

All Saints West MP Anthony Smith Jnr: My support is broad-based

Story on Page 2



Media representatives join with health officials to craft guidelines for the responsible reporting of suicides at 5-day workshop

All Saints West MP Anthony Smith Jnr. responds to Harold Lovell's recent announcement

The parliamentary representative for the All Saints West constituency, Hon. Anthony Smith Jr. has responded to the recent announcement from former UPP Political Leader, Harold Lovell, that he intends to contest the next general elections in the All Saints West constituency on behalf of the UPP.

In a public statement, MP Smith, the Minister of Agriculture, has underscored his broad-based appeal and his history of service to the people of the constituency as among his strengths.

“My campaign was never built on division. In fact, we made a special effort to reach out across the aisle to ABLP supporters, to undecided voters, to anyone who wanted better for their community. Many of them responded, not because they left their party, but because they trusted me, because they saw someone who was already doing the work, long before a campaign banner went up,” he declared.

The full text of MP Smith's statement is published below;

My dear people of All Saints
West,

I come to you with a grateful heart, as always, grateful for your continued support, your faith in me, and most importantly, for your love of community.

As we move forward together, I feel it is necessary to speak directly and honestly about something that many of you have noticed

yourselves.

In recent times, we've seen Harold Lovell suddenly shows up and presents himself as if he now has a deep concern for the people of All Saints West. But let's be real, this is not where Lovell invested his energy or interest over the years. His political home was in

ger roots. We know who has been with us and who only comes around when it's politically convenient.

The narrative that I was elected by UPP supporters alone is false and, quite frankly, disrespectful to the diverse group of residents who live in All Saints West. My election victory, wasn't

and after. From my teenage years serving as Treasurer and President of the local sports club, to my involvement in church and small business, to my daily conversations with elders and peers alike, this is not just where I work. This is where I belong. That sense of duty to serve didn't start with me. It comes from my family, who taught me to love and serve; it fuels the way I represent you.

My campaign was never built on division. In fact, we made a special effort to reach out across the aisle to ABLP supporters, to undecided voters, to anyone who wanted better for their community. Many of them responded, not because they left their party, but because they trusted me, because they saw someone who was already doing the work, long before a campaign banner went up. So I say this clearly; I am not just the MP for UPP voters. I am the MP for every single resident of All Saints West. Red or blue, young and old, you are my priority, and you always will be. Let's not be distracted by sudden visitors. Let us continue the work that we began together, grounded in honesty, service, and real connection. I'm not new here, I've always been here and I will always be here for you with continued love and respect.

Hon. Anthony Smith Jr.
Member of Parliament,
All Saints West

**STATEMENT FROM
HON. ANTHONY SMITH JR.**



My campaign was never built on division. In fact, we made a special effort to reach out across the aisle to ABLP supporters, to undecided voters, to anyone who wanted better for their community.

Fort Road and City East, where he spent most of his time and, frankly, where many were left disappointed by his leadership, genuine connection and his lack of follow-through.

Now, having fallen short elsewhere, he turns his attention here, hoping you've forgotten, but the people of All Saints West have long memories and even stron-

a party victory, it was the people's victory. People from all walks of life and across political lines stood up and said, "We want someone who knows us, someone who has been with us, and someone who genuinely loves us."

I have always been a part of my community and constituency, not just during elections, but every day before

Media representatives, health officials attend workshop on responsible reporting of suicides etc.

The Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) are combining efforts to host a workshop on responsible reporting of suicides and other issues related to mental health.

The weeklong workshop opened on Monday at the conference room of the Treasury Building and it brings together media representatives and health officials including doctors and nurses who work with at-risk individuals in the society.

Conducted by consultants – Tanya Fernandez and Dr. Nikhil Jain – who are working alongside the World Health Organisation/PAHO in conducting similar workshops across the Caribbean.

“We are here to work along with the media to promote ethical and responsible reporting on suicides. We are going to be here for the next four days on this exercise. On Monday, we worked along with a small group of about twenty persons included representatives of the media, government as well as mental health professionals and the object of the session was to contextualize WHO guidelines on responsible reporting and to understand how this will apply in the context of Antigua and Barbuda,” Fernandez reported.

She described the session as ‘great’ as participants spoke about responsible reporting and the role that the media play as well as looking at the media landscape in the country including media consumption behavior as well as to delve deeper into some of the social and economic factors driving mental health issues and suicide related issues in the



Consultants – Tanya Fernandez and Dr. Nikhil Jain



country.

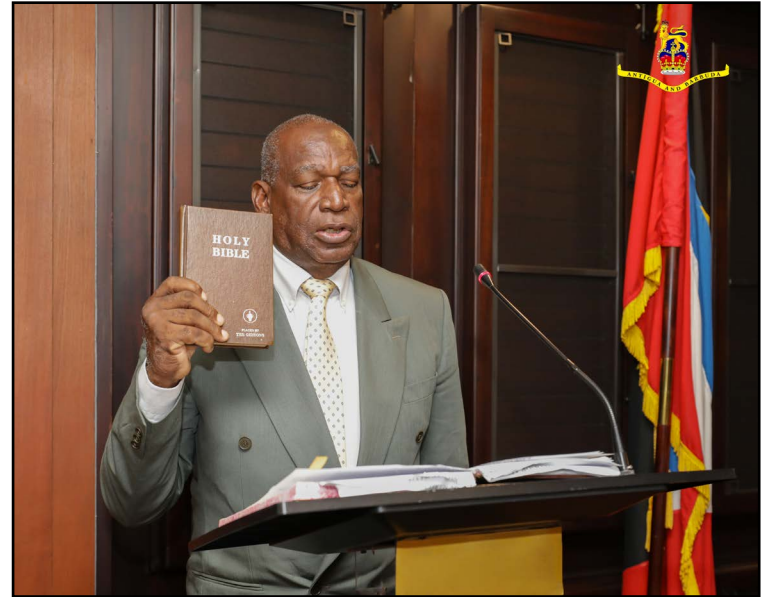
“We also brainstormed on some ideas for improving reporting and implementation of guidelines in the country’s context,” she stated.

Over the coming days, the workshop will have a more detailed in-depth training with a larger group of media professionals and other sector representatives and it will dive deeper into specific areas such

research around media and suicide prevention and what are some of the ‘best practices’ in use in other countries.

Monday’s session featured robust discussions on many of the topics raised with participants freely sharing their ideas and experiences around the subject of the responsible reporting of suicides and mental health issues.

Lt Col Alando Michael Sworn in as Member of the Industrial Court of Antigua and Barbuda



Lieutenant Colonel Alando Michael of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force is the newest member of the Industrial Court of Antigua and Barbuda.

On Monday, the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams officiated at the swearing-in ceremony for Lt. Col. Michael. This appointment marks the completion of the Court's full complement of members.

Lt Col Michael took two solemn oaths during the ceremony: The Oath of Secrecy and the Oath of Office, pledging to uphold the duties and responsibilities entrusted to him with integrity and confidentiality.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney warmly congratulated Lt Col Michael on his appointment and expressed confidence in his ability to contribute significantly to

the fair and just resolution of industrial disputes in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Industrial Court plays a vital role in maintaining harmonious labour relations within the country. It is tasked with adjudicating disputes between employers and employees, interpreting labour laws, and ensuring compliance with employment contracts and collective agreements. The Court's work is essential to fostering a stable and productive work environment that benefits both workers and businesses alike.

With Lt Col Alando Michael's appointment, the Industrial Court of Antigua and Barbuda is now fully staffed to continue its important mission of promoting fair labour practices and contributing to the social and economic development of the nation.

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Althea Vanderpoole Banahene awarded Long Service Officer of the Year for the Caribbean Award 2025

One of the senior foreign service officers attached to the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London, Althea Vanderpoole-Banahene, has been awarded the Long Service Officer of the Year for the Caribbean Award 2025 at a ceremony hosted by the Embassy Network in the United Kingdom.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs in St. John's as well as the High Commission Office in the UK have joined in offering congratulations to Vanderpoole-Banahene.

In a media release, the High Commission said this accolade recognises her service of over 25 years to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and her enduring contributions to the diplomatic corps in London. Vanderpoole-Banahene's exemplary leadership during key transitions, mentorship of junior diplomats, polished professionalism and deep engagement with the UK-based diaspora exemplify the values celebrated by the award.

During her career, Vanderpoole-Banahene has served in every major diplomatic, administrative and consular capacity within the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission, and has served under every High Commissioner since her appointment. She was instrumental in establishing and managing its internal operations, including: finance, staffing and relocation logistics.

She coordinated official programmes, high-level meetings and diplomatic functions for multiple High Commissioners and served with distinction as Acting High Commissioner during transitional periods. She has also represented Antigua and Barbuda at key cultural, ceremonial and diplomatic events, including CARICOM, the Commonwealth and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

She now serves as Diaspora and Consular Officer using her deep ties with the Antiguan and Barbudan commu-



Foreign Service Officer, Althea Vanderpoole-Banahene (right).


nity in the UK to strengthen national identity and connectivity.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, praised Vanderpoole-Banahene's enduring commitment: "On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I commend Althea Vanderpoole-Banahene for her decades of service. She has been a pillar of professionalism and a mentor to future diplomats. Her

commitment has strengthened our country's representation on the world stage and deepened our engagement with our citizens abroad. We are proud that her dedication has been recognised at this level."

High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill also praised Vanderpoole Banahene: "Vanderpoole Banahene is one of the most steadfast diplomats I have had the honour to work with. Her sage advice, impeccable protocol knowledge, and elegant diplomacy have strengthened the foundation of this mission over the years. She has not only served this office but helped to shape and sustain its institutional memory. This award could not be more well deserved."


The Embassy Long Service Officer of the Year Award is an initiative by the Embassy Network to recognise the service of locally employed staff who are the institutional memory of their diplomatic missions.





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GG among a group honoured in Swetes Village



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams returned to his home village of Swetes on Sunday for the historic unveiling of the Swetes Men 4 Life Wall of Fame, a lasting tribute to the outstanding men and women whose service and achievements have shaped the community and the nation.

The Wall of Fame features honourees across diverse fields including politics, education, business, sports, community service, the clergy, and exemplary achievement. Among those honoured were Sir Rodney himself, recognised for his distinguished service in medicine, politics, and national leadership, as well as his enduring contributions to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

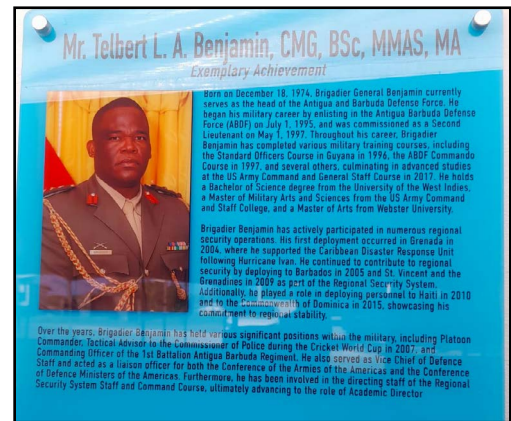
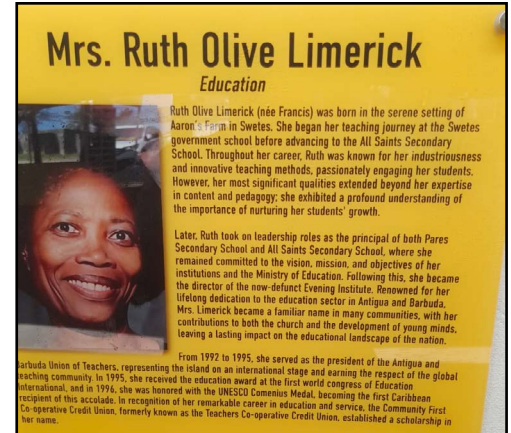
During a walk along the Wall of Fame, the Governor General paused to reflect on the legacies of several inductees, including Brigadier Telbert Benjamin,



the late Educator and Union leader, Ruth Limerick and other distinguished achievers. In a moment of special significance, he viewed the plaques dedicated to his late parents, Sir Ernest Williams and Lady Irene B. Williams, both of whom were celebrated for their decades of commitment to education, public works, and community upliftment.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney spoke with deep emotion about his upbringing in Swetes, crediting the village's nurturing environment and the example of his parents for shaping his life's path. He commended the organisers for creating a permanent testament to the resilience, unity, and potential of the Swetes community, expressing the hope that future generations would be inspired by the lives commemorated on the Wall.

The ceremony featured musical per-



formances by the Irene B. Williams Steel Pan Orchestra, personal reflections from honourees in various sectors, and blessings over the Wall. The celebration brought together villagers, families, and well-wishers in a moving display of community pride and heritage.

Photos: Sir Rodney Williams presenting his memories of life growing up in Swetes, his walk along the Swetes Men 4 Life Wall of Fame, examples of the plaques featuring Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Telbert Benjamin and the late Mrs. Ruth Limerick



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Local News

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs interns visit National Park

Several young people who have spent the past several weeks as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs' annual Internship Programme, participated in a historical tour of the National Park area at English Harbour.

The group of enthusiastic interns visited Nelson's Dockyard, the Interpretation Centre, Blockhouse, and Shirley Heights landmarks that showcase Antigua and Barbuda's unique historical legacy and offer breathtaking views of the island. The tour provided a hands-on opportunity for interns to deepen their understanding of the nation's cultural identity, while also taking a well-deserved break from office activities to refresh their mental and emotional wellness.

For many of the participants, the experience was both enlightening and inspiring. *"Learning about the history of these sites makes me appreciate where we've come from and how important it is to represent Antigua and Barbuda with pride,"* shared one intern. Another noted, *"It's encouraging to see that the Ministry values our personal growth just as much as our professional skills."*

"This programme is about more than preparing young people for the workforce it's about shaping future leaders who understand their roots, value their mental health, and carry a deep sense of national identity," said Permanent Secretary Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim. "Exposure to our history and culture is essential in building the confidence, character, and commitment we expect from tomorrow's diplomats and decision-makers."

The Ministry's internship initiative is part of a broader youth empowerment agenda that combines workplace readiness with holistic personal development. The annual gathering has become a flagship element of this initiative, offering young professionals both learning and life-enriching experiences.





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More tangible assistance in agriculture from the PRC



Group of 25 traveled to China for specialised training in agricultural equipment

A group of twenty-five persons have traveled to China to undergo training to

sharpen their skills in specialized agricultural machinery. Prime Minister Gaston Browne has wished the group success in their endeavours in China highlighting the significance of such training to the continued growth and development of the agricultural sector. “This is how we build the future, investing in our people, modernizing our tools, and bringing innovation home to strengthen food security and boost our agriculture industry,” he stated.



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Press Release

Register now for Groundbreaking Aquaculture Training Seminar

St. John's, Antigua – July 31, 2025

The Department of the Blue Economy, in partnership with the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center (FFRC) of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, is pleased to announce the upcoming Training Course on Ocean based Aquaculture Development and Management to be held in the conference room of the Villa Polyclinic from September 1st to September 21st, 2025.

We encourage all interested citizens, especially those in the fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, marine conservation, youth entrepreneurship, women empowerment and environmental sustainability sectors, to register for this unique, high-level training opportunity. Participation is open to both public and private sector professionals, entrepreneurs, and students passionate about advancing the Blue Economy in Antigua and Barbuda.

Why You Should Register:

- **Learn from Global Experts:** The program will be delivered by leading fisheries and aquaculture scientists from China, including professors from the East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute and the FFRC.
- **Gain Hands-On Skills:** Participants will receive intensive training in marine fish breeding, aquafeed production, crab hatchery techniques, seaweed farming, and more, combining lectures with practical sessions and field visits.
- **Advance Your Career and Business:** This training provides knowledge that can empower Antiguan to build sustainable aquaculture enterprises, improve fisheries management, and expand their economic prospects.
- **Support National Development:** By participating, you'll be contributing to Antigua and Barbuda's goal of developing a modern, resilient, and self-sufficient Blue Economy.

How to Register:

Registration takes place from August 1st to 31st, 2025, from 9AM to 4PM at the office of the Department of the Blue Economy in Jasmin Court on Friars Hill Road. Early expressions of interest are encouraged. Please request an application form. For more information, please contact the Blue Economy coordination office at: (268)562-9730

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Neither 'fish nor fowl'; the view from European dependencies in the Caribbean



From Jamaica to Trinidad, from Barbados to the Bahamas, the month of August has been one of celebration of the Emancipation season in the Caribbean. It is a summer of festivities and festivals which this year will culminate in CARIFESTA, that week-long cultural gathering of the Caribbean family that starts on August 22nd in Barbados.

It is, however, also a season of reflection. We must ask ourselves what does Emancipation really mean, especially for those of us who are still colonies? What does it mean for those of us who have achieved independence decades ago? And what does it mean for those of us who are neither fish nor fowl? In which category do you think St. Martin falls?

The Emancipation Proclamations by which European slaving nations legally freed those they had enslaved for centuries did not come as a moral conversion. It was not a gift. It was in fact a surrender, even capitulation if you will, to the persistent resistance of the enslaved which found a

victorious example in the success of the Haitian Revolution in 1804. The impact of this victory reverberated throughout the world and continues to be felt up till today.

Emancipation did not mean that the slaving nations relinquished the territories they had invaded, usurped and colonized. No. They did not give up the land. They did not give up control over the lives of the people who had won their freedom through their relentless struggle. Only Haiti succeeded in taking control of the land and established a sovereignty of its people over that land.

At Emancipation, the newly freed were still considered property, the loss of which their "owners" had to be compensated for financially. If they were not "property" there would have been no reason to pay their enslavers one dime. When it proclaimed the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833, almost 30 years after the victory of the Haitian Revolution, Britain took a loan of about £20 million (the equivalent of

around £16.5 billion today) to pay over 40,000 slave owners, most of them in the Caribbean, for the loss of their "property." Not a single farthing was paid to the enslaved. Why? Again because they were even at Emancipation still considered "property."

In other words, the British government served as an insurance company, settling claims of slave owners at Emancipation, as if Emancipation was a natural disaster! Britain only finished paying off that loan in 2015! That's a mere 10 years ago.

It got worse. Not only did the slave owners receive compensation for the loss of their "property," the newly freed people had to go through a period of 10 years of "apprenticeship," doing the same work they had been doing before Emancipation without remuneration. This was a "bonus" (or rather, another bonanza) for the slave owners. Emancipation was a sweet deal for them. They got paid handsomely for the "loss of their property", retained ownership of their plantations and received an additional 10 years of free labor as apprenticeship.

The Dutch used a similar playbook in Surinam and Curacao and its dependencies (which included St. Martin). The compensation package for the Dutch slave owners at Emancipation in 1863 was 300 guilders "per head" in Surinam, 200 guilders in Curacao and 100 guilders in St. Martin because the enslaved ancestors in the Dutch half of the island were deemed "free" due to the fact that Slavery had been abolished in the French controlled half of St.

Martin since 1848!

France also did the same, paying 126 million francs as compensation to slave owners at Emancipation in 1848, 44 years after Haiti defeated Napoleon Bonaparte. It paid an additional 6 million francs annually for 20 years, for a total of 246 million francs!

And it had the gall to demand that Haiti pay 150 million gold francs in 1825 as indemnity to compensate French slave owners for the “loss of their property.” The amount was eventually reduced to 90 million gold francs which Haiti only finished paying in 1947, an amount equivalent to US\$560 million in today’s money.

In the US, the state paid slave owners in the District of Columbia \$300 per enslaved person for their freedom. The abolition of Slavery was, in fact, the root cause of the Civil War, the effects of which are still very present with us up to this day.

Emancipation did not come with any political or economic power for the newly freed ancestors. In fact, the Emancipation Proclamation did not signify any change of heart on the part of the enslaver; in

their heart of hearts, they still held on to the core belief that Blacks are inferior beings. Thus Slavery mutated into colonialism and the struggle for political independence succeeded the revolt and resistance against Slavery.

Independence came without any golden handshake. As a matter of fact, the colonizers have never really left. Their flags may have been lowered in the newly independent nations but the structures of control and the main frame of colonial institutions remained intact, especially in the financial, judicial and educational sectors. Dismantling or rather decolonizing these institutions remains a major challenge for the new independent nations. However, the progress achieved so far would have been impossible without political independence.

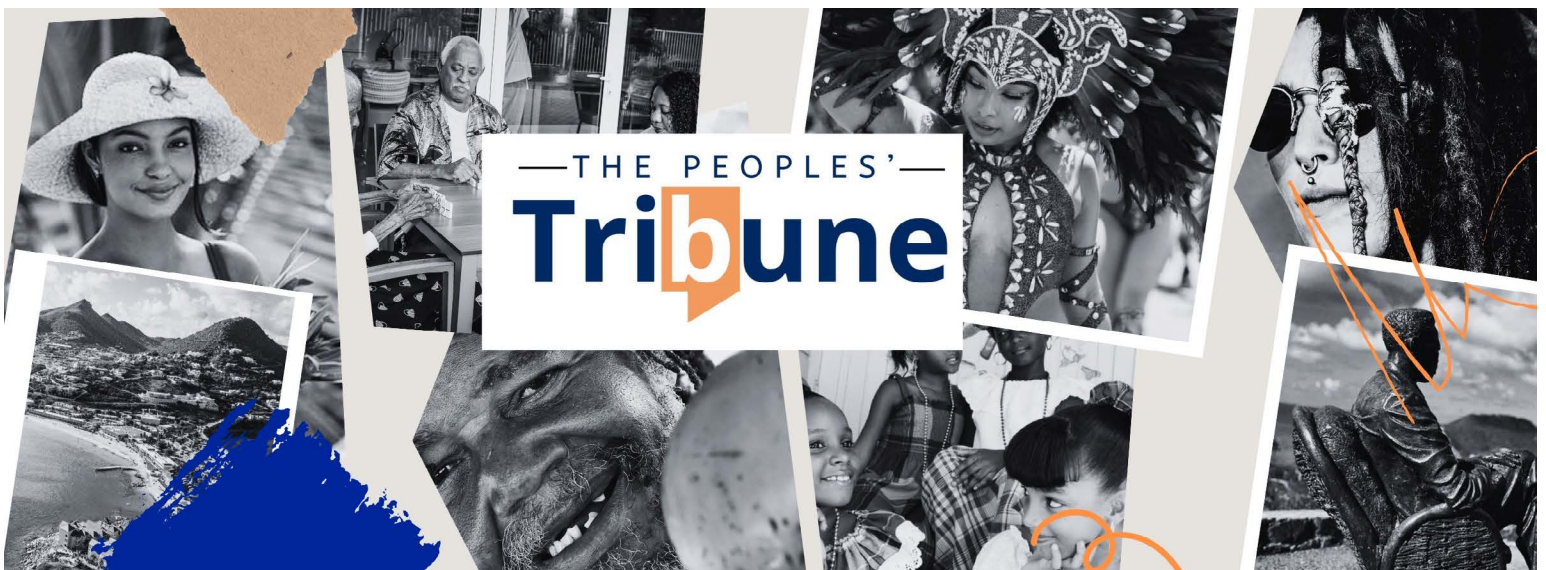
For the territories still under colonial control, it can be argued that Emancipation without independence is no emancipation at all. Colonialism remains a straightjacket that constrains any meaningful political action that could free up the latent talent and creativity of the people. Not having the power over one’s

own destiny is, in my opinion, Slavery 2.0. It is agreeing that a certain group of people have an inherent, God-given superiority over us.

To counter this perspective, the Dutch came up with the Kingdom Charter of 1954, declaring that the remainder of its colonies in the Caribbean were “equal partners” within the Kingdom. The reality is, of course, vastly different. The Charter was a ruse to make the rest of the world believe that it no longer had colonies and as such had no further obligations to submit periodic reports about its dependent territories to the UN. That is the constitutional status in which we find ourselves today - being neither fish nor fowl.

The confusion is deliberate. It is intended to paralyze us politically and make independence a non-issue. It is meant to prevent us from taking the next logical step after Emancipation, which is independence. It is clear therefore that the process of emancipation will continue to be incomplete and even elusive until we decide to seek independence for our beloved island.

Reprinted from The Peoples’ Tribune



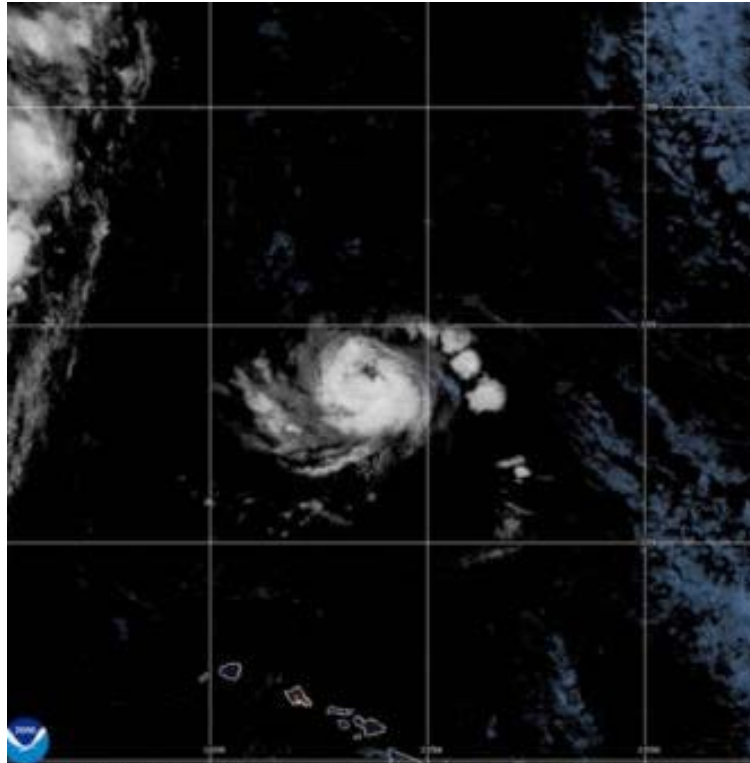
Regional News

Tropical Storm Erin forms in Atlantic and Hurricane Henriette strengthens in the Pacific

Tropical Storm Erin formed Monday in the eastern tropical Atlantic Ocean, just west of the Cabo Verde Islands, as Hurricane Henriette strengthened in the Pacific Ocean well away from Hawaii, forecasters said.

There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect for either storm, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said.

Erin was about 280 miles (451 kilometres) west-northwest of the Cabo Verde Islands, with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (72 kph),



11 Aug 2025 14:10Z - NOAA/NESDIS/STAR - GOES-West - GEOCOLOR Composite - EP012025

the NHC said.

It was moving west at about 20 mph (32 kph).

Gradual strengthening was forecast over the next several days.

Hurricane Henriette was a Category 1 storm on Monday.

Henriette had maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (137 kph), the NHC said, and was about 525 miles (845 kilometres) northwest of Honolulu.

Additional strengthening was possible Monday, with weakening over the next few days. (AP)



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- Mango & Pineapple Eating Competition



Holness announces general election to be held on anniversary of 2020 victory; nomination day set for August 18



Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness on Sunday set the stage for a fierce political battle, sending Jamaicans to the polls on September 3 in an announcement that sent thousands of Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) supporters into a frenzy in Half-Way Tree, St Andrew.

The date sets the stage for a rematch between the JLP and the opposition People's National Party (PNP) and marks the anniversary of the 2020 general election in which the ruling party thrashed the Opposition 49-14.

In a charged atmosphere, punctuated by intermittent showers and bell-ringing, vuvuzela-blowing Labourites, Holness also announced that the nomination of candidates will take place on August 18.

"We take the resources and we make them more. We are good stewards and we ask you the people, the masters, to make a judgement to make a choice on who will steward your affairs," said Holness, who indicated that early Sunday he advised Governor General Sir Patrick Allen to set processes in motion, including the dissolution of

Parliament.

His announcement comes more than a month after PNP General Secretary Dr Dayton Campbell called for a rematch while at a PNP meeting in Manchester North Western, where he called the results of 2020 a "fluke".

"We are ready for a rematch. We are going to have a rematch. We are demanding a rematch with the Labourites. And when that rematch comes they are going to see that all fruits ripe because everything green is now orange," he said, adding that the base of the PNP is awake and independent voters are with the party.

Responding to the announcement on Sunday, Opposition Leader Mark Golding said Holness had no choice but to announce the dates he did, stating that he painted himself into a corner.

Golding said it's unprecedented that his general secretary was able to on Saturday accurately predict the dates.

"It's because he had no options really. Had he been in a position to confidently move forward into an election he

would have called it long ago. But we are ready; we are prepared. We have done the work. Our party is united and strong," said Golding.

He criticised Holness over his uncertified statutory declarations, calling for Jamaicans to judge Holness on that when they go to the polls weeks from now.

However, moments earlier, Holness slammed his critics, including Golding, who he said benefited during the policy of high interest rates which saw the greatest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich.

He said Golding should not be allowed to manage the economy, arguing that he, and friends, will reintroduce high interest rate policies that they can benefit from.

In the same breath, Holness said whatever "little" he has made in life he made it in the same way poor Jamaicans did.

"I buy two taxi. Then I open a taxi company and I go through the struggles just like everybody else. I want to thank those who thought by releasing documents that they would somehow diminish me. I am a true Jamaican. I went through the Jamaican struggles and I never made any money on the backs of the Jamaican people," said Holness.

Holness has been battling with anti-corruption watchdog the Integrity Commission (IC) over the non-certification of his statutory declaration.

The Supreme Court on July 31 rejected Holness' bid to strike out what he described as "scandalous" portions of a 108-page March affidavit filed by Craig Beresford, the commission's director of information and complaints..

Holness was successful in getting the

Regional News

court to order the IC to disclose certain documents prepared by officials connected to the probe of his financial affairs.

However, on Sunday, Holness called on Jamaicans to 'Choose Jamaica' and grant the JLP an unprecedented third consecutive term in office.

Public opinion polls suggest the race to control Jamaica House will be a tight one.

The JLP, which currently controls 49 of the 63 seats in Parliament, is campaigning on a platform of continued economic growth, expanded infrastructure, and stronger crime management. Holness pointed to his administration's record of fiscal discipline, highlighting reductions in public debt and the country's economic resilience during turbulent global conditions.

He promised even greater investment in education, health care, housing, water and road infrastructure, and the implementation of a rural school bus system aimed at improving access and safety for students.

Meanwhile, the Opposition People's National Party, which holds 14 seats, is pushing for a new direction under its 'Time Come' campaign. The party, wracked by public divisions over the last decade, now projects unity. It has cited its 2024 local government election performance as proof it is regaining credibility with Jamaicans.

The PNP is prioritising economic inclusion, greater access to housing, especially for young, middle-income persons, and reforms in healthcare and education.

Golding has positioned himself as a champion of the marginalised, arguing that Jamaica needs a government that puts the people at the centre and uplifts the vulnerable.

The PNP is pledging to construct 50,000 affordable homes, offer a \$500,000 deposit grant to young pro-

spective homeowners, and implement a range of social support measures, such as expanded school meal programmes, academic interventions in low-income areas, and full university scholarships for the first person in each family to matriculate.

"We are seeking a mandate from the people, and we want to do so on the basis, not only of the failing and inadequacy of this Government, but because of the promise that we are bringing to the people," Golding said at a recent rally in Brown's Town, St Ann.

He added: "The party has a powerful set of policies and programmes that will uplift Jamaica and take Jamaica forward in a real way."

The PNP has also taken aim at the prime minister's unresolved income declarations to the Integrity Commission, which have remained uncertified since 2021. The party has emphasised its leader's "clean hands and pure heart" while criticising the JLP for what it describes as a pattern of corruption under its leadership.

However the JLP insists that Jamaica is on the right track, launching its 'Choose Jamaica' campaign to highlight achievements in economic recovery and national development, particularly in infrastructure build-out, a more than 40 per cent cut in murders year-on-year; unemployment at a record low of 3.3 per cent, and poverty cuts.

"In just a decade, we have transformed Jamaica from the brink of economic collapse into the strongest economy since our Independence. We have conquered the challenges of macroeconomic stability and debt reduction - hard-fought victories that have freed us from the cycle of crisis after crisis," Holness said during his 2025 Budget Debate speech in March.

He added: "It is now time for us to

build on the strong foundation that we have created to focus on generating robust growth that will deliver more opportunities for all Jamaicans to pursue their God-given talents and fulfil their dreams and aspirations."

At a party meeting in Clarendon South Eastern in May, Holness noted that his administration will focus on the "local economy".

"We a go fix yuh local economy so that you can live, work, do your business, raise your family, and experience your own prosperity right here in your community," he said.

According to the Electoral Office of Jamaica, 2,077,799 people are eligible to vote in the upcoming general election. A party needs at least 32 seats in the 63-seat House of Representatives to form the Government.

This year's contest is expected to come down to about 20 swing seats, with key battlegrounds in the western parishes of St James, Westmoreland, Hanover, and St Elizabeth, as well as Manchester, Clarendon, and St Catherine in central Jamaica.

Since gaining universal adult suffrage in 1944, Jamaica has held 18 general elections. Both parties have won nine.

The JLP secured victories in 1944, 1949, 1962, 1967, 1980 and 1983, 2007, 2016 and 2020.

The PNP did not contest the 1983 elections, and thereafter won four straight elections starting in 1989, then in 1993, 1997 and 2002. The PNP again won 2011. It also won elections 1955, 1959, 1972, and 1976.

Last night, Holness said by-elections in four local government divisions in the Kingston and St Andrew Municipal Corporation would also be held on September 3. The divisions are - Chancery Hall, Olympic Gardens, Seivwright Gardens Gardens and Denham Town. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Kingston man charged with 16-y-o girl's murder



Several charges have been laid against 29-year-old Yashoy Clarke, otherwise called 'Yashii-Poo', of Lincoln Crescent, Kingston 5, in relation to the murder of a 16-year-old girl in a 2024 home invasion.

The victim, Bianca Thompson, of Albion Avenue, Kingston 5, was killed on February 25, 2024.

The Denham Town police say about 11:22 p.m., Thompson was at home when Clarke and three other men entered her home and opened gunfire, hitting her in the upper body.

The men escaped and Thompson was taken to hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Investigations led to the ar-

rest of Clarke, and he was subsequently charged with murder, shooting with intent, possession of prohibited weapon, unauthorised possession of ammunition and using a firearm to commit a felony.

A court date is being finalised for him.

Another man, 23-year-old Taje Squire, was charged days after the attack with murder, shooting with intent, possession of a prohibited weapon, unauthorised possession of ammunition and making use of a firearm to commit a felony.

Clarke was among three other men listed as wanted at the time in connection with Bianca's murder. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Canadian man rescued after 9 days in wilderness surviving on pond water



A man missing for more than a week in the vast wilderness of Canada's province of British Columbia has been found after etching the word "help" on a rock and drawing "SOS" in the mud.

Andrew Barber was rescued by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on 8 August - nine days after the 39-year-old was reported missing - after a helicopter spotted his truck on a forest road, which helped narrow the search.

Police say he was severely dehydrated and had a leg injury but used a number of tactics to survive, including building a shelter and drinking pond water.

Staff Sgt Brad McKinnon of the Williams Lake RCMP said Mr Barber is doing "quite well".

He was reported missing on 31 July near McLeese Lake, some 365 miles (587km) north of Vancouver, where his truck had broken down.

A police helicopter spotted Mr Garber near his makeshift shelter on Friday after catching a glimpse of the truck.

"After over a week in the wilderness, our subject has been located alive during today's search from the air," Quesnel Search & Rescue, an area volunteer search and rescue group posted on Facebook.

"This outcome is the result of count-

less hours on the ground and in the air, using every resource and piece of technology available to us."

An image shared by the rescue group shows the shelter Mr Barber built for

himself out of sticks and mud. It was propped up against the rock where he used dirt to write "help".

He was taken to hospital for treatment and has since been released.

Mr McKinnon told the Canadian Press news agency that Mr Barber "munched on whatever he could find" while he was in the woods.

"He was literally slurping unclean pond water to stay hydrated," he said. "The human body can go a long time without food, but water is a different situation."

Bob Zimmerman, president of Quesnel Search and Rescue, told CBC News that he wasn't sure Mr Barber "would have made it another 24 hours without us recovering him". (BBC News)

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Colombian Senator Miguel Uribe dies two months after being shot

Colombian senator and presidential hopeful Miguel Uribe has died two months after being shot in the head in a targeted attack which shocked the South American nation.

The 39-year-old was hit by three bullets - two of them in the head and one in the leg - at a campaign rally on 7 June in the capital, Bogotá.

His wife confirmed his death on social media, paying tribute to “the love of my life”.

A teenager has been arrested on suspicion of carrying out the shooting, but the motive behind the attack is still unclear.

Uribe’s wife, María Claudia Tarazona, thanked her late husband for “a life full of love” and for being “the best father” for their children.

According to a statement published on Saturday by the hospital where Uribe was being treated, the senator had suffered a bleed to his central nervous system and was due to undergo surgery.

He had already had several surgeries since he was first taken to the Santa Fe clinic in June.

His wife had asked people to pray for his recovery and thousands had turned out at vigils and rallies to show their support.

Uribe, who had been a senator since 2022, had been seeking his party’s nomination for the 2026 presidential election.

He was popular in the polls



and recognised as an up-and-coming figure in the right-wing Democratic Centre party, known for his outspoken criticism of the current left-wing president, Gustavo Petro.

President Petro’s office released a statement expressing its condolences to the family of the slain politician.

Uribe was attending a political event in a middle-class neighbourhood of the capital when he was shot.

A teenage suspect was arrested as he was fleeing the scene. The 15-year-old has been charged with attempted murder and pleaded not guilty.

Several others have been detained on suspicion of aiding the gunman.

The brazen attack on the senator has brought back memories of the turbulent decades of the 1980s and 90s in Colombia, when several presidential candidates and influential Colombian figures were assassinated.

Uribe’s own mother, journalist Diana Turbay, was kidnapped by Los Extraditables in 1990 - an alliance created by leading drug

lords.

She was held hostage by them for five months before being shot dead during a botched rescue attempt.

Uribe often cited her as his inspiration to run for political office “to work for our country”.

Los Extraditables, who said they would prefer a grave in Colombia to a prison cell in the US, abducted and attacked renowned Colombians in an attempt to force the government at the time to overturn its extradition treaty with the US.

In recent decades, Colombia’s security indicators have substantially improved, and in 2016 a historic peace agreement was reached between the government and the leftist guerrilla group, Farc.

In 2024, Colombia recorded a murder rate of 25.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, the lowest in the past four years, according to security research group Insight Crime. In 1990, the homicide rate exceeded 70 per 100,000 inhabitants.

However, Colombia’s murder rate remains among the highest in the region, along-

side those Ecuador, Brazil, and Honduras.

Politicians, members of the security forces, union leaders, environmentalists, and social leaders frequently face death threats, pressure, and attacks.

Various armed groups are engaged in a bloody territorial disputes in the country, often also clashing with the security forces.

Laura Bonilla, deputy director of the Peace and Reconciliation Foundation in Colombia (Pares), said that “the political outlook will now depend on who manages to capitalize on the narrative of security”.

Ms Bonilla told BBC News Mundo that the situation in the wake of Senator Uribe’s killing was likely to give more prominence to right-wing politicians and their rhetoric.

Vice-President Francia Márquez urged Colombians to unite and reject all violent acts, telling them that “violence cannot continue to mark our democracy”.

“Democracy is not built with bullets or blood; it is built with respect, dialogue and recognizing our differences, regardless of political position.”

Uribe’s death also made waves beyond Colombia with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio among the first to post following the announcement of his death to demand that those responsible be brought to justice. (BBC News)

British man who perished in Antarctic glacier found 65 years later

The bones of a British man who died in a terrible accident in Antarctica in 1959 have been discovered in a melting glacier.

The remains were found in January by a Polish Antarctic expedition, alongside a wristwatch, a radio, and a pipe.

He has now been formally identified as Dennis “Tink” Bell, who fell into a crevasse aged 25 when working for the organisation that became the British Antarctic Survey.

“I had long given up on finding my brother. It is just remarkable, astonishing. I can’t get over it,” David Bell, 86, tells BBC News.

“Dennis was one of the many brave personnel who contributed to the early science and exploration of Antarctica under extraordinarily harsh conditions,” says Professor Dame Jane Francis, director of the British Antarctic Survey.

“Even though he was lost in 1959, his memory lived on among colleagues and in the legacy of polar research,” she adds.

It was David who answered the door in his family home in Harrow, London, in July 1959.

“The telegram boy said, ‘I’m sorry to tell you, but this is bad news’,” he says. He went upstairs to tell his parents.

“It was a horrendous moment,” he adds.

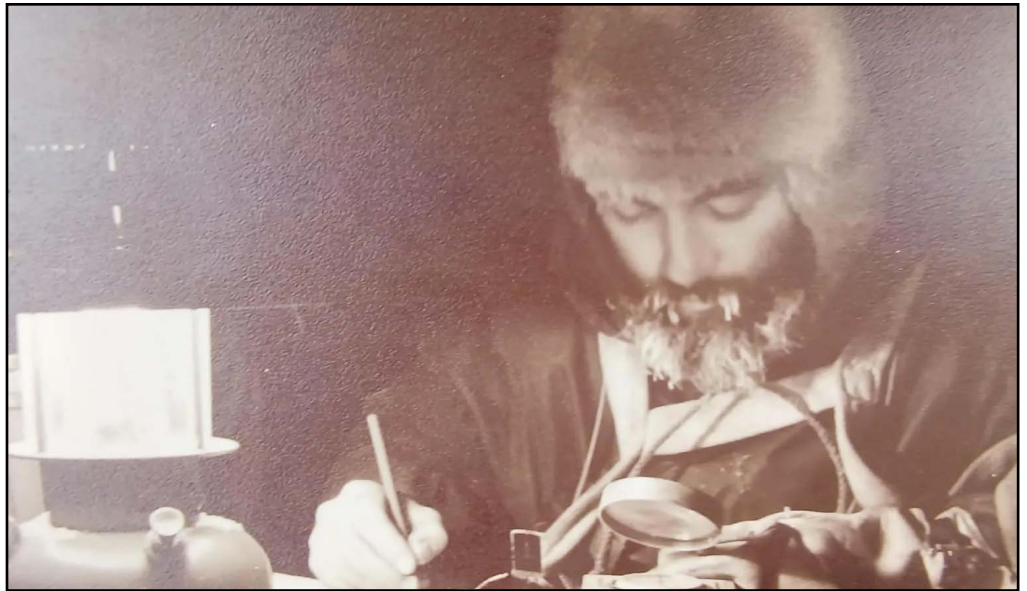
Talking to me from his home in Australia and sitting next to his wife Yvonne, David smiles as stories from his childhood in 1940s England spill out.

They are the memories of a younger sibling admiring a charming, adventurous big brother.

“Dennis was fantastic company. He was very amusing. The life and soul of wherever he happened to be,” David says.

“I still can’t get over this, but one evening when me, my mother and father came home from the cinema,” he says.

“And I have to say this in fairness to



Dennis, he had put a newspaper down on the kitchen table, but on top of it, he’d taken a motorbike engine apart and it was all over the table,” he says.

“I can remember his style of dress, he always used to wear duffel coats. He was just an average sort of fellow who enjoyed life,” he adds.

Dennis Bell, nicknamed “Tink”, was born in 1934. He worked with the RAF and trained as a meteorologist, before joining the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey to work in Antarctica.

“He was obsessed with Scott’s diaries,” David says, referring to Captain Robert Scott who was one of the first men to reach the South Pole and died on an expedition in 1912.

Dennis went to Antarctica in 1958. He was stationed for a two-year assignment at Admiralty Bay, a small UK base with about 12 men on King George Island, which is roughly 120 kilometres (75 miles) off the northern coast of the Antarctic Peninsula.

The British Antarctic Survey keeps meticulous records and its archivist Ieuan Hopkins has dug out detailed base camp reports about Dennis’s work and antics on the harsh and “ridiculously isolated” island.

Reading aloud, Mr Hopkins says: “He’s cheerful and industrious, with

a mischievous sense of humour and fondness for practical jokes.”

Dennis’s job was to send up meteorological weather balloons and radio the reports to the UK every three hours, which involved firing up a generator in sub-zero conditions.

Described as the best cook in the hut, he was in charge of the food store over the winter when no supplies could reach them.

Antarctica felt even more cut off than it is today, with extremely limited contact with home. David recalls recording a Christmas message at BBC studios with his parents and sister Valerie to be sent to his brother.

He was best known for his love of the husky dogs used to pull sledges around the island, and he raised two litters of dogs.

He was also involved in surveying King George Island to produce some of the first mapping of the largely unexplored place.

It was on a surveying trip that the accident happened, a few weeks after his 25th birthday.

On 26 July 1959, in the deep Antarctic winter, Dennis and a man called Jeff Stokes left the base to climb and survey a glacier.

Accounts in the British Antarctic Survey records explain what happened

next and the desperate attempts to rescue him.

The snow was deep and the dogs had started to show signs of tiredness. Dennis went on ahead alone to encourage them, but he wasn't wearing his skis. Suddenly he disappeared into a crevasse, leaving a hole behind him.

According to the accounts, Jeff Stokes called into the depths and Dennis was able to shout back. He grabbed onto a rope that was lowered down. The dogs pulled on the rope and Dennis was hitched up to the lip of the hole.

But he had tied the rope onto his belt, perhaps because of the angle he lay in. As he reached the lip, the belt broke and he fell again. His friend called again, but this time Dennis didn't reply.

"That's a story I shall never get over," says David.

The base camp reports about the accident are business-like.

"We heard from Jeff [...] that yesterday Tink fell down a crevasse and was killed. We hope to return tomorrow, sea ice permitting," it continues.

Mr Hopkins explains that another man, called Alan Sharman, had died weeks earlier, and the morale was very low.

"The sledge has got back. We heard the sad details. Jeff has badly bitten frostbitten hands. We are not taking any more risks to recover," the report reads the day after the accident.

Reading the reports again, Mr Hopkins discovered that earlier in the season, it had been Dennis who'd made the coffin for Alan Sharman.

"My mother never really got over it. She couldn't handle photographs of him and couldn't talk about him," David says.

He recalls that two men on Dennis's base visited the family, bringing a sheepskin as a gesture.

"But there was no conclusion. There was no service; there was no anything. Just Dennis gone," David says.

About 15 years ago, David was contacted by Rod Rhys Jones, chair of the British Antarctic Monument Trust.

Since 1944, 29 people have died working on British Antarctic Territory on scientific missions, according to the trust.

Rod was organising a voyage for relatives of some of the 29 to see the spectacular and remote place where their loved ones had lived and died.

David joined the expedition, called South 2015.

"The captain stopped at the locations and give four or five hoots of the siren," he says.

The sea-ice was too thick for David to reach his brother's hut on King George Island.

"But it was very, very moving. It lifted the pressure, a weight off my head, as it were," he says.

It gave him a sense of closure.

"And I thought that would be it," he says.

But on 29 January this year, a team of Polish researchers working from the Henryk Arctowski Polish Antarctic Station stumbled across something practically on their doorstep.

Dennis had been found.

Some bones were in the loose ice and rocks deposited at the foot of Ecology Glacier on King George Island. Others were found on the glacier surface.

The scientists explain that fresh snowfall was imminent, and they put down a GPS marker so their "fellow polar colleague" would not be lost again. (BBC News)

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Some Florida officers are continuing to charge people under halted immigration law



Some law enforcement officers are continuing to charge people under a Florida law that bans people living in the United States illegally from entering the state, even though a federal judge has halted enforcement of the law while it's challenged in court.

Two more people were arrested and charged under the law in July, according to a report Florida's attorney general is required to file as punishment for defying the judge's ruling.

Both men were arrested by a sheriff's officer in Sarasota County, located on the state's southwest coast.

The charges came months

after US District Judge Kathleen Williams in Miami first halted enforcement of the state statute, which makes it a misdemeanour for people who are in the US without legal permission to enter Florida by eluding immigration officials.

As punishment for flouting her order and being found in civil contempt, the judge required Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier to file bimonthly reports about whether any arrests, detentions or law enforcement actions have been made under the law.

In separate incidents on July 3 and July 28, the men were each charged with driving without a valid license and

offences related to driving under the influence of alcohol.

The State Attorney's Office for the 12th Judicial Circuit dismissed the illegal entry charges against them, and requested that the sheriff's office advice the arresting officer of the court's order halting enforcement of the law, according to the status report.

In a separate court filing, immigrants' rights advocates who filed the lawsuit questioned whether state officials are using the blocked law to justify holding detainees at an isolated immigration detention facility in the Florida Everglades dubbed "Alligator Alca-

traz."

Attorneys for the advocates provided the court an email apparently sent by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement employee to the offices of members of Congress, stating that Florida officials are relying on legal authority granted by the blocked law.

"ICE's email raises serious concerns about potential violations of the Court's injunction on a large scale," attorneys for the immigrants' rights groups wrote, asking the court to order the state to explain under what legal authority it's holding people at the Everglades facility. (AP)

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Leewards engage in practice match ahead of regional U-17 tournament



Leeward Islands Under-17 players Kunal Tilokani, left, and Amoree Jones. (Photo courtesy of the LICB)

The Leeward Islands Tropical Wave wrapped up their preparations for the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Boys' Under-17 regional tournament with a two-day practice match at Powells playing field in Antigua.

The match involved the 14-member Leeward Islands squad and a selected group of Antiguan players ahead of the sub-regional team's departure on Sunday to contest the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Boys' Under-17 regional tournament that features both 50-over and two-day formats in Trinidad and Tobago from August 12 to September 2.

Team A, which comprised mainly Antiguan select players, made 113 for nine in 21.1 overs in their first innings. Brent Joseph struck 61, while Kunal Tilokani grabbed three wickets for seven runs, and Jathan Edwards claimed three for 14.

In reply, Team B, which comprised mainly Leeward Islands Under-17 players, made 270 in 62.3 overs in their first innings.

Eirette Richards slammed 79, Kunal Tilokani struck 46, J'Quan Athanaze slammed 44, Tayari Tonge hit 40, and Hosea Roberts made 26. Brent Joseph captured five for 45 in 13.3 overs.

Matthew Miller, Shawn Harris, and Kerrique Mentore each picked up a wicket.

Team A were dismissed for 167 in 59.1 overs in their second innings. William Pittman cracked 45, Tazio Watson hit 28, and opener Lyhte Browne struck 23.

Kunal Tilokani bagged four for 15 in 12.1 overs, and J'Quan Athanaze captured three for 16 in 10 overs.

Team B reached 86 for four off 16 overs in their second innings when the match ended. Lyhte Browne was not out on 21, Tanez Francis scored 19, and Hosea Roberts made 18.

Bullets make poor start in defence of Parham Super League



The Pigotts Bullets celebrate after retaining their title as champions of the Parham Super League at the Parham playing field on Saturday, September 14, 2024. (File Photo)

The Pigotts Bullets began their defence of the Parham Super League (PSL) title with a loss in the opening encounter on Saturday.

The Bullets suffered a two-nil loss to Garden Stars in the second game of an opening-day double-header at the Parham playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Tarek Charles and Kemoi Walsh each converted once to secure victory for the Garden Stars, who finished the match with 10 men.

Wilton Rhoades was expelled after receiving a red card 10 minutes into the second half of the Group A encounter.

Freemans Village and Willikies Warriors launched their campaigns with wins

in their respective opening matches of the tournament.

Josue “Naymar” Arias struck a hat trick to propel Freemans Village to a commanding 4-0 drubbing of Parham in the opening Group A encounter on Saturday.

Both teams were deadlocked nil-nil at halftime, but Arias scored three goals, and Roy Gregory converted once in the second half to secure victory for Freemans Village.

Parham ended the match with 10 men after Zidane Smith picked up a red card in the 10th minute and was expelled.

Willikies Warriors pulled off a 2-0 victory against newcomer Swetes in the second game of a Group B

double-header on Sunday.

Nadre Thomas gave Willikies a one-nil lead at half-time, and Ljah Carty scored in the second half to wrap up the victory.

Potters Tigers and newcomers East Furlong battled to a 2-2 draw in the opening Group B encounter. Ordel Samuel and Kelvin Carr scored for Potters Tigers, while Eroy Gonsalves and Samuel Semper each converted once for East Furlong.

The Potters Tigers finished the match with 10 men after Delano Gilead received a red card and was expelled in the second half.

The third annual Parham Super League, which is organized by Eastboys Promotions in partnership with

Parham Football Club, will continue with double-headers this weekend.

Unlike last year when 12 teams participated, the 2025 edition of the PSL has returned to the eight-team format that was used in the inaugural tournament in 2023. The eight teams are competing in two zones in this year’s competition.

Back-to-back champions Pigotts Sports Club (Bullets) are pursuing a hat trick of titles after winning the inaugural competition in 2023 and making a successful defence of their crown last year.

This year’s winning team will take home a grand prize of EC\$3,000, with the \$1,000 going to the runners-up.

Pakistan face fifth bowler dilemma ahead of West Indies decider



Pakistan's skipper Mohammad Rizwan

TRINIDAD (Reuters) - Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan acknowledged a dilemma over the fifth bowler and said they would take a late decision on their team combination for Tuesday's series decider following their defeat in the second One-Day International (ODI) in Trinidad on Sunday.

Pakistan, who won the opening ODI by five wickets, posted a competitive 171 for seven in 37 overs in a rain-truncated match but West Indies prevailed by five wickets to draw level in the three-match series.

Pakistan's part-time duo of Saim Ayub and Salman Agha conceded a combined 66 runs in seven

wicketless overs as West Indies cruised home.

"You could say our fifth bowler gave away too many runs but in recent years, Salman Agha and Saim Ayub have both bowled well for us," Rizwan said after the match.

"Saim didn't have the best day today, but he performed well in the T20Is. That's just part of the game."

Rizwan said they could not read the conditions and several rain delays did not help their cause.

"Honestly, the weather forecast has been completely different from expectations, and it's hard to read. We're keeping our options open and will fi-

nalise the XI after assessing the conditions."

Roston Chase and Justin Greaves led West Indies to their five-wicket victory with 10 balls to spare, leveling the three-match series at 1-1.

Chase's 49 not out off 47 balls, included two sixes and the winning boundary, as West Indies scored 184 for five in 33.2 overs.

The hosts were chasing a revised target of 181 runs in 35 overs under the DLS method after multiple rain interruptions saw Pakistan's innings end at 171 for seven in 37 overs. Right-arm fast bowler Jayden Seales took three for 23 in seven overs.

The West Indies stum-

bled from 101 for three after 18 overs at Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, to 111 for five off 24 overs, including the wicket of Sherfane Rutherford, who hit a 33-ball 45 with three sixes and four fours.

Chase and Greaves (26 off 31) shared a 77-run unbroken partnership for the sixth wicket. The West Indies earlier chose to bowl first and Hasan Nawaz again played a key role for Pakistan with 36 not out off 30 deliveries, after his unbeaten 63 in the ODI opener.

Hasan's knock on Sunday included three sixes — two of them in what turned out to be the last over of Pakistan's innings after more rain.

Hussain Talat got 31 off 32 balls but most Pakistan batters were much slower, including captain Mohammad Rizwan, who was trapped lbw by Gudakesh Motie for a 38-ball 16.

Pakistan beat West Indies in the first one-day international by five wickets at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba on Friday. The third and final match in the ODI series is scheduled for Tuesday at the same stadium.

Pakistan claimed a 2-1 win in the preceding T20 series, which was played in Florida, USA.

Palace lose appeal against Europa League demotion at CAS



Crystal Palace players celebrate after winning the FA Community Shield final soccer match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at Wembley Stadium in London, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025. (AP)

LONDON (Reuters) - Crystal Palace's appeal against UEFA's decision to drop them from the Europa League to the third-tier Conference League was dismissed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Monday.

UEFA demoted Palace while allowing Olympique Lyonnais to play in the Europa League as, at the time of assessment on March 1, the Eagle Football Group were majority owners of Lyon while their chairman John Textor owned a controlling stake in Palace.

Nottingham Forest, who finished seventh in the Premier League last season, will replace Palace in the Europa League.

"After considering the evidence, the panel found that John Textor, founder of Eagle Football Holdings, had shares in CPFC and OL and was a

board member with decisive influence over both clubs at the time of UEFA's assessment date," the CAS said in a statement.

"The panel also dismissed the argument by CPFC that they received unfair treatment in comparison to Nottingham Forest and OL."

Palace did not respond to a request for comment. Club chairman Steve Parish told reporters on Sunday that if Palace lost the appeal, they would "have to look if there's any steps after that."

The club, who qualified for the Europa League as FA Cup winners, appealed against UEFA's decision last month. The appeal came days before New York Jets co-owner Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson completed the purchase of Eagle Football Holdings'

stake in Palace.

Textor has also resigned from Lyon's board of directors with Michele Kang appointed chairwoman and president.

As both Lyon and Palace had qualified for the Europa League, the French club were allowed to keep their place because they had finished higher in their respective league. Lyon finished sixth in Ligue 1, while Palace were 12th in the Premier League.

"Olympique Lyonnais welcomes today's decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport confirming its participation in the Europa League," Lyon said in a statement.

Palace, who won the Community Shield on Sunday, beating Liverpool 3-2 in a penalty shootout, are set to play in the Conference League's qualifying playoff round later this month.

CWI Regional U-17 boys' tournament commence in T&T this week



The Leeward Islands will be hoping for an improved performance in the 2025 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Boys' Under-17 regional tournament, which will commence in Trinidad and Tobago this week.

Players from the Leeward Islands will be among the best young cricketers in the West Indies who are assembling in Trinidad and Tobago for the tournament that features both 50-over and two-day formats and starts on Tuesday, August 12, until September 2.

The Leeward Islands 14-member squad left Antigua on Sunday for Trinidad, where they will be seeking to improve on their fourth place finish in 2024 in both

two-day and one-day under-17 boys' competitions, which were won by Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively.

The Leeward Islands squad comprised captain Tanez Francis, vice-captain Kunal Tilokani, Lyhte Browne, T'Zharvier Pemberton, Lawshorn Bergan, Kasim Challenger, J'quan Athanaze, Hosea Roberts, Jaheem Clarke, Jaeden Bramble, Jathan Edward, Tayari Tonge, Amoree Jones, and wicketkeeper Eirette Richards. Former Leeward Islands and Antiguan middle-order batsman Ian Tittle is the head coach.

Similar to the 2023 and 2024 editions, Cricket West Indies (CWI) is once again using a two-day red ball for-

mat to add to the pre-existing 50-Over format for the Rising Stars Under-17 regional championships. Teams will compete first for the 2-Day Championship and then the 50-Over Cup.

The West Indies Rising Stars Under-17 tournament will feature three rounds of two-day red ball matches from August 12-21 and five rounds of 50-over white ball matches from August 24 to September 1 to be played at the National Cricket Centre (NCC), Queen's Park Oval, Inshan Ali Park, and Gilbert Park Cricket Ground (GPCG), Brian Lara Cricket Academy, and Pierre Road Recreation Ground (PRRG).

A champion will be crowned at the end of each

format, as WI Rising Stars Under-17 50 Over Cup Champions and WI Rising Stars Under-17 2-Day Champions.

In Tuesday's opening round of two-day matches, the Leeward Islands will face Jamaica at PRRG, defending champions Barbados will meet Trinidad and Tobago at Inshan Ali Park, and the Windward Islands will clash with Guyana at NCC.

The tournament is a key element of the West Indies Future Stars development programme, allowing the best players in the region to test themselves within their age group.

The tournament is pivotal for identifying talent and facilitating player progression to produce the next generation of West Indies senior international cricketers.

The West Indies Rising Stars Boys' Under-17 Championships complete the full 2023 calendar of CWI's regional age group cricket, which featured the men's West Indies Rising Stars Under 15s and Under 19s Championships, as well as the Rising Stars Women's Under 19s Championship.