

# Economic Leadership in a Time of Change

Story on Page 2



2025 Queen of Carnival Ms ACB Caribbean Ms. Kia Kirwan (centre) 1st runner-up Ms. Abigail Piper (left) and 2nd runner-up Ms. Danjha Simon (right).



# Economic Leadership in a Time of Change



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

The Prime Minister Gaston Browne has emphasized that his taking up of the chairmanship of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) comes at a time when the region faces numerous geopolitical and climate-related challenges.

He highlighted the urgent need for transformational leadership to accelerate economic growth. PM Browne reinforced his belief that a nation cannot thrive if its people remain impoverished. He emphasized that strong social systems must be funded by a robust economic engine.

Browne's vision involves a paradigm shift: transitioning from incremental growth to resilient prosperity through strategic investment, innovation, and inclusive development. While the region currently projects a modest 3.3% growth due to external headwinds, he aims to propel it toward an ambitious

7.2% annual growth rate, ultimately doubling the region's GDP by 2035.

For Antigua and Barbuda, this would mean expanding the economy from \$6 billion to \$12 billion within a decade.

## Driving Growth Through Entrepreneurship and Innovation

To realize this ambitious goal, the Prime Minister underscored the necessity for greater entrepreneurship and creativity across the sub-region. “We have to work smart,” he said, urging the use of technology, digitalization, and artificial intelligence to enhance efficiency and service delivery.

A central component of his strategy is expanding domestic ownership of key business assets. PM Browne expressed concern that when assets are foreign-owned, profits are often repatriated, weakening local economic benefits. His administration has prioritized empowering Antiguan and Barbudans by providing waterfront and beach lots and offering generous concessions for the development of Airbnb and other tourism-related ventures.

The goal is to lower startup costs and increase profitability, thereby enriching individual and collective wealth. This, in turn, would lead to higher tax revenues, increased dividends, and broader national prosperity.

## Local Ownership as a Catalyst for Economic Sovereignty

PM Browne offered concrete examples of how domestic ownership ben-

efits the state. One such case involved the acquisition of a local company by the government, which now yields approximately \$6 million annually in dividends, in addition to \$8–9 million in taxes—amounting to an estimated \$150 million over nine years.

Had the company remained in foreign hands, those dividends would have left the country, and tax liabilities could have been reduced through creative accounting practices like transfer pricing. He cited Scotiabank's former operations as an example, noting that millions were siphoned off to cover "head office costs," thereby minimizing tax contributions.

## Tax Avoidance and the Importance of Structural Reform

The Prime Minister acknowledged that tax avoidance, while legal, significantly reduces a nation's net tax yield. He pointed to Sandals Resorts as a case study, asserting that despite consistently high occupancy rates, the company's repatriation of funds for marketing and headquarters operations results in low tax payments.

These practices underscore the importance of domestic ownership and the challenges governments face in collecting their fair share of revenue. The prime minister reiterated the importance of foreign direct investment but maintained that true empowerment comes through ownership.

“If you don’t own anything, you’re not empowered,” he declared.

## PM Browne wants the ECCB to lead by example in its investment strategies

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has made a strong case for the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank to adopt a 'more progressive' investment strategy by for example, to invest in the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange.

Addressing the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union last Thursday, PM Browne wants the ECCB to play a leading role in what he termed, *Architects of our Development mindset*.

"Sustained enhanced growth, requires us to become architects of our own development; reducing our dependency on foreign capital and expanding the domestic ownership class of the revenue generating assets in our sub-region.

"This policy shift would result in economic empowerment of our people and the retention of profits to fuel more robust growth and development; thereby increasing the individual and collective wealth of our countries and their people," he stated.

The prime minister added that this policy shift must be supported by increased entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, creativity and innovation.

Accordingly, this policy shift must be driven by a positive 'can do' mentality at all levels and to rid the region of "can't do" rhetoric.

"For example, I am of the firm view, that the Central Bank has a role to play in catalyzing these domestic investments in revenue and foreign exchange earning assets.

"There is absolutely no compelling reason, why the Central bank cannot utilize a small portion of its reserves, say two to three percent of its reserves in US dollar denominated government securities on the ECSE; to provide a portion of the capital that would fund



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

these revenue and foreign currency generating businesses, especially in the tourism sector.

"Let me state categorically, that the risk of investing 100 percent of all reserves in US securities, is far greater than investing two percent of reserves on the ECSE in US\$ denominated OECS government securities. These could be short term US\$ denominated securities; that could be consistently rolled over like the Central Bank does with its US Federal Bank securities; thereby preserving the backing ratio of the currency," he explained.

PM Browne is urging his fellow finance ministers to 'get bold, creative and innovative' by taking prudent risks to accelerate growth and development of the sub-region.



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## QUEEN OF CARNIVAL 2025

### UNJUDGED SEGMENT

#### MS. PHOTOGENIC

- MS. ACB CARIBBEAN – MS. KIA KIRWAN

#### MS. CONGENIALITY

- MS. FURNITURE GALLERY – MS. DANIJHA SIMON

#### CELESTIAL AWARD

- MS. ANTIGUA PORT AUTHORITY- MS. ASHELIA PLUCK

#### PEOPLE'S CHOICE

- MS. BOARDWALK CASINO AND RESTAURANT – MS. ABIGAIL PIPER

### JUDGED SEGEMENT

#### BEST INTERVIEW

- MS. BOARDWALK CASINO AND RESTAURANT – MS. ABIGAIL PIPER

#### BEST SWIMWEAR

- MS. ACB CARIBBEAN – MS. KIA KIRWAN

#### PERFORMING TALENT

- MS. BOARDWALK CASINO AND RESTAURANT – MS. ABIGAIL PIPER

#### COSTUME

- MS. FURNITURE GALLERY – MS. DANIJHA SIMON

#### EVENING WEAR

- MS. ACB CARIBBEAN – MS. KIA KIRWAN



## **Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION**

### WINNER CIRCLE

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> RUNNER UP

MS. FURNITURE GALLERY – MS. DANJHA SIMON

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> RUNNER UP

MS. BOARDWALK CASINO AND RESTAURANT- MS. ABIGAIL PIPER

#### WINNER

MS. ACB CARIBBEAN – MS. KIA KIRWAN

  
Ms. Denise Gardiner  
Judges Subcommittee Chair

  
Ryan Johnson  
Member, Festivals Commission

CC: Minister - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries  
Minister of State - 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





# Local News

## SJA and AGHS delegates emerge winners in the Mister and Miss Teenage Pageant, 2025



The delegates representing the St Joseph Academy and the Antigua Girls High School are the winners of the 2025 Mister and Miss Teenage Pageant, held at Carnival City on Saturday night.

Sponsored by the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), the pageant featured thirteen delegates, representing ten of the nation's secondary schools under the theme, *'Embracing the Rhythms of our Future'*.

There were four judged segments; all of which were re-named from previous years; Rhythm of Self (personality and Aspiration), Rhythm of Minds (Interview), Rhythm of Talents (Performing Talent) and Rhythm of Elegance (Evening wear).

In the end, SJA's delegate, William Christian emerged as Mr. Teenage 2025 after a captivating evening of competition. In addition to the title, Christian also took home awards for Best Interview and Best Personality and Aspiration.

In the female segment,

Tekyra Richards of the Antigua Girls High School demonstrated that consistency truly pays off, earning her the title of Miss Teenage 2025. Richards also won

Best Performing Talent, Best Personality and Aspiration, and the Leadership Award in the unjudged segment.

Among the males, Najah Monford of the Ottos Comprehensive School was named 1st Runner-Up, while Emari John of the Antigua Grammar School



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secured 2nd Runner-Up. Monford also won Best Performing Talent male and Best Formal wear.

The female winners' circle was completed by N'Khira George of Clarehall Secondary who placed 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up, and Jahkeira

Samuel of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy as 2nd Runner-Up.

As winners, Christian and Richards will receive a laptop and a printer each as well as \$1,200.00 each compliments ECAB, a second laptop from Happy Kids,

the Prime Minister's Scholarship to UWI Five Islands Campus, and \$2,500.00 each compliments of the Department of Creative Industries.

During the programme, the artist known as 'The Soca Diva' Claudette Peters-Joseph, was presented with

a special token of appreciation in recognition of her 25th anniversary as a leading soca artist in Antigua and Barbuda. Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew made the presentation on behalf of the ministry and the government.



## NODS teams up with UN agency to mount critical early-warning workshop



The National Office for Disaster Services (NODS) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction recently concluded its workshop series on Disaster Risk Knowledge, Early Warning Early Action and Inclusivity.

This series began with a virtual session last week, concluding after a two-day session at the Trade Winds Hotel. This workshop, which formed part of the larger Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4ALL), brought together a wide cross-section of stakeholders from different sectors of the Economy. Stakeholders in attendance included the Ministry of Tourism, Department of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Transformation, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities, the Antigua Barbuda Met Service, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), among others.

The sessions focused on improving data collection and management practices in Disaster Risk Reduction, tracking damage and loss, and

ensuring the most vulnerable populations are included in at every step of disaster preparedness and response. Mario Salgado Galvez, Risk Knowledge Officer from UNDRR,

was the main facilitator instructing participants and best practices data for Disaster Risk Reduction. Sherrod James, Director of NODS, used recent examples of disasters in Antigua and Barbuda to highlight not only the gaps and inefficiencies in the system, but also to showcase successes such as the campaign to keep drains and natural waterways clear of debris so as to reduce incidents of flooding.

Finally, Mali Barnes, Technical Consultant with UNDRR, stressed the fact that for the EW4ALL Initiative to be successful, there needs to be a special emphasis on “ALL” and we strive to ensure that no one is left behind and everyone is included.



MENTION 21072025

### APUA MOBILE PAYMENT CENTRE

On Monday 21st July 2025, The Payment Centre will be located at All Saint Corner opposite the Service Station from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM! Services include the payment of all utility bills and inet services including top-ups.

### APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our ongoing line upgrades, repairs, replacement of poles, and infrastructure maintenance programme, to provide a reliable and consistent service to our customers.

The following areas will experience a temporary power disruption to allow our crews to work safely.

Date: Monday, 21st July 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Affected area(s): Small section in Ottos, near Baxter Street

Date: Monday, 21st July 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Affected area(s): Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church to Page Pond

Date: Monday, 21st July 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Affected area(s): Bendals; Body Pond area





**TICKETS**

<b>\$60</b> LIMITED AMOUNT
<b>\$80</b> REGULAR ADMISSION
<b>\$250</b> VIP

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**30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025 @ ARG**  
**FROM 8PM UNTIL**

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**ORIGINAL WCK (FROM DOMINICA)**  
**ORIGINAL 17 PLUS (FROM USVI)**

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**DJ MERCHY + LEE P CHING**  
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## GEF to provide funding for marine environment friendly projects



Several projects that aim at preserving the nation's marine environment have secured funding from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) under its ProCaribe+ initiative.

Under the theme, *"A healthy marine environment for better lives"*, the project launch took place last Thurs-

day at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute.

Antigua and Barbuda's Focal Point for the ProCaribe+ Initiative, Acting Chief Fisheries Officer, Dr. Linda Lovell described the ProCaribe Project as an ambitious GEF funded project which aims to improve gov-

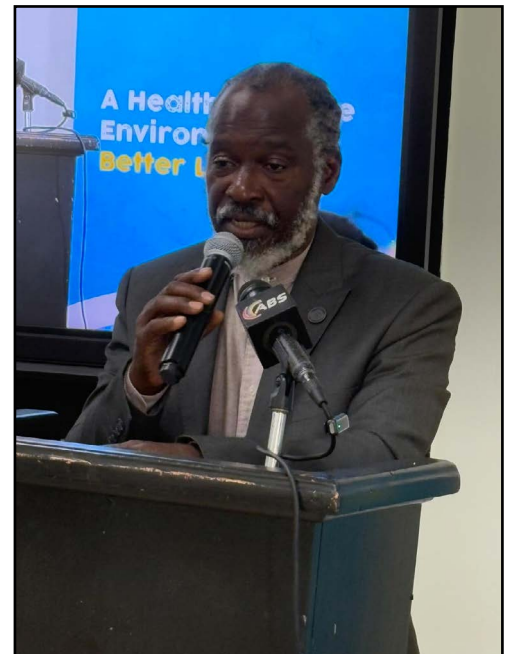
ernance of the marine ecosystems of the wider Caribbean.

"In the wider Caribbean region, through projects like ProCaribe+ and the ocean coordination mechanism which forms a major component of the project output, regional governments are playing a leading role in achieving resilience, sustainability and conservation of the marine environment. Also through Pro-Caribe+ project, the roles of local communities and non- government partners are being recognized and empowered," she observed.

Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Blue Economy, Denise Matthias-Thomas, noted that as a government, Antigua and Barbuda is proud to continue its active engagement in this critical regional initiative.

"Antigua and Barbuda was honoured to be among the first to sign the Memorandum of Understanding that laid the foundation for the development of the Ocean Coordination





Mechanism – one of the cornerstone achievements of the ProCaribe+ Project. This innovative mechanism reflects our collective commitment to improving ocean governance through joint action and shared responsibility,” she explained.

Chairman of the Barbuda Council, John Mussington, drew references to the common maxim; ‘think globally, act locally’, noting that today, more than ever, the importance of this popular saying comes to the fore. He noted that while Barbuda is a small

vulnerable island, within its shores are many bio-systems that support livelihoods as well as supporting the chance of surviving and thriving in the current global environment.

Senior Programme Manager/National Coordinator for GEF SGP UNDP, S. Natalya Lawrence said the project seeks to restore and harness the natural coastal and marine capital of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems to catalyze investments in a climate-resilient, sustainable Blue Economy, through strengthened regional coordination

and collaboration, and wide-ranging partnerships.

The beneficiary projects are; Antigua and Barbuda Ocean Trust Dive Clean Up Project, Seagrass Health and Blue Carbon Potential: Assessing and Protecting Coastal Ecosystems in the Nelson’s Dockyard National Park, Improved Marine Stewardship Targeted Training, Education and Involvement of the Barbudan People, and a complementary project, a comprehensive research on megafauna movements and important habitat grounds in Antigua and Barbuda.

Each project receives approximately US\$50,000.00.



## ABRSC: Street Renaming Marks Decisive Shift from Colonial Legacy



**Dorbrenne E. O'Marde (Amb.)**

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) welcomes with enthusiasm the decision of the Cabinet of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda - in response to its advocacy - to appoint a committee 'to conduct research and provide recommendations on the renaming of three streets in St. John's, as an initial phase of a broader initiative'. We are also pleased that the objective is – in the first instance – 'to commemorate and honour the legacy of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, George A. Weston, and George Alexander McGuire' and in the second 'to identify other Antiguan and Barbudan unsung heroes who were never honoured or celebrated'.

It is important we recognise that the decision of Cabinet is one with re-

gional significance. In 2017, nearly a decade ago, the CARICOM Reparations Commission, of which the ABRSC is a founding member, resolved in its recommendations to CARICOM Governments that 'all statues and memorials dedicated to persons who ushered and directed the genocide against the native people of the Caribbean, such as Christopher Columbus,

and those who defended and practised the crime of enslaving others, denying them their humanity... be removed from places of public celebration.' Further in a 2019 resolution, the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) at its 36th Meeting called for 'a coordinated regional initiative to rename monuments that glorify colonial violence'.



COME & JOIN US FOR

# PIANGO FEST 2025

**Keeping the Sector Alive:  
Plant, Peel, Process**

**August 17th, 2025**  
**10:00 am - 8:00 pm**

**Venue: Cades Bay Agricultural Station**  
**St. Mary's**

The poster features several circular inset images: a person planting a seedling, a man holding a pineapple, a group of people posing, and various agricultural products like pineapples and mangoes.



There is Commonwealth judicial precedent for re-naming efforts. ABRSC recalls the 2020 decision of the British Crown courts that the public display of statues of enslavers and committers of crimes against humanity is a 'hate crime' and that 'reasonable force' can be used to remove them. Our 'hate crime' is the desecration of our public spaces and institutions and our 'reasonable force' is government policy and public opinion.

The ABRSC interprets these decisions not only as a rejection of the continued existence of public spaces bearing the names of those who committed 'colonial violence' but also a call to find space and opportunity to honour those who have worked heroically to advance the development of our nation.

ABRSC sees the decision to establish the naming/re-naming committee as support for the United Nations (UN) initiative of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034) under the theme to 'promote recognition, justice, and development for people of African descent worldwide'. We interpret 'recognition' as the acknowledgement of the contributions and humanity of people of African descent and the opportunity to promote education about African heritage and history. ABRSC calls for full public participation in the research the committee is expected to conduct and the recommendations it should make. We will suggest to the committee the staging of at least one public consultation but urge responsible written recommendations be sent

to ABRSC by August 31st (email: [abreparations@gmail.com](mailto:abreparations@gmail.com); facebook: @Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission) for:

Names/locations of public spaces/institutions which should be considered for re-naming, and

the recommendations – with historical information and reasoning - for those 'unsung' s/heroes who

should be considered for honour.

17th July 2025



Dorbrene E. O'Marde (Amb.)  
 Chairperson / Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission

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at A.S. Bryden & Sons (Antigua) Ltd.

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*We appreciate all applications, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*



## Villa Resident Charged in Supermarket Robbery

22-year-old Jahanjello Williams of Villa will make his first court appearance, probably as early as today, after he was arrested and charged by the police in connection with a robbery at a supermarket in Sutherlands.

Williams is accused of robbing the owner of the business establishment of an undisclosed sum of money during an incident that occurred around 10 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 July 2025.

Further police investigations into the incident resulted in his arrest and subsequent charge. He is expected to appear before the court sometime next week.

It is believed that this is the



supermarket that was held up at gunpoint last Wednesday following which 16-year old Tafari Joseph of Villa was shot and later died from the suspected bullet wound.

Meanwhile, the police are reporting that two persons have been charged with per-

verting the course of justice in robbery investigation

The police have arrested and separately charged a 16-year-old male and a 22-year-old male, both residents of Villa, for committing an act tending to pervert the course of justice.

Both individuals are ac-

cused of knowingly providing false information to the police in connection with an active robbery investigation that occurred at Sutherlands on Wednesday, 16 July 2025. They were both taken into custody and formally charged.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda reminds the public that providing false information to the police is a serious offence and can significantly hinder the administration of justice. The public is urged to cooperate fully with the police in all investigations.

Further investigations into the initial robbery incident remain ongoing.

## DAILY PROGRAMMING

**EARLY VIBRATIONS** 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.  
WITH GREMSTA

**THE RUSH HOUR SHOW** 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.  
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

**TOUCHLINE** 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.  
WITH EPILUS

**BAD COMPANY** 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS  
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

**REGGAE INSPIRATION** 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY  
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

**JAH WADADLI** 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS  
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI





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AND BARBUDA  
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Artwork Takumi Media 2025

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**ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS**

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# DadliBots Invites Students and Mentors to TechByte Robotics Camp 2025

Students 12 - 18 years old across Antigua and Barbuda are invited to learn about robotics engineering and other STEM opportunities at the annual TechByte Robotics Camp being led by Antigua and Barbuda Robotics Club (DadliBots) and a host of STEM Innovation Partners starting today, Monday 21st July to Friday 8th August 2025.

Registration is FREE and anyone who would like to support the students as team Mentors or Volunteers are also welcomed to join as well.

**Registration Link - <https://techbytecamp.com>**

Since 2018, DadliBots has been preparing national teams of high school students to represent Antigua and Barbuda in the international FIRST Global Challenge (FGC), being held this year in Panama City; from October 29th - November 1st, 2025 under the theme Eco Equilibrium which focuses on protecting ecosystems, restoring balance, and nurturing a thriving planet through biodiversity conservation and restoration. **Learn more: <https://www.first-global>**

Each year, FIRST Global organizes its annual, Olympic-style international robotics event, where teams of high school students from 190+ countries around the world come together to learn how they can utilize science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education to address the world's most pressing issues, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards improving the quality of life for all.

In a FIRST Global Challenge robotics game, two three-team alliances must work to achieve a common goal representative of addressing a real global issue.

This year's TechByte will unite students at the St John's Catholic

Primary School along with a special visiting team of mentors from the University of Chicago Laboratory School's Robotics Team "Cache Money 8096" whom will be providing support training as students also prepare for the inaugural FGC Caribbean Robotics Super Challenge being held in the British Virgin Islands next March 2026.

**Learn more - <https://oecsra.org/oecs-regional-super-challenge/>**  
Participation in FIRST Global is

about more than just robots. The sport of robotics challenges students to use their minds and bodies to design, build, and pilot a robot which will score points in a competitive format. As participants learn to find solutions to the world's greatest challenges – water, energy, security, medicine, food, climate, and education – they also learn how to work with each other, trust each other, and become part of a truly global community.



**TechByte ROBOTICS CAMP**

Schedule: Jul 21 - Aug 8

**REGISTER FOR FREE!**

Volunteers & Mentors Welcomed

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**THE LOCAL** Discover Destinations

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

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**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ESPORTS**

**Cache Money 8096** THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LABORATORY SCHOOLS

**American Spaces**

**UNITED STATES MISSION** ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

**www.techbytecamp.com**



## Statement by Bernard de Nully on the recently concluded Bi-partite consultation of Caribbean workers' and employers' organizations on the development of a regional labour migration policy framework and action programme for CARICOM.



Bernard de Nully, President, Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union shakes hands with Ambassador, Gerard Jean-Jacques, Commonwealth of Dominica

As it relates to protecting Workers' Rights, as we addressed and covered the topic of Labour Migration within CARICOM Member States, I wish firstly to state that the Antigua Trades and Labour Union mission statement which reads, *"To ensure that the rights of workers, enshrined in law and enabled through collective bargaining, are duly and fully protected within an economic system designed to provide a higher standard for living for all"*. Further to this Trade Union's fundamental mandate is to guarantee that work fulfils the function of upliftment and provides sufficient economic reward to exceed the basic requirements of workers and their families.

In furtherance to the above philosophy, migrant workers must have equal rights, just like the local worker of each Member State. The minimum wage must

be respected and paid, the right to association and the right to collective bargaining must not be challenged by the employer of migrant workers. In many cases, they form the Informal Work Sector within the Labour Sector of that Member State. Employers must be guided to abide by the Decent Work Agenda established by the International Labour Organization (ILO), which provides provisions for workers to be treated with dignity, equality, and workers should make a fair income especially when qualifications have been attained.

Additionally, workers must have Social Protections to include social security benefits, national health benefits and educational placement for workers' dependents. Employers must follow safety and health protocols specially as it relates to the impact on the working environment due to climate



Group photo: ILO-CARICOM Bi-partite Consultation of Caribbean Workers' and Employers' Organizations, held from 14-15 July 2025 at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus in Barbados.



Bernard de Nully, President, Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union

change and be proactive rather than reactive and the rights enshrined within the Labour Code of each member state must be adhered to.

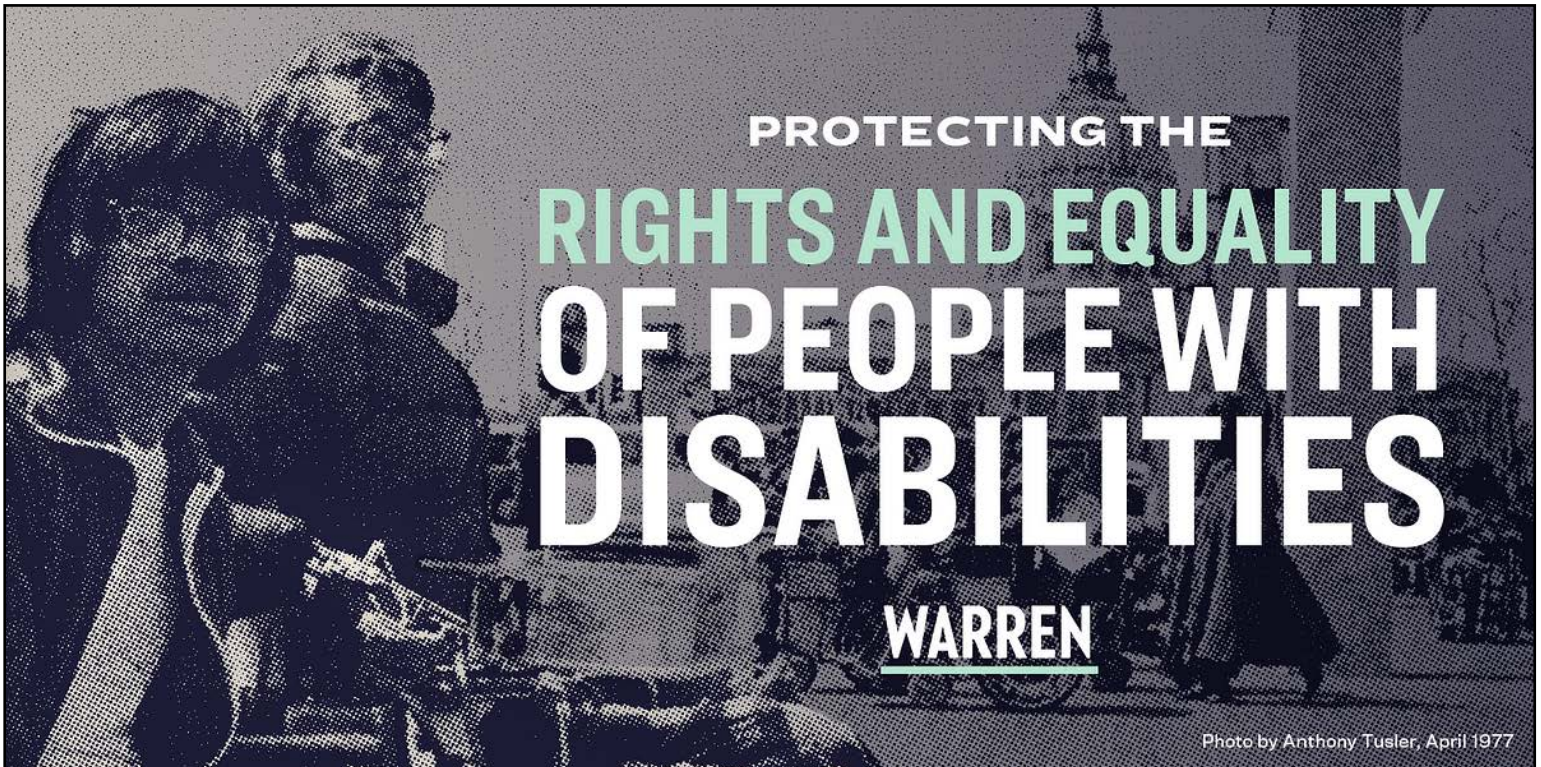
There also must be an established policy that is equitable and follows the fair recruitment framework to give suitable and qualified workers be it Nationals, Caricom Nationals and Mi-

grants Workers a reasonable recruitment process for employment. However, the most important objective from a Trade Unionist perspective is to keep the Social Dialogue alive especially at a Tri-partite level on these critical policies that will govern migrant workers in CARICOM member states for decades to come.



# Feature

## One Chance Denied, Thousands Inspired – Good Humans 268 Inc. Responds to Viral Video on Disability Discrimination



A heartfelt video posted to Facebook earlier this week has struck a chord with thousands across Antigua and Barbuda — and far beyond. In the now-viral footage, an Antiguan man known affectionately as “Rabbi” shares his experience of being denied a job interview at a local Supermarket because of his disability.

The video, which begins casually and gradually unfolds into a powerful testimony, has amassed thousands of views, reactions, and comments. What begins as a morning update quickly turns into a striking revelation: after being invited for an interview, the applicant was abruptly told it was canceled — allegedly due to the visible condition of his hands.

In response to the overwhelming public reaction, Good Humans 268 Inc., a nonprofit organization committed to disability rights and climate advocacy, has released an official statement condemning the incident and calling for a renewed commitment to inclusivity. “We are deeply saddened, but

# Disability Rights are Civil Rights!







not shocked,” said Joshuanette Francis, Founder of Good Humans 268 Inc. “This is the reality many individuals with disabilities face every day in Antigua and Barbuda. The truth is, the law exists — but the will to follow it still falls painfully short.”

Passed in 2017, the Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Act mandates that persons with disabilities in Antigua and Barbuda must be treated with dignity, fairness, and equality in all aspects of life — especially employment. The Act prohibits any form of discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantees equal access to employment opportunities, public services, and education.

However, many advocates, including Francis, argue that without enforcement mechanisms like a functioning Disability Tribunal, the law remains largely symbolic. “What happened to Rabbi is not only unethical, it may be illegal,” said Francis. “The employer, in this case, had a legal and moral duty to assess the candidate based on his qualifications, not on assumptions.”

The video has drawn comments from disability advocates across the Caribbean and even from international voices. One commenter wrote, “Injus-

tice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”, quoting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “If this is happening in Antigua, it’s happening everywhere. And it needs to stop.”

Indeed, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that over 1 billion people globally live with some form of disability, yet most are still excluded from the labor force due to deep-rooted biases and lack of access. “Disability is not inability,” said a supporter from Trinidad and Tobago in the video’s comment section. “He deserves a chance like everyone else.”

Good Humans 268 Inc. has long been at the forefront of the fight for equality for persons with disabilities. From launching national projects to make schools accessible, to designing inclusive eco-tours and promoting employment through advocacy, the organization continues to push the needle forward.

In its official statement, the organization emphasized the importance of “turning pain into purpose.” “We see this moment as a wake-up call — not to shame or cancel, but to educate, reform, and rebuild,” said Francis. “Rabbi’s story has lit a fire in the community. Let’s use that flame to illumi-

nate the path toward equity.” The organization is also using this moment to renew its call for the establishment of the Disability Tribunal, which is a vital part of the Disabilities Act but has yet to be operationalized. The Tribunal would provide a legal channel for individuals to seek redress when their rights are violated.

What makes this video so compelling is not only the story it tells, but the raw honesty with which it is told. Rabbi does not beg for sympathy. Instead, he reflects on his reality — and leaves viewers with a message of resilience. “Life is not perfect,” he says in the video. “Nobody perfect. Just master your talent and do you.”

That message — “Do You” — has since become a rallying cry in the comments. Some are now calling for employers to give Rabbi a second interview. Others are donating to help him grow his own business. A few say they’ve been inspired to be more vocal about their own experiences with disability and exclusion.

Good Humans 268 Inc. has outlined several ways citizens and businesses can support individuals with disabilities: Know the Law: Familiarize yourself with the Disabilities Act. Train Your Staff: Businesses should undergo disability inclusion training. Listen to Lived Experiences: Invite individuals with disabilities to speak, consult, and advise. Be a Voice: Use your platform to advocate for change — just like Rabbi did.

As the dust settles, it is clear that what began as a moment of rejection has transformed into a movement of reflection — and hopefully, one of reform. “We don’t want pity,” Francis added. “We want policy, we want protection, and we want progress.”

### *Joshuanette Francis*

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**Website: <https://goodhumans268.org/>**  
**Tel 268 727 2120 or 268 463 5674**



## Historic Summit in Antigua UAN Unites 25 Nations For Inner Peace Amid Global Tensions



Honorable Minister Greene visits UAN Summit and warmly welcomed the international delegation to Antigua and Barbuda.  
June 8, 2025

Honorable Minister Steadroy Benjamin warmly welcomes the UAN Summit's international delegation to Antigua and Barbuda.  
June, 10 2025



By Guest writer

In a powerful testament to the potential of inner transformation as a path to global harmony, delegates from over 25 nations have convened in Antigua and Barbuda for a second 30-day summit hosted by the United Ancient Indigenous Enlightened Nations (UAN). This unprecedented gathering marks a moment of quiet revolution, where spiritual diplomacy and indigenous wisdom take center stage in the pursuit of world peace.

Among the attendees are representatives from the United States, China, Philippines, Europe and more. For long political differences have defined headlines. Yet here, under the Caribbean sun and guided by ancestral traditions, they sit side by side, meditating,

sharing meals, engaging in dialogue, and learning from elders who speak not of borders, but of balance.

The majority of the delegates are from the various states of the USA and the different provinces and nations of the Chinese world. They span from tech CEOs, to extremely successful hoteliers and all the way to students and young individuals trying to get a head start on life.

"This is not just a conference; it is a living ceremony of oneness and transformation," said UAN Ambassador Sri Nithya Mokshapriyananda. "We are not negotiating treaties. We are healing hearts."

The summit integrates daily yoga, meditation, indigenous ceremonies, and roundtable discussions

on conscious leadership. Participants are encouraged to explore ancient practices

that emphasize inner peace, mutual respect, and harmony with the Earth. It's a stark



# Feature



contrast to conventional diplomacy — and precisely why it's drawing keen attention.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon'ble Chet Greene welcomed the delegates, calling the summit a gift to Antigua and Barbuda and a way to bring back the lost principles of family values,

tradition, and spiritual openness.

**As the world watches, the UAN summit sends a clear message: peace is not only forged in boardrooms and battlefields, but in the shared silence of self-reflection — one breath, one heart at a time.**

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# Regional News

## 56 arrested, six guns seized in first 24 hours of state of emergency in T&T

Police made 56 arrests and seized six illegal firearms and 33 rounds of ammunition during the first 24 hours of the state of emergency (SoE), the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) has reported.

From midnight on July 18 to the same time on July 19, officers carried out 104 operations across multiple divisions, targeting organised criminal and gang-related activity. In the process, they conducted 629 searches and recorded 407 traffic offences from strategic roadblock operations.

In a statement, the TTPS said the coordinated actions were part of efforts to dismantle armed criminal networks and restore public confidence and safety.

“These actions formed part of a strategic offensive targeting individuals affiliated with organised criminal syndicates and gangs operating across multiple divisions,” the TTPS said.

“Several zones registered heightened activity, with concentrated efforts aimed at intercepting persons linked to criminal networks.”



The guns recovered in the operations included pistols, a revolver, a shotgun and a rifle.

These recoveries reflect the TTPS’ focus on dismantling armed elements within known gang corridors and neutralising the identified threat actors who pose a risk to public safety,” the police said.

“The TTPS remains steadfast in its mission to protect

citizens and restore order. Law enforcement operations will continue with tactical precision and community sensitivity throughout the emergency period with little disruption to law abiding citizens, who are urged to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity through official channels,” it said.

The SoE was declared last Friday, with authorities reporting that police intelligence had pointed to a

criminal network operating from within the prison system, with plans to assassinate senior police officers, members of the judiciary, and employees at the state prosecution office.

The TTPS said it remains resolute in its actions to subdue the identified threat actors, suppress gang activity and uphold the rule of law. (CMC)

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## Grenada's Climate minister urges unified action to safeguard the Caribbean's water resources



Hon. Kerryne James, Grenada's Minister for Climate Resilience, Environment, and Renewable Energy of Grenada, has emphasized the necessity for collective efforts to ensure the sustainable management of water resources across the Caribbean region amid escalating climate challenges.

Her remarks were delivered during a keynote speech to an audience comprising senior policymakers, technical experts, and officials from six Caribbean nations at the recent "Leveraging SDG 6 for Accelerated Water Investments in Caribbean SIDS" workshop, held from July 9 to 10, 2025, in Grenada.

Representing Grenada remotely via video, Minister James spoke at the event organized by the Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C), in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

the G-CREWS Project, and the Government of Grenada. According to a Global Water Partner Caribbean press report, she highlighted that, despite the Caribbean's reputation for verdant scenery and regular rainfall, the region continues to grapple with significant water stress, especially relating to storage capacity, access, and infrastructure development.

Minister James underscored the importance of advancing the Caribbean's implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), which currently stands at only 39% — notably below the global average of 57%.

She stressed that effective water management transcends political and bureaucratic boundaries, requiring cross-sectoral coordination, robust institutional frameworks, and active community participation.

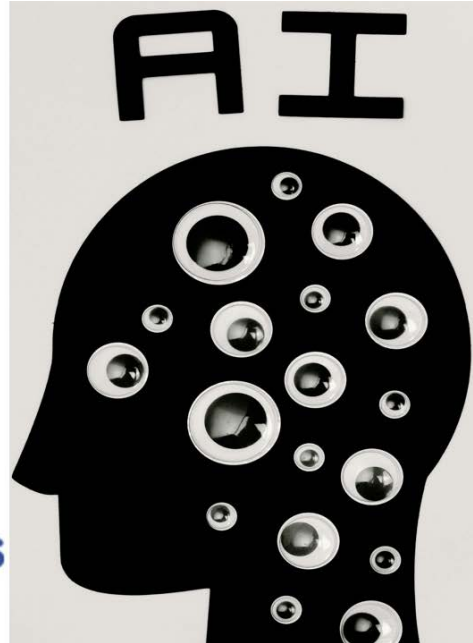
"In this pivotal moment, we must lead with clarity, courage, and compassion. The water challenge should be met not with fear, but with confidence—recognizing that every drop is vital, and that every citizen depends on our protection," James stated.

The Grenadian official also called for accelerated progress, citing regional success stories and collaborative platforms such as the Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C) and the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA). The statement shared that James asserted that these organizations exemplify how regional cooperation and shared expertise can bolster efforts toward achieving comprehensive IWRM practices.

Find out more about GWP on the website. (*Dominica News Online*)



## New taskforce launched by CTU to help mold regional AI development



The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) has officially inaugurated the Caribbean AI Task Force, marking a significant milestone in the region's efforts to develop and regulate artificial intelligence (AI). This strategic initiative aims to ensure that the Caribbean is not only prepared for the impending global AI revolution but also actively influences its trajectory in alignment with regional priorities, values, and development objectives.

The Task Force is set to focus on four primary objectives. First, it aims to harmonize AI policies and regulatory frameworks across Caribbean nations to promote legal clarity and interoperability. Second, it seeks to build regional capacity and talent in AI, with particular emphasis on youth, women, and traditionally underrepresented communities. Third, the initiative emphasizes the pro-

motion of inclusive, ethical, and responsible AI practices to support the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fourth, it encourages cross-sector collaboration and innovation by bringing together governments, academia, the private sector, and civil society.

Dr. Craig Ramlal has been appointed as Chair of the Caribbean AI Task Force. Dr. Ramlal is a prominent academic, AI researcher, and Head of the Control Systems Group in Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Recognized by the United Nations as one of 39 leading AI experts for his work in artificial intelligence and machine learning, he specializes in applications that promote Caribbean development. He is also a vocal advocate for

the ethical and responsible use of digital technologies throughout the region.

Hon. Dominic Smith, President of the CTU and Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, underscored the significance of this initiative. "We must recognize that we are stepping into a new era; one where AI must be seen not only as a technological tool but as a transformative force. If guided ethically and inclusively, it can help us tackle some of our most urgent development challenges," he stated. Smith emphasized that the creation of the Task Force reflects both an opportunity and a responsibility, representing a unified Caribbean commitment to develop and deploy AI in ways that mirror shared values, address unique regional challenges, and foster inclusive growth. Dr. Ramlal echoed these

sentiments, highlighting the importance of the platform for regional AI development. "This Task Force represents an essential platform for the Caribbean to shape its own AI agenda, one that prioritizes ethics, equity, and empowerment. I look forward to working with regional stakeholders to chart a path forward that reflects our shared values and aspirations," he said.

The initiative builds upon recent regional efforts, including the UNESCO Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Policy Roadmap, the ITU's AI for Good Global Summit, and the CAF Roadmap for National AI Implementation, which was presented at the UWI Five Islands AI Conference in July 2025. These frameworks underscore the need for coordinated, ethical, and locally relevant AI strategies tailored to developing regions.

Furthermore, the CTU praised the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for articulating a vision for an AI-driven public service, emphasizing the significance of national leadership in digital transformation. The Caribbean AI Task Force will comprise regional experts and representatives tasked with delivering policy recommendations, developing model legislation, and supporting pilot projects. These initiatives aim to demonstrate the potential of AI to advance sustainable development across the Caribbean. (*Dominica News Online*)



## Man charged after car ploughs into crowd outside LA nightclub, injuring 30



A man suspected of driving his car into a crowd of people in Los Angeles has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

Thirty people were injured in the incident outside a nightclub in East Hollywood, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) said.

A line of mostly women were waiting to enter the Vermont Hollywood music venue when the car struck at 02:00 local time (09:00 GMT) on Saturday.

The suspect was taken to a local hospital for surgery after suffering a gunshot wound during the incident, LAPD Commander Lillian Carranza said.

The LAPD is investigating the crash as an intentional act because the driver made a U-turn before ramming through the crowd, according to the BBC's US partner CBS News.

Police said that when officers arrived, bystanders had dragged the driver out

of the Nissan Versa and were attacking him.

One assailant shot the driver, who was taken to hospital for surgery, the LAPD added. His condition is unknown.

The vehicle drove through a taco stand, through a valet podium, and then into the crowd, according to police.

The nightclub was hosting a reggae and hip hop event at the time, according to its website.

A law enforcement official told CNN the driver is believed to have been intoxicated.

Police described the suspect who opened fire during the melee before fleeing on foot as a bald Hispanic man. He was wearing a blue jersey and potentially armed with a silver-coloured revolver.

On Saturday night, seven people were in critical condition and six were in serious condition, authorities said. Ten

suffered minor injuries while seven left the hospital against medical advice.

Pictures from the scene show a grey car on a pavement with debris strewn on the ground, and a large police presence.

In a statement, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass called the incident a "heartbreaking tragedy".

"The hearts of Angelenos are with all of the victims impacted this morning - a full investigation into what happened is under way," she said.

The victims have all been taken to hospitals or trauma centres, LAFD Captain Adam VanGerpen told reporters at the scene.

"It was a very chaotic scene," Capt VanGerpen said, adding that "a lot of bystanders by the club came out to help people". (*BBC News*)



## At least 17 dead in South Korea floods and landslides



At least 17 people have died in floods and landslides caused by days of torrential rain in South Korea, the country's disaster management office has said.

There are fears the death toll could rise as emergency rescue efforts continue, with 11 people reported missing.

Footage showed people wading through thick mud in the landslide-hit resort town of Gapyeong on Sunday as they made their way across a damaged bridge to evacuation shelters.

Further south, an entire village was covered with earth and debris following a landslide in the central Chungcheong region, according to video footage from Saturday.

Much of the destruction has been in the country's south, with six people killed and seven missing in Sancheong.

Thousands of roads and buildings have been damaged and submerged by raging floodwaters, with reports of damage to farmland and the widespread death of livestock.

Across the region, nearly 10,000 people have evacuated their homes since the downpour began on Wednesday, while more than 41,000 households have temporarily lost power, local media reported.

The rain has largely subsided in the worst-hit southern and central areas, but overnight the downpours moved north, and more heavy rain is

still expected in the capital Seoul and northern regions on Sunday.

President Lee Jae-myung ordered the worst-hit areas to be declared as special disaster zones on Sunday and the government has launched a multi-agency recovery effort.

Interior minister Yun Ho-jung asked local authorities to mobilise "all available resources" swiftly.

A landslide in the northern Gapyeong County killed two people when several properties were engulfed in mud, AFP reported, citing government officials.

The rainfall is expected to end late on Sunday, but will be followed by an intense. (*BBC News*)




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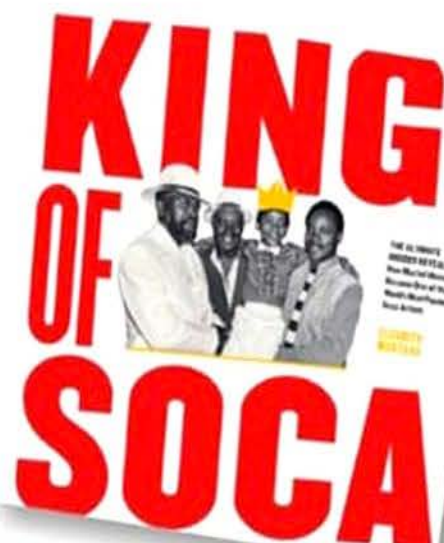


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## Tech company CEO resigns after controversy over video captured at Coldplay concert

The IT company CEO captured in a widely circulated video showing him embracing an employee at a Coldplay concert has resigned.

Andy Byron resigned from his job as CEO of Cincinnati-based Astronomer Inc., according to a statement posted on LinkedIn by the company Saturday.

“Astronomer is committed to the values and culture that have guided us since our founding. Our leaders are expected to set the standard in both conduct and accountability, and recently, that standard was not met,” the company said in its post on LinkedIn.

The move comes a day after the company said that Byron had been placed on leave and the board of directors had launched a formal investigation into the jumbotron incident, which went viral. A company spokesman later confirmed in a statement to AP that it was Byron and Astronomer chief people officer Kristin Cabot in the video.

The short video clip shows Byron and Cabot as captured on the jumbotron at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, during a Coldplay concert on Wednesday.

Lead singer Chris Martin asked the cameras to scan the crowd for his “Jumbotron Song,” when he sings a few lines about the people the camera lands on.

“Either they’re having an affair or they’re just very shy,” he joked.

Internet sleuths identified the man as the chief executive officer of a US-based company and the woman as its chief people officer.

Pete DeJoy, Astronomer’s cofounder and chief product officer, has been tapped as interim CEO while the company conducts a search for Byron’s successor.

It’s easy to miss, but most concert



venues have signs informing the audience that they could be filmed during the event. Look for them on the walls when you arrive and around the bar areas or toilets. It’s common practice especially when bands like to use performances for music videos or concert films.

The venue in this case, Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, also has a privacy policy online which states: “When you visit our location or attend or participate in an event at our location, we may capture your image, voice and/or likeness, including through the use of CCTV cameras and/or when we film or photograph you in a public location.”

“They probably would have got away with it if they hadn’t reacted,” said Alison Taylor, a clinical associate professor at New York University’s Stern School of Business. And by the time the alleged identities emerged on social media, it hit a classic nerve around “leaders acting like the rules don’t apply to them,” she added.

Still, Taylor and others stress how quickly such a video led to an internet search to find the people involved — and note that it’s important to remember that such “doxing” isn’t just reserved for famous people. Beyond someone simply spotting a familiar face and spreading the word, technological advances, such as the rising adoption of artificial intelligence, has made it easier and faster overall to find just about anyone in a viral video today.

“It’s a little bit unsettling how easily we can be identified with biometrics, how our faces are online, how social media can track us — and how the internet has gone from being a place of interaction, to a gigantic surveillance system,” said Mary Angela Bock, an associate professor in the University of Texas at Austin’s School of Journalism and Media.

“When you think about it, we are being surveilled by our social media. They’re tracking us in exchange for entertaining us.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## Antigua Cup concludes with presentation of awards



**Tkai Williams of Old Road won the MVP and Best Midfielder awards in the Under-17 Boys Division.**



**Najantae Wijnaldum of Old Road won the Best Defender Award in the Under-17 Boys Division.**



**Greg Williams of Old Road won the Best Goal Scorer Award in the Under-17 Boys Division. (Photos courtesy of Young Warriors FC)**

The second edition of The Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament successfully concluded with a presentation of awards to the outstanding individual players and teams.

At the presentation ceremony, Brent Emanuel of principal partner, Tropic Ace, which is located at Redcliffe Quay, presented gift certificates valued at US\$200 (EC\$540) to the top individual performers in all age categories.

However, the Bath United team, who had already returned home to Nevis, missed the presentation ceremony. Bath United will receive their awards at a later date, while the top players, coaches and managers from all other competing teams will be recognized as well.

The under-15 age-group title was shared by three teams -- All Saints Attackers, Bath United of Nevis, and Lion Cub -- after each team won three matches and lost one. Organizers opted to award each team a trophy in recognition of the keenly contested competition.

Isaiah Harris of Attackers captured the Most Valuable Player (MVP) and Best Defender awards, and teammate Elijah Harriet claimed the Best Midfielder Award in the Under-15 Boys Division.

The other individual awards in the Under-15 Boys Division were won by Lion Cub. Keadon Stachell claimed the Top Goals Scorer Award with a total of six goals, Calvin Wilman captured the Best Defender Award, and Tayson Govia won the Best Midfielder Award.

Newly crowned champions, Old Road made a clean sweep of all the top individual awards in the Under-17 Boys age-group division.

Tkai Williams won the MVP and Best Midfielder awards, Greg Williams claimed the Best Goal Scorer Award, and Najantae Wijnaldum captured the Best Defender Award.

Inaugural champions Cutting Edge

also claimed all the awards in the Under-17 Girls Division.

Abisha Henry claimed the Best Player and Best Defender awards, Kavita Cordice won the Best Goalkeeper Award, Abigail Simmon captured the Best Midfielder Award, and Irreissia Allen took home the Top Goal Scorer Award.

Champions Cutting Edge made a clean sweep of all the individual awards in the Under-13 Boys Division. Ethan Samuel took the Best Player Award, and Raylin Rodriguez won the Best Goalkeeper Award.

Jaquan Barthley claimed the Best Defender Award, Kavita Cordice won the Best Midfielder Award, and Kiran Cordice captured the Top Goal Scorer Award.

The tournament is organized by Young Warriors FC, which has expressed its gratitude to all teams for their participation in making the Antigua Cup a success.



# Sports News

## ABSF names team for World Swimming Championships

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) has announced the official delegation of elite athletes, who will represent the nation at the World Swimming Championships in Singapore from July 24 to August 1.

This distinguished team is composed of swimmers who have consistently demonstrated excellence, unwavering dedication, and the true spirit of national pride, earning their place among the world's best.

The selected athletes are male swimmers Stefano Mitchell and Naeem DeSouza and their female colleagues Aunjelique Liddie and Bianca Mitchell.

Stefano Mitchell will compete in the men's 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle events, while Naeem DeSouza will contest the 50-meter and 100-meter butterfly races.

Aunjelique Liddie will



**Aunjelique Liddie**

compete in the women's 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle races, while Bianca Mitchell will contest the 50-meter breaststroke and 200-meter freestyle events.

Leading the team into this international arena is Coach Wayne Mitchell, who brings years of experience and passion for the sport. Also accompanying the athletes is Anna Mitchell, who will serve as the team manager, ensuring smooth coordination and support throughout the competition.

Additionally, President of the ABSF Edith Clashing will represent the national federation at the World Swimming Congress on July 29.

Clashing will also take up an assignment with the World Masters Championships as a member of the World Masters Technical Committee from August 5 to 15.

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**26  
JUL**

### T-SHIRT MAS 3 PM - 9 PM

**Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.N. Kirnon School**

UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Bolivar Dr. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.  
**LEFT** onto Parliament Dr. **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
**LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto  
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd.

**27  
JUL**

### Junior Carnival 2 pm

**Assembly point: Old House Of Culture ( 1:30 pm | move off at 2pm)**

Turn **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
**LEFT** on Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** on  
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** at the roundabout onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto  
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City.

Water breaks between (Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street) and (between corner ACB & Magistrate Court)

**04  
AUG**

### J'Ouvert 3AM - 10AM Steel Bands(Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** on Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.,  
**RIGHT** on Market St. **RIGHT** on High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.

### J'Ouvert 3AM - 10AM Jam Bands & Sound System (Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Vivian Richards St.  
**RIGHT** onto Market St. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St.  
**RIGHT** onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.

### Judging of Bands 2 pm

**Assembly point: Corner of Factory Road & Parliament Drive**

**RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto  
Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave.

**05  
AUG**

### Parade of Bands 12 Noon

**Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.n. Kirnon School**

UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Blvd. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.  
**LEFT** on to Parliament Dr. and **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto  
Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto  
High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto  
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City

### Last Lap | 7 pm - 10 pm

UP Old Parham Rd. turn **RIGHT** on Coronation Rd  
**RIGHT** onto Factory Rd., **LEFT** onto Independence Ave., **RIGHT** onto Redcliffe St.  
**RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
and continue until 10PM.



# VACANCY

## ACCOUNTANT

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated Accountant to support the timely preparation of financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), reconcile key balance sheet accounts, and enhance our financial reporting systems. Working closely and under the direct supervision of the Senior Accountant, the incumbent will be responsible for the reconciliation of key accounts, enhancement of financial reporting processes, and providing support on various finance-related special projects. This position requires a detail-oriented, analytical, and results-driven individual.

### Key duties include:

- Preparing monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements in compliance with IFRS.
- Reconciling key accounts, including but not limited to bank accounts, payables, receivables, inventory, accruals, and other general ledger balances.
- Working closely and under the supervision of the Senior Accountant to ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with internal policies.
- Assisting in the preparation and review of audit schedules and supporting external and internal audit processes.
- Identifying and implementing improvements to enhance and streamline financial reporting processes and applications.
- Ensuring all financial records are maintained in an organized and timely manner to support management reporting and decision-making.
- Analyzing financial data and trends to identify variances and recommend corrective actions.
- Assisting in the preparation of budgets and forecasts as needed.
- Supporting the automation of routine reports and development of financial dashboards.
- Participating in the implementation of new accounting systems or process improvements.
- Providing support for special projects, including financial analysis for capital projects, regulatory reporting, and funding applications.
- Maintaining compliance with company policies, internal controls, and regulatory requirements.

### The successful candidate **MUST** possess the following:

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- A minimum of three (3) years of experience in a similar role; utility or public sector experience is an asset.
- Minimum professional accounting designation of ACCA, CPA, or CMA.
- Strong knowledge of IFRS and financial reporting standards.
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel, accounting software and ERP systems.
- Excellent analytical, organizational, and time-management skills.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work effectively within a team.
- A high level of integrity, discretion, and commitment to confidentiality.

### Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

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Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
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**Deadline for application is Friday 1st August, 2025**

**\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\***

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## Guyana Amazon Warriors win GSL T20 title



**Captain of the Guyana Amazon Warriors Imran Tahir holds the trophy aloft after winning the Guyana Super League T20 title at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Friday, July 18, 2025. (Getty Images)**

It is said that T20 cricket is a game of bold strokes and calculated risk, and on Friday night, it was Guyana Amazon Warriors who struck the perfect balance of both, as they toppled defending champions Rangpur Riders in the final by 32 runs to win the second edition of the Global Super League (GSL) T20 tournament at the Providence Stadium.

It was a finale defined by contrasting batting styles, a mix of explosive hitting and calculated stroke play, and a complete bowling display that showcased Guyana's depth and composure under pressure.

The victory was set up by a competitive Warriors innings total of 196 for four off 20 overs, highlighted by a dazzling second-wicket stand of 121 runs from just 70 balls between Johnson Charles and Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

Charles, known more for his flam-

boyant stroke play, was steady and precise in his approach before he retired out on 67 off 48 balls, which included 11 fours and a six. Gurbaz, in contrast, blazed his way to 66 from 38 balls, with six fours and four sixes.

Though Evin Lewis (five) fell cheaply, and Shimron Hetmyer (zero) never got going, the late fireworks were provided by Romario Shepherd, who slammed three sixes and a four in an unbeaten nine-ball 28.

Sherfane Rutherford also played his part with a run-a-ball 19 to give Guyana the final flourish that took the total close to the 200-run mark.

In response, Rangpur Riders—who had been unbeaten heading into the final—crumbled under scoreboard pressure and were dismissed for 164 in 19.5 overs.

Their chase was undone early, as they slumped to 32 for three inside the

powerplay, thanks to a sharp run-out from Imran Tahir and early strikes by Dwaine Pretorius and Moeen Ali.

A brief recovery was mounted by Saif Hassan, who made 41 off 26 balls, and Iftikhar Ahmed, with a 29-ball 46, as they stitched together a 73-run stand for the fourth wicket.

But once Saif was run out in the 13th over, it triggered a devastating collapse, and Rangpur slid from 102 for three to 126 for eighth in a matter of 27 balls.

Mahidul Islam Ankon smacked a quickfire 30 from 17 balls, but the gap was too wide, and the defending champs were eventually bowled out with one ball to spare.

Pretorius finished with three for 37, including the key wickets of Iftikhar and Omarzai (three), while Imran Tahir grabbed two for 39 and Gudakesh Motie claimed two for 32.



## CWI announces new two-year partnership with Coca-Cola



**West Indies players pose alongside a Coca-Cola sign at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica. (CWI Media)**

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced a new and dynamic two-year partnership with globally renowned beverage brand Coca-Cola.

This will designate Coca-Cola as the Official Soft Drinks Partner and will see POWERADE and Dasani water named the Official Hydration Partners of CWI.

This collaboration marks a historic moment in the world of cricket and reinforces Coca-Cola's commitment to celebrating and supporting the global sports community.

The partnership, secured through the Coca-Cola Caribbean System, took effect from June 24, 2025, just ahead of the men's legs of the West Indies "Full Ah Energy" Home Series, which bowled off with the first Test Match between West Indies and Australia at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

Dasani Water and Powerade will be provided for all CWI cricket operations, including youth and high-performance programmes. Cricket West Indies' CEO, Chris Dehring, spoke on

the importance of such a partnership.

"Hydration plays a critical role in athlete performance, safety, and recovery, and ensuring consistent access to high-quality hydration solutions across all levels of cricket—from grassroots and age-group programmes to our elite men's and women's teams—is a top priority for CWI," Dehring said.

"This partnership ensures that the hydration needs of every player across the region are met, reinforcing our commitment to player welfare, preparation, and development," he added.

This partnership underscores Cricket West Indies' commitment to delivering world-class cricket experiences while working alongside globally respected brands to grow the game and inspire generations of Caribbean fans.

"We are incredibly excited about this partnership with the CWI," said Vineet Singhal, VP Franchise Operations Caribbean at the Coca-Cola Company.

"Through POWERADE and Dasani, we are bringing science-backed hy-

dration solutions to players in the Caribbean, helping them to stay at their peak performance."

In addition to hydration, Coca-Cola will take the lead on event and fan engagement, leveraging their global brand power to activate across CWI events, venues, broadcast, and digital platforms.

"This partnership also represents a strategic alignment focused on enhancing the match-day and fan experience across the region," said Dehring.

"It marks a new chapter in how we build relationships with global commercial brands. Coca-Cola, POWERADE and Dasani bring not only world-class products but also unmatched expertise in consumer experiences. Their support will help us enhance our events and deepen connections with our fans."

Carlos Diaz, VP International Operations, KOSCAR Holding Limited added, "Cricket is more than just a sport; it is a unifying force that brings communities together and inspires passion and pride. We aim to continue to support the development of cricket in the Caribbean and provide fans with unforgettable moments both on and off the field."

Coca-Cola, one of the world's most recognized and respected brands, has a long history of association with major global sporting properties, including cricket. This partnership underscores the brand's dedication to promoting athletic excellence and cultural heritage.

Most recently, the brand was a key sponsor of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which was hosted right here in the Caribbean, and recognizes the unique cultural and commercial value that West Indies cricket brings to the region.



## Villa Lions extend unbeaten run in Fort Road League



**Players of the Villa Lions football team. (Photo by Elwin Francis)**

The Villa Lions recorded their third win in as many games in the Fort Road Community Football League on Saturday.

Following their 8-2 drubbing of Blackburn Palace and a 10-0 mauling of West Ham, the Villa romped to a 6-1 victory against Fort Road in their final Group A encounter at the Fort Road playing field.

Tyrik “Castro” Hughes scored twice with conversions in the 12th and 39th minutes.

The other goals for the Villa Lions were converted by Eroy Gonsalves in the 28th minute, Jahquane Richards in the 40th min-

ute, Kayeem Hughes in the 55th minute, and Jordan Francis in the 60th minute.

Dion Lavonn scored a consolation goal for Fort Road in the 45th minute.

The Villa Lions qualified for the semi-finals as winners of Group A with nine points from their three preliminary round matches.

Blackburn Palace clinched the other semi-final spot from Group A by finishing second with four points. Blackburn Palace secured a goalless draw with Fort Road in the final group game.

Police Enforcers clinched the second qual-

ifying spot in the semi-finals by finishing second in Group B.

The Enforced booked their semi-final spot with a 2-1 victory against Exclusive Ballaz in the final Group B encounter at Fort Road on Saturday.

Tishorn Hibson scored in the 36th minute, and Keon Greene converted a penalty kick in the 52nd minute for Police Enforcers.

Exclusive Ballaz reduced the deficit via an own goal, which was converted by Denzil Roach of Enforcers in the 55th minute.

Police Enforcers wrapped up their Group B

campaign with six points from three matches. Group B leaders Real Blizzard claimed the other semi-final spot by virtue of winning the two matches they have played.

Real Blizzard will take on Earthquake in the final Group B encounter at the Fort Road playing field on Monday (today) at 5 pm.

The first semi-final will be played at the same venue on Tuesday, while the second semi-final will be contested on Wednesday. The two winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final on Thursday.



## Leewards lose to Barbados in CWI U-19 women's final

The Leeward Islands have missed out on winning their first Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Women's title for the second successive year in Trinidad and Tobago.

After being denied the title in 2024 in a 23-run defeat via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the final against Guyana at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, the Leeward Islands young women suffered a seven-wicket loss via the DLS method against Barbados in the final at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex in Trinidad on Saturday.

Barbados were crowned champions of the West Indies Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Championship after defeating Leeward Islands for the second time in three days.

The Leeward Islands had advanced to the final despite losing their last preliminary round match against Barbados by seven wickets at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine on Thursday.

In Saturday's final at Diego Martin, the Leeward Islands were dismissed



**Players of the Leewards under-19 women's cricket team**

for 93 in 23.3 overs, with West Indies batter Jahzara Claxton top-scoring with 28 and Aaliyah Weekes scoring 20.

Theanny Herbert Mayers led Barbados' bowling with three for 15, supported by Naijanni Cumberbatch with three for 33 and Sabriel Headley, who took two for 15.

In reply, Barbados reached their revised target comfortably, closing on 72 for three in 12.2 overs with Asabi Callender (14), Elecia Bowman (11 not out), and Eboni Brathwaite (11 not out) guiding them to victory.

Trinidad and Tobago's under-19 women's cricketers held their nerve to secure a dramatic one-wicket victory over Jamaica under-19

women in the third-place playoff at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground.

The Trinidadians were set a modest target of 118 but were made to work hard for the win, with Jamaica's bowlers striking regularly to keep the game alive until the final over. In the end, the Trinis got home at 118 for nine, winning off the final ball to finish their campaign on a high.

Earlier, after electing to field, the T&T bowlers justified the decision by dismissing Jamaica for 117 in 34.1 overs. Jamaica's captain Abigail Bryce was the standout batter for the visitors, compiling a composed 62 from 89 balls, including eight boundaries.

Apart from Judeen Ebanks, who scored 12,

and Bryce, no other Jamaica batter got to double digits. Brianna Harricharan was outstanding with the ball, finishing with four for 15.

Jessica Orosco claimed two for 33, while Keira Superville took two for two, as Jamaica were bowled out with 19 extras proving significant in boosting their total.

In reply, Amrita Ramtahal struck 16, Brianna Harricharan hit 15, and Sameera Naidoo made 14 to snatch victory for the Trinidadian girls. Judeen Ebanks grabbed three wickets for eight runs, and Moniqueca Reid captured three for 36.

In the play-off for fifth place, the Windward Islands defeated Guyana by ten wickets in a low-scoring game at the National Cricket Centre in Couva.

Guyana crashed to 51 all out in 17.5 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Amiah Gilbert snapped up five for 12, and Daisy Woods claimed two for 14.

The Windward Islands wrapped up their commanding victory by scoring 53 without loss in 8.2 overs. Amiah Gilbert smashed 42 not out.