

Key Legislative Amendments go before the House of Representatives today

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Fifty Years at the Bar: Celebrating Sir Clare K. Roberts' Distinguished Legal Legacy

Story on Page 7

Local News

Key Legislative Amendments go before the House of Representatives today



The House of Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda will convene at 9:30 a.m. at the Parliament Building today to deliberate on a number of important legislative matters.

Among the Bills scheduled for second and third readings are the Tax Administration and Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025, presented by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Gaston Browne, and the Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2025, introduced by the Attorney General and Minister with responsibility for Public Safety, the Honourable Sir Steadroy Benjamin.

Tax Administration and Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2025

This Bill seeks to modernize Antigua and Barbuda's tax recovery framework by strengthening the proce-

dures governing the registration and sale of property in cases of unpaid tax liabilities.

- Key provisions include:
- The introduction of a new definition of "property" and the clarification of the role of "designated officers" under the Act;
- The establishment of a statutory charge on real property owned by delinquent taxpayers to secure outstanding tax debts;
- New regulations for the public sale or auction of seized property, ensuring full transparency in the sale process, including advertisement, reserve price setting, and timelines for completion; and
- Authorization for the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to execute transfers granting

clear title to purchasers of properties sold under the Act.

The proposed amendments aim to improve the efficiency, fairness, and accountability of the tax debt recovery process while ensuring that the Government can effectively manage outstanding obligations in accordance with the Tax Administration and Procedure Act, 2018.

Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2025

The Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposes amendments to Section 18 of the Electronic Crimes Act, 2013, specifically addressing the provisions governing Production Orders.

The amendments:

- Define the content, scope, and manner of providing information required under such orders;
 - Strengthen the protection of privacy in the disclosure of information; and
 - Update penalties for non-compliance with production orders.
- According to the Attorney General, these reforms are essential to improving access to digital information during investigations, enhancing the Government's capacity to address cyber-related offences, and ensuring compliance with lawful orders within a robust legal and privacy framework.
- Other Bills scheduled for debate include amendments to the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information Act, the Eastern Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Regulatory Authority Agreement Bill, and the Disabilities and Equal Opportunities (Amendment) Bill, among others.
- These legislative measures reflect the Government's ongoing commitment to modernizing the legal and regulatory environment in support of good governance, transparency, and national development.
- Clarify the procedures for granting and serving production orders;

The National Health Insurance Scheme legislation to go before parliament early in 2025

A National Health Insurance Scheme for Antigua and Barbuda, a project being spearheaded by Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, will likely become a reality early in 2026.

That's the timeline announced by Sir Molwyn when he spoke with media representatives this week.

He disclosed that he held a meeting last week with key stakeholders where discussions on the proposed scheme were held. These included persons within the healthcare system as well as representatives from the Medical Benefits Scheme.

"We have set early next year as the time when we hope to achieve placing the legislation before parliament. I personally would love to see the National Health Insurance legislation go to parliament no later than the first quarter of next year," he remarked.

Sir Molwyn pointed out that there is a process that has to be completed before the legislation goes to parliament including holding consultations with the wider Antigua and Barbuda community.

"These things don't happen because a minister says so or wish for it to happen; we have to engage the wider society; we have to engage the private sector; we have a very vibrant medical private sector where many of our doctors are operating clinics that are providing services like a hospital and they have to be involved. We have a lot more public education to do on this whole National Health Insurance Scheme," he explained.

Sir Molwyn says he is optimistic about the outcome as the government already has in place a scheme where it provides funding for medical services overseas in situations where those services are not available locally. This, he added, is a demonstration of the government's commitment to providing quality health care for residents.



GM of NSWMA Indira Henry (left) and Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph (right) at this week's press conference



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

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NATIONAL SCHOOL PANORAMA COMPETITION

SATURDAY 25 OCT | 5:00PM

CHILDREN \$10 AND ADULTS \$20

AT SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM

Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION

Powered By: **CCIU** **ACB** 

Antigua and Barbuda makes presentation at WSSF



WORLD SOCIAL SECURITY FORUM

KUALA LUMPUR 2025

Antigua and Barbuda was among Caribbean countries that were represented at the just concluded World Social Security Forum (WSSF) 2025, held from September 29 to October 3, 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The organizing committee was the International Social Security Association (ISSA). The Forum brought together more than 2,000 participants from over 136 countries under the theme “Shaping Social Security for a World in Transition.”

A 27-member delegation from the Caribbean was also in attendance.

The Caribbean delegation joined ministers, CEOs and leading social security experts from around the world, as well as representatives of the International Labour Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Bank. Discussions included demographic changes, labour market transformations and migration, climate risks, geopolitical uncertainties, strengthening resilience of social security sys-

tems and digital innovation. Among the key outcomes of WSSF 2025 was the launch of ISSA’s flagship report on global social security trends and new guidelines on social security administrative solutions for long-term care services.

Leading the Caribbean’s engagement was Director of the National Insurance Services (NIS) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), Stewart Haynes, who, as a member of the ISSA Bureau representing the English-speaking Caribbean, has been at the forefront of the region’s efforts to have its voice heard on the sustainability of social security systems.

Among those represented in the delegation were ministers and senior executives from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Turks & Caicos Islands. The group spoke to several pressing issues, including expanding coverage for

difficult-to-cover employers, formulating effective investment strategies for social security funds, and embracing digital transformation programmes, all vital steps in strengthening social security systems across the region.

Building on those contributions, Hon. Alfred Sayers from the Bahamas, Minister of Immigration and Social Security specifically highlighted reform measures and innovative initiatives to strengthen coverage, compliance, and long-term viability of the Bahamian social security system. This example helped to elevate the Caribbean’s global standing and underscored the region’s unwavering commitment to reform, innovation, and the long-term sustainability of our social security systems. Antigua and Barbuda’s Director, David Matthias, also presented on data sharing in the context of migration having the most active system making payment under CARICOM’s Reciprocal Agreement.

The Caribbean’s presence was further solidified

through key appointments to leadership roles. For example, Mr. Haynes was reappointed to the ISSA Bureau for the 2026–2028 triennium, he was also named to the ISSA Finance Committee, a reflection of his recognised expertise in global social security governance and financial oversight. Another significant development was Lorie Freeman, Director of the Virgin Islands Social Security Board, who was appointed as a member of the Control Commission, which performs independent oversight of the financial affairs of the ISSA.

The strong presence and active participation of the Caribbean at WSSF 2025 mark a new chapter for social security in the Caribbean region. With a clear focus on reform, innovation, and sustainability, coupled with a commitment to global collaboration, the Caribbean is taking solid steps to build resilient and inclusive social security systems that truly serve the needs of our people for generations to come.

CHOGM 2026 Logo Competition attracts overwhelming support



Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim

More than 140 creative submissions have been received from Antiguans and Barbudans at home and abroad for the CHOGM 2026 Logo Design Competition, marking an impressive show of national pride and talent.

The competition, launched in September by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, invited nationals to design the official logo for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026 — a historic event that Antigua and Barbuda will host for the first time.

The strong participation from the diaspora highlights the shared excitement and unity of Antiguans and Barbudans as the nation gears up to welcome global leaders next year. Each entry captured the spirit, identity, and vibrancy of Antigua and Barbuda, showcasing the creativity that defines the nation's people.

“The response has been phenome-

nal,” said H.E Dr Clarence Pilgrim, Chair of the CHOGM 2026 Taskforce. “It’s clear that Antiguans and Barbudans, wherever they are in the world, want to play a part in shaping how our nation is represented on the global stage.”

A winner will be announced as part of the official launch of CHOGM 2026 scheduled for 4th November 2026, following the judges’ review process. The selected design will

become the official global logo of CHOGM 2026, featured across event branding, signage, and international communications. The winner will also receive a grand prize of EC\$5,000 and national recognition during CHOGM 2026.

The Government extends heartfelt thanks to all who participated and celebrates the exceptional talent displayed by Antiguans and Barbudans around the world.

EARLY CLOSURE NOTICE

Tuesday 14, October, 2025

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) advises customers that all commercial offices including Independence Avenue, Village Walk, South Mall, Market Street and Old Parham Road, will close to the public at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2025.

Please note that the Mobile Payment Centre will close earlier at 12:00 noon.

Customers are reminded that convenient payments can be made online via the APUA Online Portal at www.apua.ag or through our Banking and Credit Union partners.



Governor-General Calls for Renewed Partnership between the City of London and the Caribbean

Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and President of the West India Committee Sir Rodney Williams, delivered the keynote address at a Fundraising Reception hosted by The Lord Mayor at Mansion House in support of the West India Committee.

The evening brought together members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders, and representatives of the City of London and the Caribbean community to celebrate the Committee's historic ties with the City and to strengthen future collaboration.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney described the occasion as the Committee's symbolic "return home" to the City of London, where it was founded in 1735. He reflected on its historic achievements, including its pioneering role in 1798 in creating preventative policing, leading to the establishment of the Thames Police, the world's oldest serving police force still in operation beside the City of London.

Sir Rodney commended the Committee's enduring commitment to public service, humanitarian aid, and education, noting that its "spirit of innovation continues to guide its work today."

In recognition of their support, The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress were each presented with Honorary Life Fellowships of the West India Committee, conferred by Sir Rodney



His Excellency at the Mayor of London's Reception October 13 2025

Williams.

With characteristic warmth, Sir Rodney joked that the honour made them "honorary West Indians, complete with all the warmth, rhythm, and sunshine that title implies," adding humorously that their calypso rhythm and steel pan skills might be tested next time.

The Governor-General expressed appreciation for His Majesty The King's continuing interest in the work of the West India Committee, both in the City and the Caribbean. He referenced the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in 2026, expressing hope that "the King will recognise the work we all do together in London for the Caribbean Community during these unsettled times."

He also highlighted the on-

going partnership between London and the Caribbean, describing it as "a family affair" grounded in mutual service and shared values of *service, sustainability, and solidarity*.

Sir Rodney commended Mrs. Blondel Cluff CBE, DL, Chief Executive and Secretary-General of the West India Committee, recently reappointed as Anguilla's Representative, for her fifteen years of dedicated leadership. He also praised David Wells, Charity Secretary, for his stewardship of the Committee's UNESCO-inscribed "Memory of the World" collection and archive, and acknowledged the members of the Board for their "decades of leadership across the UK and the Caribbean."

Gratitude was extended to Algy Cluff, representing The Remembrance Trust, whose generosity restored

the memorial gates at Shirley Heights within Antigua's UNESCO World Heritage Site, Nelson's Dockyard. Sir Rodney noted the symbolism of the gates as "a meaningful testament to the United Kingdom's enduring support for the Caribbean," adding that His Majesty may view them during CHOGM. The Trust's patron is Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

During the evening, two individuals were presented with certificates recognizing their successful completion of a course affiliated with the West India Committee, underscoring the charity's ongoing commitment to training and education.

In closing, the Governor-General encouraged renewed partnership and generosity, calling on guests to continue supporting the Committee's mission:

"This evening is not only about looking back at three centuries of achievement but looking forward to a renewed era of partnership between the City of London and the Caribbean."

"May the West India Committee continue to light the path between our islands and this great City for generations to come," he said.

The event was chaired by David Wells, Charity Secretary of the West India Committee, and also featured an address by The Lord Mayor of London.

Fifty Years at the Bar: Celebrating Sir Clare K. Roberts' Distinguished Legal Legacy

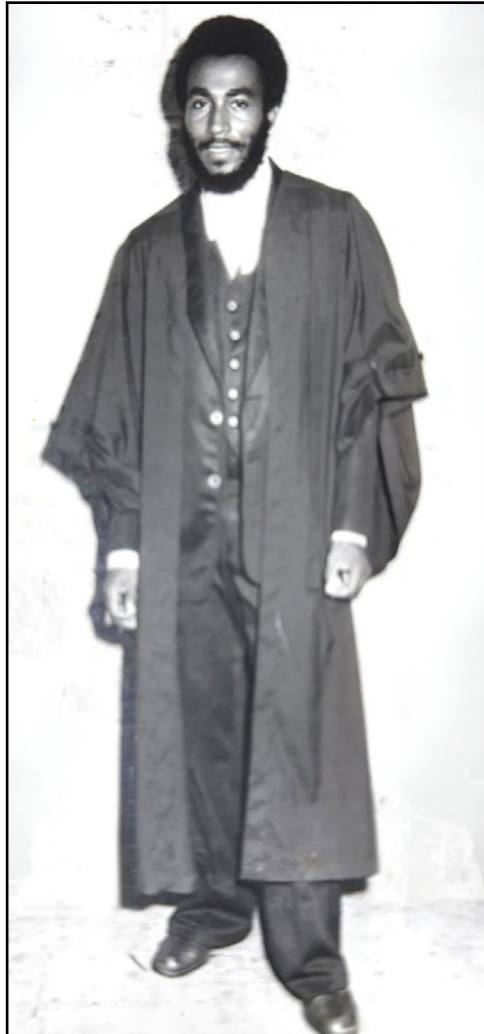


Sir Clare and Lady Roberts

October 14, 2025, marks a golden milestone in Antigua and Barbuda's legal and national history, the 50th anniversary of the call to the Bar of Sir Clare K. Roberts, KCN, KC. On this date in 1975, Sir Clare was called to the Bar alongside the late His Excellency Conrad Richards, former High Commissioner to Canada.

Over the past five decades, Sir Clare Roberts has become a towering figure in the fields of law, human rights, and public service, admired for his intellect, fairness, and unwavering commitment to justice. His distinguished career spans leadership in government, the judiciary, private practice, and international human rights institutions.

Sir Clare has held some of the region's highest legal offices, serving as Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda, as well as Attorney General of the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. Earlier in his career, he was Parliamentary Counsel of Antigua and Barbuda and the nation's first formally trained Legislative Draftsman, establishing



Sir Clare Roberts Called to the Bar 50 years ago

the foundation for modern legislative development in the country.

He has been instrumental in shaping some of Antigua and Barbuda's most progressive and enduring legislation, including:

- The Status of Children Act, which eliminated the distinction between children born in and out of wedlock;
- The Companies Act of 1995, which modernized the corporate and commercial framework of the nation;
- The original Merchant Shipping Act, strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's maritime administra-

tion; and

- His current work on a modern Mental Health Bill, a transformative piece of legislation designed to ensure dignity, care, and protection for those facing mental health challenges.

On May 1st, 1986, Sir Clare founded Roberts & Co., Attorneys-at-Law, which has grown to become one of the leading law firms in Antigua and the wider Caribbean region. The firm remains a proud family legacy, now led by his daughter C. Kamilah Roberts, with Andrea Roberts Nicholas (his



Roberts & Co 50 Years ago

niece) and Safiya Roberts (his daughter) as partners, continuing the firm's tradition of legal excellence and service.

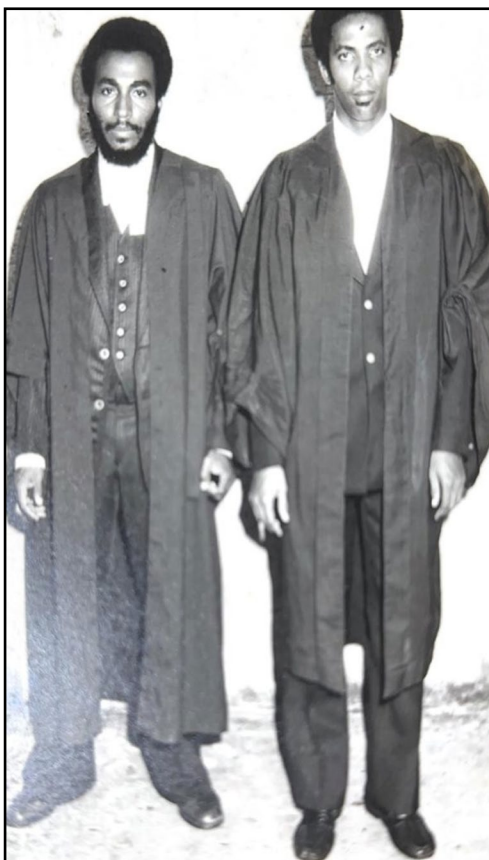
Sir Clare's impact extends far beyond the Caribbean. For eight years, he served as a Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human

Local News

Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS), including a term as President of the Commission. He was the first Rapporteur for Afro-descendants and Against Racism and Racial Discrimination, and also served as Rapporteur for Brazil and Haiti, advancing the causes of equality, democracy, and human dignity across the Americas.

He also served with distinction as a High Court Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, presiding in Anguilla, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, and Grenada, where his judgments were known for their fairness, clarity, and firm grounding in principle.

In 2006, during Antigua and Barbuda's 25th Anniversary of Independence, Sir Clare was awarded a Knighthood (KCN) for his outstanding contribution to law, human rights, and youth development. In 2007, he was called to the Inner Bar as Queen's Counsel,



Sir Clare Roberts and His Excellency Conrad Richards (deceased) at Joint call to the Bar

recognizing his leadership and excellence in advocacy and jurisprudence.

Sir Clare attributes much of his success to the love and steadfast support of his dear wife, Lady Alice Roberts (née Beamish), who worked alongside him for 45 of his 50 years in law. Her partnership and dedication, both personally and professionally, have been a constant source of strength and inspiration throughout his illustrious career.

As Antigua and Barbuda celebrates this Golden Jubilee of Sir Clare K. Roberts' call to the Bar, the legal fraternity, the nation, and the region salute a jurist, reformer, and statesman whose life's work has shaped laws, protected rights, and inspired generations.

Congratulations to Sir Clare K. Roberts, KCN, QC — fifty years of distinguished service to Antigua and Barbuda, the Caribbean, and the world.

Sir Clare K. Roberts, KCN, KC — Celebrating 50 years at the Bar, October 14, 2025.

SIDEBAR: Milestones in a Distinguished Career

Year	Milestone
1975	Called to the Bar of Antigua and Barbuda alongside H.E. Conrad Richards
Early 1980s	Served as Parliamentary Counsel — Antigua and Barbuda's first formally trained Legislative Draftsman
	Served as Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, and Montserrat
1986	Founded Roberts & Co., Attorneys-at-Law on May 1st
1995	Drafted the landmark Companies Act
2000s	Appointed High Court Judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Anguilla, St. Vincent, Nevis, Grenada)
2006	Knighted (KCN) for service to Law, Human Rights, and Youth
2007	Appointed Queen's Counsel (QC)
2000–2008	Served as Commissioner and later President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OAS)
2020s	Drafting Antigua and Barbuda's new Mental Health Bill
2025	Celebrates 50 years at the Bar, a lifetime of excellence and service



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2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 OCT - 03 NOV

SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:00PM

SUNDAY 26 OCT

- **INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE**
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH CREEKSIDE
4:00PM

MONDAY 27-29 OCT

- **NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE
BUSINESS DECOR COMPETITION**

MONDAY 27 OCT

- **NATIONAL HEROES DAY
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**
HEROES PARK- SIR SYDNEY WALLINGS HIGHWAY
10:00 AM

TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**
ST. ANTHONY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
8:00PM



TUESDAY 28 OCT

- **BARBUDA DAY ACTIVITIES (TBC)**

WEDNESDAY 29 OCT

- **SCHOOLS' INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMS**
SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE
- **GOLDEN AGE CELEBRATIONS**
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
- **THEATRICAL PRESENTATION
"WADADLI ROOTS"**
MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL CENTRE
7:30PM

THURSDAY 30 OCT

- **NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY** 8:30AM
- **CHEERLEADING COMPETITION** 11:30AM
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
- **INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO COMPETITION**
JACK IDLE
8:00PM

FRIDAY 31 OCT

- **NATIONAL DRESS DAY**
- **NATIONAL FLAG DAY**

MONDAY 03 NOV

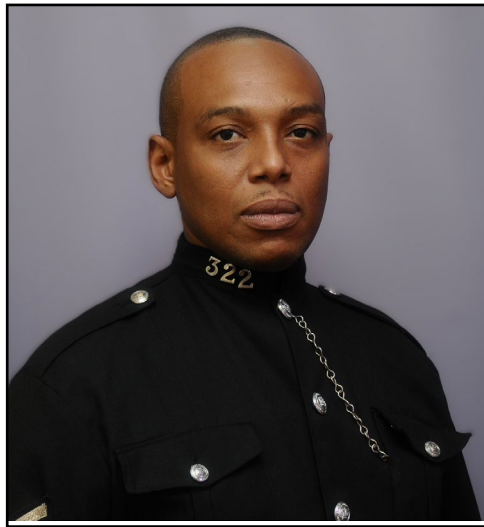
- **INDEPENDENCE FLAG CEREMONY**
BARBUDA
9:00AM
- **NATIONAL FOOD FAIR**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
10:00AM UNTIL
- **INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIAL
PARADE & NATIONAL AWARDS**
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM
5:30PM



'Big up' for five police officers who graduated from UWI FIC



Sergeant Nekeisha Josiah graduated with First Class Honours in a Bachelor's Degree in International Management.



Senior Sergeant Kerry Zachariah received Upper Second Class Honours in Management with Psychology.



Sergeant Renee Roberts earned Upper Second Class Honours in Business Management, with a concentration in Human Resource Management.

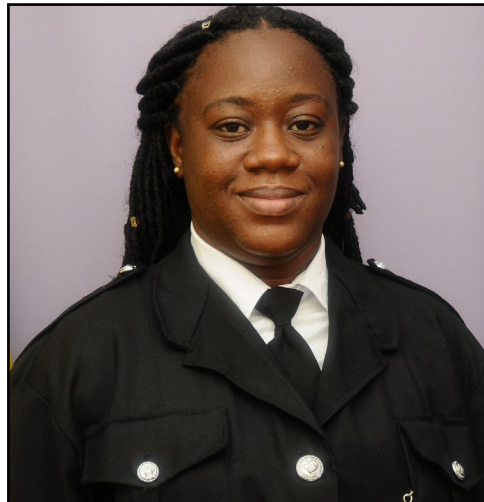
Five officers of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda who have graduated from the University of the West Indies FIC on the successful completion of their academic pursuits, have earned commendations from Acting Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers for their outstanding academic achievements.

The officers, Inspector Evette Henry, Senior Sergeant Kerry Zachariah, Sergeant Nekeisha Josiah, Sergeant Renee Roberts, and Corporal Lenia Livingstone, successfully completed their studies at the University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWIF-IC), graduating in various disciplines. Sergeant Nekeisha Josiah graduated with First Class Honours in a Bachelor's Degree in International Management.

Sergeant Renee Roberts earned Upper Second Class Honours in Business Management, with a concentration in Human Resource Management.

Corporal Lenia Livingstone also graduated with Upper Second Class Honours in Business Management, focusing on Human Resource Management. Senior Sergeant Kerry Zachariah received Upper Second Class Honours in Management with Psychology.

Inspector Evette Henry earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Manage-



Corporal Lenia Livingstone also graduated with Upper Second Class Honours in Business Management, focusing on Human Resource Management.

ment, concentrating on Human Resource Management, graduating with Upper Second Class Honours.

Commissioner Jeffers expressed great pride in the accomplishments of the officers, noting that their academic success reflects the Force's ongoing commitment to professional and personal development.

"These achievements are worthy of commendation and acknowledgement. It tells me that the future of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda looks bright," Commissioner Jeffers stated.

He further added, "I take this oppor-



Inspector Evette Henry earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management, concentrating on Human Resource Management, graduating with Upper Second Class Honours.

tunity to congratulate these officers and encourage others within the Force to emulate their example. Education and continuous learning are essential to improving our service delivery and leadership capacity."

The Commissioner concluded by reaffirming the Administration's support for officers who pursue higher education and professional training, emphasizing that such accomplishments not only enhance the individual's growth but also strengthen the organization's overall effectiveness in serving the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Social activist group launches Substance Abuse Initiative at Bendals Primary School



**Level up with
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London and the Level Up Team, a community-based socially active group, officially launched its Substance Abuse Initiative within the St. Mary's North Constituency, beginning at the Bendals Primary School. The program aims to educate children about the dangers of substance abuse and to encourage them to make positive life choices from an early age.

A recent interactive session at the school, focused on helping students understand the importance of making smart choices, making safe choices, and making the right decisions. Through engaging discussions and activities, the children learned how to know what is dangerous, love their body, think before they act, choose friends who lift them up, focus on their goals, and talk to someone they trust.

Dr. Doran, a psychologist with years of professional experience, delivered an enlightening and interactive presentation. He conducted a live demonstration depicting the human brain and its protective structures. The brain is surrounded by cerebrospinal fluid, a clear fluid that cushions the brain and spinal cord, protecting them from injury. It is also enclosed in the meninges, layers of membranes, and further shielded by the skull. The brain itself contains fatty tissue, particularly in the



myelin sheath, which insulates nerve cells and ensures efficient communication between neurons.

Dr. Doran explained that when harmful substances such as alcohol, nicotine, recreational drugs, or other toxic chemicals enter the body, they can interfere with the brain's normal functioning. These substances can damage neurons, disrupt neurotransmitter activity, affect memory and learning, and even impair decision-making and emotional control. In extreme cases, prolonged substance abuse can lead

to permanent brain damage, reduced cognitive abilities, and mental health disorders.

The children were highly focused and deeply engaged throughout the session. They were eager to ask questions, many of which reflected genuine curiosity and concern about the topic. Their active participation demonstrated a strong interest in understanding how to make responsible choices and protect their health.

Speaking at the event, team leader, Dr. Terri London emphasized the importance of empowering young people with knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions. She noted that prevention through education is one of the most effective ways to safeguard the nation's youth and foster a healthier, more resilient generation.

The Substance Abuse Initiative forms part of the Level Up Team's ongoing commitment to community development, youth empowerment, and public health awareness across St. Mary's North. The team plans to expand the program to other schools and communities in the coming weeks, reinforcing their message that "It's nice to be nice" and reminding young people that their future depends on the choices they make today.

At the end of the session, Ariel April, President of the Student Council at Bendals Primary School, gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the students.

Police Seize Suspected Stolen Items in Multiple Operations

The police have seized a number of suspected stolen items, following a series of major operations conducted over the past 72 hours.

As part of a continuing crackdown on criminal activities, several coordinated search warrants were executed within multiple communities across the island. During these operations, the police confiscated a large quantity of items, including garden and electrical tools, light fixtures, household items, and small electrical appliances.

Several individuals are currently being questioned by the police in connection with the seizures. Investigations are ongoing.

The police are appealing to members of the public who may have been victims of Break-ins and Larceny to contact the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) at 462-3913 or visit the office to assist in identifying and reclaiming their property.

The Police Administration continues to urge residents to properly secure their homes, businesses, and valuables, and to promptly report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station or by calling 911.





GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Ministry of Legal Affairs, Public Safety
 Office of the Attorney General
 Government Office Complex
 Parliament Drive
 St. John's, ANTIGUA W.I.

Legal Aid Department
 Phone: 562-4933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2025

The Legal Aid Department hereby issues an urgent request for individuals who have previously utilized our services to visit our office at their earliest convenience.

Details of the Request:

- **Location:** High Street Branch
- **Operating Hours:** Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

While we strongly encourage the listed individuals to attend in person, those who are unable to do so may contact the Legal Aid Department at the number 562-4933 for further assistance.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

While we encourage listed individuals to visit the office in person, those who are unable to do so may contact the Legal Aid Department at 562-4933 for assistance.

List of Persons for Whom the Legal Aid Department Provided Services:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Destresia Stevens-Philip | • Kerry C. Thomas |
| • Debra Thompson nee Jones | • Hilma James |
| • Genevieve Isaac | • Elvira Lewis |
| • Esther Weatherill | • Elaine Bailey |
| • Fitzgerald L. Semper | • Carla Joseph |
| • Savilla Joseph | • Tessy Fenton |
| • Patrick & Joycelyn Palmer | • Jahlene M. Baptiste |
| • Ivan & Maria Hurst | • Cetrinella Nelson/Cetrinella Edwards |
| • Wendell Jarvis | • Sonia Manning |
| • Ernestine Sylvester | • George Barnes |
| • Rommel Simmons & Marla Simmons | • Graham Samuel Thomas |
| Thomas | • Catherine Sweeney |
| • Rikisha Richards | • Carol & Cortwright Josiah |
| • Iolette Whyte/Jahlette Phillip | • Harold Belgrave Edwards |
| • Patrick Joseph Palmer | • Angella Burton |
| • Jacqueline Nicholas | • Christene Sophia Knight |
| • Marva Williams | • Joycelyn Veronica Charles |
| • Kathleen Joseph | • Totlyn E. Anderson |

Tribute to Her Excellency Zhang Yanling

By Senator the Honourable Alincia Williams Grant
President of the Senate of Antigua and Barbuda

During my tenure as President of the Senate, I have had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with many remarkable men and women who have dedicated their lives to public service. Each of them, in their own way, shares a common purpose — to make the world a little better than they met it. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, *“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”*

Four years ago, I had the honour of first meeting Her Excellency Zhang Yanling, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda. I was immediately inspired by her presence — a woman of experience and distinction who stood as a shining example of the possibilities for women in the diplomatic



Outgoing Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yanling (left) accepts apartment gift from President of the Senate, Sen. Alincia Grant

service.

From our very first encounter, her warmth, passion, and professionalism were unmistakable. Her Excellency brought a vibrant energy to every engagement and approached her work

with purpose, grace, and humility. Over the course of her tenure, she has exemplified these qualities, serving as a bridge between our two nations and delivering meaningful outcomes that have strengthened the bonds

of friendship and cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and the People’s Republic of China.

I am confident that Her Excellency had long embraced the profound question Dr. King posed and in doing so, she chose *service* as both her calling and her gift to humanity in response.

It has been both a blessing and an inspiration to observe her leadership, dedication, and humanity. As she embarks on the next chapter of her professional journey, I extend heartfelt best wishes for her continued success and personal fulfillment. May she be blessed with even greater achievements and happiness for herself and her family.

As Condoleezza Rice, the 66th United States of America Secretary of State, so fittingly reminded us, *“There is no greater challenge and there is no greater honour than to be in public service”*.

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Rights and the Rising Tide

*We talk of rights—of life, of land,
 Yet waves still rise to test our stand.
 From coast to coast, the islands plead,
 For justice more than words and creed.*

*In Jamaica's hall, youth voices met,
 Their hearts, like oceans, never set.
 From Antigua's shore to Grenada's sea,
 We penned a call for equity.*

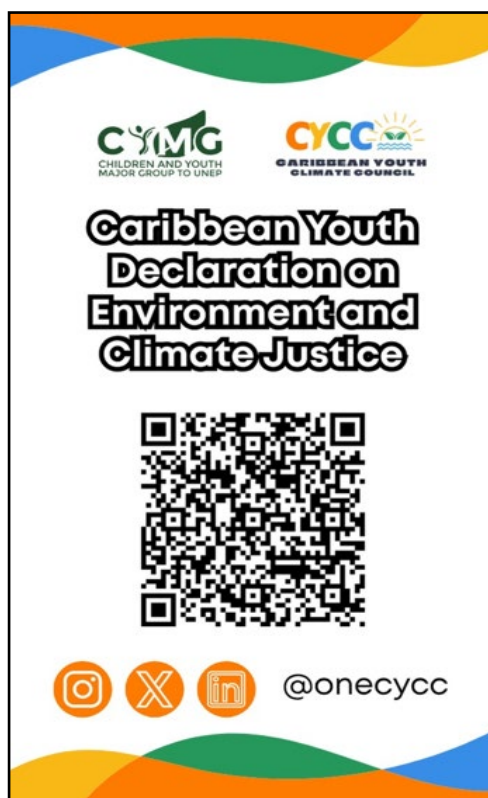
*"We, the youth of the Caribbean,
 affirm that environment and climate
 justice are inseparable from the pro-
 tection
 and fulfilment of human rights.
 "CYCC Youth Declaration_Final*

*The air we breathe, the ground we
 till,
 Each right connects to human will.
 But storms now steal what laws de-
 fend,
 And droughts rewrite where rivers
 end.*

*The UN declared in Resolution
 76/300:*

*"The right to a clean, healthy, and
 sustainable environment ... essential
 to the full enjoyment of all human
 rights."*

*So, if our skies are thick with smoke,
 Are rights not choked by every stroke?
 If floods wash homes from simple
 folk,
 Do justice scales not crack and soak?*



*Antigua's youth, with courage bright,
 Returned from talks to shine this
 light:
 That justice isn't bound by walls—
 It breathes in reefs, in roots, in calls.*

*From climate refugees unheard,
 To farmers fighting barren earth,
 Our rights are tied to planet's worth,
 Our dignity to nature's birth.*

*The Sendai Frame reminds each
 land,
 To plan with heart and helping
 hand—
 Include the young, include the weak,
 Let every voice and village speak.*

*For access to truth must not be rare,
 When data's hidden, change despairs.
 Transparency is power's seed,
 To grow the justice we all need.*

*And money—oh, that global race,
 Where rich polluters take first place.
 The youth cry out for funds that flow,
 To those who feel the storm winds
 blow.*

*Common but Differentiated too,
 Means fairness guides what nations
 do.
 So each should pay its honest due,
 To balance Earth for me and you.*

*In Antigua now, we plant the seed,
 That justice must be deed indeed.
 With bins, with laws, with hearts
 awake,
 A greener path our youth must make.*

*From classroom talks to coastal tours,
 We'll link our rights to island shores.
 For every child should learn and see,
 That climate justice sets us free.*

*So stay attuned, each week ahead,
 As chapters of this plan are read.
 Workshops, radios, words that
 move—
 We'll build the Caribbean's climate
 groove.*

*Five weeks long we'll share this story,
 Of youth united in earthly glory.
 From Antigua's voice to Jamaica's
 call,
 Climate justice must stand for all.*

Mental Health is the New Economic Imperative



By Chaneil Imhoff

Each October, the world pauses to acknowledge Mental Health Awareness Month, yet too often, the conversation remains confined to awareness rather than action. In truth, mental well-being is not just a health issue but an economic necessity. A country's ability to grow, innovate, and sustain development depends on the mental wellness of its people. Without it, no policy, investment, or technology can deliver the future we aspire to.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than one billion people are living with mental health conditions globally, with depression and anxiety disorders costing the world economy an estimated US \$1 trillion annually in lost productivity. The International Labour Organization (ILO) further reports that roughly 12 billion working days are lost every year due to mental distress, through absenteeism, burnout, and presenteeism, quietly eroding productivity and economic stability across every region.

For small island developing states like ours, the impact is even more pronounced. Our economies rely heavily on human capital and the

creativity, empathy, and resilience of people who power the tourism, education, and service industries. When those people are unwell, economies stall. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates that in some nations, the cost of mental ill-health exceeds 4 percent of GDP, surpassing many countries' education budgets. This means that the mental health crisis is not simply a moral issue but an economic emergency.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, we stand at a turning point. For the first time in nearly seventy years, the government is on the verge of introducing a new Mental Health Bill, crafted with technical support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). This long-overdue reform will replace the outdated Mental Treatment Act of 1957, which reflects an era when mental illness was treated with confinement and stigma, rather than compassion and science. The new legislation will bring our national laws in line with international human rights standards thus ensuring voluntary care wherever possible, protecting against discrimination, and expanding access to mental health services across communities.

In September 2025, a PAHO mission to Antigua and Barbuda engaged government officials, healthcare professionals, and civil society in finalizing the bill. The consultations emphasized a shift from institutional care to community-based, rights-oriented models, aligning with WHO's call for integrating mental health into all areas of health and social policy. The mission also assessed facilities for potential expansion of mental wellness services and held public awareness activities to ensure citizens' voices were heard in the reform process.

(PAHO, "PAHO advances mental health reform in Antigua and Barbuda," 2025)

This goes beyond health reform and into the realm of economic strategy. When people receive timely and dignified mental health care, they are better able to work, create, and contribute to the nation's growth. When stigma is reduced, workplaces become more inclusive and productive. And when care is accessible in every community, families are strengthened, social systems become more cohesive, and national resilience improves.

Antigua and Barbuda's collaboration with PAHO through the Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy (MCCS) which is a five-year regional plan prioritizing mental health, equity, and primary-care integration — marks a critical shift in how our nation approaches well-being. Earlier this year, Antigua and Barbuda also co-hosted the hemispheric event "Uniting the Americas for Mental Health: From Commitment to Action" during the OAS General Assembly, helping to set a regional agenda that positions mental wellness as central to sustainable development.

(PAHO Event, June 2025)

The Caribbean's development realities make this issue especially urgent. Economic uncertainty, high living costs, climate-related disasters, and the lingering effects of colonial trauma all contribute to rising stress, anxiety, and depression. The ILO warns that precarious work, job insecurity, and informal employment are among the leading psychosocial risk factors for poor mental health. And Unfortunately, nearly half of Caribbean workers experience one or more of these conditions. When workers are anxious, overextended, and unsupported, productivity and innovation decline. But the evidence shows that investment yields remarkable returns: for every US \$1 invested in mental health, the WHO finds an average return of US \$2 or more in better health and increased productivity.

Antigua and Barbuda's reform therefore represents a model for small island states seeking to integrate compassion into economic policy. The proposed law aims not only to modernize care but also to deinstitutionalize treatment, strengthen community services, and introduce oversight mechanisms that protect the rights of individuals living with mental health conditions. These measures, when implemented effectively, can enhance workforce participation, reduce dependency ratios, and foster innovation across sectors. These outcomes directly support national development goals and the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Of course, the law alone will not suffice. To translate reform into reality, we must invest in human resources, data systems, and public education. We need to train more community health professionals, equip primary care centers to provide mental health services, and establish programs in schools that teach emotional literacy and resilience. Financing must reflect this priority: currently, mental health spending in many low- and middle-income countries accounts for less than 2 percent of total health budgets, according to PAHO. Antigua and Barbuda can — and should — do better, setting a benchmark for the Eastern Caribbean.

Equally important is culture. We must normalize conversations around mental wellness and move away from the outdated notion that seeking help is a sign of weakness. When we create environments at home, in schools, and in workplaces, that prioritize psychological safety, we create conditions for growth. A population that is emo-

tionally resilient is better equipped to respond to shocks, recover from crises, and build sustainable livelihoods. That is the essence of development.

Antigua and Barbuda's steps toward mental health reform are timely as they are transformative. They show that our nation understands a truth that global health economists have long articulated: mental health is not a cost to be minimized, but a catalyst for progress. The wellbeing of our citizens is our greatest economic resource.

As we prepare to adopt this new Mental Health Bill, we have a chance to lead by example and to build a society where dignity, inclusion, and care are seen not as social luxuries, but as economic strategies. Because in the final analysis, there can be no real development without well-being, and no lasting prosperity without peace of mind.

About the Author

Chaneil Imhoff is a communications specialist, mental health advocate, and founder of the Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH) — a platform dedicated to breaking silence and shattering stigma around mental health in Antigua and Barbuda. She is also a correspondent for The Guardian UK and an award-winning creative entrepreneur.

Follow her on all platforms: **@chaneilcimhoff**

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Regional News

Four Caribbean Nations Sign CRFM Agreement, Strengthening Regional Fisheries Cooperation



Four Caribbean countries—Anguilla, The Bahamas, Dominica, and Montserrat—have officially signed the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), reinforcing their commitment to regional collaboration in fisheries management and sustainable marine development.

The en bloc signing took place on September 30, 2025, during the 16th Special Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council, held as part of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Saint Kitts

and Nevis under the auspices of CARICOM.

The signatories were Hon. Kyle Hodge of Anguilla, Mr. Montez Williams of The Bahamas, Hon. Roland Royer of Dominica, and Hon. John Patrick Osborne of Montserrat.

CRFM Executive Director Dr. Marc Williams hailed the move as an important milestone, noting that all 17 member states have now formalized their participation. He emphasized that the CRFM continues to strengthen its governance and accountability through

key policies, including the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, Personal Data Protection Policy, Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy, and a Whistleblower Policy.

Dr. Williams also highlighted that the CRFM is committed to ensuring its programs are gender-sensitive and inclusive of youth and Indigenous communities.

Established in 2003, the CRFM promotes the sustainable management and development of marine and aquatic resources within member states' jurisdic-

tions, supports scientific collaboration on fish stocks, and fosters regional cooperation on shared and migratory species.

The CRFM's 17 member states now include Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. (Antigua.News)

Haiti court orders new probe into July 2021 Jovenel Moïse presidential slaying in key ruling



Justice officials in Haiti are asking the United States and Canada for help after a court of appeals ordered a new investigation into the killing of President Jovenel Moïse, the third one of its kind since he was fatally shot at his private residence in July 2021.

Monday's ruling overturns last year's indictment of 51 people, including Moïse's widow, Martine Moïse; the former director of Haiti's National Police, Léon Charles; and former Prime Minister Claude Joseph.

A Haitian appeals court said it would seek help from US and Canada in securing interviews with people including Charles, Martine Moïse, her son and former Prime Minister Ariel Henry, according to Le Nouvelliste newspaper.

While the court noted that a new investigation would start from scratch, it ordered that 17 former Colombian soldiers arrested in the case as well as a handful of Haitian suspects remain held in prison, defence attorney Nathalie Delisca told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Delisca said she would not contest the appeals court decision to Haiti's Supreme Court because she does not be-

lieve it would change anything. Haiti's justice system overall is crumbling amid widespread corruption and

a surge in gang violence.

"We are living in a deplorable situation," she said, adding that the interpreters in the most recent judicial investigation did not correctly translate her clients' statements.

"Some judges even had the decency to note that the interpreters sometimes misrepresented the words of the people being questioned," she said.

Delisca said that a lack of evidence and required paperwork for certain suspects prompted the call for a new investigation.

She noted that her request that the 17 former Colombian soldiers be provisionally released was denied.

The case continues to drag on in Haiti while authorities in the US have already charged 11 extradited suspects, five of whom have pleaded guilty.

Several other suspects in the U.S. are awaiting trial, which is now scheduled for March 2026. (AP)



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Regional News



Psychiatrists declare mother unfit for trial in infant's death

Two psychiatrists have concluded that a St James woman accused of killing her infant daughter is unfit to stand trial.

Shamoya Green is charged with the death of her five-month-old daughter, Destiny Brown, who she reportedly threw from the roof of their Lilliput home in December 2023.

During a fitness-to-plea hearing in the St James Circuit Court on Tuesday, psychiatrists Dr Myo Kyaw Oo and Dr Joni-Gaye McLeary – both attached to the Department of Corrections – testified via video link.

Oo, who assessed Green nine times between May 2024 and September 2025, diagnosed her with psychosis and a seizure disorder. He said these conditions impair her ability to understand the murder charge or instruct her attorney, Gillian Haughton.

“Psychosis includes auditory hallucinations and irrational speech. Ms Green hears voices ... when, in fact, there is no one talking, and she had frequent episodes of fits while at South Camp,” Oo said, referencing Green’s detention at South Camp Adult Correctional Facility.

He said she used expletives during one interview and could not explain why she was arrested. She has no recollection of the incident.

McLeary, who evaluated Green 20 times between May 2024 and September 2025, reported similar findings. She described Green as suffering from persecutory delusions and frequent conversations with unseen individuals.

“She has the belief that individuals around her are constantly trying to harm her, and she believes she is always in danger ... Ms Green would constantly be having conversations

with unseen individuals during our interviews, and recently, she would be speaking to her children while having the interview, having a full conversation with her children [who were not present],” said McLeary.

“Ms Green’s psychosis is, most times, exacerbated by a seizure episode,” she added, noting that Green has had between five and seven admissions at the Kingston Public Hospital since her arrest.

Both doctors dismissed the possibility that Green was fabricating her symp-

toms to avoid prosecution.

The hearing continues this morning when a seven-member jury will decide Green’s fitness to plead.

According to police reports, on December 6, 2023, Green became upset after her common-law husband refused to talk with her about their relationship. She allegedly took Destiny to the roof of their third-floor home and threw the child onto a concrete pit. Destiny later died at hospital. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

UWI Global Campus Monsterrat welcomes new head, Dr Sheron Burns



Dr. Sheron Burns has been appointed as the Head of the University of the West Indies (The UWI) Global Campus in Montserrat, effective September 1, 2025.

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal shared that Dr. Burns brings a wealth of experience as an educator and researcher. A UWI press release described her journey in education as beginning in 1987 after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with a focus on Social Sciences from the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) in St. Thomas.

It further stated that her early career involved teaching young children aged five to seven in Montserrat's government primary schools, where she contributed significantly to early childhood education until 2006. That year marked her appointment as Education Officer for Pre-Primary education within Montserrat's Ministry of Education, a role she held until 2014.

During this period, she led the development of Montserrat's Early Childhood Education Policy and initiated

the annual June celebration of Early Childhood Education—two initiatives that continue to influence the island's educational landscape.

UWI also reported that in 2014, Dr. Burns was seconded from the Montserrat government to join the School of Education at The UWI Cave Hill Campus. There, she played a pivotal role in designing the Bachelor of Education program in Early Childhood Care and Education, significantly enhancing teacher training across the Eastern Caribbean region. After returning to Montserrat in July 2021, she remained actively engaged in education both locally and internationally. Currently, she lectures part-time at the University of Guyana, functions as an external

examiner, and supervises graduate students for universities in Australia, the United States, and the Caribbean. She also supports the Montserrat Ministry of Education's ongoing transformation initiatives.

Her academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Elementary Education (Early Childhood) from the University of Alberta, Canada. As outlined in the release, her dissertation, titled "Teaching and Learning Using a Child-Focused Approach in a Kindergarten Classroom in Montserrat," reflects her dedication to child-centered pedagogies. She earned a Master of Arts in Elementary Education, specializing in Educational Technology and Reading, from UVI in 1997.



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Regional News

Her thesis, “The Effects of Phonological Awareness Skills and Letter-Sound Correspondence on the Early Reading Ability of Low-Skilled Kindergarten Students,” demonstrated her commitment to literacy development. Additionally, she holds a Postgraduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning from The UWI Cave Hill Campus, obtained in 2017.

Dr. Burns’ contributions to the field have reportedly garnered broad recognition. She was nominated for the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies’ Election Management Award in 2024 and received The UWI Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Multi-Campus Research Collaboration in 2020, known as the “One UWI Award.”

Her accolades also include the Women of Montserrat Bonding (WOMB) Gem Award in 2019, the Montserrat Ministry of Education Award for Contributions to Early Childhood Education in 2016, and the Montserrat Progressive Society of New York Centennial Award for Education in 2014.

Her research interests span teacher education, the role of play in pedagogical strategies, education systems within the Eastern Caribbean, and advocating for access to culturally and developmentally appropriate early childhood education.

She has published extensively on these topics, including works such as *Every Learner Succeeds: Reconceptualising Quality in Early Childhood in the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States* (2021, Palgrave Macmillan), *Early Learning Environments: Embracing and Valuing Home Language* (2021, IGI Global, co-authored with J. Jules), *Actualizing Children’s Rights Through Early Childhood Care and Education: A Focus on the Caribbean* (2019, Journal of Early Childhood Research, co-authored with Z. Kinkead-Clarke and S. Abdul-Majied), *Achieving Quality in Early Childhood*

Education in the Eastern Caribbean Depends on Teacher Preparation (2018, Early Child Development and Care), and *The Ontology and Social Construction of Childhood* (2013, in *Understanding Child Sexual Abuse: Perspectives from the Caribbean*).

Beyond her academic pursuits, UWI wrote that Dr. Burns is an active community supporter and enthusiast of gardening, floristry, and photography. She currently serves as Chair of the Electoral Commission of Montserrat, further contributing to national development and civic engagement.

Expressing confidence in her appointment, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr. Francis O. Severin emphasized, “Dr. Sheron Burns has joined us at The UWI Global Campus at an opportune time. We are accelerating and augmenting our longstanding and ‘vintage’ commitment to the Eastern

Caribbean as the Campus that is most flexible and agile in facilitating and meeting the hopes and aspirations of our people in their hamlets, villages, countrysides, towns and cities. We will not relent, and Dr Burns embodies this sort of intellectual activism and care that adds value to our Regional thrust. It is an especial boon that Dr Burns enjoys the support and confidence of the Government and people of Montserrat. She is not only well respected there but well known and recognised as an authentic and genuine Montserrat and Caribbean patriot whose goal is to advance the people of the Region. This aspiration is in concert with the philosophy of the Global Campus.”

The university’s leadership said the team warmly welcomes Dr. Burns into her new role and extends best wishes for her success in shaping the future of the Montserrat site of The UWI Global Campus. (Dominica News Online)




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Madagascar's president ousted in military coup after weeks of youth-led protests



Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina was toppled Tuesday in a military coup that capped weeks of youth protests over poverty, power outages and a lack of opportunity in the Indian Ocean island country.

Right after parliament voted to impeach Rajoelina, who fled the country fearing for his safety, the leader of Madagascar's elite CAP-SAT military unit said the armed forces would form a council made up of officers from the armed forces and gendarmerie, a military unit that polices civilians, and would appoint a prime minister to "quickly" form a civilian government.

"We are taking power," Colonel Michael Randrianirina told reporters in front of a ceremonial presidential palace in the capital, Antananarivo, as protesters celebrated the news with soldiers.

He said the constitution and High Constitutional Court's powers had been suspended, and that a referen-

dum would be held in two years, though he didn't go into detail.

From an undisclosed location after fleeing, Rajoelina issued a decree Tuesday trying to dissolve parliament's lower house in an apparent attempt to pre-empt being impeached.

But lawmakers ignored it and voted overwhelmingly to end the rule of the 51-year-old leader, who himself came to power as a transitional leader in a military-backed coup in 2009.

Rajoelina's office released a statement condemning Randrianirina's announcement as an "illegal declaration" and "a serious breach of the rule of law."

"The Republic of Madagascar cannot be taken hostage by force. The State remains standing," it said.

Madagascar, a sprawling island country off the east coast of southern Africa, is home to about 30

million people. It is the world's biggest vanilla producer and, because of its geographic isolation, is known for its biodiversity. Since gaining its independence from French colonial rule in 1960, it has struggled to overcome poverty and political instability, including a series of coups.

Rajoelina's fall capped weeks of Gen Z-led protests that started over persistent electricity and water outages but snowballed into demonstrations of frustration with the government and Rajoelina's leadership. Protesters raised a range of issues, including government corruption, access to higher education, the cost of living and poverty, which affects about 75% of Madagascar's population, according to the World Bank. Although young people led the demonstrations, others also took part, including civic groups and unions.

The turning point came Saturday, when Randrianirina and CAP-SAT troops joined the protests and turned against Rajoelina, which led the president to go into hiding. In a Monday night speech broadcast on social media, Rajoelina said he left the country for a "safe place" in fear for his life.

The protesters, who have been on the streets for weeks and packing a main square since Saturday, have said they were inspired by other Gen Z-led movements that toppled leaders in Nepal and Sri Lanka. The young protesters have made clear they don't have a leader. (AP)

Deadly landslides and flooding cut off 300 communities in Mexico

More than 300 communities in central and eastern Mexico remained cut off by deadly landslides and flooding on Tuesday, as thousands of soldiers and civilian workers scrambled to reopen blocked roads.

The government confirmed that at least 64 people have died due to the torrential rains.

Dozens are still missing and officials warn the full extent of the devastation in remote towns of 500 to 1,000 residents remains unknown.

The rains were triggered by the convergence of two tropical storms churning off Mexico's western coast, striking at the end of an unusually heavy rainy season that has left rivers overflowing and hillsides weakened.

"Reopening roads is one of our greatest urgencies," President Claudia Sheinbaum said.

"We have to secure air bridges, food supplies, water, and check on how each person is faring."

Health teams began fumigating affected areas



to prevent outbreaks of dengue, a disease spread by mosquitoes.

The hardest-hit states are Veracruz, Hidalgo and Puebla.

In Hidalgo alone, where roughly half of the isolated villages are located, about 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by flooding rivers and mudslides.

In Veracruz, where at least 29 people died, rainfall reached 24 inches in just four days. Veracruz Governor Rocío Nahle said more than 300,000 people were affected in the state alone.

In Poza Rica, resident Roberto Olvera said an oil refinery alarm alerted him to rising waters from the nearby Cazones River, which reached 13 feet (4 meters) in some areas.

"It was terrifying, many people in the neighbourhood couldn't escape," he said.

Floodwaters there also left a black, oily residue believed to have come from nearby oil and gas installations, coating trees and rooftops.

Dozens of health centres were damaged, including one in Álamo, Veracruz, where floodwa-

ters reached two meters (6.5 feet), destroying all equipment. Local health director Martí Batres said medical staff are now working outdoors.

While thousands of soldiers and rescue teams search for the missing and deliver aid, helicopters are ferrying supplies to isolated zones and private construction firms are helping to reopen key roads.

Sheinbaum said there are enough resources to respond and that the government "will spare no expense during this emergency." (AP)



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES THE CHRISTMAS HOME AND BUSINESS LIGHTING COMPETITION 2025:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday 01st, October 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.....*
The Department of Creative Industries is pleased to announce the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition 2025.

We aim to evoke the spirit of the season through the creative and dazzling lighting display of our 2025 competitors, the Department encourages all interested Home and Business owners to register for the competition on or before Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Registration Forms are available Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Creative Industries Headquarters on Old Parham Road, upstairs INET or the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor Cecil George-John Building, Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley.

Pre-judging will commence on December 20th and 21st December, 2025, while the final displays will be judged on December 28, 2025. Winners will be announced via Good Morning Antigua, Barbuda on Friday, January 5th 2026.

Home entries will be categorized and judged according to the zones – East, West, North, and South. All Home participants will receive a 100% waiver on electricity service for December 15th 2025 to January 15th 2026, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners in each zone as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Business entries will receive a 50% waiver on electricity service for December 2025, Duty-Free concessions on Christmas Lights and or Decorations and a Cash component for the top three winners as outlined below.

- **First Place - \$ 3,000.00 XCD**
- **Second Place - \$ 2,000.00 XCD**
- **Third Place - \$ 1,000.00 XCD**

Register now to be a part of the joy and splendor of Christmas 2025.

END.

US strikes another boat accused of carrying drugs in waters off Venezuela, killing 6, Trump says

The United States struck another small boat accused of carrying drugs in the waters off Venezuela, killing six people, President Donald Trump said Tuesday.

Those who died in the strike were aboard the vessel, and no US forces were harmed, the Republican president said in a social media post.

It's the fifth deadly strike in the Caribbean as Trump's administration has asserted it's treating alleged drug traffickers as unlawful combatants who must be met with military force.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the strike Tuesday morning, said Trump, who released a video of it, as he had in the past. Hegseth later shared the video in a post on X.

The black-and-white video showed a small boat that appeared stationary on the water.

Seconds into the video, it is struck by a projectile from overhead and explodes. The boat is then seen floating aflame for several seconds.

Trump said the strike was conducted in international waters and "intelligence" confirmed the vessel was trafficking narcotics, was associated with "narcoterrorist networks" and was on a known drug trafficking route.

The Pentagon did not im-



mediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking more information on the latest boat strike, but one defence official confirmed that the details in the social media post were accurate.

Frustration with the Trump administration has been growing on Capitol Hill among members of both major political parties. Some Republicans are seeking more information from the White House on the legal justification and details of the strikes. Democrats contend the strikes violate US and international law.

The Senate last week voted on a war powers resolution that would have barred the Trump administration from conducting the strikes un-

less Congress specifically authorized them, but it failed to pass.

In a memo to Congress that was obtained by The Associated Press, the Trump administration said it had "determined that the United States is in a non-international armed conflict with these designated terrorist organizations" and that Trump directed the Pentagon to "conduct operations against them pursuant to the law of armed conflict."

The Trump administration has yet to provide underlying evidence to lawmakers proving that the boats targeted by the US military in a series of fatal strikes were in fact carrying narcotics, according to two US officials familiar with the matter who were not autho-

rized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

California Senator Adam Schiff, a Democrat who last week pushed the vote on the Venezuela resolution, said in a post on X that the president's authority to respond to an armed attack or the threat of one was limited and did not apply.

"These continued strikes — 27 killed to date — risk getting the US into a full fledged war," Schiff said.

He said he would push for another vote if the strikes continue.

The strikes followed a build-up of US maritime forces in the Caribbean unlike any seen in recent times. (AP)

ABSF announces Antigua team for 33rd OECS Swimming Championships

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) has announced the national team selected to represent the twin-island nation at the 33rd OECS Swimming Championships in St. Vincent and the Grenadines next month.

It is scheduled to take place at the Shrewsbury Aquatic Centre from November 7 to 9.

The team will be led by Head Coach Nelson Molina Fojo, with Coach Raheem Manberville and Coach Elizabeth Watkins providing strong technical support.

Team Manager Dwight Shaw will oversee team coordination and logistics throughout the championship, and Jean Pierre Degannes will be the head chaperon.

The OECS Swimming Championships bring together the region's most talented swimmers to compete in a spirit of excellence, sportsmanship, and regional pride.

Antigua and Barbuda's swimmers have been training rigorously in preparation for the event and are eager to make their mark in the pool.

"We are extremely proud of our swimmers' commitment and hard work leading up to this championship," said President



of the Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation Edith Clashing.

"They have demonstrated discipline, teamwork, and a strong desire to represent Antigua and Barbuda with distinction."

The ABSF encourages the public to keep their eyes on our talented swimmers and to cheer them on as they compete against the best in the region.

Antigua and Barbuda have been the reigning OECS Swimming Champions for the last three years.

A full list of team members is provided below.

Girls 8 & Under

Whittaker Gold

Mila Bento

Boys 8 & Under

Akaison Shepperd

Toby Bento

Levi Ince (Alternate)

Girls 9 to 10

Isabel Nicholas

Charlotte Gold

Anna Sukumaran

Jordan Howell

Boys 9 to 10

Jalen Weste

Major Emanuel

Girls 11 to 12

Kaylee Warner

Keziah Joseph

Willow Zreibi

Alyssa Watkins

Boys 11 to 12

Alessandro Bazzoni

Christopher Walter

Tristan Nicholas

Nathaniel Gold

13 to 14 Girls

Anya Degannes

Paradise Carlisle

Tori Hosam (Alternate)

13 to 14 Boys

Reuben Edwards

Antoine Christian

N'yriq Weste

Jamie Tranter (injured and replaced by Tori Hosam)

15 to 17 Girls

Madisson MacMillan

Eliana Spencer

15 to 17 Boys

Ethan Stubbs-Greene

Neil Noronha

Jai Sindhi

Esprit Shaw

18 & Over Girls

Anisa Lewis

18 & Over Boys

Stefano Mitchell

Jadon Wuilliez

Manav Sindhi

Yacine Williams (Alternate)

Kashyap Tennis bows out of Pan American Table Championships

Antigua and Barbuda's Stuti Kashyap has been knocked out of the women's singles at the Senior ITTF Pan American Championships in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

The 16-year-old crashed out in the Round of 32, losing to Chile's world-ranked Daniela Ortega, the reigning South American Champion, who already has four titles this year.

Although the match ended in a 0-4 loss, Kashyap showed incredible poise and fight against one of the continent's very best.

Kashyap delivered a commanding 4-0 win over Argentina's Valentina Parola, a strong senior player who is seven years her senior, in the Round of 64.

This was Antigua and Barbuda's best-ever showing at a senior continental championship, following Kashyap's recent bronze medal at the ITTF Americas Youth Championships and silver in Under-19 Mixed Doubles at the WTT Youth Contender in San



Stuti Kashyap

Francisco, California.

"We're not just competing, we're progressing," said ABTTA President Charles "Chucky" Bellot.

"This experience is a step forward in our long-term vision for international excellence," he added.

Wins for HW Promotions and SLBMC in Business Basketball League

H. Wright (HW) Promotions and Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) recorded wins in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League championships on Tuesday night.

H. Wright Promotions notched up their fourth win in seven encounters with a 101-63 drubbing of Police in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Donte Trimingham pro-

duced 40 points, nine rebounds, six assists, and four steals; Humroy Wright converted 29 points and claimed six rebounds; and Rashaun Harry scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds for H. Wright Promotions.

Javon Simon produced 26 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists; Alfred Telemaque sank 15 points and snatched 14 rebounds; and Gavin Walker scored 12 points and snatched eight rebounds for the Police, who remain in the cellar after suffering their 10th loss in as many

games.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre recorded their third win in eight matches by snatching a narrow 49-45 victory against Fearless Security Services in Tuesday's second game.

Point guard Nigel Joseph produced 19 points, six rebounds, four assists, and three steals, and Winston Roberts sank 10 points and claimed six rebounds for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Emeka Emjuru produced

14 points, nine rebounds, four assists, and four steals for Fearless Security Services, who suffered their eighth loss in nine games.

The Business Basketball League will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday.

H. Wright Promotions will face Cornerstone Builders and Maintenance at 7 pm, and Police will take on Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre at 8 pm.

Pakistan take first Test with victory over South Africa

LAHORE (Reuters) - Pakistan secured a 93-run victory over South Africa on the fourth day of the first Test, taking the eight wickets needed on Wednesday to go 1-0 up in the two-match series.

Left-arm spinner Noman Ali completed a 10-wicket haul and seamer Shaheen Shah Afridi took the last three wickets as South Africa, who were 51 for two overnight, were dismissed for 183 in the middle session.

The slow and deteriorating wicket proved far too testing for the tourists although Dewald Brevis offered them hope as he bludgeoned a quick-fire half century.

South Africa were always going to be up against it when Tony de Zorzi, who scored a century in the first innings, was trapped leg before wicket by Shaheen Shah Afridi in the first over of the morning, as they chased a target of 277 to extend a 10-test winning streak.

It was a rare wicket for a seamer in a contest where neither side used them much, such was the spin-friendly condition of the turning wicket, although Afridi returned to secure victory for his team.

Tristan Stubbs lasted only eight balls before a viciously turning delivery from Noman deceived him, bringing Brevis to the wicket.

The 22-year-old already has a reputation in limited overs cricket for his expansive hitting and did



South Africa's Simon Harmer, right, and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada, fifth left, shakes hand with Pakistani players on the end of first Test cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Lahore, Pakistan, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025. (AP)

not temper his approach in his third Test appearance.

He made up for his first ball dismissal in the first innings with 54 runs off as many balls as he put the pressure back onto the Pakistani bowlers and offered South Africa the brief potential of an unlikely win.

Together with Ryan Rickelton they put on a 73-run partnership, but Noman had the last laugh with a turning delivery that clean bowled Brevis.

Rickelton then got a leading edge to Sajid's turning ball to depart for 45, leaving the tourists 137 for six at lunch.

The last four wickets fell without much resistance with Afridi given another spell to wrap up the tail and return figures of four for

33. Noman took four for 79 to add to his six wickets in the first innings.

"We built enough margins where we could have the upper hand and I'm glad we finished it off," said Pakistan captain Shan Masood.

Defeat for South Africa marked a losing start to the defence of their World Test Championship crown at the beginning of a new two-year cycle.

"There was some good stuff over the few days that we played, I thought, really good signs, I suppose, bat and ball. So we have a bit to take out, bit to learn as well, and clean up our space for the next game," said South Africa captain Aiden Markram.

Next week's second Test will be played in Rawalpindi.

Quashie scores eight goals in U-16 Girls Division League

National youth forward Nafisa Quashie produced a double haul to lead Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) to a winning start to their campaign in the Under-16 Girls Division league in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition on Tuesday.

Quashie scored all the goals as Antigua Girls High School launched their campaign with an 8-0 drubbing of All Saints Secondary at Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

The diminutive Quashie scored in the second, third, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 27th, 44th, and 48th minutes against All Saints Secondary, who were also playing their first league match in this year's competition.

Cup-holders, Princess Margaret School, continued their winning start in defense of their title in the Under-16 Girls Division league by securing their second win in as many games.

After starting their title defense with a 6-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School, Princess Margaret School romped to a 4-0 victory against Jennings Secondary School in their second encounter at Antigua Grammar School's playing field.



Nafisa Quashie

JKayla Bellet scored twice with conversions in the ninth and 15th minutes. The other two goals were converted by Gimel Samuel in the second minute and Keishorna Henry in the fifth minute.

The Ottos Comprehensive School got off to a winning start in the competition by pulling off a 2-0 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School in their opening

encounter at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Kengique Armstrong scored both goals for Ottos Comprehensive School as St. Mary's Secondary School suffered their second loss in as many games.

The Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football

Competition will continue with matches in the Under-20 Boys' Division on Thursday.

All Saints Secondary School will tackle Pares Secondary School at the Mock Pond playing field in All Saints at 2:15 pm.

Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCAB-SCE) will face Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the first game of a double-header at the Clare Hall playing field at 2:15 pm.

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) will clash with Clare Hall Secondary in the second encounter at 3:40 pm.

The competition will continue with a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday.

The Irene B. Williams Secondary will challenge Jennings Secondary School in their opening affair at 4 pm, and the Ottos Comprehensive School will oppose defending champion Princess Margaret School in the second encounter at 6:30 pm.

Both matches will be preceded by an under-14 boys division affair between Ottos Comprehensive School and St. Joseph's Academy at 3 pm.