

# Police Sgt. Karim Warner found guilty

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# Local News

## Police Sgt. Karim Warner found guilty



pants inside.

Fortunately, neither received any injuries.

The case has been ongoing for more than a year with several delays and postponements. Finally, however, a verdict was handed down on Wednesday finding the police officer guilty.

Reports from the court indicate that the officer broke down in tears when the verdict was read.

His bail conditions are to continue and he is due to return to court on Friday when he will be sentenced.

Wade had high-powered character witnesses in the person of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Albert Wade, and head of Special Security Services, Wilbur Purcell. However, it is believed that the testimony of Martin went a long way in influencing the court's decision.

A police officer – 27-year old Sgt. Karim Warner – has been found guilty of discharging his weapon in a public road and is to be sentenced for the crime on Friday.

The incident happened on December 3, 2023, and arose out of a business transaction between Sgt. Warner and the virtual complainants, Lenise Martin and Darren Jeanville who had rented a motor vehicle from the officer.

It appears as the couple failed to pay for use of the vehicle and out of this dispute, the two drove off in the rented vehicle. Warner gave chase and caught up with them on the outskirts of Willikies. The court heard that Warner discharged twelve round of his service weapon at the vehicle with both occu-



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## Ministry of Education hosts annual 'Service of Thanksgiving'



Thousands of students, teachers, parents and officials of the Ministry of Education gathered at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration on

Wednesday for the annual Service of Thanksgiving to mark the start of another school year. With the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams in attendance

the service featured students from various schools playing prominent roles within the service, from conducting the service, to reading the lessons, blessing the offering and delivering the message.

The only adult to speak was Education Minister, Daryll Matthews, who underscored the value of education in building character among young people and by extension, the entire nation.

"Education is that place where we mold character in our young people and effectively the character of the nation; because a country is a manifestation of the character of the people within it, and the people in the country are molded by educators at all levels," he stated.



# Local News

Minister Matthew referenced a quotation from the Book of Proverbs which stated; ‘Train up a child in the way it should grow and when he grows up he would not depart from it’.

“This charge, entrusted to us, is one that requires our diligence, our sacrifice and it requires that every single one of us to accepts the guidance of God in every single thing that we do,” he noted.

The Education Minister then expressed heartfelt appreciation to members of the teaching fraternity who work tirelessly molding the nation’s youth. He also thanked the parents and guardians for the many sacrifices they make to ensure that their children have the necessary tools to function within the classroom.

“Additionally, I want to thank all the stakeholders who work hand in hand with us to advance the cause of education in Antigua and Barbuda; our principals, our teachers, our ministry officials, all of those persons who work on the school plant, whether they be grounds men, janitors or school meals persons I want to thank you because without you there is no education system,” he remarked.

The message during the service was delivered by Ajani Edwards, a student of the Dr. Alister Francis Campus of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies.





## Ministry of Works celebrates September's achievements



The Ministry of Works is celebrating the progress it has made in its road construction and repair programme and the impact this is already having in several communities.

The Ministry has posted a message on its social media page noting, 'Progress in motion!' indicating that September saw intensive infrastructure improvements continuing across dozens of communities island-wide.

"Behind every road upgrade were countless hands at work — our con-

crete plant batching overtime, quarries running at full capacity, dedicated truck drivers, skilled engineers, committed contractors, and resilient road crews all making this consistent progress possible," the post read.

The ministry said it is looking forward to sharing details very soon about the upcoming upgrades to All Saints Road, and to several other highways included in the next phase of the road works revolution.

"Sincere thanks to Hon. Maria Browne,

Ministry of Works leadership, our dedicated team members, C.O. Williams and all our contractor partners," the post concluded.



# Local News

## Ministry of Health and the Environment to undertake national wide clean-up during October

The Ministry of Health and the Environment has announced that it will mobilise much resources to undertake major clean-up effort that will impact the entire nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

The clean-up will be spearheaded by the National Solid Waste Management Authority which said in a statement that the national clean-up has already started and it will move from community to community.

“We are cleaning up drains, coastal areas, main roads, and village corners – we’re tackling it all! The clean-up campaign has started in the scheduled areas to include Grays Farm, Hatton, and Green Bay. All residents are asked to cooperate by placing their bulk waste on the curbside. This is more than cleaning, this is about restoring pride in our communities, showing respect for our environment by making Antigua and Barbuda shine again,” a NSWMA statement noted.

The statement is urging residents in other communities to listen for the announcement when the campaign will move into their specific areas. “We are coming to every community, and every home. Let’s make our sur-



**NATIONAL  
CLEAN-UP LAUNCH**  
*Love where you live*

*Starts*  
**OCTOBER 2025**

*Where?*  
**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

**All residents are invited to participate**

The poster features three circular images: a truck dumping waste, a person cleaning a drain, and a backhoe loading a truck. Logos for the Ministry of Health, Environment, & Civil Service Affairs and the National Solid Waste Management Authority are also present.

rounding reflect our pride. Love where you live,” the statement added.



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## The Department of Creative Industries launches 2025 instalment of the Christmas Home and Business Lighting Competition

The Department of Creative Industries has announced the start of 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,” a media release from the department stated.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, DutyFree 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**

The department is urging early registration by interested individuals and businesses.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF ANTIGUA OVERSEAS BANK LTD.  
AOB (IN LIQUIDATION)

### NOTICE OF FINAL CALL FOR DEPOSITOR CLAIMS

TO ALL DEPOSITORS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the International Banking Act, 2016, and the International Business Corporation Act, of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Antigua Overseas Bank Ltd. (AOB) (In Liquidation) is in its liquidation process.

This notice serves as a final and urgent call for all remaining depositors of Antigua Overseas Bank Ltd to contact the Joint Liquidators and file a claim for possible settlement of amounts being distributed by the Estate.

All claims, duly substantiated with the required documentation, must be submitted to the Joint Liquidators on or before October 31, 2025.

Claim forms and further information can be obtained by contacting the Joint Liquidators at the address and email provided below.

Cleveland Seaforth and Raquel Glynn  
Joint Liquidators

Antigua Overseas Bank Limited (In Liquidation)  
Cnr. Factory Road and Carnival Gardens  
P O Box 3109  
St. John's  
ANTIGUA  
Tel : +1 268 462 8868/69  
Fax: +1 268 462 8808

Email: aobliquidation@bdoecc.com

Dated this 01 October, 2025.



## Friends of MSJMC makes another significant contribution to the health institution



**Friends of MSJMC  
Donates Almost \$40,000  
in Equipment to SLBMC  
Oncology Unit**

**Dwayna Derrick (extreme left) and her team of volunteers make worthwhile donation to the SLBMC**

The Friends of Mount St. John's Medical Centre (FoMSJMC) has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the nation's healthcare system with a generous donation to the Oncology Unit at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC).

Valued at almost EC\$40,000.00, the donation includes IV stands, clinical care recliners, an infusion pump, UV-resistant infusion macrobore set, wheelchairs, and a digital chair scale—all vital tools that will enhance patient care and comfort within the unit.

"This is why we do what we do," said Dwayna Derrick, President of FoMSJMC. "When we see the impact

these contributions have on patients and families, it motivates us to continue. Our work is fueled by community support, and every person who attends our events or contributes in any way is part of this difference."

For the nurses and doctors working on the frontlines, the equipment is already making a profound difference. "These donations have a direct and meaningful impact on our patients' experience," shared Nurse Lisian Thomas, Nurse Manager of SLBMC's Oncology Unit. "From comfort during long treatment sessions to improved efficiency in care, we truly value and appreciate the generosity of the Friends. Our patients and

families feel it."

The charity's impact extends far beyond oncology. Over the years, their steady stream of support has equipped SLBMC to expand and improve services in multiple areas of care. "FoMSJMC raises funds

solely for our hospital—and that is remarkable," said Salma Crump, SLBMC Head of Marketing and Communications.

"Their contributions have touched so many lives and allowed us to do more, not just in cancer care, but across our services. Their commitment, and their belief in the work we do, strengthens the hospital's mission to bring quality healthcare closer to the people of Antigua and Barbuda."

The public will soon have an opportunity to support this important work. On Saturday, October 18, 2025, Friends of Mount St. John's Medical Centre will celebrate the 10th anniversary of their signature fundraiser—the Tickle Me Pink fete. Proceeds from this milestone event will go directly toward advancing cancer care at SLBMC.

"We invite everyone to join us—supporting this event means supporting patients, families, and the future of healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda," Derrick added.

## NOTICE

The China Aid Programme in collaboration with The Embassy of China Antigua and Barbuda, Yuan Long Ping High Tech Agriculture Co. Ltd. Ministry of Agriculture Lands Fisheries and the Blue Economy presents, a 3-week training course on Agricultural Water Saving Irrigation for Antigua and Barbuda from 16 th October to 5th November 2025 at the Villa Poly Clinic, Villa Area.

**Please call 462 0418 or 764 1256 for further information on registration**





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# 2025 INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**25 OCT - 03 NOV**

## SATURDAY 25 OCT

- **NATIONAL SCHOOLS' PANORAMA**  
ANTIGUA PORT AUTHORITY PARKING LOT  
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
- **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"**  
7:30PM (TBC)

## 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**
- **UNCHARTERED WATERS**  
JOHN E ST. LUCE BUILDING  
8:00PM

## SATURDAY 01 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

## MONDAY 03 NOV

- **BURNING FLAMES HIGHWAY  
TRAFFIC JAM**  
BURNING FLAMES HIGHWAY  
(TIME TBC)



# Local News

## HaMaFilms Antigua partners with Julees Restaurant to showcase Caribbean Films

HaMafilms Antigua is collaborating with Julees Restaurant on Tanner Street to continue what started as the Travelling Caribbean Film Showcase presented by the Cuban Film Institute.

HaMa hosted the event for 10 years, beginning in 2010, where they were provided with hundreds of Caribbean films curated by the Cuban Film Institute. With funding from UNESCO, the films were presented throughout the Caribbean. The COVID-19 pandemic and the death of filmmaker Rigaberto Lopez, who spearheaded the initiative, ended the Travelling Caribbean Film Showcase in 2020.

HaMa believes that it is important to continue the showcase of Caribbean films not only to entertain but to inspire future filmmakers and to remind the community that our stories are important. Managing Director, Mitzi Allen, explains that “we must help to preserve our uniqueness and our identity through film for generations to come.”

With that purpose in mind, HaMafilms Antigua is collaborating with Julees Restaurant to continue the showcase of Caribbean films to Antiguans and Barbudans, free of charge. Julees Restaurant, located on the corner of Cross Street and Tanner Street in St. John's, is a romantic and rustic location where various



**Julees & HaMa Films**  
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**FREE**  
**CARIBBEAN**  
**MOVIE NIGHT**  
**DATE NIGHT**  
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**TIME: 7:30pm - until**  
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**HAMAFilms**

cultural and entertainment events have been hosted. It is the perfect setting to watch the films, cheer on the characters and chat afterwards with friends and peers.

Joseph Martin, the proprietor of Julees Restaurant, says that those who attended the movie nights “really like the mood, they like the atmosphere, it’s something different, and it’s free.”

Screenings began during the first week of September with the Caribbean classic, and HaMa’s first film, ‘The Sweetest Mango’. It has continued with others such as ‘The Harder They Come’, ‘Home Again’, and ‘Diabliesse’. A new film is shown free of charge every Thursday night at Julees Restaurant.



## Antigua and Barbuda Art Week returns from November 26 to December 2



Antigua and Barbuda will be filled with ‘Culture in Colour’ this November as Antigua and Barbuda Art Week returns from November 26 - December 2, 2025, transforming the twin-island destination into a vibrant celebration of visual art, fashion, music, spoken word, dance and cultural expression.

Presented by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority in partnership with the Department of Culture, this year’s edition promises to be the most immersive yet, blending traditional art-forms with modern creativity, in a showcase of Antigua and Barbuda’s dynamic culture.

“We are delighted to welcome visitors from around the world and residents at home, to Antigua and Barbuda Art Week 2025,” said Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. “Art Week is an invitation to immerse yourself in the creativity, culture, and stories

that make our twin-islands unique. Beyond our 365 beaches, Art Week places on show the creative side of Antigua and Barbuda, and we look forward to sharing that with everyone who joins us.”

From the historic Redcliffe Quay and Heritage Quay to the bustling arrival halls of V.C. Bird International Airport, Antigua and Barbuda Art Week 2025 will activate spaces across Antigua and Barbuda with exhibitions, fashion shows, and community-driven art experiences.

Art Week opens on November 26 with a spectacular Opening Night celebration at Redcliffe Quay, where visitors can experience live art demonstrations, musical performances, and art under the stars. The event sets the tone for a week-long programme designed to immerse audiences in the twin-islands creativity.

At the Dr. Alister Francis Campus - Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies, starting November

27, art lovers will encounter the Visual Arts Exhibition, featuring work by noted Antiguan artist Mark Brown alongside pieces from the Fine Arts and Creative Industries students. Meanwhile, sustainability takes centre stage with a Sustainable Art Workshop hosted by Good Humans 268 Inc., exploring eco-friendly materials.

Throughout the week, Art Week will present opportunities for dialogue and exploration. The Art Talk: “The Future of Caribbean Creativity” will feature leading artists and cultural practitioners discussing the evolving landscape of the creative industries.

Fashion takes the spotlight on November 30 with the much-anticipated ‘ZOIGE’ Fashion Show and Exhibit, hosted by Antigua and Barbuda fashion designer Garrett Javan, showcasing bold new aesthetics, and creating an interactive fashion experience.

And in one of the week’s

most engaging experiences, art students and art lovers can join Art and Culture Bus Tours on November 28 and 29 offering curated journeys through Antigua’s scenic and inspiring landscape to creative art galleries and artisan spaces for those seeking hidden art gems and local products.

“We are incredibly excited about how Antigua and Barbuda Art Week continues to evolve, with community engagement at its core and our local artists firmly in the spotlight,” said Maria Blackman, Art Week Lead and Marketing Communications Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

Other Antigua and Barbuda Art Week Highlights include:

*The Student Art Competition:* now open to Antigua and Barbuda students ages 7 - 17. (For entry requirements contact the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)



# Local News

*Expressions of Art and Fashion Exhibit:* V.C. Bird International Airport (Nov 27 – Dec 4)

*Rhythm and Vibes:* An evening of vibes, music, dance and spoken word at Hodges Bay Resort and Spa (Nov 28)

*Mandalas and Mojitos:* A relaxed art-and-cocktail evening of painting and sipping at 'Local' in Bay Gardens (Nov 28)

*Art in the Quay:* Exhibitions in Redcliffe Quay with The Quay Studio featuring work of late prominent artists, professional artists and up and coming artists.

And in Heritage Quay, an artisan market and the *Can-*



*vas and Cocktails* paint-and-sip experience with the Antigua Cruise Port (Nov 29) *Brunch with the Arts:* A Sunday brunch featuring lo-

along with *Sweet Shades and Flavours ChART-cuterie*, a creative and culinary sip and paint experience (Nov 30)

*Open Studios and Galleries:* Island-wide artist studio tours (Dec 1 and Dec 2)

Most activities are free and open to the public, with select experiences requiring pre-registration. For paid events, tickets starting as low as EC\$75 go on sale mid-October at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, on the Ticketing App and through other event organisers.

For the event schedule, and updates on hotel packages, go to [www.visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com) or follow @antiguabarbudaartweek on social media.

## All Saints man to be sentenced for cocaine possession

39-year-old Teshawn Steve Lynch of All Saints, a person known to the court, who was arrested on Friday after a police unit conducting an early morning 'stop and search' found him in possession of the illegal substance, cocaine.

Reports are that the police were on the road at around 5:30 in the vicinity of the Midway Service Station when one of the police officers noticed a white motor van – C 21898 – traveling south to north driven by the defendant. The officer signaled for him to stop which he did. The officer then asked if he

could conduct a search of the vehicle and the defendant consented.

A search of the vehicle found nothing but when permission was sought by the officer to conduct a search of his person and Lynch consented, the officer found two transparent bags with what appears to be the controlled substance, cocaine. The drugs were found in the waste-band of Lynch's underwear. When the officer questioned him about the substance, Lynch confessed that it was 'cocaine fu me fu smoke'.

The police then obtained a search warrant and conducted a search of his

All Saints home where, with the aid of the K9 officer, a metal flask was found partially buried in the backyard. When opened, it was found to be full of transparent bags with the substance, cocaine.

Lynch was arrested and charged for the possession of 293.5 grams of crack/cocaine.

He made a court appearance on Monday at which time he pleaded guilty.

The presiding magistrate ordered that he be remanded and to return to court on October 2, 2025, for sentencing.

## Second Suspect Charged in High Street Robbery

Police have arrested and charged 27-year-old Stephon Jackson of Clare Hall in connection with a robbery that occurred High Street.

It is alleged that the accused, along with oth-

er accomplices, robbed two individuals of a vehicle, along with their mobile phones and other valuable items on September 22.

Following the incident, a 17-year-old of Clare

Hall was arrested by the police and subsequently charged for the offence. Jackson is expected to appear before the court sometime during the week.

Meanwhile, a third sus-

pect allegedly involved in the said incident surrendered himself to the police on Tuesday. Further investigations are ongoing into the matter.



## Why Being Informed Is More Important than Ever



By Garfield Joseph MBA

In today's world, we are drowning in information—but paradoxically, many people are still not truly informed. We scroll endlessly through social media, receive constant email updates, attend meetings, overhear conversations, and consume news from countless sources. Yet, despite this flood of data, confusion, misinformation, and disengagement persist.

This paradox raises a critical question: What does it really mean to be informed?

To be informed is not merely to be exposed to information, it is to understand, to contextualize, and to apply knowledge in ways that improve

decision-making, deepen engagement, and foster meaningful action. Being informed empowers individuals to navigate their environments with clarity and confidence. It is the difference between reacting and responding, between surviving and thriving.

### The Many Channels of Information

Information reaches us through a variety of channels:

1. Electronic media: Emails, websites, social platforms, and apps
2. Workplace interactions: Team meetings, memos, performance reviews.
3. Traditional media: Newspapers, radio, television.
4. Casual conversations: Gossip, hearsay, community chatter.
5. Formal settings: Board meetings, policy briefings, training sessions.

Each of these sources has the potential to enlighten or mislead, depending on how the information is shared and received.

In the workplace, for example, employees want to know what is expected of them, what resources and training will be available to help them succeed, and ultimately, what's in it for them. When these questions go

unanswered, morale suffers, productivity declines, and trust erodes.

### Why Keeping Others Informed Matters

In my years working with global companies—including Yum Brands—I've seen firsthand the transformative power of information. One of the most profound lessons I learned is this: The more people know, the more they care.

### Here are five critical benefits of keeping others informed:

1. *Increased Engagement and Ownership:* When people understand the "why" behind decisions, they are more likely to take ownership and contribute meaningfully. Transparency builds trust, and trust fuels commitment.
2. *Better Decision-Making:* Informed individuals make better choices. Whether it's a frontline employee responding to a customer or a policymaker shaping national strategy, access to accurate information is essential.
3. *Improved Collaboration:* Teams function more effectively when everyone is on the same page. Clear communication reduces duplication, prevents misunderstandings, and fosters synergy.
4. *Enhanced Resilience in Crisis:* Consider how we use breaking news

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# Feature

to share hurricane updates, tsunami warnings, or heat stroke advisories. These alerts are not just informative—they are life-saving. In moments of crisis, timely and accurate information can mean the difference between safety and tragedy.

*5. Greater Empathy and Care:* As mentioned earlier, when people are informed, they begin to care more deeply. They see the bigger picture, understand the stakes, and become invested in outcomes beyond their immediate interests.

## The Workplace as an Information Ecosystem

In any organization, information is the lifeblood of culture and performance. Leaders must provide clarity and consistency in communication. Employees should never be left guessing about their roles, expectations, or opportunities. When people are kept in the dark, they disengage. When they are informed, they rise.

This principle applies not only to internal operations but also to customer relations, community outreach, and national development. Whether you're leading a team, running a business, or shaping public policy, your ability to inform others effectively will determine your impact.

## A Matter of Life and Death

Let's not underestimate the stakes. In the Caribbean, we are no strangers to natural disasters. When a hurricane is approaching, we don't wait for casual updates—we rely on breaking stories and emergency broadcasts to guide our actions. These updates help us prepare, protect our families, and preserve our communities.

Similarly, during heat waves or health emergencies, advisories about heat stroke risks or water safety are vital. In these moments, information is not just helpful—it is essential. It is, quite literally, a matter of life and death.

**A Call to Action.** So, what can we do?

**Leaders:** Provide clear and consistent communication. Share your vision,

your plans, and your expectations openly.

**Employees:** Ask questions, seek clarity, and share insights with your peers.

**Citizens:** Stay engaged with credible news sources, participate in community discussions, and help others stay informed.

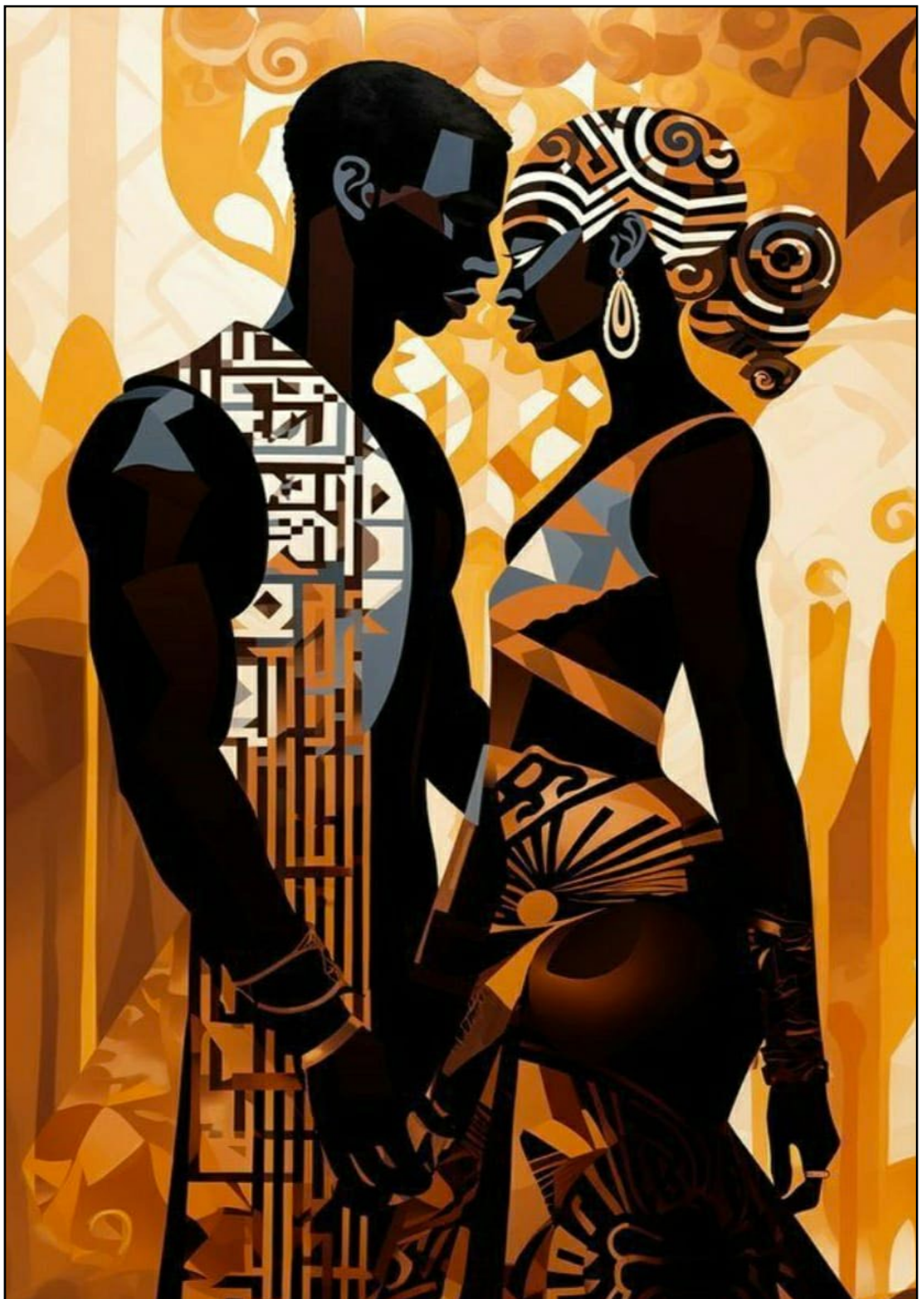
**Media professionals:** Continue to uphold the highest standards of journalism, ensuring that truth and relevance guide your reporting.

In a world overflowing with noise,

we must become intentional about the information we consume and share.

Learn to filter distractions, verify your sources, and prioritize truth over sensationalism. Being informed is not just a personal advantage—it's a civic responsibility.

Share what matters, stay engaged, and help others do the same. Because sometimes, the right information, at the right time, can change everything—from saving lives to transforming organizations.







# Antigua Barbuda Reparations Support Commission

Annual Africa - Caricom Day Celebration

# GALA Dinner

OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM

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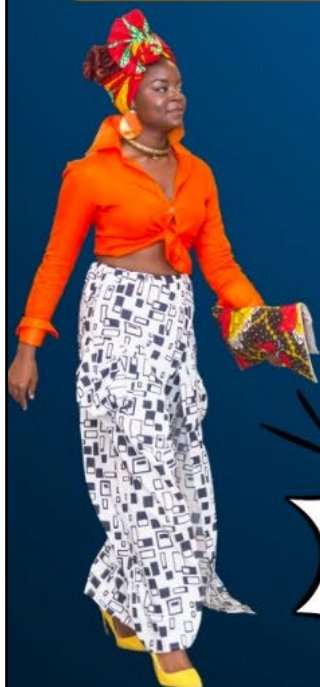
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# CUBA: Our Friend in Deed, Our Friend in Need



## The Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee

Nelson Mandela Drive  
 POB W600, Upper Gambles  
 St. John's, ANTIGUA

Tel: (268) 770-6955 Email: lthmc@candw.ag

October 8, 2019

### A Press Statement by the Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee (LTHMC)

#### CUBA: Our Friend in Deed, Our Friend in Need

There is a very beautiful, humanistic and heart-warming song by Dionne Warwick that speaks to the reciprocity in sincere, respectful, considerate, and committed friendships.

We could listen beyond the entertainment, and subscribe to the core principle of the lyrical rendition done by Dionne Warwick, Elton John, Gladys Knight and Stevie Wonder of *That's What Friends Are For*:

*And I never thought I'd feel this way*

*And as far as I'm concerned  
 I'm glad I got the chance to say That I do be-  
 lieve, I love you*

*And if I should ever go away  
 Well, then close your eyes and try  
 To feel the way we do today  
 And then if you can remember*

*Keep smiling, keep shining  
 Knowing you can always count on me, for sure  
 That's what friends are for  
 For good times and bad times  
 I'll be on your side forever more That's what  
 friends are for*

We could also imagine Commander Fidel Castro's commitment to the sentiments of *That's What Friends Are For*, at least twice - in the privacy of his egalitarian and socialist heart – while giving invaluable humanitarian support to Nelson Mandela, as he struggled against the racist Apartheid System in South Africa. And again, to the Honourable *Lester Bird* in 1994, when Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba entered into formal diplomatic and friendly relations.

For over a decade prior to 1994, Leonard Tim Hector made the clarion *call for the establishment* of governmental and friendly ties with Cuba and its people. Indifferently, at that time, most Antiguan politicians and academics never thought

Tim should feel that way, but he kept trying, kept writing... And as they say, the rest is history. However, to date, this relationship - in some quarters - is only a one-sided sliver of what was envisioned by Tim.

At this juncture, the LTHMC would like Antiguan and Barbudans to reflect on the friendliness of the Cuban government and people. The LTHMC states here, unequivocally, that Cuba is Antigua and Barbuda's friend: a good friend; an exceptional friend; an exemplary friend. We are aware that some cynics might say this is more sentimental than political. Nonetheless, we believe that some of such persons would recant after having reflected on the political and social contri-



*butions Cuba has given to Antigua and Barbuda in the areas of academic scholarships, health, and engineering services.*

*Yes, we understand the hardball of geopolitics and venture capitalism, and we have written extensively on such subjects and more, but what is life without the counterbalance of neighbourly Caribbean friendship, empathy, fraternity, respect, and reciprocity?*

*Perhaps without the right blend of these humanistic traits, we cultivate uncultured students, whose minds are preoccupied with the accumulation of personal things at the expense of all other virtues. For example, the uncultured billionaire, American President Donald Trump, who presides over the most powerful imperialist state the world has even seen. Ironically, the American people are struggling with a crude individualist as President, a man who blatantly solicits assistance from foreign entities to invade, undermine, terrorize and vandalize the democratic pillars of the American Constitution, as he uses the powers of his office for personal interest; his personal empire.*

*The US continues, against UN declarations, to invade or undermine our nations and peoples of this hemisphere - for examples, Cuba and Venezuela - for its limitless and self-defined "national interest".*

*In addition to decades of an US illegal trade embargo, the Cuban President, Miguel Diaz-Canel recently reported: "It is well known that the current US administration is increasing its hostilities towards Cuba, with the aim of hurting the basic needs of the people and their daily activities and blaming the Cuban government for this. They persist in trying to prevent the arrival of fuel to Cuba. And additionally apply unilateral measures to limit our contracts with shipping companies that deliver resources to Cuba." The current dire economic situation in Cuba is the direct result of this relentless American illegality.*

*The LTHMC would cringe - and Tim would angrily turn in his grave - to know that*

*Antiguan and Barbudan academics, who have earned tertiary education as gifts (grants - if you prefer political correctness) from Cuba, are all about careerism and personal interests: to the extent that they would have abandoned the precepts of friendship and reciprocity - fundamental values that they would have learned in Sunday School.*

*The US government is spending millions of dollars to undermine Cuba's humanitarian programs of academic scholarship, engineering, and medical assistance in the Caribbean and Latin America. In opposition to this, the LTHMC appeals to Antiguan and Barbudans - specifically graduates of Cuba's generosity - to declare and show solidarity with Cuba and its people, in their legitimate fight against the juggernaut of American Imperialism.*

*That's what friends are for...*

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## PBM – a quick fix or a process to improved relationships and mental wellness

Positive behavior management (PBM) is an approach to discipline aimed at improving behaviour in any setting and with anyone, no matter their age. Over the years, the Ministry of Education PBM Committee has utilised PBM to expose its stakeholders to alternative approaches to correct and/or manage challenging or disruptive behaviours.

Changing behaviours is never a quick fix; it takes intentional, decisive and determined actions to change over time. One research claims that you must repeat the desired behaviour 21 times consistently for it to become part of the individual's habits.

With the help of UNICEF, the Ministry of Education has provided training in PBM for many groups of people to include: principals and teachers, students, parents, school bus operators, librarians, crossing guards, to name a few. As we interact with each other on a daily basis, we each must be willing to adopt some of the PBM strategies to make our lives better.

For example, **connect before you correct** suggests that before you chide someone, first understand why the person behaved that way, place yourself in the person's position before attempting to reprimand that individual, then respond according to what you dis-



covered with empathy and care. Another PBM strategy is **QTIP...quit taking it personally**.

Sometimes people rub us the wrong way, not necessarily because they are trying to get even or belittle us, but because they may have experienced some trauma, may be hungry, lonely, angry or even depressed. You were the first person they can pour out their frustration on. Your response could be, ignore that person, take a deep breath as you pause to understand the person's behaviour or simply extend a kind word that will flip the

script.

Taking time to listen and respond respectfully is another strategy you may employ, sparing yourself from using negative energy that will only cause stress and agitation. Other PBM strategies include: manage my own behaviour first, model expectations, teach desired behaviours explicitly, reinforce positive behaviours through praise, rewards, or recognition, use consistent consequences for inappropriate behaviour and provide supportive environments that encourage positive behaviours. Of course, these

practices are in no way easy to embrace but with constant practice and the will to change for the better, this mindset will become part of your daily structures.

PBM while not a quick fix, has many benefits. It builds mutual respect and trust, it encourages self-regulation and accountability, reduces conflict and disruption it promotes a positive climate in classrooms, workplaces, and homes, and it supports mental and emotional well-being.

With the increased concerns about parenting practices, the ministry of Education conducted a small-scale research about the disciplinary practices of parents in six schools. Focus group sessions with randomly selected parents and children not necessarily from the same households, were used to gain insights into this phenomenon. While it was found that there was limited knowledge and inconsistent use of PBM strategies, it was revealed that parents were using methods that were punitive and demeaning which run counterproductive to PBM.

Parents however, were of the view that their current disciplinary practices needed to change as children may be reacting that way because of how "we as parents react" to them. There were several sources from which parents sought help



when they needed it. These included: family members, pastor, influential friends, even older siblings. One striking revelation was the admission of parents that they are not managing anger and stress well. The sources were pressures from work, and their own family situations.

Children too, recognized that their parents are stressed and need help because they received the brunt of their frustrations. The children also cited that favoritism in the home caused them to feel less valued and would want their parents to treat them fairly. Although parents were aware that love and care are important features in parenting the need to change their current behaviours was generally acknowledged. Giving children the opportunity to be heard was also important for their children.

From these findings, it was clear that parents were at a point where consideration for change was critical. But how do they move from this stage? Having acknowledged the need to change they would need to identify what needs to change and how they would effect that change. Next would be to put that change into action over time and continuously work at it until it becomes a part of their lifestyle. This is by no means an easy feat as they would perhaps experience a relapse of old behaviours. But with the right support changes can occur.

The Ministry of Education in response to the findings has developed a framework

to support our parents. One such strategy is a support group in each of the six pilot schools, where parents are free to share their experiences and learn from each other. One skill they are being taught is that of active listening which helps to build relationships with their children and with anyone they interact.

This three step process teaches one to be attentive and to free themselves from distractions while someone is speaking, ask clarifying questions to ensure the information is understood, then work together to solve or address the issues. Other areas of support into the future will be anger management, conflict resolution, to name a few. The framework also identifies how children's voices can be heard, activities for community outreach and building resilience.

This brings us to the point of how PBM is a safety net for preserving our mental health. Observing PBM strategies and practices reduces stress and anxiety levels, builds self-esteem and confidence, encourages healthy relationships and interactions, promotes autonomy and self-empowerment, it prevents the escalation of demeaning, dehumanizing and punitive responses and it enhances the quality of life.

So if we want our families, work and school environment to improve we must seek to work consistently at observing PBM. It works ....



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# The Dawn of a New Era in CARICOM Free Movement

By J'Moul Francis

On 1 October 2025, the Caribbean integration project took a significant step forward, allowing nationals of Barbados, Belize, Dominica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines to enjoy the right to live, work, study, and reside indefinitely in each other's countries without requiring work or residence permits. This exercise of full free movement will, of course, require supporting amendments to domestic legislation within the participating states.

The new venture crystallised from the *Enhanced Cooperation in Free Movement*, tabled at the 49<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in Montego Bay earlier this year. At this Conference, leaders authorised four (4) member states to move ahead with what they described as "*Full Free Movement*". The significance of this moment cannot be overstated: it marks a historic shift in policy and the tangible realisation of a vision that has inspired Caribbean leaders since the earliest days of federation and independence.

## *The Transformation of An Aspiration*

For decades, Article 45 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC) stood as an aspirational North Star: "*Member States commit themselves to the goal of free movement of their nationals within the Community.*" While this provision is deemed aspirational rather than a provision extending rights, the CCJ, however, in *Myrie*, notes that the right of free movement of persons "*has to a great extent already been enshrined and fleshed out in the RTC itself*". The Court went on to explain the limitation by way of example in Article 46 RTC, which deals with the treaty right of free movement for 'Skilled Community Nationals'.

Over time, the goal outlined in Arti-



cle 45 has blossomed little by little, through the 2007 Conference Decision, which entitles CARICOM nationals upon arrival to an automatic, definite stay of six (6) months, subject to objective restrictions. Thereafter, we saw the expansion and refinement of the categories of skilled nationals in Article 46 RTC by decisions of Conferences- Nurses, Teachers, and Artisans with a CVQ (2006); Domestic Workers (2009); Agricultural Workers, Beauty Service Practitioners, and Barbers (2019); and Aviation personnel (2025). It is worth noting that some member states opted out, albeit for a limited time, from certain expanded categories, as aspirations have often been tempered by the realities of sovereignty and domestic concerns.

Nonetheless, Article 45 RTC should be read and understood as a destination, i.e., a point on the horizon to which the CARICOM integration project steady-

ly sails. And, with the new arrangement under the Enhanced Cooperation framework, there is now evidence that some members are ready to alight at the final destination, even if the rest of the Community is not yet willing to do so. Particularly for Barbados, despite its history which gave rise to the *Myrie* case, this new reality, announced by Prime Minister Mia Mottley, transforms that aspiration into a tangible, functioning reality for these four nations. It moves free movement from a technical right for the skilled few to a fundamental principle for all their citizens.

*From Paper to Person, the Practicalities* The mechanics, as outlined by PM Mottley in a national address, are elegantly simple: present a passport, be registered, and you can begin a new life of opportunities. This right to work without a permit, access education for your children, and receive healthcare



is what breathes life into the concept of “CARICOM citizenship”. It enables a person to function as a full member of society, both within and across borders, i.e., to open a bank account, pay taxes, and contribute not only to the domestic economy but also to the broader community.

Free movement, as refined by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in the landmark *Myrie* case and its *Advisory Opinion on the Right to Free Movement*, is not a free-for-all. It is buttressed by sensible safeguards such as refusals of entry, depending on whether one is deemed an “undesirable person” or likely to become a public charge. Domestic legislation, in a way, unpacks who is an “undesirable person”, i.e., persons deemed by Cabinet Order following a serious conviction, classified as prohibited immigrants, or engaged in activities prejudicial to security, public health, morality, or good government (*for example: s22, Antigua and Barbuda Immigration and Passport Act 2024*). In line with the CCJ’s guidance, refusals must still be exercised with accountability, i.e., with prompt written reasons and effective access to and means of redress.

### *Current and Future Lessons*

To many in the Eastern Caribbean, full free movement will feel familiar. Citizens of the OECS Protocol States already move and work freely. They can even travel with a driver’s licence or voter’s card instead of a passport, and their spouses and dependents enjoy

“contingent rights,” including access to healthcare, education, and social security. The OECS’ reality proves that free movement is also possible in small island contexts. It demonstrates that integration can foster deeper social and cultural bonds while enhancing economic productivity.

Moreover, the success of this new juncture in CARICOM integration now hinges on diligent implementation of measures beyond mere legislation. The participating states must build the necessary foundations and mechanisms, which include enhanced digitalisation of immigration and registration to lessen the friction of movement and make greater investments in education, healthcare, and social infrastructure to absorb new residents. Further, economies must be bolstered across key sectors to productively employ newcomers, accommodate new entrepreneurs, and robustly support talent recruitment and capacity development.

Critically, this freedom must be safeguarded by actively policing discrimination and xenophobia, ensuring that contingent rights to education, healthcare, and other public services and benefits are a lived reality, not just a legal promise. Governments must also prepare for complex long-term questions, establishing frameworks to support individuals who become non-economically active, and, most profoundly, grappling with the question of political representation. If one lives, works, and pays taxes in a com-

munity, should they not have a voice in its governance?

In conclusion, this bold step must be guided by both hope and prudence. While the pioneering states navigate the practical challenges of implementation, their journey represents a profound choice for regional openness against a global tide of isolation. More so, this shows that our Caribbean, at least the coalition of the willing, still chooses openness. It is a living, political laboratory for the dreams of our founding generation, transforming the abstract ideal of a Caribbean Community into a tangible experience for our citizens. Their voyage is a test for the entire Community; as they set sail, the hope is that others will support and soon follow. The success of this path is not merely administrative, but the essential foundation upon which the edifice of a truly unified CARICOM will be built, charting a course toward our shared Caribbean destiny.

*J’Moul Francis BA Law (TalTech), LLM (UCL Laws), (EU Law, Competition Law, and International Law); ERASMUS Exchange; Antigua and Barbuda Commonwealth Scholar 2018/2019; 2025 UN United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, Latin America and the Caribbean Alumnus; 2023 US State Department International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) Alumnus; Legal Commentator. The views expressed are entirely his own.*



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# Regional News

## Caribbean Development Bank crafting blueprint to enhance region's educational landscape



The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is in the process of creating an innovative education policy and strategic plan aimed at unlocking the vast potential of the region's predominantly youthful population, with nearly 60% under the age of 30.

The Bank said via press release that this initiative seeks to address the urgent need for educational reform across the Caribbean, recognizing the critical role that education plays in fostering inclusive economic growth and development.

During the opening address of the 2025 Regional Transforming Education Symposium and Policy Dialogue in Barbados, CDB reports that the President, Mr. Daniel Best, emphasized that the Bank's comprehensive approach targets the entire education

ecosystem.

He highlighted the importance of education as a driver of economic progress, citing global data that shows education has contributed to half of worldwide economic growth since 1980 and two-thirds of income increases among the poorest populations. "Education is the most powerful driver of inclusive growth known to humanity, and the Caribbean must harness this force to transform our economic trajectory," Best stated.

Under the Bank's "Rebirth" vision, the aim is to ensure that Caribbean children attain fundamental skills such as literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking by the age of three, while also developing future-ready competencies aligned with emerging sectors.

As outlined in the release, these in-

clude renewable energy, resilient construction, agricultural technology, health innovation, the creative industries, and the digital economy—preparing youth to participate actively in new economic opportunities.

The strategy also advocates for integrating adaptive and artificial intelligence (AI)-based learning tools to personalize education and improve student outcomes.

A key component involves building a Caribbean Digital Education Ecosystem that guarantees equitable access to digital devices, reliable internet connectivity, and shared online learning resources.

Additionally, the plan envisions transforming universities into hubs of discovery for blue and green economies, providing teachers with extensive



# Regional News

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training in digital literacy and ethics, and establishing pathways from education to employment through micro-credentials and skills-based certifications.

According to the CDB, data underscores the urgency of these reforms. The organization shared that less than 20% of Caribbean adults hold university degrees, and recent results from the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) exams reveal only 44% of candidates passing five or more subjects, including Mathematics and English—levels considered below satisfactory. Furthermore, some nations face a significant brain drain, losing over 70% of their university graduates to migration, which hampers regional development and human capital growth.

Mr. Best pointed out that subpar educational outcomes are hampering regional economic progress and exacerbating inequality. He noted that, particularly, boys tend to leave the education system prematurely, while girls' academic success does not consistently translate into leadership opportunities or equitable pay. He emphasized

that the region's progress in reducing extreme poverty—from 44% in 1981 to just 9% in 2022—was largely driven by advances in education, underscoring its pivotal role in sustainable development.

"Our goal is to build ladders of opportunity across generations and create a sustainable legacy of prosperity for our people," Best declared. "We envision a Caribbean where young innovators harness AI and robotics, where universities fuel breakthroughs in renewable energy and climate resilience, and where our brightest minds no longer feel compelled to leave the region to succeed."

He also called on parents to become active partners in the educational transformation, stressing that collective effort is essential.

"In our region, it has always taken a village to succeed. And it will take the whole Caribbean village, including parents, teachers, communities, policymakers, and the diaspora, to raise this generation into prosperity," he stated.

He added, "That is why parents must have a seat at the table of transforma-

tion. Through stronger Parent-Teacher Associations, regional alliances, and community networks, we are embedding parents' voices alongside policymakers in decisions that will shape Caribbean education for decades to come."

The symposium, held between September 30 and October 2 at Wyndham Grand Resort in Barbados, is organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Educational Transformation of Barbados.

The event's theme, "Stronger Together: Empowering Parents as Partners in Caribbean Education," aims to bolster parental involvement in the regional education system through capacity building, dialogue with policymakers, and the development of a sustainable regional Parent-Teacher framework.

Nearly 200 participants—including parents, educators, administrators, development partners, and government ministers—are attending this important gathering, reflecting a shared commitment to transforming education across the Caribbean. (Dominica News Online)



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# Regional News

## Dominica moves closer to regional solidarity with first-phase free movement implementation



On Wednesday, October 1, Dominica will join Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize in taking a decisive step forward on a matter that has been on the regional agenda for decades, namely the full free movement of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Nationals.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said during a press conference on Monday that

this means that participating states will grant the Nationals the right to freely reside, work, and remain indefinitely in the four member states without the need for a residency permit or a work permit.

“They will have the right to access public primary and secondary education as well as emergency health care and primary health care services,” he explained. “The

required legislative, security, and administrative measures to support this free movement will be implemented in the participating member states.”

According to him, free movement allows CARICOM Nationals to fill gaps in critical areas, “while giving our own citizens greater access to opportunities across the region.”

The Prime Minister describes the movement as a win-win for all.

Furthermore, he pointed out that there may be concerns about security or about the impact on jobs.

“Let me assure you, our systems of cooperation, vetting, and regional security will remain strong,” he stated. “We are not lowering our guard. What we are doing is removing unnecessary barriers that have, for too long, held back our collective progress,” he emphasized.

Skerrit said he is hopeful

that the other CARICOM member-states will join this historic step in order to realize the full promise of a true Caribbean Community.

He encourages Dominican citizens to embrace this change with an open mind.

“Learn as much as you can about what free movement means and the opportunities it can bring for you, and your families,” he noted.

Skerrit made it clear that the prevailing notion that persons will see a dramatic move of people from one country to another has never happened.

“In the various categories that we approved thus far, there’s no evidence to show that there is a dramatic move from one island to the other, he remarked. “And we cannot speak about integration, we cannot speak about solidarity, we cannot speak about coming together if people cannot move freely.” (Dominica News Online)

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## Gov't urged to hire Cuban workers directly to prevent forced labour

The Jamaican Government is being urged to hire Cuban workers directly and utilise hiring practices that are in line with domestic and international law to prevent forced labour among Cuban workers in Jamaica.

It was among the US State Department's recommendations in the 2025 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report for Jamaica.

In March, Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness defended Jamaica's use of Cuban medics to support the local health sector, declaring that there is no exploitation in the programme that has surfaced as a blot on the Trump administration's radar.

He said the Government has ensured that the programme operates in accordance with international labour laws while asserting that the Cuban medics are "treated within our labour laws and that they benefit like any other worker".

In its TIP report, the State Department also pressed Jamaica to fully implement its screening tools and its National Referral Mechanism to increase proactive identification and referral of potential trafficking victims among vulnerable groups.

Jamaica retained its Tier 2 status in the 2025 TIP report, which means that although the country does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it is making significant efforts to do so.



Still, the US State Department called on Jamaica to develop and finalise a new national policy to combat human trafficking and allocate resources for its implementation.

It noted that the island should increase efforts to investigate and prosecute traffickers, including officials who are complicit in human trafficking and foreign nationals or Jamaicans who exploit child sex trafficking victims, and seek adequate penalties for convicted traffickers, which should involve significant prison terms.

The report noted that authorities convicted two traffickers, one for sex trafficking and one for child labour trafficking, compared to convicting three sex traffickers during the previous

reporting period.

It said the Government convicted both traffickers under the anti-trafficking law, compared to the prior year when it did not convict any traffickers under the trafficking law.

Courts sentenced the sex trafficker to serve 11 years and six months in prison and to pay restitution in the amount of J\$2 million, and the child labour trafficker to serve two years' imprisonment.

However, the report called for the Government to amend the anti-trafficking law to prescribe penalties for sex trafficking that are commensurate with penalties for other grave crimes by increasing the available maximum imprisonment term.

It also urged the Government to increase efforts to provide more victims with comprehensive, trauma-informed services, including reintegration support and support for the full length of any legal proceedings.

It also recommended that criminal justice officials be trained on provisions in the anti-trafficking law directing courts to order restitution to victims and ensure victims consistently receive court-ordered payments.

And it urged that the funding and human resources to ministries, departments, and agencies responsible for trafficking victim protection services, and strengthen capacity-building and risk assessment procedures within the child protection system be increased. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## State of calamity in Philippines province as earthquake kills 69

At least 69 people have been killed and dozens injured after a powerful 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck the central Philippines late on Tuesday.

The province of Cebu, which suffered the brunt of the damage, declared a state of calamity early on Wednesday, after thousands spent the night on the streets amid repeated aftershocks.

One Cebu resident told the BBC he was among them, adding that power and water supplies were cut off. He says the voices of crying children could be heard around him, adding that they were "traumatised".

The earthquake comes barely more than a week after the country was hit by back-to-back typhoons which killed more than 20 people.

Residents of Bogu City, Cebu province, stay on the streets near the debris of damaged buildings amid frequent aftershocks, following a magnitude 6.9 earthquake. Photo: 1 October 2025

Most of the earthquake victims were from Bogu, a small town on one of the largest islands in the Visayas Islands, the Philippines' central region - and the place closest to the earthquake's epicentre.

Images coming out of Bogu show body bags lined on the street and hundreds of people being treated in tent hospitals. Officials have warned of "a lot of damage" caused by the earthquakes.

The local authorities have appealed for volunteers with medical experience to help deal with injuries.

Buckled and cracked roads, and fallen bridges are also making access difficult for emergency services. Power lines in many places are down, meaning that it's also been hard to speak to those affected.

Seven of those who died in Tuesday's earthquake in Bogu had lived in a village built to house victims of Typhoon



Haiyan, which struck the central Philippines 12 years ago, killing more than 6,000 people.

In the municipality of San Remigio, a basketball game was being played when the earthquake struck, an emergency response official told the BBC. Almost 20 people at the game were sent to the hospital, and at least one person later died.

Officials from the national police and fire bureau say they are prioritising search and rescue operations, rushing to restore electricity and delivering relief supplies to those affected.

On Wednesday evening, Bogu was hit by yet another aftershock, this one at a magnitude of 4.7, with tremors felt in Cebu city and the neighbouring Leyte islands. There were no known casualties.

Cebu's archbishop has told devotees to stay away from churches, pending structural assessments. This call is significant as Cebu was one of the first Philippine islands to be colonised by Spain in the 1500s, and has many old churches.

Earlier footage showed the tower of an old Catholic church swaying and then partly collapsing in one locality.

The Philippines is composed of thousands of islands and the national disaster agency based in the capital Manila is tasked with releasing official casualty figures for typhoons and earthquakes.

However, the count is usually slow as the numbers are subject to rigorous checks - and so it is possible the death toll could jump.

The Philippines is very vulnerable to natural disasters. It is located on the geologically unstable "Ring of Fire" - so called because of the high number of earthquakes and volcanoes that occur here.

The upper layers of the Earth in the vast Pacific region are split into sections - tectonic plates - which are all moving relative to one another.

The South East Asian island country also lies in the path of typhoons that sweep across the Pacific Ocean every year.

More than a dozen people were killed after tropical storm Bualoi and typhoon Ragasa hit the Philippines earlier last month. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated and a handful remain missing. (BBC)



## Snapchat to charge users for storing their old photos and videos

Snapchat has announced it will start charging for storing photos and videos - prompting a backlash from users who have built up a large archive of old posts.

The popular messaging app has allowed users to save and store previously posted content in its Memories feature since it was introduced in 2016.

But it says people with more than five gigabytes (GB) worth of Memories will now need to pay to keep them available.

The app's parent company Snap declined to tell BBC News how much the storage plans would cost UK users, saying only the change would be made as part of a "gradual global rollout".

Users on social media have reacted with dismay, accusing the company of being greedy.

Snap has acknowledged it's "never easy to transition from receiving a service for free to paying for it" - but suggested it be "worth the cost" for users.

"These changes will allow us to continue to invest in making Memories better for our entire community," it said in a blog post announcing the move.

It said more than one trillion Memories had been saved by users since being introduced nearly a decade



ago.

The feature allows users to save photos and videos shared initially for 24 hours or less on the platform, with users prompted to re-post them as a memory or "throwback" at a later date.

Users with more than 5GB of saved Memories will be prompted to upgrade to a 100GB storage plan, under the changes.

Increased levels of storage will be available to users paying for more expensive Snapchat+ and Snapchat Premium subscriptions.

The company says it will provide 12 months of temporary storage for those exceeding the limit, and users can download saved content to their device.

A company spokesperson told tech publication TechCrunch its initial 100GB

storage plan would be priced at \$1.99 (£1.48) per month, with 250GB included in the \$3.99 (£2.96) cost of a Snapchat+ subscription.

Snap said in its blog post that its rollout of storage plans would not affect "the vast majority of Snapchatters", whom it said had less than 5GB of Memories.

But the move has been criticised by some on social media, with users sharing messages sent by the platform telling them they need to pay for storage to keep their photos and videos.

Some say they have used Snap's previously free storage over many years meaning they have considerably more than 5GB of data stored on the platform - so are now facing big bills.

Others say being forced to choose between paying a subscription or losing their Memories is "unfair" and "greedy" on the part of Snap.

Snap said in April that Snapchat had surpassed 900 million monthly active users - while rivals such as Instagram and TikTok boast billions respectively.

Drew Benvie, founder and chief executive of social media consultancy Battenhall, believes that eventually all social media platforms will charge for storage.

"The road to paying for storage on social media is inevitable," he told BBC News.

"In an era where we post less, but save more, this is an evolution of messaging and social media platforms." (BBC)



## Part of high-rise apartment building in New York City collapses, no injuries reported

Part of a high-rise apartment in New York City collapsed Wednesday morning, leaving a corner of the public housing building a pile of rubble.

The city's fire department said it had no immediate reports of injuries. It said it was responding to a report of a gas explosion that collapsed an incinerator shaft in the 20-story building in the Bronx. Authorities said no residential units were affected.

"An investigation is under way to determine the cause of this event and the extent of any damage beyond the reported exterior damage to the chimney," the city's Housing authority said in a statement.

Video from the scene shows a high-rise with one corner collapsed from the ground floor to the roof. Videos by nearby residents showed a cloud of dust billowing over the block moments after the collapse, which happened around 8:10 am.

The rubble pile was littered with air conditioners, with appear to have been ripped out of apartment windows by the falling bricks.

Mayor Eric Adams said he was briefed about the emergency and officials were still getting a full assessment.

"Please avoid the area for your safety," he wrote on X.

City police said they received 911 calls about a building collapse just after 8 a.m. Wednesday at the Mitchel Houses building.

"Upon arrival, officers observed a partial building collapse," the New York Police Department said in a statement. Firefighters, city building officials and the Con Edison utility provider were on the scene, as officers established a perimeter around the area.

Incinerator shafts in New York City buildings were once used to dispose of trash, which was then burned on site.



But they have largely been replaced with trash compactors, which can use the same chutes.

Around half a million New Yorkers live in ageing buildings run by the largest housing authority in the nation, known as NYCHA. Tenants in the system's have complained for decades about rodents, mould and heat and hot water outages.

Many of the properties date back to the 1940s, '50s and '60s. In 2019, a federal monitor was appointed to address chronic problems like lead paint, mould and lack of heat. When he wrapped his five-year term in 2024, the monitor, Bart Schwartz, noted that the overarching issue for residents remained the "poor physical state of NYCHA's buildings." (AP)



## ABBA to host 'Ballers Bash' fundraiser event

The Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) is inviting the public to support the national organization in a fundraiser event, Ballers Bash, next month.

The event, which will be hosted by Ibis the Livest, will take place on November 29 at the JSC Sports Complex, starting at 9 pm.

The fundraising party will feature some of Antigua and Barbuda's top entertainers, including the newly crowned Road March King, Soca Villain, along with Island Prince and DJ Quest.

Tickets for the event will go on sale on October 15 and can be purchased for EC\$50 from any member of the ABBA executive.

President of ABBA Michael Freeland said the fundraising venture is geared towards generating some much-needed finances to aid the incumbent executive to fulfill the execution of its plans in the last year of its current four-year term.

"We have a few things that we want to accomplish for our final year, including having our national team compete. It's not an easy task running the affairs of the association, as it is a non-profit organization. So many times, outside of our spon-

sors, we go into our own pockets to finance things," Freeland said.

"We are hoping that this event will be a successful one, and we are just encouraging the public to support the sport, its play-

ers, and the association," Freeland added.

For anyone wishing to donate to the national basketball association, they can do so by reaching out to President Freeland at 464-6978, the General Secre-

tary Carlena Knight-Humphreys at 770-2928, or any other member of the current ABBA executive.

Contact can also be made through the association's Facebook and Instagram pages.



THE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

**Ballers BASH**

SAT. NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> ADM: \$50 TIME: 9PM - UNTIL

PERFORMING IN SUPPORT OF CHARITY:

**Soca Villain & Island Prince** PLUS MORE

**PLACE: JSC SPORTS COMPLEX**

## BOE stays unbeaten in Business Basketball League

The Board of Education (BOE) maintained their perfect start to their campaign in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League championships on Tuesday night.

The Board of Education made four wins in as many outings by pulling off a commanding 83-59 victory against former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board in the last game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Daniel Perez had 26 points, six rebounds, and four steals; Warren Bogle sank 14 points and claimed six rebounds; Danny Perez produced 14 points and six assists; and Xavier Meade achieved a triple-double with 13 points, 12 rebounds, and 12 assists for the Board of Education.

Lindsay McDonald sank 13 points; Ariel Quallis produced 10 points, seven rebounds, and four steals; and Ke-

dar Calre scored 10 points and claimed five rebounds for the Transport Board, who lost for the second successive time after winning their previous three matches.

Anjo Wholesale notched up their third win in four matches by prevailing 70-61 against Fearless Security Services in Tuesday's opening game.

Steven Matthew produced 21 points, five rebounds, and five assists; Jesus Emmanuel contributed 15 points, 14 rebounds, and four steals; and Orion Seraphine converted 15 points and snatched eight rebounds for Anjo Wholesale.

Beniah Mark shot a game-high 27 points for Fearless Security Services, who lost for the fourth time in as many games.

After losing their opening two games, H. Wright Promotions clinched their second win in four matches with a 51-38 victory against the Sledge O

Ballers in the second game of Tuesday's triple-header.

Iornie Joseph converted nine points and grabbed 19 rebounds; Humroy Wright sank nine points and snatched seven rebounds; and Javonte Daley scored nine points and claimed six rebounds for H. Wright Promotions.

Leroy Percival converted 14 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Sledge O Ballers, who lost for the second time in four matches.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday.

J&J Company Landscaping will take on Anjo Wholesale at 6:45 pm, Fearless Security Services will meet H. Wright Promotions at 7:45 pm, and Antigua Computer Technology will clash with Antigua Power Company at 8:45 pm.

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## Antiguans among regional players to receive CWI retainer contracts



Jewel Andrew



Kelvin Pittman



Shawnisha Hector

Four Antiguan are among the regional players to have received contracts from Cricket West Indies (CWI) for the 2025/26 season, which commenced on October 1.

The recipients of the contracts were disclosed by Cricket West Indies, which announced on Wednesday that its board of directors has approved the recommendations for International Retainer Contracts for the 2025/26 season.

The Antiguan who received contracts are established West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, along with young batsman Jewel Andrew, fast bowler Kelvin Pittman, and women's all-rounder Shawnisha Hector.

According to CWI, the contracts have been offered to both West Indies men's and women's players following the 2024/25 evaluation period, with selections based on performance and projected involvement in upcoming fixtures.

This contract cycle also includes the continuation and expansion of multi-year agreements, designed to

reward consistent performers, provide greater security, and strengthen CWI's ability to retain top talent.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, said, "We have placed a premium on both current performance and long-term potential, while keeping a close eye on our broader strategy of building towards major global tournaments, in addition to ensuring stability for our top performers, and aligning our pathways with long-term success for West Indies cricket."

**West Indies Men's Contracts 2025/26 - Senior Men:** Alick Athanaze, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Justin Greaves, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, and Jomel Warican.

**Starter Contracts (Development):** Jewel Andrew, Jediah Blades, and Johann Layne.

**Men's Academy:** Ackeem Au-

guste, Ryan Bando, Jediah Blades, Rivaldo Clarke, Mavendra Dindyal, Giovonte Depeiza, Nathan Edward, Damel Evelyn, Amari Goodridge, Mbeki Joseph, Johann Layne, Zishan Motara, Kelvin Pittman, Renico Smith, and Carlon Tuckett.

**West Indies Women's Contracts 2025/26 - Senior Women:** Aaliyah Alleyne, Shemaine Campbelle, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Jannillea Glasgow, Shawnisha Hector, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Hayley Matthews, Ashmini Munisar, Stafanie Taylor, and Karishma Ramharack.

**Starter Contracts (Development):** Jahzara Claxton, and Realeanna Grimmond.

**Women's Academy:** Abigail Bryce, Asabi Callender, Naijanni Cumberbatch, Shabika Gajanbi, Brianna Harricharan, Trishan Holder, Djenaba Joseph, Nyia Latchman, Samara Ramnath, Amrita Ramtahal, Selena Ross, Shunelle Sawh, Steffie Soogrim, and Kate Wilmott.



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## India back in Test mode as Windies seek turnaround

BENGALURU (Reuters) - India will switch back to test cricket mode, after a dramatic Asia Cup Twenty20 triumph ended in bizarre circumstances, when they take on a depleted West Indies side in the opening match of their two-Test series, starting on Thursday (today).

India say they were denied the chance to lift the Asia Cup trophy after it was removed from the presentation ceremony over their refusal to accept it from Asian Cricket Council chairman and Pakistan Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday.

The players, however, are keen to put that distraction aside when they don the whites for the longer format ahead of the opening match in Ahmedabad, where Shubman Gill's side will look to deliver a further blow to West Indies.

"It was a quick turnaround ... switching formats is more mental than it is about technique," Gill told a press conference on Wednesday in Ahmedabad, where the first Test will be played, with the second match scheduled for Delhi from October 10.

"I think the fatigue is more mental for a batsman. It's a little different for a bowler. As of now, I feel fresh and my body is ready," said the top order batter.

The tourists are already without injured fast bowlers Shamar Joseph and Al-



**West Indies left-arm spinner Khary Pierre readies himself for a potential Test debut in the first Test against India in Ahmedabad, India, on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. (AFP/Getty Images)**

arri Joseph. Shamar Joseph was the highest wicket-taker in their last Test series, taking 22 wickets as West Indies were whitewashed 3-0 at home by Australia in June-July.

The West Indies also suffered an upset in associate nation Nepal earlier this week as the hosts beat them 2-1 in a T20 series.

Batter Tagenarine Chanderpaul, son of former captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul, is in line to play in his first Test match since January 2024 and middle-order batsman Alick Athanaze has also been recalled to the

squad.

"The return of Tagenarine Chanderpaul is to help transform our fortunes at the top of the order given the recent struggles, with Alick Athanaze being added for his strengths and qualities against spin bowling," West Indies coach Darren Sammy said in a statement on Tuesday.

Khary Pierre, who has represented West Indies in limited-overs cricket, has been picked as the second specialist spinner in the squad, while Gudakesh Motie has been rested.

"Playing in the subcontinent always presents a challenge and we have selected a team to be competitive in these conditions," Sammy added.

India, who are playing their first Test at home since last year's 3-0 series defeat by New Zealand, will be prepared for a tough outing, Gill said.

"All the Test matches we played in England went pretty deep ... what the people can expect from us is good, hard, grinding cricket. We wouldn't be looking for any (easy ways out)," he added.

## ABGA names Antiguan squad for ECGA championship



**The Antigua and Barbuda team celebrates after winning the 2024 Eastern Caribbean Golf Championships at the Cedar Valley Golf Course in Antigua on October 6, 2024. (File photo)**

The Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association (ABGA) has chosen a 12-member squad in its quest to retain the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championship (ECGC) in St. Kitts this weekend.

Antigua and Barbuda won at last year's event at Cedar Valley in Antigua. The 2025 Eastern Caribbean Golf Association's (ECGA) tournament takes place at the Royal St. Kitts Golf Course at Frigate Bay

on October 5 and 6.

Marquise George is the only returning player of Antigua and Barbuda's four-member men's team that won both net and gross titles at last year's tournament in Antigua.

The other three players in the 2024 men's team, Tedson Weatherill, Marlon George, and Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph, have been replaced by Omorry James, Johnathan Pigott, and Kemarly Thomas.

New players have also been chosen to replace the Antigua and Barbuda ladies team of Alexandria "Lexi" Hunte and Akevia Warner that won both gross and net competitions last year.

Akevia Warner, who won the ladies' individual gross title, and Alexandria Hunte, who came second, will not be defending their titles.

This year's Antigua and Barbuda women's

team will comprise sisters Nicole and Kimberlyn Weatherill and Thiasse Warner.

Wilson Charles, who has been named as the overall team captain, is the only returning player on Antigua and Barbuda's senior men's team that finished second in both gross and net competitions last year.

Charles, who will be defending the senior men's individual gross title, will be joined on the senior men's team by Marlon George and Dion Massiah as replacements for Marcus Franker and Eldine "Soca" Baptiste.

Antigua and Barbuda has also replaced their two-member Super Seniors team, which has represented the country at the last two ECGC tournaments.

Wesley Dyer and Vere Ambrose have been replaced by Eldine Baptiste and Wesley Dyer.

Antigua and Barbuda's Super Seniors team of Wesley Dyer and Vere Ambrose finished second in net and claimed a third-place finish in gross at last year's tournament.