

Cabinet takes decisive action to reduce cost of living

Page 2



L-R Permanent Secretary of Agriculture Walter Christopher, Michael Joseph- Young Farmer of the Year (center), Craig Thomas- IICA National Specialist Antigua and Barbuda and Director of Agriculture- Gregory Bailey.

Local News

CABINET APPROVES ZERO-RATED IMPORT DUTIES ON BASIC FOOD ITEMS TO REDUCE FOOD PRICES

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has approved the recommendation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs to implement the decision of the Sixtieth (60th) Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), allowing for the suspension of the Common External Tariff (CET) on a list of essential food items.

The decision, effective from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, authorizes the application of a zero (0%) rate of duty on a range of imported staples that form part of the national food basket.

Among the items approved for zero-rated import duties are:

- ◆ Butter (salted and unsalted)
- ◆ Potatoes
- ◆ Cabbages, carrots, cauliflower, and broccoli
- ◆ Dry peas and beans (split peas, chickpeas, black-eye peas, lentils, and pigeon peas)
- ◆ Fresh fruits including apples, oranges, limes, and kiwis
- ◆ Cereals and oats
- ◆ Cooking oils such as olive oil, coconut oil, corn oil, and other vegetable oils
- ◆ Canned meats and fish (corned beef, sardines, and mackerel)
- ◆ Baby foods and preparations for infant use



This measure, endorsed by CARICOM Member States, seeks to cushion the effects of escalating food prices on consumers—particularly the most vulnerable and low-income households—and to stabilize the domestic market.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, emphasized that the initiative reflects the government's continued commitment to safeguarding food security and ensuring that citizens have access to affordable and nutritious food options.

"This is a decisive step to ease the cost of living for our people," Minister Greene stated. "By applying a zero

rate of duty on essential food imports, the government is ensuring that price relief reaches households directly, while strengthening our food and nutrition resilience."

The Cabinet reaffirmed its commitment to work closely with regional and international partners to monitor market trends and implement further measures to support consumers and stabilize the economy.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs

Government of Antigua and Barbuda

St. John's, Antigua



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Cabinet says the Independence public holiday is on November 3

This year's Independence Day, November 1, falls on a Saturday and the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet is following the law by advising that the public holiday will be observed on Monday November 3, 2025.

In doing so, Cabinet sources say the government is being guided by the law of the land in this regard. The Public Holidays (Amendment) Act, 2019 spells out exactly what is to happen whenever Independence Day, November 1, falls on a Saturday or a Sunday.

In the 'Schedule' of the Act, No.2, it states clearly; **INDEPENDENCE DAY: *The first day of November in each year.*** When the first day of November falls on a Saturday or Sunday the following Monday shall be a public holiday and on that day shall be held all the official acts and activities in celebration of the anniversary of Independence.

Members of the Adventist Community had complained about being 'left out' of the Independence celebrations with the publication of the 'Official Schedule of Events' published by the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission.

That schedule lists Saturday November 1 as the day when the ceremonial parade and food fair will take place.

However, with Cabinet's intervention and in adhering to the law, those activities will now take place on Monday November 3, which will be designated a public holiday.



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Antigua and Barbuda is considering a possible ban on certain sun-screen chemicals



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim

The Ministry of Trade has commenced stakeholder consultation that will lead to a possible ban on certain chemicals that are used in many popular sun-screen lotions.

Senior Trade Policy Analyst in the Ministry, Jomica Carbon explained that the Ministry is undertaking the consultation to support the development of a WTO-compliant and CARICOM aligned policy to ban the importation, manufacture, sale, and distribution of sunscreens containing harmful chemicals, such as; Oxybenzone, Octinoxate; Avabenzene, Homosalate; and Octocrylene, Octisalate.

“This initiative is driven by the urgent need to protect Antigua and Barbuda’s coral reef ecosystems, which are vital to the country’s tourism-dependent economy, and to address emerging public health concerns related to these chemicals. The proposed approach draws inspiration from international best practices, particularly the successful ban implemented by Palau, which prohibits a range of reef-toxic chemicals to preserve marine biodi-



versity,” Carbon outlined at a meeting of the task force this week.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim welcomed the members of the task force to the consultation noting that the goal is to take a closer look at the trade, consumer, environmental, and health implications of sunscreen products and explore the path toward a possible national policy and ban on harmful chemicals.

“We know that sunscreen plays a vi-



tal role in protecting human skin from ultraviolet rays and in preventing skin cancer. Yet, recent scientific research reminds us that the same products designed to protect human health are now causing harm to marine life and ecosystems.

“As noted in one study, organic UV filters have been found to bio-accumulate in corals, algae, mollusks, and marine vertebrates, leading to coral bleaching, endocrine and neurologic disruption, and other toxic effects,”

he noted.

According to PS Pilgrim this issue is particularly pressing for Antigua and Barbuda, being a Small Island Developing State whose economy, environment, and cultural identity are intimately tied to its oceans and coral reefs. “The Cabinet recognised the urgency of this matter and has called for decisive policy and action. As a member of the OECS, CARICOM, and the global SIDS community, Antigua and Barbuda has an opportunity to lead on developing environmentally responsible standards and legislation in this area,” he observed.

The framework for the scope of work presented by Corbin indicates that October 2025-January 2026 has been set aside for meetings of the task force; February to March, 2026, Circulation of draft policy and feedback collection; April, 2026, final policy revision



and submission to Cabinet; mid-2026, has been earmarked for policy implementation pending the approval of the Cabinet.

AFRICA UNITE

Hosts: Dr. Christopher
Ras Kimba & Luther Lee

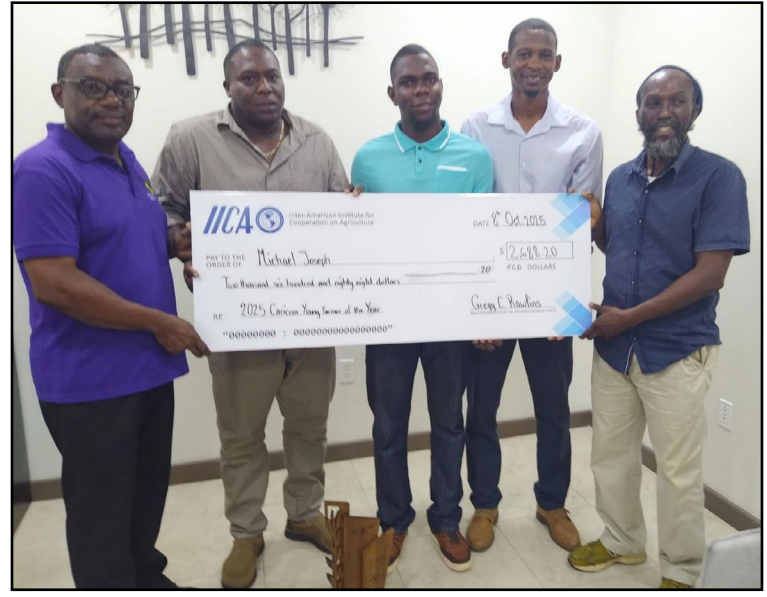
Guest: Dr. Len Johnson

EMANCIPATION

**Station: Pointe FM
99.1**



Antiguan farmer wins CARICOM Young Farmer Award, 2025



L-R Director of Agriculture- Gregory Bailey, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture Walter Christopher, Michael Joseph- Young Farmer of the Year, Craig Thomas- IICA National Specialist Antigua and Barbuda

An Antigua and Barbuda farmer – 22-year old Michael Joseph – pulled off what many saw as an upset when he won the CARICOM Young Farmer Sward, 2025.

Joseph was selected as the winner of the award at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in St. Kitts last week. Joseph operates a 1 and-a-half-acre farm in Bendals where he specializes in producing okras and tomatoes.

He said the competition is open to farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 years and that there were competitors from much larger countries who operated much larger farms. Farmers from Guyana, Suriname, Belize and Jamaica were among the competitors, Joseph disclosed.

“While many of the farmers were older than 30 years of age and had much more

years doing farming, I believe that my competitive advantage was the manner in which I have deployed technology as a vital tool in my farming. I am the first person to use drones to spray my crops here in Antigua, I also utilize accounting software to assist with record keeping and for watering my crops, I use crystals as a method of drip irrigation that while costly in terms of the initial capital outlay, make up for the investment in terms of cost-saving,” Joseph explained.

The young farmer works full-time in farming and by offering drone spraying services to other farmers. In addition, he purchased his own tractor for use on his farm, but through his entrepreneurial spirit, he also offers this service to other farmers.

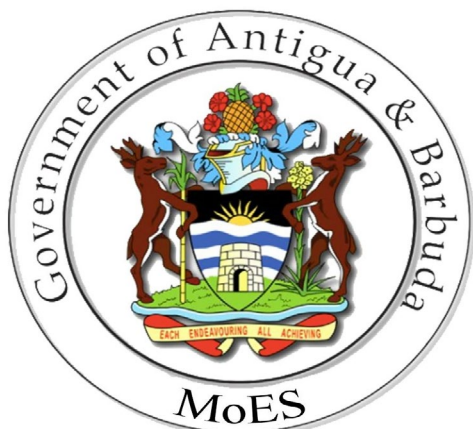
“I try to be innovative and cost-effective as possible.



For example, prior to attaining the drone I was spraying all day, but now I can finish spraying in ten minutes. This reduces the need for me to employ anyone and keeps my labour costs low,” he explained.

On Wednesday, senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the local IICA representative congratulated Joseph on his victory and they presented him with a cheque for winning the award.

Ministry of Education Launches Reading Month 2025



The Ministry of Education is collaborating with the School Library Services, to observe October as Reading Month, celebrating the transformative power of reading and its role in nurturing a literate, informed, and creative nation.

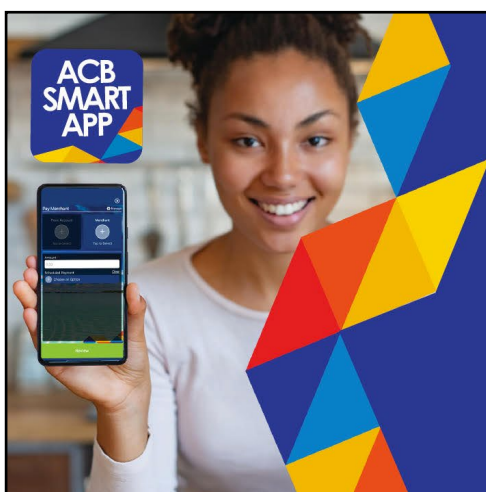
This year's theme, *"Unlock Your Possibilities: Read, Imagine, Grow,"* encourages all students, educators, parents, and citizens to explore the limitless opportunities that reading provides. Books are powerful tools that unlock knowledge, inspire imagination, and foster personal and academic growth.

Throughout the month, schools and libraries will host a variety of activities, including reading challenges, storytelling sessions, book fairs, author visits, and community outreach events. These initiatives aim to cultivate a love for reading and highlight its importance in lifelong learning.

Speaking on the observance, the Education Officer of School Library Services, Karen Browne-Francis emphasizes that reading is not only a pathway to academic success but also a key to self-discovery and empowerment. Every page read opens a door to new ideas and experiences, helping

readers to imagine a better world and grow into confident, informed citizens.

The public is encouraged to join the celebration by reading daily, supporting library initiatives, and sharing the joy of books with others.

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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.

MESSAGE for READING MONTH 2025



Education Officer of School Library Services, Karen Browne-Francis

October is Reading Month, and this year we celebrate under the inspiring theme: “Unlock Your Possibilities: Read, Imagine, Grow.” This inspirational call to action encourages all students, educators, parents, and citizens to explore the limitless opportunities that reading provides. Books are powerful tools that unlock knowl-

edge, inspire imagination, and foster personal and academic growth. With this month-long observance, the emphasis is that reading is not only a pathway to academic success but also a key to self-discovery and empowerment.

“Read” signifies the commitment to opening the direct path to knowledge

and empathy, viewing it as an investment in oneself. “Imagine” highlights reading as an exercise that builds creativity, flexibility, and critical problem-solving skills, allowing one to envision possibilities beyond the present. Finally, “Grow” represents the outcome, where the combined efforts of reading and imagining lead to meaningful development, expanding vocabulary, sharpening critical thinking, and deepening emotional intelligence to better navigate life’s challenges.

Reading Month is a time to celebrate the magic and power of books. When we read, we open doors to new ideas, new adventures, and new possibilities. Reading allows us to imagine beyond what we see, to dream bigger, and to grow wiser and stronger in mind and spirit. Every book you read is a key—one that unlocks your creativity, strengthens your knowledge, and helps you see the world in exciting new ways. Whether it is a story that makes you laugh, a poem that makes you think, or a biography

that inspires you, reading always helps you grow.

Every page read opens a door to new ideas and experiences, helping readers to imagine a better world and grow into confident, informed citizens.

This month, let us all make a commitment to read a little more each day. Visit your school library or the National Public Library of Antigua and Barbuda, borrow a book, share a story with a friend, or even start your own reading challenge. Together, we can build a community where reading is valued, imagination is celebrated, and growth never stops.

Let us all take up the challenge this October to Unlock our Possibilities: Read, Imagine, Grow!

Thank you, and happy reading!

Karen Browne-Francis

Education Officer, School Library Services

National Focal Point, Early Learners Support



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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

APUA Activates Disaster Preparedness Plan

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua – October 8, 2025 **APUA Chief Executive Officer, John Bradshaw, convened the Executive Team to review the Authority's storm readiness measures. Business Units have secured hurricane preparedness supplies and are ready to maintain continuity of service and ensure rapid restoration after any storm impact.**

The Electricity Business Unit continues line and pole maintenance year-round, supported by vegetation management and stocked restoration materials. Customers are reminded to prepare for possible outages due to strong winds or lightning.

The Water Business Unit has installed standby generators and secured adequate water storage to maintain supply after storms. Desalination plants may be shut down temporarily to prevent equipment damage and enable faster restoration.

The Telecommunications Business Unit has refilled generator fuel and secured network equipment at key sites. Customers are advised to disconnect modems and sensitive equipment in advance of any storm activity.

Safety Reminders: Operate generators safely; ensure that a transfer switch is installed to prevent electricity from feeding back into the power lines, avoid downed power lines, disconnect sensitive electronics, and store at least a three to five-day supply of potable water.

During an active storm, crews are not dispatched to address electricity faults and outages until it is safe to do so. Specific timelines will not be available until assessments and restoration for impacted areas have commenced.

After the storm, our restoration plan will be immediately implemented under the guidance of the Met Office.

The safety of our employees and the general public remains APUA's foremost priority, alongside the protection of our infrastructure. The electricity network will be closely monitored during a storm, and based on the severity of the storm and/or loss of extensive load, we may be forced to completely close the entire network to protect lives and equipment.

We encourage the general public to continue to adhere to guidelines from the National Office of Disaster Services and the Meteorological Office as we experience these adverse weather conditions. We also encourage customers to connect with us on our official social media platforms for further updates.

-END -



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.

Three men committed to trial at the January Assizes on ammunition charges

Three men – Judeah Francis of Pot-
ters, Jaquan Davis of Skerritt's Pas-
ture and Devonne Burton of Paynters
– have been committed to stand trial at
the January sitting of the Assize Court
on a range of firearms and ammunition
charges.

The men appeared before a magistrate
on charges stemming from an incident
in June last year when they were found
in possession of firearms and ammuni-
tion. The men also faced a charge of
attempting to commit a crime with the
use of the firearms.

The police are alleging that the trio
were found with 14 9mm rounds of
ammunition as well as one black 9
mm Browning pistol. According to the
police, the men also had in their pos-
session of a second firearm – a black
desert eagle 41/44 Magnum pistol.

Additionally, Francis has been charged
with reckless driving of a motor vehi-
cle on the public highway at a speed



that was dangerous to the public when
taking into account, the nature and
condition of the road as well as the
time of the day and the amount of traf-

fic that was expected on the road.

The case has been submitted for trial
at the January Assizes. There are 14
exhibits and seven witnesses.

Cashew Hill Man Questioned in Shooting Incident

A Cashew Hill resident is
currently in police custody
being questioned in connec-
tion with a shooting incident
at Cashew Hill, on Tuesday
evening.

Reports indicate that around
8:00 p.m., residents in the
area heard what sounded
like gunshots being fired.
A team of officers from the
Criminal Investigations De-
partment and the Task Force
(CIDTF) promptly respond-
ed to the report.

One male suspect was later
arrested on suspicion of be-
ing involved in the alleged
incident. No injuries were
reported to the police. Fur-
ther investigations are on-
going into the matter.



Meanwhile, the police are
appealing to anyone with in-
formation that can assist in

this investigation to contact
the Criminal Investigations
Department at 462-3913 or

911. All information will be
treated with strict confiden-
tiality.

Media fraternity loses a stalwart



Nathaniel 'Nat Moses' Francis

The Antigua and Barbuda media fraternity has lost one of its stalwarts with the passing of Nathaniel 'Nat Moses' Francis who died at his English Harbour home on Tuesday. Francis was more widely known for the name he assumed, Nat Moses, than his given name. Beginning in the early 1970's and for several decades thereafter, Nat Moses was a fixture in broadcasting circles here in Antigua and Barbuda and throughout the Caribbean after he joined the staff at Radio Antilles, at the time a widely listened to radio station up and down the Caribbean Archipelago.

Nat Moses was known for a distinctive voice that was powerful, yet smooth, an asset he brought to bear on late night programming when he served up a mixture of music and smooth talk.

But his talents went beyond broadcasting. Nat Moses was also a much sought after host of Carnival shows and other entertainment events large and small. In fact, he was a staple on the broadcast commentary team for Radio ZDK for decades.

At the height of his popularity, Nat Moses established a reputation for always being well-dressed. At

many of the functions that he attended, he always stood out for his immaculate attire.

Outside of his media and entertainment contributions, Nat Moses also entered the political arena. First in 1989 and again in 1994, he ran and lost to the Sir Adolphus Freeland (now deceased). After Sir Adolphus retired from elective politics in 1998, he contested the 1999 general elections on the UPP ticket and defeated, Guy Yearwood. His foray into elective politics only lasted one term as by 2004, the UPP had replaced him on the ticket with Dr. Jacqui Quinn.

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

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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.

“We, the youth of the Caribbean, affirm that environment and climate justice are inseparable from the protection and fulfilment of human rights.”CYCC Youth Declaration_Final



**Caribbean Youth
 Declaration on
 Environment and
 Climate Justice**



@onecycc



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.

The air we breathe, the ground we till,
 Each right connects to human will.
 But storms now steal what laws defend,
 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—

Feature

PAGE 15

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.



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

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

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

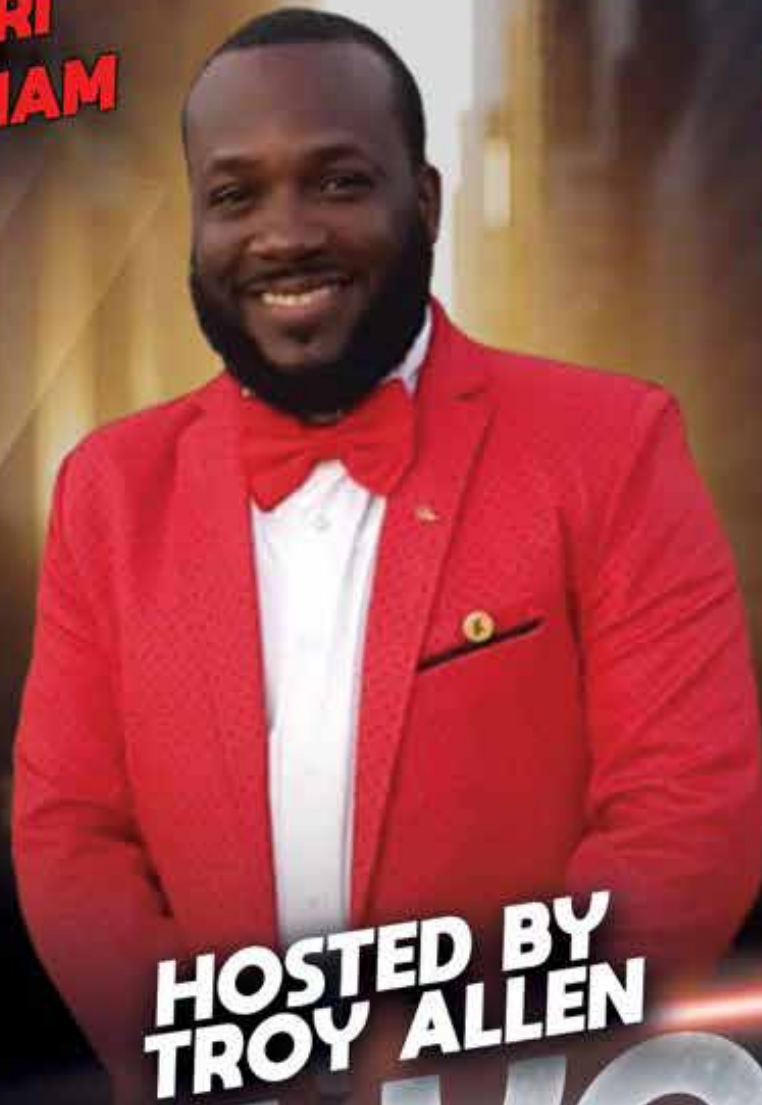
BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
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JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

CWI takes coaching clinic across region this month



Brendon Ramlal instructs participants during a session Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.



Course Instructors Brendon Ramlal (left) and Keshava Ramphal (second right) with participants at Coolidge Cricket Ground, Antigua.

In a major push to strengthen the pipeline of Caribbean cricket talent, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has kicked off a second round of essential coaching courses across the Leeward Islands and St. Vincent.

The initiative is a critical part of CWI's strategy to build a deep and qualified pool of coaches, preparing for the restart of primary school and community grass roots programmes.

The initiative is a critical part of CWI's strategy to build a deep and qualified pool of coaches, preparing for the restart of primary school and community grass roots programmes.

The training will equip local coaches with the skills needed to nurture

the next generation of stars. The sessions began last Thursday at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The programme moved through the region, and stopped in Montserrat on Sunday, then the British and US Virgin Islands on Tuesday.

It continues in St. Maarten, and Anguilla on Friday, and a final session in St. Vincent on October 30.

CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe emphasised the long-term importance of the investment in coaching.

“Investing in coaching education at this early stage is essential to building a solid foundation for the growth and future sustainability of the sport

in the region,” Bascombe said.

“By equipping coaches with the right tools and knowledge, we are creating a more inclusive and sustainable cricket pathway.”

Bascombe highlighted that flagship development programmes like the Republic Bank Five for Fun Cricket and the Girls' Under-16/19 Territorial Cricket Hubs will directly benefit from this newly trained cohort of coaches.

The courses are being led by two highly qualified coaches from Trinidad & Tobago, Brendon Ramlal and Keshava Ramphal. Both Level 3 certified and with extensive backgrounds in education, they bring over a decade of experience in

age-group cricket development.

In a key move for player safety, CWI mandated that all participating coaches complete the online UNICEF Child Protection Course and a virtual Cricket Safeguarding Workshop before beginning their training. This ensures every coach is prepared to provide a safe and supportive environment for young players.

This latest series of courses builds on a successful first round that engaged over 150 participants in territories including Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad & Tobago, signalling CWI's sustained commitment to rebuilding the sport from the ground up.

Sports News

Antiguan team off to Caribbean Elite Road Cycling Championship

The two-member team of Newell Mack and Alexander Whittaker left the island on Wednesday for Belize to participate in the 2025 Caribbean Elite Road and Under-23 Cycling Championships from October 9 to 13.

Mack and Whittaker will both compete in the Elite Men's category. According to a release from the ABCF, the two cyclists have demonstrated the performance, endurance, and commitment required to compete at the highest regional level.

It said the ABCF is confident the national cyclists will represent Antigua and Barbuda with pride and professionalism.

The ABCF will cover the costs associated with the travel party, including transportation of bikes, in-transit expenses, competition wear, registration, and management.

Team Antigua and Barbuda will face a strong field of riders from 15 Caribbean countries, competing for qualifying spots for the 2026 Caribbean and Central American (CAC) Games in Santo Domingo, from July 24 to August 8.

The Caribbean Elite Championship will feature young cyclists from across the region competing in the time trial and road race. This competition not only highlights the athletic prowess of the participants but also promotes camaraderie and sportsmanship among the elites of the Caribbean.

TEAM
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Alexander N. Whittaker

Newell Mack

BELIZE 2025
 CARIBBEAN ELITE ROAD
 CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 9-13, 2025

Only officially selected athletes are eligible to participate in the Caribbean Elite Road Cycling Championship, which is organized by the regional governing body, the Caribbean

Cycling Union (CCU).

The Caribbean Elite Road Cycling Championship is also sanctioned by the Switzerland-based Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI),

which is the world governing body for sports cycling and oversees international competitive cycling events.

BOE extends unbeaten run in Business Basketball League

The Board of Education (BOE) extended their unbeaten run in the 2025 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League championships on Tuesday night.

The Board of Education notched up their seventh win with an 87-48 drubbing of Antigua Computer Technology in the opening game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Adonis Humphreys sank 18 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Danny Perez produced 16 points, six steals, and six assists; and Daniel Perez contributed 13 points, seven rebounds, six assists, and four steals for the Board of Education.

Henry Dorsette shot a game-high 19 points and snatched eight rebounds, Delroy Foster converted 11 points and claimed six rebounds, and Hansel Piper scored 10 points for Antigua Computer Technology, who suffered their sixth loss in seven games.

Former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board notched up their fifth win in eight matches with a commanding 72-45 victory over the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in Tuesday's second game.

Lindsay McDonald shot a game-high 24 points, and Elijah Charles scored 17 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board.

Point guard Nigel Joseph converted 10 points for the Sir Lester

Bird Medical Centre, who lost for the fifth time in six matches.

The Sledge O Ballers recorded their third win in seven encounters by prevailing 60-54 against Fearless Security Services in the last game of Tuesday's triple-header.

Kareem Edwards sank 18 points and claimed eight rebounds; Leroy Percival sank 12 points and snatched eight rebounds; and Morlon Davis chipped in with 11 points, six rebounds, and five assists for the Sledge O Ballers.

Shaquille Kelly converted 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Beniah Mark produced 10

points, six rebounds, and four steals for Fearless Security Services, who remain in the cellar of the 14-team round-robin competition after slumping to their seventh loss in as many games.

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

J&J Company Landscaping Services will face Fearless Security Services at 6:45 pm, Police will tackle Antigua Computer Technology at 7:45 pm, and Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will clash with Richie's Shooterz at 8:45 pm.



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 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
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**WREATH LAYING
 CEREMONY**

MONDAY 27 OCT | 10:00AM

AT NATIONAL HEROES PARK
 SIR. SYDNEY WALLINGS HWY.

Antigua Barbuda
 FESTIVALS
 COMMISSION

Sir Viv, Sir Richie and Lara in India to boost West Indies cricket

Antiguan cricket legends Sir Vivian Richards and Sir Richie Richardson, and Trinidadian icon Brian Lara are in India to support the West Indies team and also to promote the brand of West Indies cricket.

The famous trio arrived last weekend in Mumbai for meetings before they traveled to New Delhi, where they will host a special golf day. They will be accompanied by Chris Dehring, the chief executive officer of Cricket West Indies (CWI).

This will be at the prestigious Qutab Golf Club, which is India's first public course and offers a perfect blend of history, sports and scenery.

As part of CWI's outreach initiative, they will play alongside senior business executives, corporate leaders of industry and investment, prominent media managers and influencers, as well as members of the Indian cricket fraternity.

They will also attend the second Test match between West Indies and India at the historic Arun Jaitley Stadium, formerly known as the Feroz Shah Kotla, from October 10 to 14.

Posting on his Instagram page Lara wrote "I'm here in India with two legendary West Indies cricketers, Sir Viv and Sir Richie on



West Indies cricket Legends from left: Sir Richie, Sir Viv and Lara pose ahead of an event in New Delhi, India, on Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

a mission to engage with sponsors and media giants who shape the game we all love.

"What's most inspiring

is that despite all they've achieved their passion for West Indies cricket still burns as bright as ever. That pride, that purpose,

still drives them. We rejoiced together, we cried together. The key is we have to plan to rise together again."

Lara demands passion from Windies, acknowledges financial reality



Brian Lara

MUMBAI, India (CMC) – West Indies legend Brian Lara has issued a dual challenge in the wake of the team's recent struggles, urging current players to rediscover the "passion" that defined his generation while acknowledging the undeniable financial lure of global T20 leagues that pulls talent away from the regional side.

Lara's comments come after the West Indies' defeat to India in the first Test, where current captain Roston Chase pointed to "infrastructure problems" and a continuous "struggle for finances."

Both men are part of Cricket West Indies' cricket strategy and officiating committee, highlighting the internal recognition of these systemic issues.

"If you want to get things done, you have to have the capital to do it. So that is a major part," Lara stated on the sidelines of the CEAT Cricket Rating

Awards.

"But at the same time, I would like to urge Roston Chase and the other guys, do they have cricket at heart? Do they really want to play for the West Indies?"

Lara pointed to the past as a benchmark for desire. "We did not have better facilities 30-40 years ago. Viv Richards didn't bat on any better practice pitches, but the passion was different. The passion to play for the West Indies was different," he said.

"So I agree with (Chase), but I still believe there is an onus on each young player to create that love and desire."

However, the former captain was emphatic that players cannot be blamed for seeking financial security. He highlighted the stark "disparity" between the earnings from franchise cricket and representing the West Indies.

"I can't blame any single player for wanting to pursue cricket as a career outside of the West Indies," Lara said, calling for empathy.

"The onus is on Cricket West Indies to find a way to create, unify the efforts of the young players who want to go out, but also have them playing for us. In a series against India, we want to play good cricket against the best team in the world. So you want your best players out there."

Using a football analogy, Lara cited Lionel Messi, who spent his entire club career in Europe but remained a dedicated and passionate cornerstone of the Argentine national team.

"Australia can do it. England can do it to keep their players loyal to their country. So we have to find a way to do that," he said, calling for a unified effort from administrators, coaches, and players.

On the field, Lara identified batting as a critical weakness, noting the touring squad lacks a single batter with a Test average of 30. He advocated for a stronger first-class system where players are picked on proven statistics, not just potential.

"I believe that if a player is being picked on potential only and he does not have the stats to go with it, it is very difficult for him to get to this higher level," Lara explained.

He suggested that the current situation may lead to players maturing later, similar to Graham Gooch or Mike Hussey, and stressed the importance of a stronger domestic grind.

"Back in my day, you had to break records," Lara recalled. "You carried the towel, carried the water, before you finally got in. And during that period of time, you grew, you matured. And some mature faster than others."

Princess Margaret make winning start in defense of U-16 Girls Division title



The Princess Margaret School team with their medals and trophy after winning the Under-16 Girls Division league title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday, April 7, 2025. (File Photo)

The Princess Margaret School got off to a winning start in defense of their Under-16 Girls Division league title in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition on Tuesday.

Princess Margaret School launched their campaign with a 6-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School at the ABFA Technical Center.

JKayla Bellet scored four of the goals with conversions in the 15th, 40th, 43rd, and 56th minutes. The other two goals were converted by Anesa Versailles in the 13th minute and Kavita Cordice in the 53rd minute.

However, it was the only match that was played in the opening round of the competition.

Six other learning institutions are also registered to participate in this year's secondary schools' un-

der-16 girls football competition.

The other participants are last year's losing finalists: Antigua Girls High School, Jennings Secondary, All Saints Secondary, Pares Secondary, Ottos Comprehensive School, and the Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

The Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition will continue with the opening round of

matches in the Under-20 Boys' Division on Thursday.

The All Saints Secondary School will begin their campaign against Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE) in the first game of a double-header at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park at 2:15 pm.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy will launch their campaign against the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) in the second encounter at 3:40 pm.

The Ottos Comprehensive School will clash with Pares Secondary in their opening affair at the Golden Grove playing field at 2:15 pm.

Last year's champion, Princess Margaret School, will begin the defense of their Under-20 Boys Division title against Jennings Secondary in the second game of a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday at 6:30 pm.

Clare Hall Secondary and Irene B. Williams Secondary will clash in their opening encounter at 4:00 pm.