

Social Security investment into Jolly Beach Hotel goes to parliament next week

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The re-opening of the St. John's Police station

African Dress Day is Friday 25 July, 2025

The proposed Social Security investment into Jolly Beach Hotel goes to parliament next week

The much-anticipated debate on the proposed multi-million-dollar investment into the Jolly Beach Hotel goes before parliament next Thursday.

The announcement by the Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, came following an in-depth discussion on the matter at Wednesday's meeting of the Cabinet.

Cabinet Spokesman, Director General of Communications, Maurice Merchant reported that the Cabinet welcomed the Director, David Matthias, and Deputy Director, Geoffrey Joseph, of the Social Security Scheme, who presented a detailed report on the Scheme's performance over the past 15 years.

According to Merchant, from the outset, both officials voiced strong support for the Cabinet's decision of Social Security investing in the redevelopment of the Jolly Beach Resort. They cited provisions in the Social Security Act, which establish a Social Security Fund Investment Committee responsible for managing the Scheme's investment portfolio under the guidance of the Minister responsible—i.e., the Cabinet.

The team emphasized the clear legal framework governing the Fund:



Cabinet Spokesman, Director General of Communications, Maurice Merchant

- The Cabinet and responsible Minister retain ultimate authority over the Fund's strategic direction and investments.
- The Investment Committee and Board provide oversight; however, Cabinet approval is required for all investment decisions, particularly following legislative amendments made in 2016.

The importance of maintaining fiduciary responsibility and safeguarding the solvency of the Fund was repeatedly underscored.

Cabinet was reminded of the Scheme's prior financial crisis between 2010 and 2013, during which it was unable to meet pension obligations. The then admin-

istration was forced to secure a \$30 million injection from the IMF to prevent collapse. In contrast, under the stewardship of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the Scheme was stabilized and restored to solvency—even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when monthly contributions fell from EC \$12 million to EC \$7 million. Despite this downturn, the government kept its payments to the Scheme up to date.

As of now, the Scheme has reached a historic milestone with 47,000 active contributors, the highest in its history. This has enabled a monthly surplus of EC \$2 million. However, this positive status remains fragile due to structural and

demographic challenges—particularly the sharp increase in life expectancy. When pension eligibility was first set at age 60, most males did not live beyond that age. Today, many pensioners live into their 70s and 80s, drawing benefits for up to 20 years, making the current structure financially unsustainable.

Led by Prime Minister Browne, the session featured robust discussions on the financial sustainability and reform of the Social Security system, covering long-term investment strategies, demographic realities, and regional integration within the OECS. A critical point was that the current contributions-to-payout ratio is 5.9:1, whereas a ratio closer to 10:1 is necessary for long-term viability.

The meeting concluded with consensus that the session was a strategic and forward-thinking engagement, focused on securing the future of Antigua and Barbuda's Social Security Fund through financial restructuring, real estate investments like the Jolly Beach Resort, legal oversight, and regional collaboration. The overarching goal is to ensure the system remains viable, resilient, and responsive for current and future generations.

Cabinet voices frustration with ECAB's 'delaying tactics' over shares conversion



The longstanding request from the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet to the Board of Directors of the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) to transfer its shares from *preferred shares* to *ordinary shares*, remains unfulfilled and government is making its displeasure known over what it sees as 'delaying tactics' by the financial institution.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet was briefed on what it unequivocally described as bureaucratic tactics being employed by shareholders of the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) to block the conversion of the government's 25% preference shares into ordinary equity shares.

In an official statement, Cabinet strongly condemned these actions as intentional and obstructive, asserting that the bank's shareholders are actively undermining the government's rightful equity position. "This calculated resistance is viewed as a profit-hoarding maneuver designed to erode and dilute the government's ownership stake over time," the statement noted. "As it currently stands, the Cabinet does not have much 'teeth' because of the nature of its shareholding (preferred shares do not have voting rights) and as such it is not able to accomplish its policy objectives of divesting those shares as part of its investment enticement strategy. As a consequence, the Cabinet has 'had it' with ECAB and this is what the Cabinet Notes have indicated," revealed Cabinet spokesman, Director General of Communica-

tions, Maurice Merchant at Thursday's Post-Cabinet press briefing.

He explained that the Cabinet wishes to have ordinary shares so that can divest those shares to members of the public similarly to what it successfully did with the West Indies Oil Company shares.

According to Merchant, the government intends to use both political and legal means to achieve its goal of having its shares in ECAB converted without any further administrative or bureaucratic delays.

Merchant said the Cabinet issued a direct call to ECAB shareholders to cease this obstruction immediately and to facilitate the rightful conversion without further delay. It made clear that continued resistance will not be tolerated.

Once the conversion is executed, the government intends to divest a portion of its ordinary shares to the public, in line with its commitment to domestic economic empowerment and broader citizen ownership of national assets.



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The re-opening of the St. John's Police station: A strategic and symbolic milestone



Attorney General and National Security Minister, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

Attorney General and National Security Minister, Sir Steadroy Benjamin hails Thursday's re-opening of the newly refurbished St. John's Police Station as both a strategic and a symbolic milestone.

Speaking at the formal recommissioning ceremony, Sir Steadroy described the move as underscoring the government's commitment to strengthening the operational capacity of the force.

"The completion of the refurbishing demonstrates that the government is ensuring that our officers are equipped with the tools necessary to effectively fulfill their duties. Symbolically, it reflects our nation's unwavering resolve to uphold the rule of law, preserve peace and safeguard the security of every citizen and resident," he remarked.



He said the project was not merely about infrastructure; it was, and is, about the men and women in uniform who work tirelessly, and often

thanklessly, to protect and serve. He added that it is about giving them the tools, the resources and the environment that they need to do their



tant Commissioner of Police, Samuel Joseph, who has administrative oversight of the station, recalled that the refurbishing work started in September 2023 and he thanked both National Security Minister Sir Steadroy Benjamin and Works Minister, Maria Browne for their roles in bringing the project to completion. "Our minister led the fight but he could not have accomplished it without the help of his Cabinet colleagues and I want to thank the Hon. Maria Browne for using her good office in finding suitable tem-



jobs efficiently and with integrity.

"This facility now boasts upgraded operational spaces, improved detention and interview areas, state-of-the-art communications equipment and a more professionally designed environment for public interactions. These improvements reflect our understanding that community policing begins with mutual respect and the physical environment plays an important role in fostering that relationship," Sir Steadroy observed.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers, called on all mem-



bers of this 'noble institution' to take great care of this facility. "Let it stand not only as a testament to our heritage but as a beacon of our commitment to service. May this station endure and serve generations of police officers to come. Let us show our appreciation to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda by maintaining and respecting this facility with the pride it so richly deserves," he stated.

In giving the vote of thanks, Assis-

porary accommodation for the relocation of the St. John's Police Station back in 2023. Madam Minister, the accommodations were quite adequate and comfortable and the men and women and I say thanks," he stated.

Both Ministers Benjamin and Browne joined Ag Commissioner Jeffers in cutting the ribbon signaling the formal reopening of the station.

Works Minister applauds team effort in St. John's Police Station revitalization, promises more upgrades to come



Minister of Housing and Works, Hon. Maria Browne



The Ministry of Housing and Works celebrates the successful completion and reopening of the newly revitalized St. John's Police Station, marking a significant milestone in the government's ongoing commitment to strengthening the nation's law enforcement infrastructure.

At the Re-Commissioning Ceremony held Thursday, the Minister of Housing and Works, Hon. Maria Browne, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and organizations whose dedication and teamwork made the project possible. The Minister highlighted the collaborative spirit that defined the rehabilitation process, noting

the essential roles played by the contractor, Ambassador Patrice Luke and his team, the Ministry's Buildings Department, and the unwavering support from the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Port Authority.

"This day has been long in the making, and it is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together," said Minister Browne. "From the outset, this project was a team effort. I want to extend a special thank you to Ambassador Patrice Luke and his team for their professionalism and commitment, as well as to our Buildings Department for their expertise in design and outfitting. Their hard work has ensured that the St. John's Police Station not only meets modern standards but also retains its unique West Indian charm."

The Minister also acknowledged the patience and cooperation of the officers and staff of the Royal Police Force, who were temporarily relocated to Bay Street during the renovation. Special thanks were extended to



Ambassador Patrice Luke

Port Manager Darwin Telemaque and the Minister responsible for the Port for providing temporary accommodations, ensuring that police services continued uninterrupted.

The revitalized St. John's Police Station now features expanded office space, upgraded holding facilities, and a newly restored top floor, which had not been in use for many years. These improvements will provide officers with a more functional and comfortable working environment, enhancing their ability to serve and protect the public.

Looking ahead, Minister Browne reaffirmed the Ministry of Housing and Works' commitment to ongoing improvements across police facilities throughout Antigua and Barbuda. "This is just the beginning," she stated. "We will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and other partners to rehabilitate and upgrade government-owned buildings, reducing our reliance on leased spaces and ensuring that our police officers have the resources they need to carry out their vital duties."

The Ministry of Housing and Works extends sincere appreciation to everyone involved in the St. John's Police Station project and looks forward to further collaborations as part of its mission to enhance public infrastructure for the benefit of all citizens and residents.





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Income Tax Appeals Board reappointments now complete



Denise Armstrong Income Tax Appeals Board

The swearing-in of the reappointed members of the Income Tax Appeals Board has been successfully concluded at Government House, Antigua and Barbuda, in accordance with Section 60(1) of the Income Tax Act, Cap 212.

Earlier this week, three members of the Board, Chairman Laurie Freeland, Francine Albertine and Beulah Buckley were officially sworn in by Governor General's Deputy Sir Clare Roberts KCN, KC, during a brief but meaningful ceremony held at Government



The swearing-in of the reappointed members of the Income Tax Appeals Board at Government House

House.

The final member, Denise Armstrong, was sworn in on Thursday, completing the reappointment process. All four members are returning to serve another term on the Board.

Notably, Maureen Hyman continues to serve as a member of the Board, with her current tenure still valid. No swearing-in was required in her case.

Beulah Buckley will continue in her role as Secretary to the Board.

In his remarks, Sir Clare underscored the importance of the Board in safeguarding the principles of fairness, transparency, and justice in the tax system. "Your appointments reflect the trust placed in your integrity, impartiality, and commitment to public service," he noted.

The Office of the Governor General extends congratulations to all members and wishes them every success as they carry out their responsibilities on this important body.



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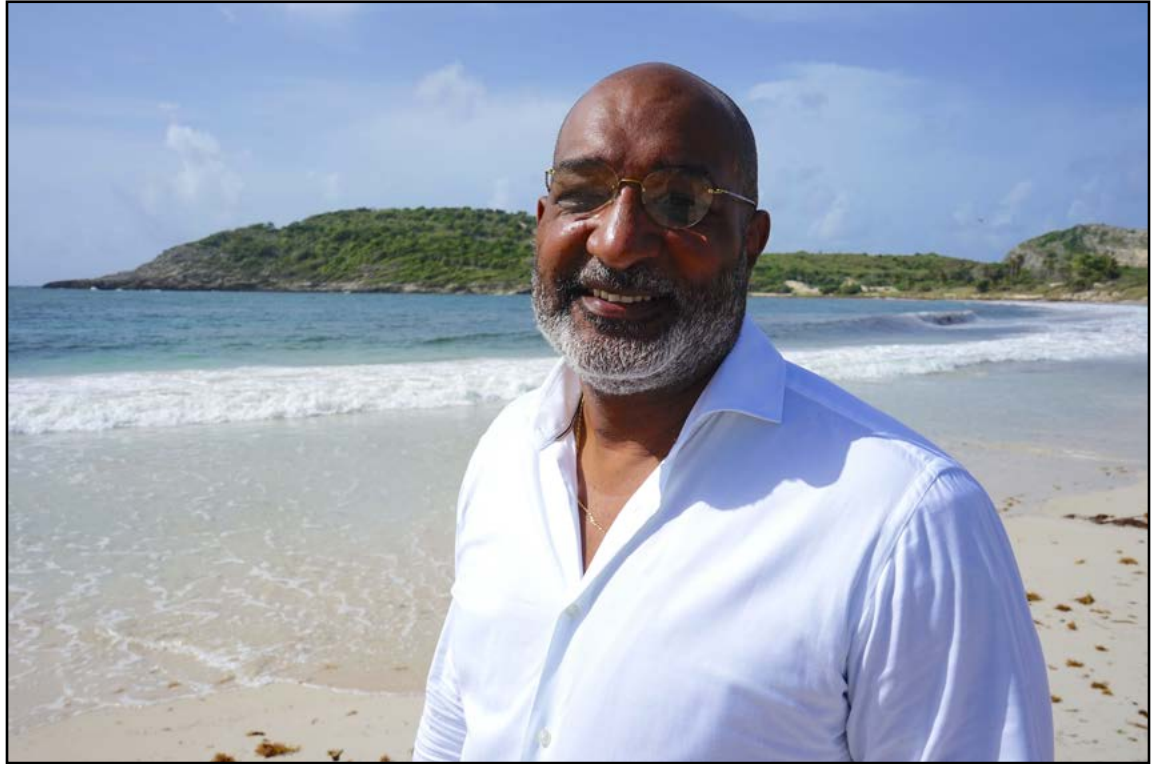
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Moon Gate Hotel & Spa names General Manager ahead of official opening

An Antiguan hotelier who has held top tier positions at some of the Caribbean's most prestigious resorts has been named as General Manager of the forthcoming Moon Gate Hotel & Spa.

Trevor McDonald will oversee the 73-suite luxury boutique resort's daily operations, after guiding it through its opening later this year.

With a genuine passion for service, McDonald's exacting standards meld seamlessly with Moon Gate's 'Gracious Hospitality' ethos, which em-



Trevor McDonald



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phasises meaningful connections and traditional Caribbean warmth.

The devoted father-of-two brings more than three decades of experience to the post, with several managerial roles under his belt, including at Jumby Bay, Rex Resorts and Jolly Beach Resort in Antigua, along with Almond Resorts in Barbados and St Lucia.

Born to an Antiguan father and Barbadian mother, McDonald grew up between Antigua and Barbados, studied hospitality management in Florida and describes himself as “proudly Caribbean”.

His interest in Moon Gate

was inspired, he says, by the quality and workmanship of its physical structures fast taking shape at Half Moon Bay on Antigua’s east coast, coupled with the passion of its developers Gaye Hechme and Cameron Fraser who are committed to offering guests an authentic Antiguan experience.

“Every guest will enjoy an experience shaped by luxurious standards in service, care and attention to detail within an atmosphere that’s warmly personal and refreshingly relaxed - Gracious Hospitality,” McDonald says.

“Putting that into practice starts now, with the team that we build and nurture.

Gracious hospitality does not simply mean taking care of how we look after our guests but how we look after each other too, with a mutual respect for all, regardless of who you are,” he explains.

“Everything at Moon Gate will be executed with the utmost finesse and elegance. We will be putting the personal touch back into hospitality.”

Meanwhile, Moon Gate’s recruitment process continues. Identifying the right personnel to help raise the bar in Antiguan hospitality is crucial, say Hechme and Fraser.

“Our culture thrives on mutual respect, shared

ambition, and an unwavering commitment to excellence - and we’re honoured to have him join us. We are excited for what the future holds under his guidance and look forward to making great things happen at Moon Gate Hotel & Spa.”

The adults-only resort offers beautifully appointed accommodation across seven buildings, all just a short stroll from the beach. Facilities include a spa with multiple treatment rooms, swimming pools, an à la carte restaurant serving farm-to-fork cuisine, a lobby piano bar, and a plant-based bistro.

Forty Years of Fire: Burning Flames Antigua's Carnival Heartbeat



By Hon. E.P. Chet Greene

As Antigua and Barbuda ignites its 68th Carnival, the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival, the air thrums with more than just anticipation. It vibrates with a legacy. For four extraordinary decades, one band has been the relentless engine, the defining soundtrack and the unquenchable spirit of this national celebration: **Burning Flames**. As they mark their **40th anniversary**, it's not just a milestone for a band; it's a national moment of recognition for our most iconic cultural architects.

Their entry into the Carnival arena in 1985 saw the creative fire of brothers Toriano 'Onyan', Clarence 'Oungku', and David 'Bubai' Edwards, joined by nephew Rhone 'Fox' Watkins. Burning Flames didn't merely play music, they forged Antigua and Barbuda's sonic identity on the anvil of Carnival. Their journey parallels our nation's own vibrant ascent, mirroring our status as the Caribbean's second fastest growing economy, our enviable happiness index and our burgeoning global profile. Just as our twin-island nation shines brightly, so

too does **Burning Flames** stand tall among the constellation of regional soca stars, not as a newcomer but as a foundational pillar.

Their dominance is etched in their energy, creative arrangements, sing along lyrics and the sweat of revelers. Nineteen Road March titles and hot and cold familial relations.

Let that resonate. Nineteen times their anthems ruled the streets, dictating the movement of thousands of revelers, their rhythms syncing with the nation's collective pulse. This isn't just a record; it is a monument to unparalleled popularity and an almost supernatural connection with the Antiguan soul. Songs like «Workey», «Iron Band», «Style Tight», «Swinging Engine», «Wet dem Dung», Carnival Train» and «Rudeness Mek Me» are more than hits; they are chapters in our national story, instantly transporting any Antiguan anywhere in the world back to the heat and joy of Antigua's Carnival celebration.

Their impact transcends trophies. **Burning Flames** distilled pure Antiguan joy into music. Their signature sound driven by that infectious, instantly recognizable «rhythm box» became our national heartbeat. It is a sonic fingerprint, relentlessly imitated across the region yet never truly duplicated. This unique propulsion isn't just music; it is happy music. It is the undeniable ingredient in the recipe for Antiguan happiness that resonates globally. It fuels our celebrations, soothes our stresses and embodies the irrepressible spirit that makes us who we are; a nation known for its warmth, resilience and capacity for pure, unadulterated revelry. Their contribution to national morale, cultural pride and yes, our happiness index, is worthy of academic review and is immeasurable.

For forty years, Onyan, Oungku, Bubai and Fox have been more than

bandmates; they have been our unwavering musical standard bearers. They carried the flag of Antiguan soca to every corner of the globe, making us proud on every continent. They didn't just participate in Carnival, they defined it, evolving alongside the festival while always remaining its authentic and fiery core. They transformed Lions Den into their kingdom year after year.

As they celebrate four decades of setting our souls alight, mere applause feels insufficient. We owe them a debt etched in rhythm and gratitude. They have cemented Antigua and Barbuda's place in the pantheon of soca greatness. How do we repay forty years of anthems, nineteen Road March crowns and the immeasurable national pride?

We show up. We shake our waists, «Dance Nasty» and raise our voices in collective appreciation.

The moment is now and on Wednesday, July 30th, at Carnival City, the Fabulous Four, Oungku, Onyan, Bubai and Fox will ignite the stage for their **40th Anniversary Celebration Jam**. They will face worthy challengers in the Original WCK and 17 Plus, promising a musical clash for the ages. This isn't just another fete; it is a national thank you card written in soca.

Let us fill Carnival City to its brim. Let us move as one massive, grateful nation to the rhythm that has defined our greatest summer moments for forty years. Let our presence be a roaring testament to their legacy, our appreciation as loud as their legendary music.

For forty years, they have burned for us. On July 30th, let Antigua and Barbuda burn bright for them. Support the icons. Celebrate the legacy. Jam with the Flames. We can and we absolutely should. The heartbeat of our Carnival deserves nothing less.



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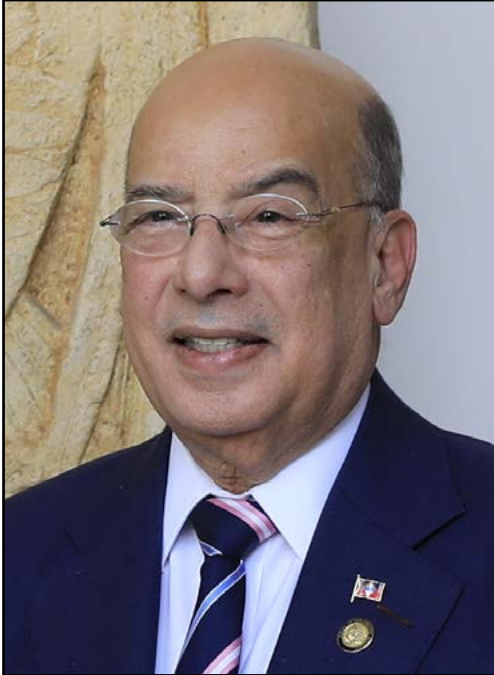
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Don't pour the champagne just yet to celebrate the ICJ Opinion on environmental harm



By Sir Ronald Sanders

On 23 July 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered an advisory opinion at the request of the UN General Assembly - driven by small island States such as Antigua and Barbuda, Vanuatu, and the Maldives - declaring unequivocally that all nations “have a duty to prevent environmental harm” by limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Court declared that existing treaties - from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to the Paris Agreement - require science-based mitigation targets, robust environmental impact assessments, adaptation measures, and financial and technological cooperation with vulnerable countries. It recognized a stable climate as foundational to human rights. It held that failure to comply constitutes an “internationally wrongful act,” triggering obligations to cease, guarantee nonrepetition, and

provide reparations for harm.

Although advisory, this opinion is already being hailed as a turning point for climate accountability and is expected to shape future environmental litigation worldwide. Experts further emphasize that a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is now enshrined as a human right, meaning that inaction may breach international law.

The ruling also clarifies that States can now bring claims against one another for climate-related loss and damage, paving the way, in principle, for litigation over historic emissions. Yet, as the ICJ warned, untangling which country caused what percentage of warming will be legally complex.

The ICJ opinion went further, affirming that affected States – such as the Marshall Islands, which estimates a \$9 billion adaptation shortfall - have a right to seek compensation for destroyed infrastructure and forced relocation. However, each claim will demand casebycase proof of causation.

The Court opined even further, holding that States remain responsible for the climate impacts of companies operating under their jurisdiction and that subsidizing fossilfuel industries or approving new oil and gas licenses may itself breach environmental obligations.

Yet on the very same day of the issuance of the ICJ Opinion, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency unveiled a draft rule to rescind its 2009 “endangerment finding,” the legal linchpin for nearly all federal limits on vehicle and powerplant emissions under the Clean Air Act.

This rollback threatens to reverse years of progress by stripping away the EPA’s authority. Since 1850, the United States has produced 20.3 percent of cumulative global CO₂ emissions - a share eclipsing any other country - and although U.S. emissions peaked in 2007 and fell by just over 3 percent by 2022, those modest gains are now at risk.

Meanwhile, the consequences of unchecked emissions are already painfully visible on American soil. In September 2022, Hurricane Ian devastated Florida and the Carolinas, killing over 100 people and inflicting nearly \$60 billion in insured damages. Just this July, recordbreaking flash floods in Central Texas claimed 136 lives - well above the 30year average - and initially left hundreds missing amid the deluge.

Meanwhile, an unprecedented summer of heat and drought has fuelled “hundreds of wildfires” across California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Canada, blanketing entire regions in smoke. These events illustrate that rescinding the “endangerment finding” will harm American communities as surely as it imperils small states.

Because the ICJ’s advisory opinion has no binding enforcement, small island States must now press for an immediate debate in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) under Resolution 77/276. A public plenary discussion will reveal which governments stand for “saving nations from extinction” and which prioritize short-term economic gains over planetary survival. Such revelations will help to galvanize citizen action to protest climate change within countries and

Feature

globally.

It is worth remembering how the ICJ case began: In 2019, a group of Pacific law students conceived the idea at their university. They secured the UNGA referral to the ICJ with backing from Vanuatu, Antigua and Barbuda, the Maldives, and a team of leading international lawyers. Their initiative, born in small states at the front line of battle with the effects of climate change, reminds us that legal innovation often springs from those bearing the brunt of climate harm.

At the same time, island States cannot afford to wait for international action. They must strengthen domestic resilience through droughtresistant agriculture and advance earlywarning systems, especially since the Adaptation Gap Report 2023 finds that developing countries face a \$194–366 billion annual shortfall in adaptation finance. They should also join the tide of strategic climate litigation: with nearly 3,000 cases filed in over 60 countries, a unified suit by affected States against the major “Carbon Majors” could compel fossilfuel companies to fund adaptation and cut emissions.

This calls for a public-private partnership between governments and the private sector in victim states to bring such cases to Courts whose judgments are binding – the Caribbean Court of Justice may be one such Court. As the Center for International Environmental Law warns in its publication, “A Defining Moment for Climate Justice,” states should immediately seize domestic implementation opportunities and strengthen enforcement mechanisms to hold governments and corporations accountable.

Finally, small island nations must forge alliances with climateconcerned members of the OECD and G20 to re-

sist the members of these groups who are intent on denying the existence and effects of climate change. They must use their combined voices in international fora to translate moral imperatives into enforceable commitments. The ICJ has provided moral and legal clarity. However, only the collective resolve of victim states – through public ventilation in regional and international institutions, robust adaptation plans, strategic litigation, and strong alliances– will determine whether the ICJ guidance translates into tangible protection.

Together, these strategies can help victim States strengthen their resilience, protect communities, and preserve lands in the face of accelerating climate threats. This work is immediate; the champagne must wait.

(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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JOLLY INVESTMENT OR JOLLY RISK? A TEST OF VISION AND GOVERNANCE

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UWI Five Islands Campus

The Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board's proposed \$75 million investment in the defunct Jolly Beach Resort has ignited debate and deep reflection across the nation. Critics have raised alarms over transparency and fiduciary risk, while others argue that this bold move could become a pioneering model for how pension funds support national development. Aside from the political and trust issues, "me nah touch dem," I am of the view that the proposed investment highlights the challenges of managing pension funds sustainably in Small Island Developing States with limited capital markets.

A Pillar Sector with Fragile Roots

Tourism is the beating heart of the Antigua and Barbuda economy, accounting for over 60% of GDP and thousands of jobs. Yet ironically, relatively few major tourism assets are locally owned. While foreign investment has brought scale and marketing reach, it has also left Antigua and Barbuda with somewhat limited domestic control over its most vital industry. The proposed acquisition of Jolly Beach by the Social Security Board offers a rare opportunity to change that. Reviving Jolly Beach—a once-thriving property that drew thousands of visitors and employed hundreds—presents not just a chance for returns, but also for reclaiming local ownership in the tourism economy. That, however, demands not just ambition, but careful execution.

An Investment Constrained by a Thin Capital Market

Like most Eastern Caribbean nations, Antigua and Barbuda operates within a narrow capital market ecosystem. Domestic stocks and bonds are limited, real estate investment trusts are virtually non-existent, hence the available pool of diversified, high-return instruments is shallow. For pension funds with growing liabilities and an aging population, this creates a strategic dilemma: how to find adequate returns in a low-yield, low-liquidity environment?

Global Evidence: Real Estate in Pension Portfolios

Global pension fund practice provides compelling evidence for real estate investments as a strategic asset class. According to the latest industry data, pension funds worldwide now allocate approximately 10% of their portfolios to real estate investments, with this allocation generating average returns of 8.1% in 2024, outpacing many other asset classes. The \$55.7 trillion global pension fund industry has increasingly recognized real estate as providing both diversification benefits and inflation protection essential for long-term pension obligations.

Leading institutional investors such as CalPERS in California, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Fortress Pension Fund in Barbados have demonstrated the strategic val-

ue of real estate investments. The key in every successful case? Professional oversight, strategic alignment, and risk management.

The Critical Importance of Cash Flow Matching

Pension Obligations Must Be Met in Cash

A fundamental principle that cannot be overlooked is that **pension commitments must ultimately be met through cash payments to beneficiaries**. This creates unique liquidity management challenges that real estate investments must address through careful structuring. Leading pension fund practice emphasizes cash flow matching strategies to ensure liquidity needs are met. As demonstrated by successful implementation at major funds:

- **Short-term cash flow matching** earmarks the next several years of benefit payments and administrative expenses so plans do not need to sell assets during market downturns to meet liquidity obligations.
- **Mature pension plans with negative cash flows** (paying out more in benefits than receiving in contributions) must be particularly careful about illiquid investments.

For the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board, this means the Jolly Beach investment must be structured

Feature



to ensure:

- 1. Predictable cash generation** through hotel operations that can contribute to meeting pension obligations.
- 2. Liquidity buffers** maintained separately from the hotel investment to meet short-term benefit payments.
- 3. Professional cash flow forecasting** to match expected hotel returns with projected pension outflows.

The evidence from successful pension fund real estate investments demonstrates several elements:

Professional Hotel Management: Jolly Beach must be operated by an international hotel management company with proven Caribbean experience, measurable performance metrics, and alignment with pension investment objectives.

Comprehensive Risk Framework: Implementation of institutional-grade risk management including stress testing, scenario analysis, and regular performance monitoring against hospitality benchmarks.

Transparent Governance: Public disclosure of all investment terms, performance metrics, and risk management procedures, following international pension fund transparency standards.

Liquidity Management Excellence: Maintenance of adequate liquid reserves, professional cash flow forecasting, and contingency planning for tourism downturns.

Portfolio Integration: Ensuring the hotel investment complements rather than concentrates the overall Social Security portfolio, with appropriate diversification safeguards.

Conclusion: Opportunity Through Excellence

The Social Security Scheme has a duty to protect contributors' funds. But it also has an opportunity to build long-term wealth and domestic economic resilience. The proposed Jolly Beach investment can serve both ends—but

only with institutional-grade governance, professional management, and comprehensive risk management. The evidence from global pension fund practice is clear: real estate can provide essential diversification, inflation protection, and attractive risk-adjusted returns when professionally managed within appropriate risk frameworks. The challenge for Antigua and Barbuda is not whether to invest in real estate, but whether to do so with the same professional standards and risk management practices that have made pension fund real estate investments successful worldwide. **The stakes are too high for anything less than**

excellence. Contributors' retirement security and the nation's economic development both depend on getting this right.

Prof. C. Justin Robinson, a Vincentian and UWI graduate, holds a BSc in Management Studies, MSc in Finance and Econometrics, and PhD in Finance. With over 20 years at UWI, he has served in various leadership roles, including Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies. A Professor of Corporate Finance with extensive research publications, he is actively involved in regional financial institutions and is currently the Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.

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Barbados welcomes landmark ICJ opinion on climate responsibility



(Barbados Nation): Barbados has welcomed a historic opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the responsibility of states for climate change – a move that Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley has described as a major win for small island developing states in their fight against the climate crisis.

In a statement issued today, the Prime Minister said the opinion affirms Barbados' longstanding legal and moral stance on the climate emergency and strengthens the country's position on the global stage.

"This opinion, coupled with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' recent opinion on the Climate Emergency and Human Rights, entirely justify Barbados' longstanding approach to the climate crisis. This opinion now provides us with a

strong footing in the international legal order to keep putting our case," she said.

Barbados participated in ICJ proceedings for the first time, joining over 100 states and international organisations that made submissions – many also doing so for the first time. The United Nations General Assembly is expected to take the matter forward during its 80th session in New York this September.

Among the ICJ's key conclusions were that states have both procedural and substantive obligations under international law to address climate change, that sea-level rise does not affect the statehood or maritime boundaries of island nations, and that greenhouse gas emissions may be considered maritime pollution. It also confirmed that states could be held responsible

for harm caused by climate change and may be liable to pay compensation in appropriate cases.

Barbados has indicated it will study the ICJ and Inter-American Court opinions closely to determine their application at national, regional and international levels.

Key takeaways of the opinion:

- Climate treaties do not override other international law: The ICJ confirmed that the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol work alongside other sources of international law, including the customary duty to prevent environmental harm.
- States have significant obligations under climate treaties: These include both procedural duties and outcome-based responsibilities, meaning emitting states

cannot use treaties to avoid real action.

- Customary law requires states to prevent harm: Even if climate change results from widespread actions, states must still regulate activities within their borders and ensure they meet stringent due diligence standards, including environmental impact assessments.
- Sea-level rise does not affect statehood or maritime zones: Small island states will not lose maritime rights due to sea-level rise, and greenhouse gas emissions are recognised as maritime pollution.
- Right to a healthy environment linked to human rights: The right to life, health, and housing imply a right to a clean and healthy environment. Climate refugees also cannot be returned to unsafe conditions.

Regional News

Tribe of Twel reigns supreme among bands



(St. Lucia Online): Acclaimed mas band Tribe of Twel secured the crown jewel Band of the Year title at Lucian Carnival, capping off a dominant season.

Their portrayal, Bel Wad Ek Soulye, dazzled judges, earning 436 points, a clear lead over rivals Xuvo Carnival Band (Isle of Angels, 423 points) and Just 4 Fun (MAS, 392 points).

But the victories didn't stop there. Tribe of Twel also swept Best Portrayal of Theme and Best Designed Band, proving their creative vision was unmatched. The band had dominated last week's King and Queen of the Bands competition.

Meanwhile, Xuvo shone in the Mas on the Move and Section of the Year categories, while Just 4 Fun's 25th-anniversary presentation, MAS, earned them the Spirit of Carnival award.

The individual competitions brought more glory for Tribe of Twel, with Jordan Augier and Sharon Tanner claiming first and second place in the Individual of the Year category. The Road March crown went to Dezral and Jardel's infectious hit, The Car.

Lucian Carnival Awards List

1. Band of the Year

- 1st: Tribe of Twel (Bel Wad Ek Soulye) – 436 points
- 2nd: Xuvo Carnival Band (Isle of Angels) – 423 points
- 3rd: Just 4 Fun (25 Years of MAS) – 392 points

2. Best Portrayal of Theme

- 1st: Tribe of Twel
- 2nd: Xuvo Carnival Band
- 3rd: Legends Carnival Band

3. Best Designed Band

- 1st: Tribe of Twel
- 2nd: Xuvo Carnival Band
- 3rd: Just 4 Fun

4. Mas on the Move

- 1st: Xuvo Carnival Band
- 2nd: Island Tribe
- 3rd: Legends Carnival Band

5. Section of the Year

- 1st: Xuvo (*Angele, the Ghost of Mas Past*)
- 2nd: Just 4 Fun (*Rapture*)
- 3rd: Tribe of Twel (*Kai Gouvene*)

6. Spirit of Carnival Award

- 1st: Just 4 Fun (*MAS*)
- 2nd: Xuvo (*Isle of Angels*)
- 3rd: Fuzion Mas (*Pixels*)

7. Individual of the Year

- 1st: Jordan Augier (*Unto Us a Child Is Born* – Tribe of Twel)
- 2nd: Sharon Tanner (*Madam Vaval* – Tribe of Twel)
- 3rd: Kareem Sifflet (*Ghost of Mas Past, Spirit of Mas Future* – Xuvo)

8. Junior Carnival Awards

- **Junior Band of the Year:** Nous Wivay Junior Carnival Band (*Spirit of Carnival – Tribute to Joan Hinkson*)
- 2nd: Just Us Kids (*Bel Koule*)
- 3rd: R&E Junior Carnival Band (*A World of Shapes and Colours*)

9. Best Ole Mas Portrayal

- 1st: Kennedy Boots Samuels (*Pee I Pee*)
- 2nd: Linus Modeste (*CIP Money*)
- 3rd: Julian Calderon (*The Prime Minister in a Dress to the Nation*)

10. J'ouvert Band of the Year

- 1st: Back in Time Inc (*Saint Lucia Carnival – A Place for All*)
- 2nd: Come to Me Tyre Shop (*Democracy Jam*)
- 3rd: J'ouvert Jammers (*Ole Mas the Legacy Continues*)

11. Road March

- 1st: *The Car* – Dezral ft. Jardel
- 2nd: *Freak Out* – Ricky T & Hollywood HP
- 3rd: *I Cry* – Calto

Regional News

PAGE 23

PM Skerrit commends ACSOM for steadfast partnership; choosing DA as home of institution



Prime-Minister-Roosevelt-Skerrit-speaking-at-ACSOM-White-Coat-Ceremony

Dominica News Online

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has expressed his sincere gratitude to the leadership of the American Canadian School of Medicine (ACSOM) for its steadfast partnership, choosing Dominica as the home of its institution, well as its continued commitment to building a medical school of high

repute and academic excellence.

He was speaking during the ACSOM's 5th White Coat Ceremony held recently.

"For those of you who do not know, I want to say to you that Dominica provided the United States with the most physicians at any given time over a very long time," he said. "And I have no doubt

that Dominica shall provide the world with the most physicians in any of our periods through ACSOM."

Skerrit continued, "Because if you want to do well in medicine, you come to study in Dominica."

He added, "As you grow, you are demonstrating that you are committed to quality, to equity, and to producing doctors who will serve communities around the world with compassion and professionalism."

According to the Prime Minister, his government celebrates the arrival of 52 new students at the ACSOM.

"I want to welcome you to Dominica. This is your home. This is a safe place to live and to study," he revealed. "And please make some time to enjoy our beautiful country... I am also informed that applications for

the upcoming January 2026 intake have already doubled compared to the same time last year."

This, Skerrit noted, is a clear sign of the growing interest and confidence in ACSOM.

"This is not ordinary growth, this is exponential," he indicated. "What ACSOM has built here, starting with just a few students and faculty members, has already blossomed into a fully functional, internationally aligned institution. This is resilience."

Skerrit went on to add, "This is what it looks like when people invest hard work to turn a dream into reality."

He pointed out that the impact of the American Canadian School of Medicine extends well beyond the boundaries of the campus.



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Infuriating Netanyahu, France's Macron says to recognize Palestinian state

(Reuters): France intends to recognise a Palestinian state in September at the United Nations General Assembly, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday, adding that he hoped it would help bring peace to the region, but drawing an immediate rebuke from Israel.

Macron, who announced the decision on X, published a letter sent to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas confirming France's intention to press ahead with Palestinian recognition and work to convincing other partners to follow suit.

"True to its historic commitment to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, I have decided that France will recognise the State of Palestine," Macron said.

"I will make this solemn announcement at the United Nations General Assembly next September."

France, home to Europe's largest Jewish and Muslim communities, will become the first major Western country to recognise a Palestinian state, potentially giving greater momentum to a movement so far dominated by smaller nations that are generally more critical of Israel.

The announcement sparked anger from Israel and is likely to get a tough re-



France's President Emmanuel Macron

sponse from Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned Macron's decision saying that such a move "rewards terror and risks creating another Iranian


proxy."

"A Palestinian state in these conditions would be a launch pad to annihilate Israel — not to live in peace beside it. Let's be clear: the Palestinians do not seek a

state alongside Israel; they seek a state instead of Israel," Netanyahu said in a post on X.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz described the move as "a disgrace and a surrender to terrorism," adding that Israel would not allow the establishment of a "Palestinian entity that would harm our security, endanger our existence."


In a diplomatic cable in June, the United States said it opposed any steps that would unilaterally recognise a Palestinian state even saying it could go against U.S. foreign policy interests and draw consequences.






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FCC clears way for \$8 billion Paramount-Skydance merger



(Reuters): The U.S. Federal Communications Commission on Thursday approved the merger between Paramount Global and Skydance Media, clearing the way for an \$8.4 billion sale of some of the most prominent names in entertainment, including the CBS broadcast television network, Paramount Pictures, and the Nickelodeon cable channel.

The FCC agreed to transfer broadcast licenses for 28 owned-and-operated CBS television stations to the new owners after Paramount paid \$16 million to settle a lawsuit filed by U.S. President Donald Trump over a “60 Minutes” interview with former Vice President Kamala Harris that aired in October.

FCC Chairman Brendan Carr has said the agency’s review of the proposed merger was not connected to the civil suit.

The approval came after Skydance and its investment partner, RedBird Capital, assured the FCC of their commitment to unbiased journalism that represents diverse viewpoints. Skydance said it would appoint an ombudsman to evaluate complaints of editorial bias or other concerns about CBS in an effort to promote transparency and increased accountability.

Paramount also eliminated its diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives to align with the Trump administration’s view that such affirmative action policies are discriminatory.

Carr said he welcomed “Skydance’s commitment to make significant changes at the once storied CBS broadcast network. In particular, Skydance has made written commitments to ensure that the new company’s programming embodies a diversity of viewpoints from across the political and ideological spectrum.”

Carr also hailed what he called a victory in “the FCC’s efforts to eliminate invidious forms of DEI discrimination.”

The FCC voted 2-1 to approve the deal, with Democratic FCC Commissioner Anna Gomez dissenting. “After months of cowardly capitulation to this Administration, Paramount finally got what it wanted. Unfortunately, it is the American public who will ultimately pay the price for its actions,” she said.

She added “in an unprecedented move, this once-independent FCC used its vast power to pressure Paramount to broker a private legal settlement and further erode press freedom.... Even more alarming, it is now imposing never-before-seen controls over newsroom decisions and editorial judgment, in direct violation of the First Amendment and the law.”

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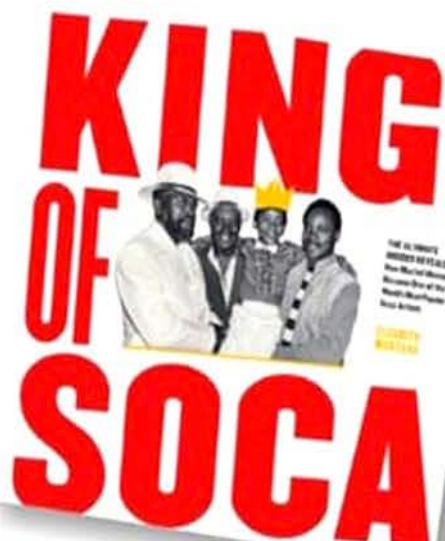


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Dozens of children and adults in Gaza have starved to death as in July as hunger surges

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Five starving children at a Gaza City hospital were wasting away, and nothing the doctors tried was working. The basic treatments for malnourishment that could save them had run out under Israel's blockade. The alternatives were ineffective. One after another, the babies and toddlers died over four days.

In greater numbers than ever, children hollowed up by hunger are overwhelming the Patient's Friends Hospital, the main emergency center for malnourished kids in northern Gaza.

The deaths last weekend also marked a change: the first seen by the center in children who had no preexisting conditions. Symptoms are getting worse, with children too weak to cry or move, said Dr. Rana Soboh, a nutritionist. In past months, most improved, despite supply shortages, but now patients stay longer and don't get better, she said.



Palestinian women caring for their malnourished babies

"There are no words in the face of the disaster we are in. Kids are dying before the world ... There is no uglier and more horrible phase than this," said Soboh, who works with the U.S.-based aid organization Medglobal, which supports the hospital.

This month, the hunger that has been building among Gaza's more than 2 million Palestinians passed a tipping point into accelerating death, aid workers and health staff say. Not only children — usually the most vulnerable — are falling victim under Israel's

blockade since March, but also adults.

In the past three weeks, at least 48 people died of causes related to malnutrition, including 28 adults and 20 children, the Gaza Health Ministry said Thursday. That's up from 10 children who died in the five previous months of 2025, according to the ministry.

The U.N reports similar numbers. The World Health Organization said Wednesday it has documented 21 children under 5 who died of causes related to malnutrition in 2025. The U.N. humanitarian office,

OCHA, said Thursday at least 13 children's deaths were reported in July, with the number growing daily.

"Humans are well developed to live with caloric deficits, but only so far," said Dr. John Kahler, Medglobal's co-founder and a pediatrician who volunteered twice in Gaza during the war. "It appears that we have crossed the line where a segment of the population has reached their limits"

"This is the beginning of a population death spiral," he said.

Sports News

Blackburn Palace to face Villa Lions in final of Fort Road League



Players of the Blackburn Palace football team.

Blackburn Palace will get a splendid opportunity to avenge a humiliating loss to the Villa Lions when both teams meet again in the final of the Fort Road Community Football League on Friday.

Blackburn Palace ended the unbeaten run of Group B winners Real Blizzard to secure their berth in Friday's final.

They snatched a one-nil victory against Real Blizzard in the second semi-final at the Fort Road playing field on Wednesday.

Diondre Harrigan struck the winner when he scored the only goal of the match in the 21st minute to oust Real Blizzard, who qualified for the semi-finals as Group B winners, with three wins in as many games.

The Villa Lions extended their unbeaten run to advance to the final by snatching a 3-2 victory in a penalty shootout against Police Enforcers in the first semi-final at the same venue on Tuesday.

The match was decided in the penalty shootout after both teams fought to a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation

play.

The Villa Lions qualified for the semi-finals as Group A winners. During the preliminary round-robin stage of the competition, the Villa Lions won all three Group A matches, including an 8-2 drubbing of Blackburn Palace.

But Blackburn Palace has a great opportunity to end Villa Lions unbeaten run and clinch the title in Friday's final.

Friday's final between Blackburn Palace and Villa Lions is slated to kick off at the Fort Road playing field at 5 pm. Eight teams, which were divided into two zones, participated in the competition.

Players of All Saints United in training



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MACHEL MONTANO

Sports News

PAGE 29

CWI launches free ticket offer for T20Is in St. Kitts

Cricket West Indies (CWI) is turning up the heat in St. Kitts with a sizzling ticket promotion for the upcoming T20 International series against Australia.

As the West Indies face off against the Aussies on July 25, 26, and 28 from 7pm each day at Warner Park, CWI is calling on all Kittitians and cricket lovers from the sister island, Nevis, to come out in full support—with a Buy One, Get One FREE ticket offer now available on General Admission and Party Stand tickets.

Fans can expect an electrifying cricketing atmosphere—Full Ah Energy—as the West Indies go head-to-head with one of the world's top teams in three action-packed matches.

“These games in St. Kitts are crucial for the team as we seek to climb our way back into the series and con-



Cricket fans gives a standing ovation as West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell walks back to the pavilion during the second T20I against Australia at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. (Getty Images)

tinue to build momentum towards the 2026 T20 World Cup,” said CWI CEO Chris Dehring.

“We want to see Warner Park rocking and alive with Caribbean passion, and this special ticket offer is our way of making sure every fan gets the chance to be part of the experience. Bring your crew, your flags, and your energy—this is

home-ground advantage at its best.”

The buy-one-get-one-free promotion is valid for general admission and party stand tickets only. The offer does not apply to hospitality or VIP packages.

Fans purchasing online can select the “TWICE THE VIBES – BUY 1, GET 1 FREE” option, proceed to

“Book The Best Seat” to buy their preferred ticket, and then select their free ticket. Fans buying at the Warner Park box office will receive the offer automatically.

It’s an opportunity for fans to witness world-class cricket, cheer on their regional heroes, and turn Warner Park into a fortress of maroon pride.

Additionally, special water taxi and ferry rates are now available exclusively for the Full Ah Energy T20 matches on July 25, 26, and 28.

Oualie Water Taxi from Oualie to Warner Park Round Trip for EC\$80, while Apple Syder Ferry from Charlestown to Basseterre Round Trip for EC\$50.

Late services will be available to transport fans back to Nevis after each match.



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**FRI
JULY 25**

FACE OFF
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**SAT
JULY 26**

LIAT 2020 T-SHIRT MAS
ST. JOHN'S

**SUN
JULY 27**

GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE
COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND

**MON
JULY 28**

JUNIOR CARNIVAL PARADE
ST. JOHN'S/CARNIVAL CITY
FREE

**TUES
JULY 29**

**OASIS WATER
JUNIOR PARTY
MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | FREE

**WED
JULY 30**

**KARI SOCA
INTERNATIONAL
SOCA MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS
JULY 31**

**BURNING FLAMES
40TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**
CARNIVAL CITY

DRINK TILL YA WEAK
BOAT CRUISE

**LONG BAY LAGER
MELTING POT**
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM
\$100 (GENERAL)
\$350 (HOUSE OF VIBES)

EMANCIPATION WATCH NIGHT
ARG / BOTANICAL GARDENS

**FRI
AUG 1**

EMANCIPATION DAY
CALYPSO MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$30

**SAT
AUG 2**

RISE
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM

CARNIVAL DREAMZ
HODGES BAY

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PANORAMA**
CARNIVAL CITY | BPM | \$40

**SUN
AUG 3**

D BREAKFAST FETE
SPLASH ANTIGUA

INET PARTY MONARCH
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$40

**MON
AUG 4**

J'OUVERT
ST. JOHN'S

**MONDAY MAS
PARADE**
ST. JOHN'S

**TUES
AUG 5**

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OF BANDS**
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LAST LAP
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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:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
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OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Friday 1st August, 2025

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

"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Parris hails BCA's programme for women's u-19 champs success



The Barbados team, which won the 2025 Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship in Trinidad in July.

With a beaming sense of pride and satisfaction, Barbados Under-19 women's head coach Robin Parris continues to relish the fruits of a well-cultivated development system, one he believes has not only led to a historic Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship title but is also propelling young talent to the next level.

Barbados captured their maiden crown in the regional tournament with a commanding seven-wicket win over the Leeward Islands in Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday.

Yet, for Parris, the celebrations extended far beyond the trophy, as five of his standout players—captain Theanny Herbert-Mayers, Asabi Callender, NaiJanni Cumberbatch, Eboni Brathwaite, and Sabriel Headley—were swiftly called up to join senior West Indies

and West Indies Under-19 training camps.

Parris was quick to credit the Barbados Cricket Association's (BCA) Young Gems programme for laying the foundation for this success. The initiative focuses on girls between the ages of 7 and 18, providing coaching, mentorship, and a visible pathway into professional cricket.

"I'm always preaching the pathway system, depending on how far you want to go. The pathway system of the Young Gems targets primary schools, secondary schools, and girls who are interested in cricket—trying to let them see that there is a career in cricket. This win is dedicated to the Young Gems to show them the way that they can develop into players," Parris told Barbados Today newspaper.

Among them, 19-year-old Callender, who finished the tournament as

the third-highest run-scorer with 97 runs, is now in Antigua and Barbuda training with the senior West Indies women's squad.

Meanwhile, the competition's leading wicket-taker, NaiJanni Cumberbatch (17 wickets), along with Herbert-Mayers, Brathwaite, and Headley, are all in Trinidad and Tobago preparing for a Youth T20 International series against the United States from July 26 to August 3.

He cited players like Jadaeya Holder and Zoe McCallister as glowing examples of the programme's success. Both started as Young Gems and have now progressed to the Under-19 team.

"So they are evidence that the Young Gems programme is working. They've graduated up to Under-19s, so that's the path that we want to go," the coach said.

Parris also lauded the leadership of 16-year-old Herbert-Mayers, whose appointment as captain drew questions from some quarters. But he said the young skipper proved her mettle both on and off the field.

In fact, he pointed out that much of the team's cohesion and chemistry stemmed from intentional efforts at team building, something often overlooked in junior sport.

"Theanny was a new captain, but she's been with the squad playing regional Under-19 for five (or) six years now, so that transition was not difficult at all. She took it very smartly, not minding the little comments on the side. The team took it in stride, and we did well," Parris noted.

Sports News

PAGE 33

CWI lauds Sir Clive Lloyd's historic honour at Old Trafford



Farokh Engineer (left) and Sir Clive Lloyd share a moment in front of the newly re-named stand at Old Trafford Cricket Ground.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Thursday expresses immense pride and congratulations to Sir Clive Lloyd following the historic naming of a stand in his honour at Old Trafford Cricket Ground by Lancashire County Cricket Club.

The renaming ceremony, held on Wednesday, July 23, ahead of the start of the fourth Test match between England and India, also honoured former Lancashire and India wicket-keeper Farokh Engineer, Sir Clive's teammate during the 1970s, in recognition of both players' exceptional service to

the club and international cricket.

The stand next to the club's media centre, known as the B Stand, will now bear Lloyd's name on its upper tier and Engineer's on the lower tier.

"Sir Clive Lloyd exemplifies the very best of West Indies cricket—excellence, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to the highest standards," said CWI Chief Executive Officer Chris Dehring.

"His achievements at both the county and international levels have inspired generations of Caribbean crick-

eters and continue to serve as a beacon for young players across our region."

Sir Clive's illustrious career included leading the West Indies to consecutive World Cup victories in 1975 and 1979, during an international career that spanned 110 Test matches and 87 One Day Internationals (ODI).

His 20-year association with Lancashire, beginning in 1968, saw him become a central figure of the club's golden era.

Sir Clive scored 30 first-class centuries for Lancashire and amassed 12,764 runs in 219 matches across 18 seasons, which helped secure multiple trophies, including three successive Gillette Cup victories from 1970 to 1972.

This latest honour comes a month after the legends of that famed first Cricket World Cup win in 1975 were celebrated and feted in Barbados by Cricket West Indies in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of their victory.

Cricket West Indies joins the global cricket community in congratulating Sir Clive Lloyd on this latest and well-deserved recognition and expresses deep appreciation to the Lancashire County Cricket Club for honouring one of the game's true legends.

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Caricom PMs demand urgent review of Windies cricket



Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, right, celebrates after routing the West Indies for 27 with the dismissal of Jayden Seales, second left, on the third day of the Third Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Monday, July 14, 2025. (Getty Images)

The Caribbean Community (Caricom) Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) has issued a clarification call for Cricket West Indies (CWI) to urgently undertake a sweeping and transparent review of its governance, leadership, and development systems in the wake of the West Indies team's crushing 176-run loss to Australia at Sabina Park on July 14.

Describing the current state of Caribbean cricket, particularly in its longest format, as deeply troubling, the PMSC said the performance—bowled out for 27—marked a moment of reckoning for the regional game and signaled the need for serious intro-

spection and reform.

“The concerns extend from youth development and talent retention to governance arrangements and long-term strategy. The team's recent performance is a moment of reckoning for this cherished Caribbean institution. Every cricket match in which our West Indies team competes resonates far beyond the boundary,” the PMSC said in a statement on Wednesday.

While reaffirming its unwavering support for the sport, the PMSC stressed that CWI must now take bold steps to address persistent issues that have stunted West Indies cricket for years. These include

management inefficiencies, outdated economic models, and underdeveloped talent pathways.

“We once again urge Cricket West Indies to undertake a thorough and transparent review of its governance, leadership, management, economic models, and development frameworks underpinning the sport,” the committee said.

To reinforce its case, the PMSC pointed to several authoritative reports commissioned over the past two decades—all offering strategic roadmaps that, it said, have seen limited implementation. These include the 2007 Patterson Report, the 2015 Barriteau

Report, and the 2020 Wehby Report—each proposing sweeping governance and structural reforms.

The committee pointed out that the lack of real progress on these recommendations is troubling, as it urged CWI to begin implementing the concrete actions outlined in those documents.

In a bid to break the cycle of inertia, the sub-committee announced plans to establish a special review committee comprising a diverse group of stakeholders—including cricketing legends, members of the private sector, and academic voices.

This group will be tasked with reviewing the major reports, consolidating key proposals, and charting a forward-looking action plan.

“Cricket West Indies and the National Cricket Associations will be invited to be a part of the consultation and review process,” the statement read.

“Caricom remains committed to engaging with CWI and the regional public to support bold, strategic reforms that will be designed to rebuild public confidence and restore West Indies cricket to the pinnacle of global cricket excellence in all formats of the game,” it ended.

All Saints United to contest CFU Club Shield this weekend

Reigning back-to-back national Premier Division champions, All Saints United, will depart the island on Friday to compete in the 2025 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Club Shield Tournament in Trinidad and Tobago.

All Saints United will be making their debut in the competition, which will involve 24 club teams from across the Caribbean from July 26 to August 3.

The clubs have been divided into four groups of six, and each team will contest two matches in the competition that will be played at the Auto Bolden Stadium in Couva, Larry Gomes Stadium in Malabar, and Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port-of-Spain.

The winner and runners-up will qualify for the 2025 CONCACAF Caribbean Cup.

All Saints United will compete in Group C alongside Police FC of Trinidad, SV Transvaal of Suriname, Weymouth Wales of Barbados, SCSA Eagles of St. Maarten, and Wolues FC of the British Virgin Islands.

The 2024 CFU Club Shield champions, Arnett Gardens of Jamaica, will compete in Group D.

All Saints United will launch their campaign against SCSA Eagles of St. Maarten in the second game of a group C double-header at the Larry Gomes Stadium on Sunday, July 27, at 4 pm.

SV Transvaal of Suriname will



All Saints United Head Coach Schyan Jeffers

face Wolues FC of the British Virgin Islands in the opening Group C affair at the same venue at 2 pm.

Police FC of Trinidad and Weymouth Wales of Barbados will clash in the other Group C match at Hasely Crawford Stadium on Sunday at 7 pm.

All the teams will play their second and final round-robin match in Group C on Tuesday, July 29, at 4 pm.

All Saints United will tackle SV Transvaal at Larry Gomes Stadium, Weymouth Wales will take on Wolues FC at Ato Bolden Stadium, and Police FC will clash with SCSA Eagles at Hasely Crawford Stadium.

The four group winners will advance to the semi-finals, with the

Group A winner facing the Group B winner and the Group C winner facing the Group D winner.

The finalists will qualify for the 2025 CONCACAF Caribbean Cup, where the clubs can continue their progress towards a berth in the 2026 CONCACAF Champions Cup.

Established in 2018, the Caribbean Club Shield has a primary objective of advancing professional football throughout the Caribbean. Participation is open to semi-professional and amateur teams holding current championship titles in their respective domestic leagues.

The tournament format involves a group stage, semi-finals, a third-place match, and a final.

Club Franciscain of Martinique won the first edition in 2018, followed by SV Robinhood of Suriname in 2019. The tournament did not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tournament restarted in 2022, with Puerto Rico's Bayamón FC becoming the first club to win the tournament as a host.

In 2023, SV Robinhood emerged victorious in both the Caribbean Club Shield and the Caribbean Cup, solidifying its position as the most successful team in the history of the Caribbean Club Shield with two championship titles.

Arnett Gardens became the first Jamaican side to win the CFU Club Shield during the 2024 edition.