The police have arrested and formally charged 25-year-old Emerson Alexander of Villa for the unlawful possession of one (.380) pistol and six (6) rounds of matching ammunition.

In a separate incident, Kieron Philip of Ottos was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of 50 grams of cannabis.

Both men were apprehended during a

series of stop-and-search operations conducted by the police on Tuesday, 8 July.

The operations form part of the ongoing efforts by the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to curb the proliferation of illegal firearms, ammunition, and narcotics on the streets.

The Police Administration continues to urge the public to play an active

role in crime prevention by cooperating with the police and providing any information that may assist in ongoing investigations.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477). All calls will be kept strictly confidential.



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Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission



Senator Michael Freeland
Deputy Chair
Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission

CC: Minister - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
Parliamentary Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**
Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**
National Festivals Director - National Festivals
Chairperson - Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission
Sub-Committee Chair - 2025 INET Party Monarch

VACANCY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated and creative Public Relations Coordinator to support and manage key public relations and public education initiatives. This role is essential to strengthening APUA's brand presence and fostering meaningful connections with the public, media, and key stakeholders.

Key duties include:

- Develop and execute strategic public relations campaigns that align with APUA's goals
- Serve as a key contact for media, partners, and stakeholders, managing communications across multiple platforms
- Monitor media coverage and assess the impact of PR initiatives
- Craft and refine compelling content across formats, including articles, reports, and promotional materials
- Oversee the production of brochures, leaflets, videos, photography, and other multimedia assets
- Plan and coordinate events such as press conferences, exhibitions, and community outreach activities
- Manage APUA's website updates and support digital engagement efforts
- Conduct research to guide public relations and education strategies
- Strengthen community relations through public engagement and participation in local initiatives
- Provide communications support during crisis situations while upholding and enhancing the Authority's reputation

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing or a related field.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in public relations, communications, or related area.
- Exceptional interpersonal and human relations skills with the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with proven editing and content creation abilities.
- Excellent organizational, time-management, and multitasking skills; adept at working under pressure.
- Creative mindset with a strong sense of initiative and imagination.
- Business acumen and awareness of current affairs affecting the organization.
- Positive, proactive attitude with a vibrant, hardworking, and detail-oriented approach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and adapt to a dynamic environment.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE SALES)

We are seeking a dynamic, results-driven professional with strong business acumen and a passion for strategic client engagement. This role is ideal for a self-motivated individual who thrives on building meaningful partnerships and driving growth in a competitive environment.

Key duties include:

- Secure and grow a strong portfolio of corporate clients across various sectors
- Develop and implement strategic sales plans to achieve and exceed targets
- Build and maintain trusted relationships with key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Identify and capitalize on new business opportunities
- Deliver customised solutions that align with client needs
- Prepare accurate sales forecasts and performance reports
- Use a variety of sales methods including cold calling, networking, and referrals

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Proven track record in B2B sales, preferably in telecommunications or a related sector
- Excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and presentation skills
- Strong understanding of sales pipelines, client relationship management, and sales software
- Highly self-driven with the ability to work independently and consistently deliver results
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Must own a reliable vehicle and hold a valid driver's license
- Familiarity with APUA Telecommunications products and services is an asset

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Wednesday 16th July, 2025

** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged **
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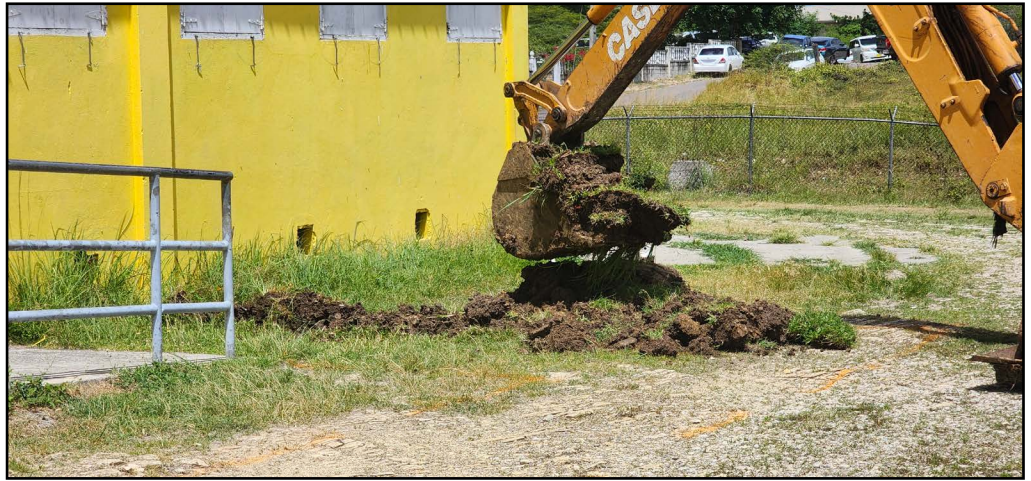
Project Red Begins: A Ramp at Potters Primary and a Vision of Collective Impact



At Potters Primary School, something small but deeply symbolic has begun: a ramp under construction that, once finished, will offer freedom of movement to children with physical disabilities. It's the very first step in Project Red—a national, community-led effort to make Antigua and Barbuda's schools truly accessible. Yet what makes this moment powerful isn't just the construction itself—it's how businesses, individuals, and neighbors are coming together to do more than donate: they're helping build a legacy of inclusion.

The name Project Red comes from the disability pride flag, where the color red represents physical disabilities. This ramp—and those that will follow—is a tribute to that meaning: a commitment to remove the very real, physical barriers that have kept too many children on the outside looking in. The ramp under construction isn't just about accessibility for one child—it's the start of something bigger. Project Red aims to transform schools across Antigua and Barbuda into places where every child, regardless of ability, can enter, learn, and participate fully.

This includes: Accessible restrooms, Smooth, wide paths connecting classrooms, libraries, and playgrounds,



Sensory-friendly spaces, Awareness campaigns to change attitudes, not just buildings. But this vision can't be achieved by charity alone. It requires a new way of giving—one rooted in shared responsibility and visible, measurable impact.

That's why, alongside Project Red, an innovative idea has taken shape: the Giving Syndicate. As Nadia from Luxury Locations explains:

"Giving back shouldn't just be about charity—it should be about measurable impact... When giving is done right, it becomes a ripple effect of good." The Giving Syndicate is a circle of like-minded individuals and businesses who want to support real change—starting with the ramp at Potters Primary. Here's how it works:

Businesses pledge donations (large or small). Every project is documented and shared publicly: the work, the people helped, and the outcomes. Donors receive recognition: video features, press releases, magazine articles, and a permanent profile on the Giving Syndicate webpage. This isn't just sponsorship; it's partnership. It offers businesses a chance to show customers and the wider public that they're part of meaningful, transparent change.

The first tangible goal is simple but urgent: build a ramp so that Diana, and children like her, can move freely around school—especially with the electric wheelchair that Luxury Locations has pledged to buy for her.

Total ramp construction cost: EC\$64,950.35 L&L Construction have

Local News

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generously pledged labour valued at EC\$12,500. Luxury Locations and early supporters have already pledged EC\$5,000. Remaining amount needed: EC\$47,450.35—ideally raised in time to finish construction before school reopens in September. And the impact? Potters Primary could become the first fully accessible public school in Antigua & Barbuda.

Businesses operate from a place of privilege—doing well in a country where poverty and exclusion still exist. Project Red offers them a way to give back and do so in a visible, authentic, and powerful way.

By joining the Giving Syndicate: You'll know exactly where your support goes. Your brand will appear in national videos, media stories, and on-line recognition. You'll be part of the historic moment when a child uses her wheelchair at school for the first time, unaided. It's not just about generosity—it's about leadership, community, and making real change that customers and staff can feel proud of.

While business support is vital, Project Red also believes in the power of small, consistent giving: "If just a fraction of Antigua and Barbuda's working population donated \$1 per month, we could raise \$564,000 annually. Over several years, these funds could transform dozens of schools, ensuring freedom and dignity for countless students."

Inclusion shouldn't rely on luck or a single donor; it should be built by everyone, together.

For children with disabilities, something as simple as a ramp means: Independence and dignity, Equal opportunity to learn and play, A childhood that feels normal, rather than marked by exclusion. For classmates and teach-

ers, it sends a message that everyone belongs, no matter what.

The first shovel of dirt at Potters Primary marks more than a construction project—it marks hope. Project Red and the Giving Syndicate invite everyone—businesses, parents, alumni, citizens—to help shape that hope into reality. If your business wants to be part of something bigger than a logo on a wall—something that changes lives, inspires others, and becomes part of Antigua & Barbuda's history—now is the time.

Contact us today. Join the Giving Syndicate. And help us build a nation where every child, no matter their ability, is free to learn, move, and belong. Together, we can do more than build ramps. We can build a more inclusive, compassionate Antigua & Barbuda—one school at a time.



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Commentary

Weaponized Drones Could Threaten Caribbean Security: Early Action Necessary



By Sir Ronald Sanders

The Caribbean faces a new and urgent threat: weaponized drones in criminal hands are rapidly proliferating into the hands of criminal actors, nonstate militias, and private contractors. What began as experimental tools for law enforcement has become instruments of murder, assassination, and terror across Latin America—and now in Haiti. CARICOM governments must adopt firm, enforceable measures to restrict these devices before our region drifts into becoming a battlefield.

Marguerite Cawley is a researcher and writer at the think-tank, Insight Crime. When she surveyed Latin America's drone landscape in 2014, she documented that multiple regional states operated unarmed UAVs without legal frameworks to govern their use. Cawley warned that such platforms, though unarmed, carried latent dangers: in the wrong hands, their intelligencegathering advantages could swiftly be converted into strike missions.

In late 2024 and early 2025, those latent dangers have become realities. In September 2024, insurgents lobbed a forty-pound explosive drone into Ecuador's La Roca prison near Guayaquil, illustrating how smuggling tools become siege weapons. In March 2025, a Colombian soldier in the Catatumbo region was killed by a kamikaze UAV launched by the National Liberation Army (Ejército de Liberación Nacional, ELN). ELN is a far-left guerrilla insurgency group involved in the continuing Colombian conflict. This incident marked one of the first confirmed dronerelated fatalities attributed to a nonstate actor. In February, Brigadier General Jorge Alejandro Gutiérrez Martínez of Mexico survived an attempted drone assassination in Chihuahua when an explosiveladen craft targeted his convoy.

Haiti's rapid descent illustrates how swiftly control can slip from governments into criminal hands. Haiti's security crisis starkly warns of what could happen in other Caribbean countries. The Transitional National Council in Haiti has confirmed that it has engaged private operatives to deploy kamikaze drones against leaders of gangs that are besieging the country. These strike missions, shrouded in secrecy, have driven gangs to embed within civilian populations, threatening the lives of innocent residents. Moreover, the UK Guardian Newspaper reports that firstpersonview drones, equipped with commercial mining explosives, have damaged buildings in gangcontrolled districts. The same report warns that gangs are already seeking to retaliate by acquiring and adapting drones.

This rapid weaponization of commercial UAVs is not confined to Haiti. Online marketplaces now offer platforms capable of carrying improvised explosives, reconnaissance sensors,

and facialrecognition software. The barrier to "weaponizing" a drone has collapsed: any individual with modest technical skills and internet access can transform a civilian drone into a precision strike asset. If the Caribbean allows these devices to flow unimpeded, the countries will become proving grounds for airborne violence.

In September 2023, in an invited address to a seminar organised by the CARICOM Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), I outlined four critical steps: ban, impose, distinguish, and secure.

First, ban the importation of any drone capable of sustained flight, payload delivery, or autonomous operation—except those owned and operated by national lawenforcement agencies under strictly defined controls. Second, impose severe penalties on anyone who imports, manufactures, or deploys weaponizable drones: hefty fines, asset forfeiture, and prison sentences. Third, differentiate civiliangrade drones from securitygrade systems, permitting only fixedblade, singlecamera models for benign tasks such as aerial photography or mapping. Fourth, use the collective voice of CARICOM's 14 member states at the United Nations to secure a legally binding treaty by 2026 banning lethal autonomous weapons systems without meaningful human oversight.

CARICOM states should now seriously and swiftly move to legislate these measures and close every loophole. While some may argue these actions impede innovation, our security imperative overrides such concerns. Customs officers require training and equipment to inspect and identify illicit drone shipments. National security forces should be mandated to register

Commentary

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every UAV in a centralized, digital database that links each aircraft to its lawful owner and permitted use. Any deployment by government agencies must be subject to oversight by an independent civilian body, with detailed afteraction reports made available to the public. Civilian drones - for agriculture, disaster assessment, and infrastructure surveys - must meet strict technical criteria, rendering them irreversibly nonweaponizable.

Legislation should prescribe proportional but punitive sanctions. Unauthorized importation or use of a weaponizable drone should trigger a mandatory minimum fine, asset forfeiture, and up to ten years' imprisonment. Trafficking in critical components, such as batteries, motors, or guidance modules, should carry equivalent penalties. CARICOM must also establish a technical working group to develop unified standards for drone identifica-

tion, detection, and interdiction, and to coordinate joint training exercises among regional agencies. Where the local expertise does not exist, seek it from organizations like the Organization of American States while training local persons.

At the UN General Assembly this October, Caribbean delegations must press for a robust treaty—securing at least 20 co-sponsoring states—that mirrors existing bans on chemical and biological weapons. We should demand global restrictions on dual-use drone technologies and secure capacity-building assistance to strengthen our detection and counterdrone defences.

Can Caribbean countries allow the possibility of children growing up under the shadow of unseen killers overhead? The age of the weaponized drone has arrived. From Catatumbo to Chihuahua, from La Roca to Por-

tauPrince, we are witnessing how rapidly unarmed UAVs become tools of terror. CARICOM nations should unite in decisive legislative action to ensure that their skies do not become corridors of terror.

If our political leaders act now—with import bans, strict registries, transparent oversight, and punitive enforcement—they can set a global benchmark for drone governance, protect our citizens, and preserve the rule of law.

CARICOM governments should not wait for calamity before they act.

(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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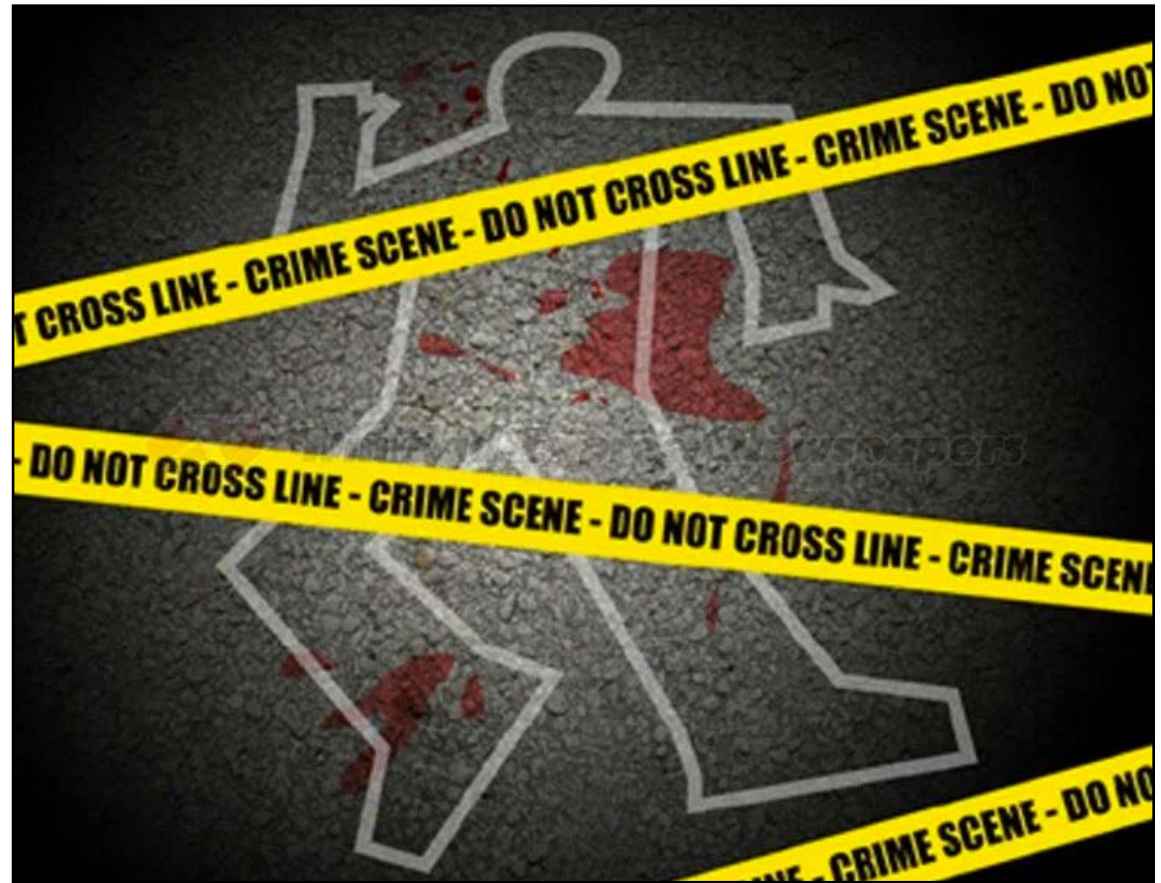
Regional News

Murdered grandpa takes homicide toll past 200

Police are searching for a man captured on CCTV footage in connection with the murder of a 67-year-old mechanic, Vernon Guischar, whose body was discovered in his yard along Lopinot Road, Arouca, on Tuesday afternoon.

Guischar, of Blue Spruce Street, Pineridge, was last seen around 8:15 a.m. after returning home. Hours earlier, a CCTV alert from his property was sent to his mobile phone, showing an unidentified man walking around his yard and garage. Guischar forwarded the footage to a friend before heading home.

His body was discovered around 4:15 p.m. by a relative who had been asked to check on him by Guischar's son, who lives abroad. The son had grown concerned after repeated calls to his father went un-



answered.

Police responding to the report found Guischar's body with a wound to the head. Officers from the Re-

gion Two Homicide Bureau, the Crime Scene Unit, and a District Medical Officer visited the scene. The body was removed to a funeral home in El Dorado.

The national murder toll stood at 203 up to last night, compared to 303 on the same date in 2024. (*Trinidad Express*)

Freedom to peacefully disagree under attack, says UWI Cave Hill principal

Professor Clive Landis, pro vice-chancellor and principal of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill, has warned that the freedom to disagree peacefully is under threat.

Speaking at the UWI Vice-Chancellor's Forum on 'Academic Freedom, Sustainable Development, and the Role of the University', led by Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, Landis emphasised academic freedom as a cornerstone of peace.

"I believe that academic freedom is actually the foundational pillar of peace within a country," Landis asserted. "So there are certain freedoms that you need to have a peaceful society. You need to have, obviously, freedom from bondage of any kind, you need the freedom to express yourself, which, of course, includes the ballot box, but a very important freedom is the freedom to disagree with someone in a peaceful manner, and, really, there can be no peace without these three freedoms.

"So the freedom to disagree with someone in a peaceful manner is, perhaps, under greatest attack right now in the area of social media, where you have this sort of toxic mix of online hate speech, trolling, cyberbullying, fake news, and censorship, which is eroding this freedom," Landis continued.

In clarifying, Landis said as a community of academic scholars, they were not averse to some disagreement as this remained a pillar of academia.

"Disagreement is, in fact, a cen-

tral part of knowledge creation as scholars and students test the validity of each other's assumptions and hypotheses. The freedom to disagree is a fundamental pillar of academia. So I think the university actually has a key role to play in society in promoting peace."

Landis said the UWI needs to be able to show and demonstrate how critical discourse is conducted in a respectful manner for the advancement of knowledge and social enlightenment.

"It's really hard to overstate how important academic freedom is," the professor said.

The forum included global scholars, among them psychologist Dr Leahcim Semaj, who called for deeper efforts to achieve academic freedom in Jamaica. He highlighted the role of universities in community engagement, noting that academic pursuit must be grounded in lived experience.

He suggested that a university-community partnership should be a straightforward deal.

"You came out of the ground just like diamond and gold, so you have a responsibility to put something back in the ground first and foremost, so the partnership between the town and the ground was absolutely important. University and scholars provide technical, intellectual, academic pursuit with knowledge and truth, but it must be grounded in practical experience, lived reality," he said.

Semaj explained his own shift from academia to community outreach.

After leaving the university, he built a sound system called Judgment and started a regular Friday night dance at his home, using music to spark dialogue.

"We'd build the dance around one theme for the night. Let's say the theme was 'In Praise of Black Women'. Every song played was around the theme, and between 12 and 1 a.m., we would stop the music and we invite everybody, let's discuss the topic, [and] people started coming to the dance for the reasoning," he disclosed.

He emphasised that scholars, especially in post-colonial societies, have a duty beyond neutrality. "Neutrality means you've sided with the oppression of your people, so we have work to do. We're not free yet."

Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee called the discussion "critically timely", citing the global decline in universities due to financial stress, falling enrolment, and the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that while global university enrolment is around 264 million, many institutions have merged or shut down in the last five years.

She said that while statistics vary, the estimate was that there are about 25,000 to 50,000 universities worldwide.

The UWI, drawing students from over 80 countries, has approximately 50,000 students across its five Caribbean campuses located in Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, and Trinidad and Tobago. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Regional News

US\$542m fallout: CARICOM faces massive blow from US tariffs; regional private-sector group urges 'CBI Plus' strategy

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) could lose more than US\$542 million annually under the United States' newly imposed reciprocal tariffs, a blow that threatens to unravel decades of export growth, particularly in agriculture, food processing, and apparel.

That was the stark warning delivered yesterday morning by Dr Patrick Antoine, chief technical director of the CARICOM Private Sector Organisation (CPSO), during a high-level presentation at a CPSO-Private Sector Organisation (PSOJ) Business Forum held at Sandals Montego Bay in St James.

The meeting was staged on the sidelines of the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.

Antoine's presentation was the first public disclosure of the country-by-country and product-level impact of the tariffs, which were implemented earlier this year under the US' new trade recalibration. Until now, the detailed data had only been circulated among CARICOM leaders.

"Trinidad and Tobago will be the hardest hit in terms of export losses," Antoine said, "followed by The Bahamas, Haiti, Guyana, and then other member states. For the region as a whole, the projected annual loss at the 10 per cent tariff rate is over half a billion US dollars. That's not just a headline. That's real jobs and livelihoods."

The analysis, conducted by the CPSO with support from CARICOM technical teams and the World Bank, examined hundreds of tariff lines across member states. Among the most impacted sectors are agriculture, seafood (especially crustaceans and frozen fish), textiles, sugar, and base metals. In Guyana's case, for example, a scenario where tariffs rise to 38 per cent on some goods could result in an additional US\$27.9 million in losses beyond the already projected US\$89.7 million.



Antoine also revealed that Jamaica has 128 product lines in the US market that fall into the 'fast-growth-high-demand' category. These products face an average export revenue reduction of 8.6 per cent, a hit that could still be absorbed if margins remain above 30 per cent, he noted.

"It's important to understand that all is not lost," Antoine said. "If we can drive down inefficiencies, like the high cost of port delays and logistics, we could actually overcompensate for some of the losses."

The US tariffs come at a critical moment for CARICOM as the region prepares its biennial submission to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) for continued access under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). The deadline for member states to submit formal comments is July 16, and Antoine urged governments to act swiftly and use CPSO data to support their case.

However, Antoine cautioned that simply asking for CBI preservation is not enough.

"The preferences we've enjoyed under the CBI have been essential, but they don't cover all the products we now export competitively," he said. "We are calling for a 'CBI Plus' framework, one that includes new high-performing products outside the traditional eligibility list."

To make the case, the CPSO has identified 27 fast-growing products, including coffee, uncooked pasta, and

rum, that clearly benefit from preferential access under the CBI. The data also shows that Jamaica has increased the number of tariff lines under which it exports CBI-eligible goods, rising from 86 in 2007 to 104 in 2024. Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have seen similar growth.

Of particular note is the agri-food sector, which Antoine described as "both the most vulnerable and the most promising". Between 2007 and 2024, that sector grew from US\$99 million to US\$224 million, representing a compound annual growth rate of 3.1 per cent.

"If we're seeing strong export growth in a sector that is now among the most vulnerable under the new US tariffs, then our priority must be to protect that growth. Not just for Jamaica, but for the entire region," he stressed.

The presentation also examined trade inefficiencies and sourcing risks, revealing that 10 per cent to 20 per cent of CARICOM imports pass through, but are not sourced from, the US. Antoine said there are cost-saving opportunities in sourcing those goods elsewhere, especially with greater private-sector coordination.

"This isn't about turning away from the US, but about building resilience," he added. "We need to deepen regional supply chains and develop a clearer CARICOM response."

The CPSO is also working with partners such as the US Business Council, Tropical Shipping, and the Atlantic Council to prepare a joint submission for early 2025 advocating for a modernised trade relationship that reflects the realities of today's Caribbean export profile.

"This is the first time we're presenting this level of analysis publicly," Antoine said, "and the results are sobering, but they also show us where the opportunities are. If we act quickly and strategically, we can protect the gains we've made and position ourselves for much more." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Youth advocates back CARICOM plan for online safety law

The Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN) has thrown its support behind CARICOM's move to create a regional model law on digital safety, while calling for urgent action, stiffer penalties for offenders, and the creation of a national cyber safety authority.

"We welcome the announcement about the development of a model law around digital safety," said Shannique Bowden, executive director of JYAN. "As our society evolves, our laws and programmes must evolve with it; and with our current digital age, and most of our young people spending hours a day online, this law is a step in the right direction. We hope that it is treated with the utmost urgency."

Speaking at the close of the 49th Regular Meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government in Montego Bay, CARICOM Chairman and Jamaica Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness announced that the regional bloc was moving towards a legal framework to protect citizens in the digital space.

"We also had exchanges on legislation for online safety and protection of young people from online abuse, cyberbullying and exploitation. In recognition of the importance of this issue, we have mandated the legal affairs committee to look at a proposal for a model law for the digital safety of Ca-



ribbean people," Holness said.

Bowden said the proposed model law must be robust and multifaceted, and have built in components to make it viable.

"This model law must be backed by strong sanctions for offenders and proper programmes for those who are victims of cyberbullying and online exploitation, and which promotes proper use of online platforms and how to stay safe online," she said.

In seeking to shape the proposed law, Bowden is urging CARICOM to go further and address harmful content and misinformation in the online space.

"Beyond cyberbullying and exploitation, we hope the law will also look at gener-

al protection from harmful content and ensure safeguards are in place to protect young users from inappropriate content," Bowden said. "We also must seriously consider looking into laws that combat misinformation. The reality is that young people are increasingly relying on the digital space as their main news source."

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley also raised similar concerns, revealing that her administration had been targeted.

"We live in a world now where fake news, regrettably, is a key part of all that we have, and where the improper use of AI (artificial intelligence) can sometimes spark great fear and panic among our citizens," she

said.

To counter the growing threat, Mottley proposed a regional truth-verification initiative.

"It is about time, therefore, that we as a region come up with a CARICOM validation mechanism, in the absence of the providers of those platforms not taking the action to validate truth any further," said Mottley. "If we fail to do so, we put seriously at risk the stability of our democracies."

"In the last two weeks alone, my government in Barbados has had to [expose] as clear fake news, one that sought to ban President Trump from our country, one that sought to impose on Barbados travel advisories that didn't exist," she said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Italian chocolate giant Ferrero to buy Kellogg's Froot Loops maker



What's "Froot Loops" in Italian?

The European confectionary company Ferrero has agreed to buy WK Kellogg Co., the manufacturer of iconic American cereals, for \$3.1 billion.

The acquisition is set to bring the publicly traded maker of Froot Loops, Frosted Flakes and Rice Krispies under the privately owned Italian manufacturer of Nutella, Tic Tacs and Kinder chocolates.

WK Kellogg, based in Battle Creek, Michigan, was spun off from Kellogg's in 2023, splitting the company's North American cereal business from its other snack products like Pringles and Pop-Tarts, a unit that is now owned by the publicly traded conglomerate Kellanova. WK Kellogg, one of North America's largest cereal makers, saw its shares surge more than 30% Thursday on the news of the deal.

The agreement comes after years of slowing demand for sugary breakfast cereals as many consumers look for healthier options. WK Kellogg came under fire last year when CEO Gary Pilnick said on CNBC that households squeezed by food companies' price hikes should consider eating "cereal for dinner" to save money, part of a marketing pitch the company was making as an answer to inflation.

Yet snack demand, too, has flagged recently, with The Campbell's Co. and General Mills each warning this year of slower sales as customers prioritize square meals.

Ferrero, perhaps best known for its namesake Ferrero Rocher chocolates in gold foil, originated in Alba, Italy, after World War II and is now a multinational food maker headquartered in Luxembourg. The company reported revenue of €18.4 billion last fiscal

year, up nearly 9% from the one before.

Ferrero executive chairman Giovanni Ferrero described the acquisition Thursday as "a key milestone" in an effort to grow its footprint in North America, where the closely held company sells an array of popular candies.

The deal is among a series of high-profile Ferrero acquisitions in recent years. The firm bought Butterfinger, Baby Ruth and other U.S. candy brands from Nestle in 2018, then acquired Kellogg's bakery business, including Famous Amos and Keebler's, in 2019 along with the manufacturer of Halo Top ice cream in 2022.

After the transaction closes, WK Kellogg will be delisted from the New York Stock Exchange and become a wholly owned subsidiary of Ferrero. The deal is expected to close later this year. *(NBC News)*

Human rights court rules Olympic champion Caster Semenya did not get fair hearing in sex eligibility case



Two-time Olympic champion runner Caster Semenya won a partial victory at the European Court of Human Rights on Thursday in her seven-year legal fight against track and field's sex eligibility rules.

The court's 17-judge highest chamber said in a 15-2 vote that Semenya had some of her rights to a fair hearing violated at Switzerland's Supreme Court, where she had appealed against a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in favour of track's World Athletics.

However, on the question of Semenya being discriminated against in Swiss courts, the European court in Strasbourg, France, did not pronounce — to the

frustration of four of the 17 judges in a partial dissent to the majority view.

Her case should now go back to the Swiss federal court in Lausanne.

It will be watched closely by other sports which have passed or are reviewing their own rules on eligibility in women's events.

Semenya later posted on social media a photo of herself in the court chamber with a message a three raised fists symbolizing her fight for justice.

The original case between Semenya and track's governing body based in Monaco was about whether athletes like her — who have specific medical conditions, a typical male chromosome pattern and

naturally high testosterone levels — should be allowed to compete freely in women's sports.

Europe's top human rights court did not take up other aspects of the appeal filed by Semenya, who was in court Thursday to hear the judgment read. It awarded her 80,000 euros (\$94,000) from the state of Switzerland "in respect of costs and expenses."

The European court's ruling does not overturn the World Athletics rules that effectively ended Semenya's career running the 800 meters after she won two Olympic and three world titles since emerging on the global stage as a teenager in 2009. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)




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Trump's 'Big Beautiful' law bars legal permanent residents, others from medical benefits

Jamaican permanent residents (green card holders) could find themselves shut out of medical services in the United States (US) unless they meet certain conditions.

If the green card holder is a low-income person and has had green card status for less than five years, that person could find himself/herself unable to access Medicaid.

Medicaid is health insurance for people at the lower end of the economic ladder.

The 'Big Beautiful Bill', passed recently by the US Congress and signed into law on July 4 by President Donald Trump, bars Medicaid services to most non-citizens.

The bill amends Medicaid law to prohibit federal Medicaid payments for anyone who is not either: (a) a US citizen or (b) a qualified alien in a very limited set of categories.

The bill will also bar certain non-citizens from receiving subsidies to assist with paying for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The amendment also ensures that if an immigrant is ineligible for Medicaid due to status, they cannot get ACA insurance subsidies either.

All aliens – including those with other lawful statuses (temporary protected status, asylum, student/work visas) or undocumented status – will no longer be eligible for full Medicaid after October 1, 2026.

The law does preserve two narrow exceptions – emergency medical services for undocumented (the pre-existing limited Medicaid), and the option for states to cover lawfully present children or pregnant women under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. However, aside from those, federal funding is cut off for any non-citizen not in the allowed



groups.

Previously, a Jamaican who has had their green card for less than five years and with low income could get a subsidised plan on the ACA exchange, but this provision would block that.

Dr Robert Clarke, head of Help Jamaica Medical Mission, and who has his own private practice in New Jersey, said the changes will have a disastrous effect on the Jamaican and Caribbean communities.

He said that many will be left without health insurance, and the cuts will have a domino effect on the country's healthcare system.

"Many doctors in private practice, who serve in inner cities where patients depend on Medicaid and Medicare, will either be forced to sell their practices to hospitals and join groups in order to survive," he told The Gleaner.

Clarke said this could lead to a very serious fallout, with many more sick people unable to access healthcare.

"They will be forced to go to the hospital emergency rooms for treatment, and the hospitals, in turn, will bill them. But they will be unable to pay, so the hospitals will be forced to eat such costs, making them less solvent,

which could result in more hospitals shutting down," he said.

Clarke added that with some 12 million people also being forced off the ACA, the US could be facing a major health crisis.

Dr Michael Morgan told The Gleaner that he is very concerned for the patient population.

"I am very, very nervous about what the outcome will be," he said.

According to Morgan, with the Medicaid cuts, the stage is being set for a very disastrous situation, as many safety net hospitals that take Medicaid could close, leaving patients without healthcare services.

"It could come down to patients having to decide between putting food on the table or seeking medical services," he said.

Morgan said many doctors in private practice will not be able to see many patients who are without medical insurance such as Medicaid.

The bar on public healthcare is a major component of the Senate amendment as it overhauls eligibility for public benefits. It introduces strict immigration-status requirements for Medicaid,

International

AROUND THE WORLD

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicare, and ACA subsidies, effectively rolling back the inclusion of many non-citizens in these programmes.

These provisions will significantly affect Caribbean immigrants, particularly those who are not yet citizens.

This is a dramatic restriction. Currently, many immigrants who are 'qualified aliens' can get Medicaid after a five-year waiting period. Some states also use state funds to cover certain immigrants.

Under the new rule, even after five years, a lawful temporary resident or refugee would not qualify unless they became a lawful permanent resident (LPR). Notably, it fails to list refugees, asylees, or victims of trafficking – groups traditionally considered 'qualified' for benefits.

The omission means that if such individuals haven't yet obtained a green card, they would be ineligible for Medicaid. For example, a Jamaican granted asylum (a refugee) would, under current law, be Medicaid-eligible as a qualified alien within seven years of entry, but the new law doesn't list asylees, only LPRs and Cuban/Haitian entrant status.

It is a tightening that even humanitarian statuses are not recognised for Medicaid until the person is an LPR. In the Caribbean context, Cuban and Haitian entrants are specifically allowed, so a parolee from Haiti might still be eligible as a 'Haitian entrant'.

However, Jamaican immigrants have no such special status and would have to be LPRs or citizens.

The changes will affect states such as New York, Florida, New Jersey and Connecticut, which have large Caribbean populations and could see many residents lose Medicaid coverage.

New York has used state funds to offer Medicaid to certain immigrants, but the federal ban means that state could not get a federal match for many non-citizens.

If New York wants to continue covering them, it would need to pay 100 per cent through state funds, or else thousands would be dropped from Medicaid rolls.

The new law also reduces federal cost-sharing for emergency services given to undocumented immigrants.

Under the previously existing law, emergency medical care for undocumented or otherwise ineligible aliens can be covered by Medicaid with the normal federal match. The amendment stipulates that, starting in 2026, the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for emergency care for non-quali-

fied aliens will be capped at the state's standard rate, not the ACA expansion rate.

In other words, for expansion states that got 90 per cent federal funding for many Medicaid services, they can no longer claim that high match for emergency services for undocumented patients.

Currently, lawfully present immigrants who are barred from Medicaid can get ACA subsidies, even below poverty level. The new rule would close that access, leaving them with no affordable coverage. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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Sports News

Falcons open ticket office at SVRS ahead of CPL matches



In a major boost for cricket fans, the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons officially opened their box office at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS), marking the continued drive towards ticket sales for the upcoming Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) season.

Chief among the offerings is the favourite section for

fans, the "Party Stand, featuring the vibes, which has been a tradition at cricket in Antigua for close to 50 years.

For just EC\$65, supporters will enjoy drinks, pre-match entertainment before the first ball, and electric post-game activities – bringing the carnival atmosphere back to the biggest party in sports.

Other seating spots start at E\$20 for grounds, EC\$25 for the North Stand, and EC\$30 for the South Stand.

The tickets box office is located at the main entrance to the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium at the south gate.

Fans can also make purchases at Rubis service stations across Antigua and Barbuda as well as Cool & Smooth outlets in the city. They can also conveniently buy online via the official website www.cplt20.com.

The Falcons will return to Sir Vivian Richards Stadium for five home matches between August 16 and 24, including four electrifying night games and one feature day match.

The "home run" campaign officially starts for fans with the Falcons home opener against the Barbados Royals on 16 August at 7 pm.

Falcons CEO and General Manager Jeff Miller expressed excitement. He said, "There will be a prematch show and an afterparty into the nighttime. Our fans have eagerly awaited the return of live CPL cricket to Antigua with our one-of-a-kind fan Party Stand, and we're promising amazing memories and enjoyment for them beyond the boundary."

Miller added that the event was designed to "bring energy and party to cricket on the island."

Cricket fans are encouraged to secure seats early, as evening fixtures are expected to sell out fast. With a full slate of local matches, the Falcons are poised to light up the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and elevate Antigua to one of CPL's most electrifying venues.



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Real Blizzards make winning start in Fort Road League

Real Blizzard made a successful start to the Fort Road Community Football League (FRCFL) on Wednesday.

Zahwanza Celestine struck a hat trick as Real Blizzard launched their campaign with a 3-1 victory against Exclusive Ballaz at the Fort Road playing field.

Celestine opened the scoring with a second-minute conversion and scored his second in the 20th minute to give Real Blizzard a two-nil lead at half-time.

L'Joboir Dorsette scored in the 51st minute to reduce the deficit for Exclusive Ballaz. But Celestine restored his team's two-goal cushion when he scored the third and final goal for Real Blizzard and completed his hat trick.

West Hamp and Fort Road played to a 2-2 draw in their opening match of the football league on Tuesday.

Delroy Francis converted a penalty kick in the 17th minute to give West Ham the lead. Joumol Semper equalized for Fort Road with a 30th-minute conversion.

West Ham regained the lead via a 40th-minute conversion by Lloyd Shepherd, but Fort Road drew level once again when Shamar Carr scored in the 44th minute to snatch the equalizer and salvage the draw.

Eight teams, divided into four groups, are contesting the Fort Road Community Football League.

Blackburn Palace, Fort Road, West Ham, and Villa Lions are contesting Group A, while Earthquake, Enforcers, Real Blizzard, and Exclusive Ballaz are competing in Group B.

The competition will continue with a double-header at Fort Road on Saturday. Earthquake will launch their campaign against Enforcers at 4 pm, and Fort Road will tackle Blackburn Palace at 5:30 pm.



The Real Blizzard football team. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

More success for Bath United and Old Road in Antigua Cup



Young Warriors, Cutting Edge notched up a 3-0 victory against Bath United, who suffered their second loss in as many games.

Kiran Cordice scored twice, and Tamorey Henry had the other conversion.

Cutting Edge also made a successful start to their campaign in the girls division.

Irreissa Allen scored a hat trick to propel Cutting Edge to a 6-0 victory against the Young Warriors in their opening encounter.

Abigail Simmons, Sharakrah Toulon, and Kari-ma Toulon each converted once for the Cutting Edge girls team.

Defending champions Bath United of Nevis and Old Road claimed their second win in the Under-17 Division of the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament on Wednesday.

Following their victory over debutant Freetown Ballers, Bath United snatched a 2-1 win against Buckley's United at the Buckley's Primary School playing field.

Jaheel Hazel and Lindel Abraham scored for Bath United, while Najae Morton had a conversion for Buckley's United.

After launching their campaign with a one-nil win against Attackers, Old Romped claimed their second win with a 5-0 drubbing of Freetown Ballers.

National Under-17 forward Greg Williams struck twice, while the other goals were scored by Adonai Lee-Francis, Jquan Shoy, and Ajabe Rae.

Cutting Edge recorded their second win in the Under-13 Division. After launching their campaign with a 9-0 drubbing of host

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Sports News

Dubai Capitals beat Central Districts in Global Super League opener



The Dubai Capitals opened the 2025 Global Super League (GSL) with a 22-run win over the Central Districts at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on Thursday.

The Capitals posted 165 for seven from their 20 overs after being put in to bat by the Districts.

Experienced campaigner Shakib Al Hasan led the batting with an unbeaten 58 off 37 balls, including seven fours and a six, while opener Sediqullah Atal played well for his 41 off 25 balls, hitting four fours and two sixes in the process.

Off spinner Angus Schaw led the

bowling effort for the New Zealand-based side with three for 27 from his four overs, while Blair Tickner supported well with his two for 27 from his four overs of tidy fast bowling.

The Districts were then never able to get out of first gear in their chase, crawling to 143 for eight from their 20 overs thanks to an excellent spell of bowling from Al Hasan, who was awarded man of the match for his all-round brilliance.

Captain Tom Brice led the scoring with 34 off 39 balls as the Bangladeshi left arm spinner ripped through the batting line-up on his way to figures of four for 13 from his four overs.

UAE pacer Khuzaima Tanveer also bowled well for his two for 28 from three overs, while Dominic Drakes and Aryaman Varma took a wicket, each.

The Guyana Amazon Warriors were slated to take on defending champions Rangpur Riders on Thursday evening.

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Anisimova outlasts Sabalenka to reach Wimbledon final



Amanda Anisimova of the USA celebrates winning the women's singles semifinal match against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Thursday, July 10, 2025. (AP)

LONDON (Reuters) - Open.

Amanda Anisimova tore up the script and soared into her maiden Wimbledon final by outclassing world number one Aryna Sabalenka with fierce determination and fearless shot-making on Thursday and will meet Iga Swiatek for a shot at Grand Slam glory.

Anisimova's 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 victory extended her record over her equally powerful rival to 6-3, and kept alive American dreams of a third women's Grand Slam champion this year after Madison Keys won the Australian Open and Coco Gauff won the French

Standing in her way will be five-times major winner Swiatek, who continued her new-found love affair with grass this year to blaze into her first final at the All England Club with a breezy 6-2, 6-0 demolition of Tokyo Olympic champion Belinda Bencic.

In Saturday's final, Anisimova, 23, will look to become the first American to win Wimbledon since Serena Williams in 2016.

"This doesn't feel real right now, honestly," a beaming Anisimova said shortly after her big battle.

On an oven-like Centre

Court where the temperature climbed to 30 degrees Celsius, Sabalenka twice rushed to the aid of ill fans by supplying bottles of cold water and an ice pack, before she cracked under pressure from her opponent in the 10th game.

Anisimova, competing in her first Grand Slam semi-final since her 2019 French Open run as a gifted teenager, made her opponent sweat for every point and wrapped up the opening set when the Belarusian produced a double fault.

With her back against the wall, Sabalenka fought like a tiger, the animal that has become her totem, and

broke for a 4-3 lead en route to levelling the match at one set apiece after some sloppy errors from 13th seed Anisimova's racket.

Having matched each other's decibel levels in a cacophony of grunting, the duo swapped breaks at the start of the decider, but Anisimova pounced again when Sabalenka sent a shot long and went on to reach the showpiece match.

Anisimova, who took a mental health break in 2023, said that making the final of a Grand Slam for the first time at Wimbledon left her in complete disbelief.

The 27-year-old Sabalenka, who was beaten in the Australian and French Open finals, was left to lick her wounds after missing the chance to become the first woman since Williams in 2014-15 to reach four straight major title matches.

It was a more straightforward path to the final for Swiatek, the claycourt specialist who had never got past the last eight at Wimbledon before this year, as she broke Bencic twice in the first set and three times in the next to romp to victory.

Saturday's title showdown will crown a new Wimbledon champion for the eighth successive year.

More rain affects CWI Women's Under-19 Tournament

Rain continues to hamper the Leeward Islands at the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship, which is taking place in Trinidad and Tobago from July 8 to 19.

After rain affected all three opening round matches on Tuesday, the rainy weather continues to wreak havoc, forcing the abandonment of the Leeward Islands second-round encounter against Jamaica at the National Cricket Centre in Couva without a ball being bowled on Thursday.

The opening-round match between the Leeward Islands and Trinidad and Tobago was abandoned as a no result at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine on Tuesday.

The Leeward Islands were 120 without loss in 20.3 overs after being sent in to bat when rain forced the match to be abandoned.

The rain also affected Thursday's second-round match between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex in Diego Martin on Thursday.

After being sent in to bat,



Players of the Leeward Islands Under-19 women's cricket team.

Trinidad and Tobago were 25 for two off six overs when rain came and forced an abandonment of the match.

But defending champions Guyana were able to rebound from their six-wicket loss via the Duckworth/Lewis Stern (DLS) method against Jamaica in their rain-affected opening match at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex on Tuesday.

In a rain-affected second-round match that was reduced to 35 overs, the Guyanese hit back to pull off a four-wicket win against the Windward Islands at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine on Thursday.

The Windward Islands crashed to 72 all out in

19.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Only opener Amiah Gilbert with 14 and Devona Tyson, who made 13 not out, managed to reach double figures. However, there was a contribution of 28 extras, including 25 wides.

Medium pacer Tiea Isaacs snapped up four for 15, Danellie Manns claimed two for 12, and fast bowler Trisha Hardat captured two for 17.

Guyana wrapped up their victory by scoring 73 for six in 21.3 overs. Crystal Durant scored 19, and Tiea Isaacs made 16 not out.

Meanwhile, the Leeward Islands suffered their second loss in three matches at the CWI Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Tournament in St. Kitts and Ne-

is.

The Leeward Islands suffered an eight-wicket loss against defending champions Barbados at the St. Paul's Sports Complex in Basseterre.

The Leeward Islands were dismissed for 154 in 34.5 overs after being sent in to bat. Opener Tunal Tilkani top-scored with 37, captain Matthew Miller hit 31, and Eirette Richards made 21. There was also a contribution of 32 extras, including 23 wides.

Raphael Lovell bagged three for 19, Damani Roach claimed three for 33, and Zachary Carter picked up two for 31.

In reply, Barbados achieved victory by scoring 156 for two in 25.3 overs. Opener Micah Greenidge slammed 85 off 74 balls, including 10 fours and two sixes. Captain Joshua Dorne struck 42 not out.

In the other third-round men's under-19 matches, Guyana snatched a five-run victory against Jamaica; USA 1 crushed Trinidad and Tobago by 93 runs; and the match between the USA 2 and the Windward Islands was abandoned as a no result due to rain.