

*Special Independence Edition*

**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**  
**POINT EXPRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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*Happy 44th Anniversary of Independence*

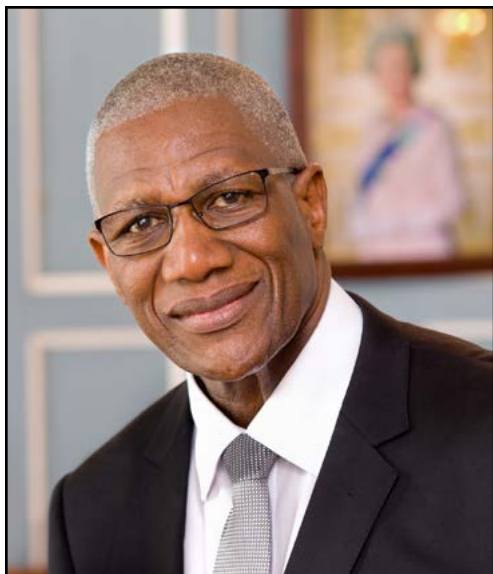


ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
**ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**

# Independence Message

## INDEPENDENCE GREETINGS



By

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams,  
 GCMG, KGN, KSTJ, DSC, DMSC,  
 PHD(HC), MBBS, FCAMA  
 Governor General of Antigua and  
 Barbuda

44th Anniversary of Independence

Saturday November 1st 2025

Theme: “Solid • Stable • Soaring”

Fellow Citizens, Residents and Friends  
 of Antigua and Barbuda

Today we celebrate the forty-fourth  
 anniversary of the Independence of  
 our beloved Antigua and Barbuda.

The theme for this year, “Solid • Sta-  
 ble • Soaring”, invites us to pause in  
 gratitude for the blessings we continue  
 to enjoy.

Our nation has been shaped by gener-  
 ations who placed their faith in God  
 and their trust in one another. Through  
 every season, we have drawn strength  
 from that faith, and from the courage  
 and creativity of our people.

To be *solid* is to stand firm on the  
 principles that define us, love of God,  
 respect for one another, and pride in  
 country.

To be *stable* is to be focused on  
 one’s mission and not to divert  
 from the important things in life.

And to be *soaring* is to maintain our  
 levels of achievement and continue  
 to build on them thereby making our  
 nation stronger in accordance with the  
 very words of our coat of arms and  
 our anthem ‘Each Endeavouring, All  
 Achieving’

As we look to the future, may we renew  
 our sense of purpose and unity. Let this  
 day of commemoration strengthen the  
 bonds of friendship among us, deep-  
 en our gratitude to Almighty God, and  
 inspire us to keep our nation moving  
 forwards and upwards, solid in faith,  
 stable in hope, and soaring in love.

May God richly bless you all, and may  
 He continue to bless our beloved na-  
 tion of Antigua and Barbuda.

Happy Independence Day!

Thank you.



Independence is here !!!!

# MORE FOR \$44

- Burger ☒
- 2 Pieces ☒
- Fries ☒
- Biscuit ☒
- 2 Drinks ☒

**44**  
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
 ANNIVERSARY  
 OF INDEPENDENCE

**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**

KEEP ANTIGUA  
 CLEAN

@kfcanu

CELEBRATING ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S



## SOLID, STABLE AND SOARING

Here's to 44 years of strength, unity and progress.  
May Antigua and Barbuda continue to rise higher  
towards a brighter future.

# Prime Minister's Message



My fellow citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda,  
 Today, as we stand on the firm foundation of our 44th year of nationhood, we give thanks for the grace of God, for the perseverance of our people, and for the enduring flame of patriotism, that has carried this nation forward from struggle to strength. Forty-four years ago, the Champions of our independence raised the flag of a new and sovereign nation. They did so with faith, that their children would walk taller, dream bolder, and live freer than they did. We are the beneficiaries of that faith, and today we honour it; not with ceremony alone, but with the substance of achievement.

## A Nation of Steady Growth and Shared Prosperity

My friends, this has been another successful year for Antigua and Barbuda. Our country's economy continues to expand, consolidating one of the strongest recovery records in the Caribbean.

Employment has reached a historic high of 47,000 people - up from 37,000 a decade ago. AND our per-capita income now exceeds sixty thousand dollars — the highest in the OECS and among the highest in the entire CARICOM region.

Over the past eleven years, our ad-



## Broadcast Address to the Nation By The Honourable Gaston A. Browne, M.P. Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda On the Occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Independence November 1, 2025

ministration has virtually doubled the size of this economy, creating greater opportunities, higher living standards, and renewed confidence in the future. Every major sector - tourism, construction, services, agriculture, and digital enterprise - continues to expand. Our fiscal accounts are stable, our credit standing improving, and investor confidence is strong. We have done this not by accident, but by vision, partnership, and hard work. And growth has become a shared national triumph; because we kept faith with you - the people who turn the wheels of this economy every day. This progress is not abstract; it is personal to all of us.

It means bread on the table, jobs for our youth, security for families, and confidence in tomorrow.

It is the living proof that when Antiguan and Barbudans work together, we can turn resilience into prosperity.

## Investing in Our People

Fellow Citizens, economic progress means little unless it improves lives.

That is why we have made the well-being of our people the cornerstone of every policy, and have invested heavily in our people.

## Health and Human Development

Our investments in health care are saving lives and brightening our future. The new Renal Centre, now nearing completion, will bring expanded dialysis capacity and facilities for routine kidney transplants and other specialized renal care.

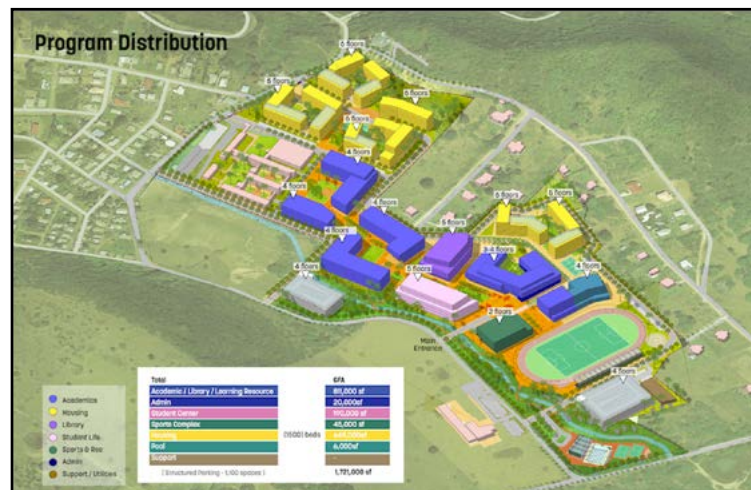
It will be a centre of excellence, accessible and equipped to global standards. Across our country; community clinics have been rebuilt and modernized — in Liberta, Falmouth, Bolans, among others. Work on expanding the All Saints Clinic will commence shortly.

**Each of these facilities represents our belief that healthcare is a right, not a privilege.**

In a further act of compassion and progress, we have acquired the former Jehovah's Witness headquarters, valued at approximately \$12M. This facility will be converted into a modern Mental Health Facility.

# Prime Minister's Message

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 ANNIVERSARY OF  
 INDEPENDENCE


The centre will be fully retrofitted, expanded, equipped and adequately staffed, creating a humane and dignified environment for those among us living with mental-health conditions. Our goal is to integrate every citizen into productive and fulfilling lives. No one in our society should be ostracized or cast out.

These investments in healthcare are investments in the human spirit and human development.

They affirm that every life has worth, that every illness deserves care, and that in Antigua and Barbuda, compassion is as important as cure.

## Education for the New Generation

Our investment in education per capita, remains among the highest of all small island states, because we know that the surest path to maintaining freedom is knowledge.

Early next year, we will break ground on the two-hundred-million-dollar expansion of the University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus.

This transformative project will include new student dormitories, lecture theatres, laboratories, and research spaces.

This will be a campus that will stand shoulder to shoulder with any in the region.

We are building a university worthy of the ambition of our youth.

We have also consolidated our post-secondary institutions under one

umbrella — the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS).

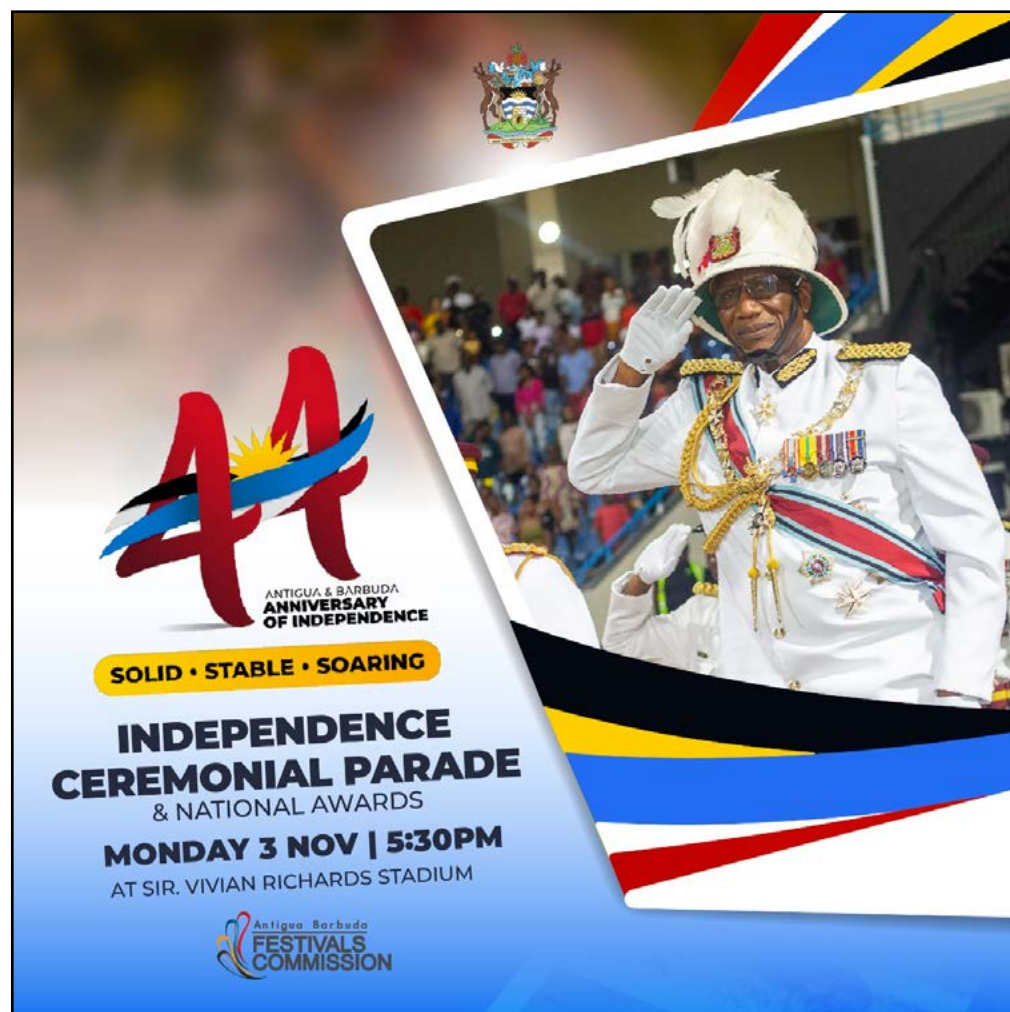
Each school within this college will benefit from upgraded curricula and internationally accredited faculty.

Our objective is clear: within the next twenty years, at least fifty percent of our population will hold either an academic degree, or a national skills certificate.

That is an achievement we could not have imagined before we won our independence from colonial rule.

We are also upgrading our primary and secondary schools and expanding early-childhood learning so that every child, from the earliest age, has a fair start in life.

Education is the passport to the future — and we are ensuring that every Antiguan and Barbudan holds it.



**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**

**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**

**INDEPENDENCE  
CEREMONIAL PARADE  
& NATIONAL AWARDS**

**MONDAY 3 NOV | 5:30PM**  
AT SIR. VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM

Antigua Barbuda  
FESTIVALS  
COMMISSION

# Prime Minister's Message



Every classroom we open, every young mind we empower, is a celebration of freedom itself.

For knowledge is the truest inheritance of independence.

It makes us sovereign not only as a nation, but as individuals.

## **Housing and Social Empowerment**

My brothers and sisters: every family deserves a safe, decent home.

Yet public-sector housing has slowed—largely because we lack enough skilled workers.

We are tackling this head-on, by contracting skilled tradespeople from abroad, to scale up construction and deliver homes faster.

But I appeal to our young men and women: seize the training on offer and claim these jobs.

With skills in hand, the next wave of homes can be built not partially, but exclusively by you—putting money in your pockets and your feet firmly on the ladder of security.

We are also continuing to rebuild and upgrade homes for the most vulnera-

ble in our society under our Home Advancement Programme for the Poor and Indigent (HAPPI).

This is social justice in action, not rhetoric.

The Booby Alley Social Housing Project, funded by the People's Republic of China, is well advanced.

It will deliver 150 two-bedroom condominium homes, primarily to the former residents, transforming one of the oldest communities in our capital, into a model of modern living.

This project stands as one of the most socially impactful undertakings in our history — a symbol of our compassion and commitment to empowerment.

A further 100 condominium homes will be constructed in Bolans & Barbuda.

Private-sector home construction also remains strong, a sign of confidence in the economy and in the future.

More of our citizens are becoming homeowners, building security and generational wealth.

Each home we build is more than concrete and timber; it is a monument to

dignity and belonging.

It says to every Antiguan and Barbudan: you have a place, you have a stake, you have a future in our beautiful country.

## ***Feeding Ourselves — Strengthening Food Security***

We continue to reduce our dependence on imported food and to strengthen domestic agriculture.

Our government has invested millions in heavy equipment for the Ministry of Agriculture — to build feeder roads, ponds, and dams, and to clear and plough farmlands across the island.

Two new abattoirs — including a dedicated poultry processing facility — will be established, to support farmers and improve national food supply.

We have also purchased the former Ken's Club property at Cassada Gardens for 9.3 million dollars. This property comprises over five acres of land and it will be converted into a retail and wholesale hub for the Central Marketing Corporation.

This facility will include cold storage

# Prime Minister's Message

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and agro-processing facilities, allowing our farmers to preserve, package, and market their products more effectively.

CMC has been instructed to prioritise domestic purchasing, ensuring that local farmers always have a guaranteed market.

Our goal is clear and achievable: food sovereignty within this generation.

It is also to create entrepreneurial opportunities for young men and women — another avenue to earn, to grow, and to build an empowered future.

By feeding ourselves, we are feeding our pride and preserving our sovereignty.

We are proving that a small island can sustain itself by the strength of its people's hands and the products of its own soil.

## **Infrastructure, Water, and Connectivity**

Infrastructure is the backbone of development, and we have made unprecedented progress.

By the end of next month, an additional two million gallons of water per day, will be added to the national supply, bringing us closer than ever to resolving a problem that has plagued our people for generations.

We are determined to ensure that every household and every business enjoys reliable, clean, potable water.

Similarly, our road-rebuilding programme continues vigorously.

The major arteries have been restored, with the exception of the All Saints Road reconstruction, which will begin as soon as APUA completes the re-piping.

Dozens of community roads are being resurfaced nationwide — from Pottery to Parham, Bolans to Bethesda — bringing real relief to residents.

## **At the same time, we are modernising our airports.**

The VC Bird International Airport is being upgraded at a cost of one hundred and fifty million dollars, while



the Barbuda Airport expansion will commence next year.

These projects secure our position as a premier destination and as a gateway to the Caribbean and the world.

Every road we pave, every pipe we lay, every watt of electricity we deliver — strengthens the modern nation we are building.

This is what independence looks like in motion: progress that reaches every home, every parish, every life.

We are not waiting for others to validate us, or to build our future — we are building it ourselves.

## **Tourism and Economic Diversification**

Tourism remains our main driver.

The 2025-2026 season is projected to be yet another record-breaking year — with one million cruise arrivals and about four hundred thousand stay-over visitors expected.

This will be yet another milestone in our history.

At the luxury end of the tourism market, Antigua and Barbuda continues to shine.

The Peace, Love and Happiness (PLH) Resort in Barbuda is now our flagship property, with over 350 rooms and a world-class Tom Fazio golf course completed to date.

So far, over one billion US dollars has been invested in this development.

The Robert De Niro Nobu Resort, construction is significantly advanced and the resort will open to guests by next October.

The Rosewood Hotel project will proceed in 2026 after relocation of the cargo port in Barbuda.

On Antigua, the Marriott Resort at Yeptons has started construction, and two more ultra-luxury properties — the One & Only at Half Moon Bay and Nikki Beach by Calvin Ayre — will begin in early 2026.

Tourism is evolving — moving up-market, diversifying, and extending benefits across our economy.

More jobs, more training, and more business opportunities for our people, are the dividends of this progress.

We are showing the world that the people of a small state, through their creativity and hard-work, can deliver a destination of world-class proportions. But it is important to note, that we are reducing our dependence on tourism, while continuing to bolster its contribution to our economy.

We have already reduced tourism dependency from seventy percent a decade ago, to fifty-five percent today.

We are fulfilling our promise to diversify the economy.

Economic diversification is now a reality in motion.

## **Governance, Accountability, and Justice**

Fellow Citizens, my administration remains unwavering in its commitment to clean, transparent, and accountable governance.

Our government's entrenched policy — adopted and enforced by Cabinet — precludes me and anyone in my

# Prime Minister's Message

household, from engaging in any form of government contracting or procurement.

This is to remove any opportunity for theft, or abuse of public resources.

That safeguard exists precisely to ensure that the Office of the Prime Minister remains beyond reproach — and I have always respected it.

Recently, when irregularities were uncovered in unauthorised government transactions regarding motor vehicles, we acted immediately and decisively, without fear or favour.

An analysis was commissioned through high officials of the Ministry of Finance; corrective measures were applied; and restitution to the Treasury was enforced.

No favour was shown, no cover was given.

We are also tightening oversight across customs and procurement, to close every door to abuse including under-invoicing.

Let this be understood: my government will never defend wrongdoing; we will correct it — any repeat will be pursued criminally in a Court of Law. When offences occur, penalties will be heavy — and the proceeds will go directly into the treasury, highlighted as “Monetary Restitution”, ensuring that anything taken from the public is returned to the public in an accountable and visible manner.

This is how accountability must work — swiftly, fairly, and in the public's interest.

Corruption must never become a norm.

## **Good governance is not a slogan.**

It is the standard by which a nation protects its integrity and earns the confidence of its people.

My administration, the Gaston Browne administration, belongs to the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda — not to privilege, not to partisanship, but to all, especially the working class.

Integrity remains the true currency

of good governance and our national prosperity and we will continue to govern with integrity.

## **A Clean and Beautiful Nation**

My friends, the same discipline we demand in public finance, we must show in our public spaces.

Our vision is not only for a wealthy nation, but for a clean and beautiful one.

Progress cannot coexist with neglect, disrespect and abuse of the environment.

That is why the National Solid Waste Management Authority was mandated to launch a vigorous island-wide clean-up campaign — to remove derelict cars, abandoned homes, and bulk waste from every community.

But this task cannot be left to government alone.

Every citizen, every resident, every visitor must take responsibility for their surroundings.

Let us restore the pride of place — in our villages, our streets, and our beaches.

Those who continue to dump garbage illegally will be prosecuted — and we will enforce it.

This is a new era of cleanliness, environmental protection and beautification.

Cleanliness is godliness; its patriotism in action and discipline made visible.

Let's increase our ambition and resolve that Antigua and Barbuda will not only be prosperous, but also pristine — the cleanest small island state in the world.

The beauty of our land must be mirrored in the quality of our character.

When we keep our country clean, we honour ourselves and declare to the world, that Antigua and Barbuda takes pride in what we are and what you see.

## **Security and Social Order**

My brothers and sisters, no nation can prosper amid chaos, confusion and vi-



olence.

Thankfully, Antigua and Barbuda continues to record the lowest level of crime and violence in our region.

So far this year, there are nine homicides — two fewer than last year, but nine too many.

However, we will remain vigilant, recognizing that there were a recent spate of robberies necessitating a renewed focus.

Law enforcement will intensify their operations, supported by technology and intelligence.

We are determined to keep our communities safe and our streets secure.

To those who flirt with criminality, let me be clear: “Gun shot can't run this town.”

And let me remind you that Crime does not pay — and those who persist with crime and violence will surely pay the price.

On this our 44th Independence Day, I call upon our youth to put down their guns.

Again, to our youth - quick money sweet, but bitter in the end.

So I call upon each of you to Level up; dream bigger, aim far - be a productive youth and invest in knowledge and skill and seize the numerous opportunities for employment and ad-

*Happy Independence, Antigua and Barbuda!*



STATE INSURANCE  
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

*Celebrating*

44

*Years of Independence*

*On this proud occasion of Antigua and Barbuda's 44<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary, State Insurance Company Limited extends warm congratulations to the Government and people of our twin-island nations.*

*This year's theme Solid, Stable, Soaring perfectly captures the spirit of our national journey. We celebrate the solid foundation laid by our forebears, the stable progress we continue to build upon, and the soaring aspirations that guide our future.*



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
**ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

# Prime Minister's Message

vancement.

Distinguished country men and country women,

My government will remain relentless in ensuring that safety and justice prevail.

Our freedom endures because our society respects the rule of law, and frowns on those among us who do not. Security is not only the work of police officers — it is the responsibility of every citizen who chooses peace over violence and respect over lawlessness.

## Global Leadership, National Pride

Fellow Citizens,

Our small nation continues to make a large impact on the global stage.

We are active and respected voices in the great debates of our time — on climate change, reparations, reform of the international system, including the global financial system, debt sustainability, mental health, and youth empowerment.

We have successfully hosted major international conferences and are preparing to welcome the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2026 — the first time in our history, and the first time a microstate of under 100,000 people has been entrusted with such a role.

This follows the UN SIDS4 Conference in 2024 and the OAS General Assembly earlier this year — each represents a vote of confidence in our leadership and in our capacity to deliver.

Antigua and Barbuda now ranks #1 in the Caribbean on the United Nations Human Development Index.

This is an extraordinary achievement — proof that size does not determine significance, and that small states, when well governed, can be global models.

We are small, but substantial; modest in geography, but consequential in influence.

Our voice is heard and respected, be-



cause we stand on the principles of love, truth and justice and speak with principle, purpose and passion.

Our global standing is not a gift; it is the earned respect of a country that is determined to stand up for principle and for justice, not only for ourselves, but for all those who are threatened or disadvantaged.

## A Call to Responsibility and Renewal

My brothers and sisters, we are blessed — but to be blessed carries responsibility.

As we celebrate this 44th anniversary, let us remember that independence is not only a right we sought; it is a duty we must uphold.

Let us care for our communities, respect the law, honour our elders, and guide our youth.

Let us reject the culture of idleness and entitlement; embrace the ethic of hard-work, and the principles of discipline, and excellence.

Parents — teach your children respect, discipline, responsibility and moral strength.

Young people — seize the opportunities before you.

Your government has provided the tools: UWI, ABCAS, YEPP, scholar-

ships, and thousands of opportunities to train abroad.

Utilizing those tools rests in your hands.

We have come far, but we can go farther still.

Let us commit to building a nation that is prosperous, disciplined, and united — a nation that will never betray the sacrifices of those who raised our flag in 1981.

Forty-four years of freedom — of democracy, of human rights, of the rule of law — have not come without trials. We have endured hurricanes that destroyed; pandemics that tested, and global systems that often worked against us.

Yet through every trial, Antigua and Barbuda has endured and advanced.

We have turned adversity into experience and progress—to make our people property owners, to increase our people's earnings and not to overtax them; to raise our nation's standard of living, and to vow never to rest, while any in our society lives in poverty or distress.

That is the meaning of our independence — not success for some, but progress for all.

## Closing Reflection

My fellow citizens, this 44th anniversary is not only a celebration of our past but a summons to our future.

Let us march on in unity — disciplined, confident, and compassionate — knowing that no hurricane, no pandemic, no power on earth can still the heartbeat of a free and resilient people. We are the masters of our destiny; the architects of a nation whose best days are yet to come.

May God continue to guide us, and may Antigua and Barbuda continue to soar to new heights, with stability and solid determination; proud and forever free.

***Happy 44th Independence Day to all.***



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
**ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**

Together, we honour our past,  
embrace our future, and  
continue to build a stronger  
Antigua & Barbuda.

# Independence Message

## INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE



**Hon. Daryll S. Matthew**  
 Minister of Education, Sports, and  
 Creative Industries

My fellow Antiguan and Barbudans, As we commemorate our 44th Anniversary of Independence, we are reminded that the true measure of a nation's strength lies not merely in its years, but in the vision, courage, and unity of its people. Since 1981, Antigua and Barbuda has journeyed boldly, guided by the dreams of our forebears and strengthened by the hands and hearts of every citizen who has laboured, sacrificed, and believed in the promise of this twin-island nation. This year's theme, "*Solid – Stable – Soaring*," captures the essence of our Independence in three powerful words. We are solid in the values that ground us, faith, family, and community. We are stable in our commitment to progress through education, innovation, and good governance. And we are soaring, driven by the energy of our people, the creativity of our youth, and the unyielding pride that defines what it means to be Antiguan and Barbudan. In education, we continue to strengthen the foundations upon which future generations will build. We are reimagining classrooms to inspire not only academic excellence but also creativity, critical thinking, and resilience. Every investment made in a student

today is an investment in a stronger, more enlightened Antigua and Barbuda tomorrow.

In sports, we see the power of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance shaping not just athletes but leaders. Our fields, courts, and tracks are proving grounds for excellence, where ambition meets opportunity, and where the next generation of champions is forged.

In the creative industries, we find the heartbeat of our national identity. Our artists, musicians, writers, and cultural practitioners are not merely entertainers, they are storytellers and visionaries whose work preserves our heritage while propelling us into the future. Our creativity is one of our greatest national resources—capable of transforming lives, inspiring unity, and fueling economic growth.

As we reflect on our journey, let us also look forward with clarity and

conviction. The task before us is to build a nation that empowers every child, uplifts every community, and leaves no one behind. Let us continue to dream big, work hard, and believe in the greatness within ourselves and our country.

On this 44th Independence Anniversary, I urge every Antiguan and Barbudan, at home and abroad, to stay stable in your values, and let your imagination and determination take you soaring to new heights. Let us honour our past by shaping a future that is brighter, bolder, and boundless in possibility. May our beloved Antigua and Barbuda forever remain solid in spirit, stable in progress, and soaring in achievement. Happy Independence, Antigua and Barbuda! Solid. Stable. Soaring.

Warm regards,

**Hon. Daryll S. Matthew**

Minister of Education, Sports, and  
 Creative Industries





**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE  
**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

FROM THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF  
**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN AMALGAMATED BANK LIMITED**



# Independence Message

My fellow Antiguan and Barbudans, As we celebrate 44 years of Independence, we stand proudly upon the foundation laid by those who dared to dream of a free and self-reliant nation. From 1981 to now, our story has been one of resilience, determination, and remarkable progress. Our economic growth over the decades reflects not only the strength of our policies but the spirit and industrious nature of our people, a people who continue to rise above challenges with faith and fortitude.

This year's theme, "Solid. Stable. Soaring," captures the essence of who we are and where we are headed. We are solid in our unity, stable in our governance, and soaring toward a future defined by creativity, innovation, and opportunity. Within the Ministry of Creative Industries, we continue to champion youth empowerment, the nurturing of cultural expression, and



the promotion of positive energy as tools of national development. Our young people are the heartbeat of our nation, and their talents, whether in the arts, technology, or entrepreneurship; must be encouraged and supported.

As we reflect on our journey, let us

also recommit ourselves to the work still to be done. Nation-building is not the task of government alone, it is the collective responsibility of every citizen. Together, through shared effort and mutual respect, we can continue to shape an Antigua and Barbuda that is truly reflective of our pride, our purpose, and our potential.

On this occasion of national pride, I extend warm and heartfelt blessings to every citizen at home and abroad. May our flag forever wave as a symbol of unity, peace, and progress. Let us continue to love our nation deeply, serve her faithfully, and build together; solid, stable, and soaring.

Happy 44th Independence, Antigua and Barbuda!

With pride and blessings,

Senator Clement Antonio

Minister of State, Ministry of the Creative Industries

BREATHTAKING VIEWS  
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

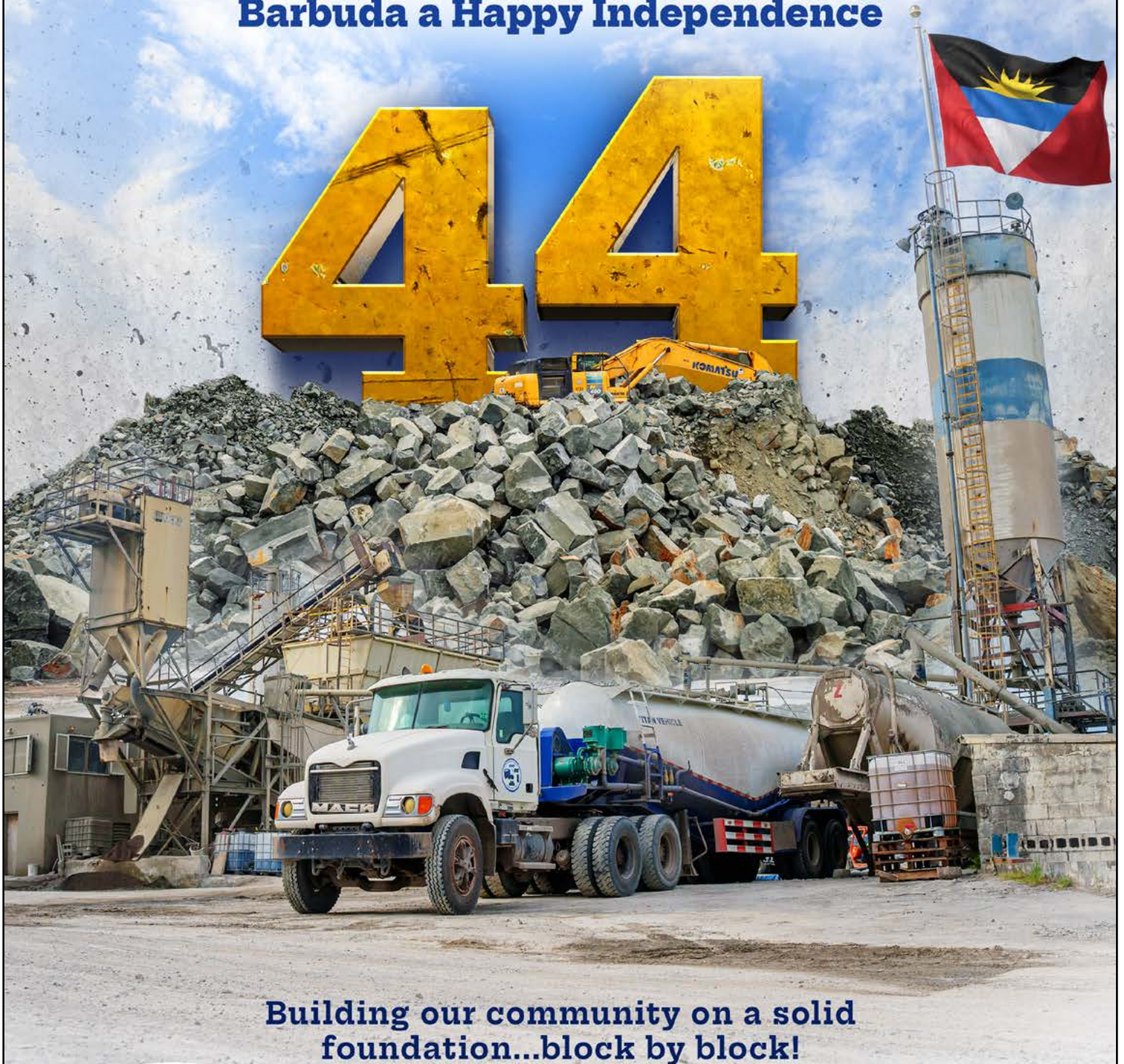


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# **Antigua Masonry Products Wishes the nation of Antigua and Barbuda a Happy Independence**



**Building our community on a solid  
foundation...block by block!**



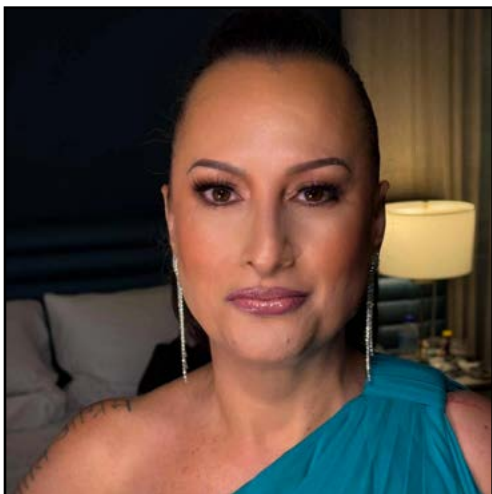
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# Independence Message

## Independence Message from Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul Chairperson, Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission



As we approach November 1st, 2025, Antigua and Barbuda proudly celebrates its 44th Independence Anniversary, a time to reflect on our journey as a people, honor our achievements, and look ahead with confidence and renewed purpose.

This year, under the inspiring theme “Solid, Stable, Soaring,” we are reminded of the firm foundation our na-

tion was built on, the resilience that keeps us steady through every challenge, and the limitless ambition that drives us ever upward.

Our story as a nation is one of determination and vision of a people who, through unity and shared purpose, have transformed challenges into opportunities and dreams into progress. Today, Antigua and Barbuda stands not only as a symbol of Caribbean pride but also as a testament to what can be achieved when we remain steadfast in our values and committed to our collective growth.

As Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, I am proud to lead a team dedicated to preserving and celebrating our national identity through culture, music, and tradition. Each activity has been thoughtfully planned to highlight our unity, creativity, tradition, and love for our country.

As we soar into a new era of national development, let us continue to build upon the **solid foundations** laid by those who came before us. Let us remain **stable** in our pursuit of equity, inclusion, and sustainable growth. And let us **soar**, together, as one people, one nation, proudly carrying forward the flame of progress and patriotism.

On this 44th Anniversary of Independence, I extend heartfelt congratulations to all Antiguan and Barbudans at home and abroad. May we continue to stand tall, grounded in strength, rising with purpose, as we write the next remarkable chapter in our nation’s story.

**Happy Independence, Antigua and Barbuda!**

**Solid. Stable. Soaring.**

Warm regards,  
**Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul**  
 Chairperson, Antigua and Barbuda  
 Festivals Commission

**2pm to 3pm**

# POINTE ON DE STREETZ

Real Conversations  
WITH  
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|                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November   | Senator Michael Joseph   |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November  | Senator Lamin Newton     |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November    | Senator Dwayne George    |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November  | Randy Baltimore          |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November | Senator Michael Freeland |





**CONGRATULATION**  
OUR NATION & OUR CHAMPIONS



## Celebrating Our Independence

*The Antigua Yacht Club proudly salutes our beloved nation on the celebration of its 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025. We honour our, our heritage and the steadfast spirit that continues to guide our future.*

## Our 2025 Caribbean Dinghy Champions

**Ozani Lafond** – ILCA 7, 1st Place

**Shanoy Malone** – ILCA 6, 1st Place

**Carrack Jones** – ILCA 4,7, 1st Place

**Tyden Jones** – Optimist, 2nd Place

**Henry & Guiste** – Venture, 2nd Place



*We celebrate our own outstanding sailors whose skill, commitment and discipline continue to elevate Antigua and Barbuda on the regional stage.*

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# Independence Message

## Message delivered by Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, His Excellency Dr. Walton Webson at the Thanksgiving Service on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's Independence



**H.E. Dr. Walton Webson is the Permanent Representative of the Mission of Antigua and Barbuda**

Sunday 26th October, 2025

Westchester Methodist Church, Bronx, NY

Theme: Solid, Stable, Soaring

Distinguished guests, fellow Antiguan and Barbudans, friends all across our diaspora.

I bring you greetings from Prime Minister Browne and the members of his cabinet back home in Antigua and Barbuda.

Friends: Today, we gather to celebrate forty-four years of independence. Forty-four years of lifting ourselves from colonial rule to national sovereignty. Forty-four years of turning resilience into opportunity. Forty-four years of building a nation whose small size has never limited its greatness.

Our theme this year, "Solid, Stable, and Soaring," captures the journey of a nation that knows where it has come from, understands where it stands, and is confident in where it is going.

When the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party returned to government in 2014, it did so with a bold promise: to rebuild our economy, restore national confidence, and usher in an era of

progress that every citizen could feel. We moved our country from recovery to resilience, from stagnation to steady and positive growth, and from hope to high achievement.

Today, the results are visible. They are tangible. They are solid.

Unemployment has dropped significantly. Our construction sector is booming. We are importing skilled workers because the pace of development has outgrown our domestic workforce capacity. This is a new era. This is not the Antigua and Barbuda of our parents' struggle. This is a nation whose people are working, building, prospering, and moving forward.

To our diaspora, this is your moment too. Your homeland calls you home to opportunity. Your skills, your experience, your entrepreneurship can accelerate the transformation already underway. The expansion of housing, tourism infrastructure, and small businesses opens doors for investment, family ventures, and corporate partnerships. There has never been a more promising time to reconnect, reinvest, and return.

As we strengthen individuals, we now expand our collective capacity. The time has come to shift from potential to fulfilment. From adolescence as a young state to maturity as a global leader. From surviving to truly soaring.

That rise requires a powerful foundation. We are building it brick by brick. The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, the American University of Antigua, our technical training institutions, and accessible lifelong learning programs provide a platform for national excellence. Government can prepare the ground, yet it is our

people who must build the future.

We are also transforming the systems that protect our dignity and well-being. Public and mental health services are being modernized so that every citizen can access care, free of shame or fear. Antigua and Barbuda continues to lead in shaping the global mental health agenda through our influence at the United Nations and in partnership with PAHO and others. Our leadership in eye health is historic. We will soon host the world's first Global Eye Health Summit, establishing models to end preventable blindness and expanding eye care throughout our nation.

Good health remains the wealth of a strong nation. Yet we face a profound threat that touches almost every home: noncommunicable diseases.

NCDs account for more than seventy-five percent of deaths in Antigua and Barbuda. Diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and cancer are stealing fathers from families, mothers from children, and years from the lives of too many of our people.

This is a fight we must win.

We must improve nutrition, promote physical activity, expand screening, strengthen early diagnosis, and ensure treatment that is accessible and affordable. We must empower individuals to take control of their health and support communities where healthy choices are the easy choices.

Fighting NCDs also brings opportunity. It opens space for innovation in medicine, wellness services, food production, technology, and research. To our diaspora professionals and entrepreneurs: your expertise is needed. Your investment can help create new health technologies, preventive care programs, modern rehabilitation ser-

# Independence Message

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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE



vices, and smarter community clinics. While great powers wage wars with military force, our war for development is fought in clinics, schools, farms, and kitchens. It is fought for our lives, our children's prosperity, and our nation's future. Stand with us in this fight.

Our reputation as a convening hub continues to rise. After delivering a successful SIDS4 Conference last year, and hosting the OAS Assembly and the Caribbean Tourism Organization meeting earlier this year, our nation is now preparing to welcome the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Antigua and Barbuda is emerging as the regional center for diplomacy, innovation, and productive dialogue. The world is coming here not by chance, but because we are soaring.

We have also learned to fight for survival against rising seas and violent storms. Yet our struggle does not stop at adaptation. We are taking the fight into global boardrooms and interna-

tional courts to demand accountability, equity, and dignity for small states confronting climate consequences we did not cause.

This leadership is embodied in the establishment of the SIDS Centre of Excellence. Built by SIDS for SIDS, this institution is more than a building. It is a promise and a platform. Through its Global Data Hub, Innovation and Technology Mechanism, Island Investment Forum, and Debt Sustainability Support Service, the Centre will help island nations transform vulnerability into engines of resilient prosperity.

This is what it means to be solid.

This is what it means to be stable.

This is what prepares us to soar.

Fellow citizens, the call to action is clear. In this forty-fourth year of independence, each of us must commit:

To build.

To innovate.

To invest.

To unite.

To dream beyond the horizon.

Our fore parents struggled so that we could stand. We must now soar so that our children will rise even higher.

Let us step , forward as one people, one nation, one Antigua and Barbuda. With courage in our hearts, with confidence in our abilities, and with pride in our identity. The world is watching a small island with a giant spirit. The world is watching a Caribbean nation determined not merely to survive, but to lead.

Forty-four years in, Antigua and Barbuda is not just celebrating independence. Antigua and Barbuda is announcing ascendancy.

God bless our beloved nation.

God bless Antigua and Barbuda.

Happy 44th anniversary of independence.

Solid. Stable. And Soaring.



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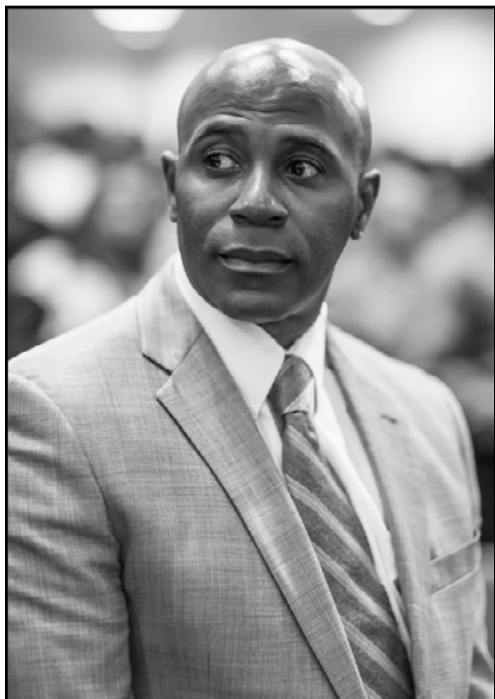
Happy Independence Day  
**Antigua & Barbuda.**



SOLID - STABLE - SOARING

# Independence Message

## Celebrating the Spirit of a Proud and Resilient Nation: Antigua and Barbuda at 44



### By Dean Fenton, Director of Tourism – USA

As Antigua and Barbuda celebrates 44 years of political independence, we are reminded that our story has always been one of strength, resilience, and beauty, not just in the breathtaking landscapes that have captivated the world, but in the unyielding spirit of our people.

Our independence theme, “*Solid. Stable. Soaring.*” reflects the essence of who we are. Solid in our values, stable in our progress, and soaring toward greater heights; this is the Antiguan and Barbudan way. From the rolling

hills of Boggy Peak to the calm turquoise bays of Barbuda, our twin-island nation stands as a symbol of Caribbean pride and perseverance.

Yet, beyond the sun-kissed shores and the postcard-perfect vistas lies the heart of our greatest treasure, our people. It is the people of Antigua and Barbuda who have defined our success and transformed our tourism industry into one of the most admired in the region. Our warmth, our authenticity, and our genuine hospitality are what make every visitor’s experience unforgettable.

From the taxi driver who shares local stories with a smile, to the hotel housekeeper who makes each guest feel at home, to the artisans, farmers, chefs, and entertainers who weave our culture into the visitor experience, it is our people who breathe life into the brand, “*The Beach is Just the Beginning.*”

And that truth extends far beyond our shores. Across the globe, the Antiguan and Barbudan diaspora continue to serve as proud ambassadors of our nation. Whether in New York, London, Toronto, or elsewhere, their commitment to preserving our culture, promoting our homeland, and contributing to our national development is a testament to their enduring patriotism. They remain connected, in heart and in action, uplifting our tourism efforts,

investing in our communities, and carrying our story into new markets and opportunities.

As Director of Tourism for the USA market, I have the privilege of witnessing, firsthand, the admiration and love that visitors have for Antigua and Barbuda. They speak not only of the beauty of our beaches, but of the people who made them feel like family. That connection, that human touch; is what keeps them returning year after year. It is what transforms tourism from an industry into a shared experience of friendship and belonging.

As we look toward the future, our mission is clear: to continue building a tourism product rooted in the values of community, sustainability, and pride. The same resilience that carried us from colonial rule to nationhood continues to drive us today, in innovation, in excellence, and in unity.

So as we celebrate this Independence, let us remember that Antigua and Barbuda’s strength does not lie solely in its natural beauty or its economic progress, but in the unwavering spirit of its people. You are the heartbeat of our nation. You are the ambassadors of our pride. From every corner of the diaspora to every village on our twin islands; may we continue to stand together, solid, stable, and forever soaring. **Happy Independence, Antigua and Barbuda.**



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**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**

Today, we honour a nation that is solid in its foundation, stable in its progress, and soaring toward a bright future. Your resilience and unity continue to inspire all who call this island home and those who proudly support its journey.

On behalf of the Ayre Group of companies,  
I celebrate with you.

**– Ambassador Calvin Ayre**

  
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FOUNDATION

**AYRE**  
GROUP

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HELICOPTERS

# Independence Message

## Commemorating 44 years of Independence — 2025 A message from the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission: Reaffirming our duty to complete the work of decolonization

On 1 November 1981 our nation broke the shackles of colonial rule and stepped confidently onto the path of self-determination. Forty-four years on, Antigua and Barbuda stands proud, our people resilient, our institutions enduring, and our vision for the future undimmed. Under the theme “Solid, Stable, Soaring,” we celebrate our hard-won political independence and reaffirm our duty to complete the work of decolonization.

Independence was the crucial first stride. Since 1981 we have advanced in education, health, tourism, and civic life. Yet many legacies of the colonial era persist, constitutional arrangements that retain symbolic ties to a distant crown, legal pathways that do not fully reflect our regional identity, and economic and social inequalities rooted in a history of dispossession. As the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support



Commission, we insist that true freedom requires more than a date in history — it requires determined action.

Now is the time to move with alacrity. We must complete our journey to full political maturity by transitioning to a republic that places the sovereignty of our people at the centre of our Constitution. We must also accede to the Caribbean Court of Justice as our final court of ap-

peal, affirming regional legal independence and strengthening judicial systems shaped by Caribbean values and jurisprudence.

These steps are not merely institutional; they are moral and developmental. Removing remaining colonial vestiges strengthens our claim for reparatory justice, empowers our democracy, and signals to the world that Antigua and Barbuda is a fully

sovereign, modern Caribbean nation intent on shaping its destiny.

On this 44th Anniversary we celebrate progress, remember the struggles that brought us here, and call on leaders and citizens alike to unite in purpose.

Let us be bold and deliberate — so that our nation, truly solid and stable, may soar for generations to come.



**CENTRAL  
MARKETING  
CORPORATION**

**FROM THE BOARD,  
MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF  
THE CENTRAL MARKETING  
CORPORATION.**



**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**

# Photo Essay

## WINNERS OF THE 2025 INDEPENDENCE CALYPSO COMPETITION



# Independence Message

## Solid – Stable – Soaring: A Voice for Every Ability on Independence Day



By Joshuanette Francis

Antigua and Barbuda! As we celebrate the 44th anniversary of our nation's independence, it's a moment to celebrate the freedom, the identity, and the collective journey of our vibrant twin-island state. However, as we sing our national anthem and wave our flags, let us also pause—and ask: is everyone part of this story? Is every voice heard, every ability included, every citizen empowered?

This year's theme—"Solid – Stable – Soaring"—speaks powerfully. "Solid" reminds us of our foundations; "Stable" speaks to consistent systems; and "Soaring" evokes national ambition. For the many Antiguan and Barbudans living with disabilities, these words carry deep resonance—and significant challenge. Inclusion is not merely a feel-good slogan; it is a marker of how far we have come and how far we have yet to go.

Globally, it is estimated that around 15 % of the population live with a disability. In our country, per-

sons with disabilities face documented barriers: lower completion rates in secondary education, fewer employment opportunities, and exclusion from some public decision-making forums. But imagine a scenario where these barriers are dismantled: where every public event is accessible, where transportation works for mobility devices, where captioning and interpretation are seen as standard, where a parent leading a school project with a disability is celebrated—not accommodated. That is independence realised.

According to the United Nations, inclusion of persons with disabilities is essential for sustainable development: "Societies will never achieve the SDGs without the full participation of everyone, including people with disabilities." That means anchoring our celebrations and systems in accessibility, participation and dignity—not as after-thoughts, but as built-in features.

Today, we want to highlight three things we can do in



# INDEPENDENCE

1st November 2025

**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**

*As we wave our black, red, blue, gold, and white, let's celebrate with the words of the CRPD's own guardians: "Accessibility is the precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life." This Independence, let's treat that not as a slogan, but as a checklist. If it's not accessible, it's not equitable—and if it's not equitable, it's not truly independent.*

**Solid in our commitments, stable in our systems, and soaring together—this is how Antigua and Barbuda's next 44 years can outshine even our brightest dawn.**

**Good Humans**  
268 Inc.

our communities to embody for disability inclusion: 1. "Solid – Stable – Soaring" Solid Foundations: Accessi-

# Independence Message



bility from the Start. Whether it's the national parade, a community fair, or a school concert—ask: is the venue accessible? Are ramps, rails, signage, interpretation provided? Are event planners consulting persons with disabilities in the design stage? As one national note says: our country signed the CRPD and is working to include persons with disabilities in policy and practice. These foundations must grow stronger. 2. Stability in Systems: Inclusion Everyday, Not in Special Moments. When accessibility becomes standard—not just for Independence Day—but for daily transport, schooling, workplace entry, technology, and housing—we build stable societies. Inclusion isn't a campaign; it's a culture. Data show that children with disabilities are less likely to finish school in Antigua and Barbuda. That gap needs closing by systematic attention—teacher training, accessible class-

rooms, assistive technology, peer inclusion. 3. Soaring Ambitions: Recognising Ability, Celebrating Talent. Independence is not just about freedom from colonial rule. It is about freedom to participate, to lead, to innovate, to contribute. The person living with a disability is not just a beneficiary of accessibility—they are a creator, an entrepreneur, an artist, a community builder. When we celebrate their achievements, we lift the whole nation. Around the region and worldwide, disability inclusion is shown to boost innovation, expand markets, and strengthen communities.

Hear this: independence isn't fully achieved if some citizens still navigate life as an after-thought in our designs. Accessibility isn't just a technical fix—it is a matter of dignity, autonomy, and community strength. For listeners today: if you're organising a neighbourhood gathering, check whether all



## Go big for Independence



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| Sherelle Roberts | 484-5108 | Jaala Joseph  | 484-5091 |

\*CIBC Caribbean terms and conditions apply. All offers are subject to CIBC Caribbean usual lending criteria. Promotion runs October 14, 2025 to November 30, 2025. \*\* Successful applicants with loans disbursed by December 16, 2025 will automatically be entered in the draw to win XCD 4,400.00. Only one winner will be drawn. \*\*\* To be eligible for the birthday offer persons must be born between January 1 and December 31, 1981. To redeem the birthday offer, persons must provide a valid passport or driver's license or National ID (government issued identity card, citizenship card), issued in the country in which the client is resident. The birthday offer can only be redeemed by the client and cannot be used by any other person on their behalf.

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OP250530

# Independence Message

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 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
 ANNIVERSARY OF  
 INDEPENDENCE


of opportunity. Antigua and Barbuda have laid legislation like the Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Act 2017. We have organisations pushing for accessible beaches and tourism experiences. Conversations about inclusion are growing louder. But the work isn't done. We must turn momentum into everyday reality. So as we wave our national colours, let us also wave a flag for inclusion. Let us celebrate the teacher who uses a wheelchair, the young entrepreneur who is deaf, the elder who uses a cane but still serves the community—and recognise that their independence is an integral part of our national independence. Let us commit: in our villages, towns and islands, every child will have access to school; every worker will have the chance to contribute; every citizen will be

counted, included and celebrated.

Today, we invite you—our readers—to reflect on this: how can your group, your school, your church, your workplace ensure that on November 1, and every day, inclusion isn't an afterthought but the norm? Because when each person with a disability is supported to live independently and fully, we all soar. The nation soars. Let us honour our 44 years of independence not just with brass bands and fireworks—but with renewed commitment, renewed energy, and authentic inclusion. Together, solid in our foundations; stable in our systems; soaring in our ambitions—yes, for all abilities.

Happy Independence Day, Antigua and Barbuda—where every ability matters.

can attend and participate. If you run a business, ask whether your website works for screen-readers, whether your workplace supports anyone with differing abil-

ities. If you are a parent, teacher or neighbour—advocate for inclusive classrooms, inclusive play, inclusive events.

We are living in a moment


**CONTACT US**

1-268-462-6615

1-268-727-0300


**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE**
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# Photo Essay



# Photo Essay



## Congratulatory Messages

# OECS Congratulates Antigua and Barbuda on its 44th Anniversary of Independence

### OECS Media Release

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission extends warmest congratulations to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda as it celebrates the 44th Anniversary of Independence on November 1, 2025, under the theme, “Solid, Stable, Soaring.”

This year’s theme beautifully encapsulates Antigua and Barbuda’s remarkable national journey, grounded in a solid foundation of resilience and unity, strengthened by stability in governance and growth, and uplifted by a soaring vision for a future filled with opportunity and promise.

In his remarks on this significant occasion, Director General of the OECS, His Excellency, Dr. Didacus Jules, commended Antigua and Barbuda for its steadfast commitment to regional integration, sustainable development and the empowerment of its people.

“Today, we gather with hearts full of pride and gratitude to celebrate 44 years of independence. Forty-four years of courage, creativity, and commitment. This year’s theme, “Solid, Stable, Soaring,” beautifully captures the story of Antigua and Barbuda - a nation built on firm foundations, strengthened through trials, and now reaching new heights of promise.”

Dr. Jules also recognised Antigua and Barbuda’s steady determination,



unity and strength.

“Through every challenge, the people of Antigua and Barbuda have shown that strength is not just measured in size or wealth, but in spirit, unity, and willpower. When Hurricane Irma ravaged Barbuda in 2017, that spirit shone again. Out of destruction came determination. Out of despair came solidarity. And today, Barbuda stands rebuilt - proof that the roots of this nation go deep.”

On this proud day, as Antigua and Barbuda celebrates its nationhood, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission reaffirms

its partnership and solidarity with Antigua and Barbuda as it continues to build on its strong foundation and chart a confident path forward.

“Forty-four years on, Antigua and Barbuda stands solid in foundation, stable in progress, and soaring in ambition. From the struggles of our past to the triumphs of our present, we have proven that the strength of a nation lies not in the size of its land, but in the greatness of its people. May this 44th anniversary remind us of how far we’ve come, inspire us to protect what we’ve built, and embolden us to soar even higher.”

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CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

The Board of Directors, management and staff of the Citizenship by Investment Unit salute all citizens of Antigua and Barbuda as we celebrate the nation's 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence.

**SOLID, STABLE, SOARING**

# Congratulatory Messages

2025 - AÑO DE LA RECONSTRUCCION DE LA NACION ARGENTINA



**Embajada Argentina  
en Jamaica**

ANB

Nº 37

The Embassy of the Argentine Republic presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda and, on behalf of the Government of Argentina, conveys to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda its sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Independence, to be celebrated under the theme "Solid – Stable – Soaring."

On this commemorative day, Argentina extends its warmest wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. May the years ahead bring continued growth and development to the nation.

Argentina also takes this opportunity to reaffirm its Government's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations, with the aim of pursuing cooperative initiatives for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The Embassy of the Argentine Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda the assurances of its highest consideration.

Kingston, 31<sup>ST</sup> October, 2025

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs  
of Antigua and Barbuda

**ST. JOHN'S**



SOLID • STABLE • SOARING

# Happy Independence

TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE  
OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



ANTIGUA  
AND  
BARBUDA

[visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://visitantiguabarbuda.com)

# Congratulatory Messages



NICOLÁS MADURO MOROS  
PRESIDENTE DE LA  
REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA

Caracas, 01 de noviembre de 2025

Su Excelencia  
**Gaston Browne**  
Primer Ministro de Antigua y Barbuda  
Saint John's.-

*En nombre del Pueblo, del Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y en el mío propio, le extiendo mis más cordiales felicitaciones con motivo del 44 aniversario de la Independencia de Antigua y Barbuda.*

*Estimado amigo, en este día de júbilo deseo enaltecer la entereza y el espíritu luchador del Pueblo antiguano. Con profundo afecto, aprovecho esta oportunidad para agradecerle por su firme posición al no doblegarse ante aquellos que pretenden vulnerar a nuestros pueblos, así como por su apoyo ante las graves acciones estadounidenses que amenazan la estabilidad de la región de América Latina y el Caribe.*

*Venezuela reitera la voluntad de profundizar los históricos vínculos de amistad con Antigua y Barbuda, convencidos de que la unidad entre los países caribeños es primordial para impulsar el desarrollo, la cooperación y el bienestar regional.*

*Reciba, Excelencia, las seguridades de mi alta estima y consideración.*



*Felicitaciones*  
**Nicolás Maduro Moros**

# Congratulatory Messages



*Courtesy translation*

*Caracas, November 1st, 2025*

*His Excellency,  
**Gaston Browne**  
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda  
Saint John's.-*

*On behalf of the people and government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and on my own behalf, I extend my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the independence of Antigua and Barbuda.*

*Dear friend, on this joyous day, I wish to praise the fortitude and fighting spirit of the Antiguan people. With deep affection, I take this opportunity to thank you for your firm stance in not bowing to those who seek to harm our peoples, as well as for your support in the face of serious U.S. actions that threaten the stability of the Latin American and Caribbean region.*

*Venezuela reiterates its willingness to deepen its historic ties of friendship with Antigua and Barbuda, convinced that unity among Caribbean countries is essential to promote development, cooperation, and regional well-being.*

*Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.*

**Nicolás Maduro Moros**

# **Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional Unida Nicaragua Triunfa**



Managua, October 31, 2025

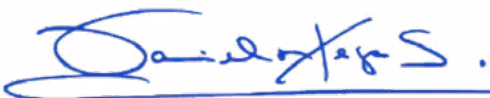
His Excellency  
Mr. Gaston Browne  
Prime Minister of  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Saint John

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of the People and Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of the Republic of Nicaragua, we convey our Congratulations to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda on the Anniversary of their Independence, this coming November 1, 2025.

On this occasion, the Government of Nicaragua expresses its best wishes for the well-being and development of the People of Antigua and Barbuda and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of mutual respect, sovereignty, and cooperation within the framework of the Caribbean and the International Community.

Please, accept the assurances of our highest and most distinguished consideration.

  
Daniel Ortega Saavedra  
Rosario Murillo



# Congratulatory Messages



# OAS

**Note No. 01/2025**

The Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Antigua and Barbuda presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to extend its heartfelt congratulations to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda on the celebration of the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your independence.

This year's theme, "*SOLID – STABLE – SOARING*," reflects the continued strength of Antigua and Barbuda's national foundation. As we work on shared priorities such as climate resilience, digital transformation, and democratic governance, the OAS reaffirms its commitment to supporting Antigua and Barbuda's efforts towards inclusive development and regional cooperation. We extend our congratulations on this national occasion and look forward to continued collaboration in the spirit of partnership and progress.

The Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Antigua and Barbuda avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda the assurances of its highest consideration.

St. John's, October 31, 2025



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Barbuda Affairs  
Antigua and Barbuda**

# Congratulatory Messages

**HIGH COMMISSIONER****AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
PORT OF SPAIN**

30 October 2025

The Honourable Gaston Browne, MP  
Prime Minister  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Dear Prime Minister,

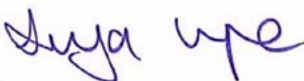
On the forty-fourth anniversary of independence of Antigua and Barbuda, I wish to convey to you, the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, my warmest wishes, together with those of the Australian Government and people. It was a pleasure to attend last year's independence celebrations. Regrettably, I am unable to be present this year. In my stead, I have designated Ms Toni Williams, First Secretary and Consul, to attend as Australia's representative.

Australia welcomes the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on climate change as a landmark achievement. We commend Small Island Developing States for their leadership in shaping global responses to climate change. Australia recognises that SIDS are on the frontline of climate change. We are strongly committed to our bid to host COP31 in 2026 in partnership with the Pacific. We look forward to developing a pragmatic and focused plan for COP 31 to accelerate global climate action and investment.

Although I will miss this year's celebrations, I look forward to visiting when Antigua and Barbuda hosts CHOGM next year. I am very pleased that the Australian Defence Force is supporting Antigua and Barbuda's hosting through the provision of lessons learned from CHOGM 2024 in Samoa.

I wish you and Antigua and Barbuda a spirited forty-fourth independence.

Yours sincerely



Sonya Koppe  
High Commissioner



Antigua Barbuda  
**FESTIVALS  
COMMISSION**

# Happy **44<sup>th</sup>** Independence

**TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

The Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission proudly joins the nation in celebrating 44 years of pride, progress, and unity under the inspiring theme “Solid, Stable, Soaring.” Let’s continue to rise together as one nation, grounded in strength, rising with purpose.

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE!**

From the Antigua and Barbuda  
Festivals Commission

# Congratulatory Messages



EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY

Panama City, October 30, 2025

PE-282/2025

**The Honourable Gaston Browne**  
Prime Minister  
Queen Elizabeth Hwy, St John's,  
Antigua & Barbuda

Honourable Prime Minister,

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm congratulations to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on the celebration of the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence of your beloved country. This is not only a moment of reflection on your country's remarkable journey and contributions since 1981, but also an opportunity to acknowledge how Antigua and Barbuda continues to demonstrate resilience in the face of today's challenges.

Honourable Prime Minister, CAF is truly proud of the partnership that we are developing with you and the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. As your nation commemorates this anniversary with flag raising ceremonies and parades, CAF joins you and the international community in celebrating this important milestone in your country's history.

CAF stands ready to continue working hand in hand with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to advance shared goals in sustainable development, resilience, and prosperity for your nation and other Caribbean SIDS.

Please accept, Honourable Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



**Sergio Díaz-Granados G.**  
Executive President



# Congratulatory Messages

**Office of the Prime Minister**Received by: A. GarrawayDate: 29/10/25

中 华 人 民 共 和 国 大 使 馆

**Note No. A25130**

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Antigua and Barbuda presents its compliments to the Office of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and has the honor to forward herewith a letter of congratulations from H.E. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China to Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda for the 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Antigua and Barbuda avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
in Antigua and Barbuda  
St. John's, October 28, 2025



To: Office of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda  
CC: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs

## Congratulatory Messages



*As the Honorary Consul of India, I extend my sincere congratulations to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on the occasion of your 44th Independence Day. This anniversary stands as a proud reminder of your nation's enduring strength, unity, and determination to move forward. May the friendship between India and Antigua and Barbuda continue to flourish, bringing greater cooperation and mutual prosperity in the years ahead. Wishing you continued success and a joyous celebration of your Independence.*



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
**ANNIVERSARY OF  
 INDEPENDENCE**

**SOLID • STABLE • SOARING**



# Feature

## My home



**Poem by Rev Kevin St. Hill...Pastor of the Potters Zion Moravian and Judges Hill Moravian Churches**

Antigua, where the beach is just the beginning.  
 To me this was more than a catchphrase;  
 It was the hookline that saw me bid farewell to a spiritual  
 mum,  
 Rev. Elva Richards,  
 And hello to Elva Richards Goodwin.  
 That was the tone of my new home;  
 Full of surprises.

I remember how I came as a student with  
 Less hair on my face, and my head.  
 I remember how the next time I came, there was a lot to be  
 said!  
 I was no longer student but pastor.  
 Friends became family,  
 Victories were celebrated,  
 Hurt became work—to make things right.  
 What was once fun and games was now my vested fight.

Some things were sweet:  
 Panorama, the national parade,  
 With the Boys' Brigade,  
 The food fair,  
 And my favorite cheap lobster .  
 The finest anyone could eat  
 Was available right there on the street.  
 The black pineapple was sweet,  
 As were the people.  
 There was no need to stress,  
 Or no need to panic—  
 Unless of course you get caught in traffic.

Jokes aside, I love this place; she's taken great care of me,  
 And so it's only right I do for her too.  
 That I call on her people to love her as I do.  
 That sure, it's good to migrate and build yourself,  
 Build your wealth,  
 But don't forget to send back,  
 And come back,  
 And make a contribution.  
 For many of our problems you may be the missing solution.

Alongside the ducana, fungee, and saltfish,  
 My wish is for you, for us, to take our land seriously—  
 To strive always for the best for our country,  
 To not be content with tourism alone, to push for more in-  
 dustries and businesses in our home.

A people that places more value in character than finance,  
 That the fine ants of greed, selfishness, scorn, and compla-  
 cency  
 Will not get in the way of our development.  
 That one day, me or others like me,  
 Will live to see an Antiguan, Caribbean smartphone,  
 Motor car,

And heads of state that—  
 When they win, they win with class; lose with grace;  
 But do all that they can to make Antigua and Barbuda a  
 more just place.

I pray above all that we seek God.  
 Give to Him our very lives.  
 Open our eyes,  
 And be wise to the devil's lies,  
 For it is only through Him we will ever survive.

# Independence Calypso



*By Ian Joseph*

Some are proud of their wives, some are proud of their homes,  
 and some are proud of their cars imported from Rome.  
 Some are proud of their face and the jobs that they hold,  
 there is pride in different things in this world.  
 I am Proud that my mom gave birth to me in  
 an isle of the caribbean sea  
 A diamond pearl radiant as a star in the  
 beautiful island of Antigua. ( King Obstinate)

In Antigua we wake up to the sun  
 where my people welcome everyone  
 Let nature awake your appetite  
 enjoying the tropical delight  
 The flavour of this enchanting country  
 Forever will haunt your memory.  
 ( Rupert Baba Blaze)

As good and as inviting that sounds there is a  
 bitter part of our journey that was recorded also.  
 We were once one people of a rich continent  
 Where everybody lived in love and contentment  
 We were one people who knew no fear  
 For this was love yes this was love.  
 Then one day we had to leave so  
 we were made slaves yes we were made slaves

My country was conquered my people was captured  
 My sister was raped my mother was raped  
 Then these strong people from that land so far  
 Which everybody now know is Africa  
 We were made to toil in the burning heat in  
 the sugar cane in the cotton field.( La Tumba)

So our ancestors shed blood, sweat and tears as recorded.  
 Today I stand here as Blood. Blood is life and blood creates life.  
 The red in most flags represents the blood of our ancestors.

# Independence Calypso



Even in the christian belief, the blood of Christ was shed for redemption.

Our ancestors who were kidnapped and trafficked to the americas  
were people of royalty. From powerful kingdoms and were reduced to slaves.

The middle passage is still the most wicked portion of any  
travels by a people ever recorded. Many of our folks ended up in the  
Atlantic ocean. Some chose death over bondage some were  
thrown overboard for various unrealistic reasons.

Our people worked the lands and were used to build  
up europe and america.

There is also a calypso by the mighty sparrow that captured  
how they toiled at the clap of the whip. All through these  
experiences our people survived. Our people were strong, resilient and powerful.  
The whip couldn't beat our culture, our customs or our  
beliefs out of them. With scars they toil on.

I am Blood

The blood of Africa flows through me. My fathers's Blood gave me life.  
My blood gave life to my children. Our people's blood survived  
from being captured, trafficked and being enslaved.

I am blood

We are the children of Africa so we are the blood of Africa.  
Let the blood of Africa flow through all of us

I am Blood

I flowed through the Haitian revolution and gave life to Toussaint Louverture.  
I flowed through the Cuban Revolution and I gave life to Fidel Castro.  
Marcus Garvey, Bob Marley, Walter Rodney,  
Maurice Bishop were given the blood that I am.

I am Blood

Malcom X, Martin Luthur King, Rosa Parks and  
Harriett Tubman were equipped with that blood that I am  
The Blood that I am was shared with Nelson Mandella,  
Kwame Nkrumah, Thomas Sankara, Idi Amin and Robert Mugabe.

I am blood

Today as we are creating the Africa we want, that African  
Blood that survived Slavery, Colonization, exploitation  
and sponsored Genocide is now flowing freely.

I am blood.

The blood type can be found in Dr Suzane Tatah,  
PLO Lumumba, Prof James Small and many more in this era.

I am Blood

The blood of Africa is alive and well in  
Burkina Faso ( The Land of upright people)

Long live the African Blood  
Long live the African revolution  
Long live Captain Ibrahim Traore.  
As for the blood of Africa, Let it Flow,  
Let it Flow,Let it flow through all of us.  
Thank you for listening to me

# Photo Essay



**Ladies from the Prime Minister's Secretariat**



**Permanent Secretary Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim (centre) surrendered by some of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**