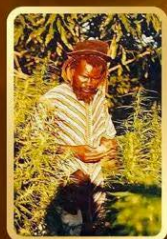


# Frustration over formalising a land registry for Barbuda

Story on page 2

## FIELD MARSHALL GENERAL KING SAGYEFU



Ras  
Osagyefu Glasford  
Nathaniel Clairfoster  
Mack

SUNRISE: 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 1952  
SUNSET: 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2025



Rastafarian leader Ras Osagyefu Glasford Nathaniel Clairfoster Mack will be laid to rest today following funeral service at the Keithley Sheppard Park, formerly the King George V Grounds



# Local News

## The Technology Minister expresses frustration with Barbuda's resistance to establishing a land registry for the island



**Technology Minister Melford Nicholas**

Efforts to set up a national Land Registry for Antigua and Barbuda are being frustrated by an unwillingness of many Barbudans to come forward and have their lands registered.

Addressing the issue in parliament on Wednesday, Technology Minister Melford Nicholas, revealed that his

ministry had placed much efforts into digitizing the land registry of both Antigua and Barbuda in order to have a single land registry of the country.

However, he told parliament that a request to the people of Barbuda to come forward and have their individual plots registered has been met with much resistance and a lack of participation from residents of the island.

According to the minister rather than cooperate with the appeal, the matter is now before arbitration which has slowed down the process. Minister Nicholas addressed the Barbuda representative, Trevor Walker, across the aisle, asking him to use his influence on the island to bring an end to their non-cooperative posture.

"I'm tired of it!" he exclaimed.

He noted that Antigua and Barbuda is among a hand-full of nations in the western hemisphere with a comprehensive land registry that is fully dig-

itized. He revealed that the land mass of Antigua has been fully digitized at the land registry and it is now time to bring Barbuda in line with what is happening in Antigua.

This, he noted forms part of the government's policy to have Barbudans owning title to their lands so that they can use these titles to secure loans for mortgages etc.

"I am disappointed that even now I am hearing about adjudication process that continues to stymie progress on this matter. So I am appealing to you Mr. Walker, because it's disheartening to me, who have put in more than two years of work with my team, to ensure that Barbuda can get to the next level, that their efforts are being frustrated. So I appeal to you, that whatever leadership or influence you have in Barbuda, to ask them to allow for the process to be completed," he urged.



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## The Education Minister vows that principal accused of child abuse 'will never set foot' back in the classroom



**Education Minister Daryll Matthew**

Just days after the Minister of Social Transformation revealed shocking statistics about the extent of child abuse in the country, Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew has addressed a similar issue involving a principal of one of the nation's public schools.

Minister Matthew addressed the issue in parliament on Wednesday. Without identifying the teacher involved, the minister noted that he has since been suspended and an investigation is currently underway.

According to the minister the accusations against the principal are supported by documentation but he is making it clear that there is no place in Antigua and Barbuda for anyone to use the classrooms to prey on innocent children.

Minister Matthew used the strongest terms to condemn child abuse, including sexual abuse, affecting students in schools, as he confirms to parliament, that a principal is now suspended over what he calls "documented allegations" of abuse. The minister says, under

his watch, the principal will never return to a school in Antigua and Barbuda.

Earlier this week, Social Transformation Minister Rawdon Turner, revealed that the cases of child abuse total over one hundred in the period January to September this year. The abuse includes sexual abuse, and physical abuse, which according to the minister are quite alarming.



Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

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## Major developments are in store for the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC)

The Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jnr., has announced a number of government initiatives designed to develop and expand the operations of the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC).

Speaking in parliament on Wednesday, Minister Smith said the initiatives include the recent acquisition of the Ken's Club Property on Utility Drive where the government spent \$9 million to transform the property into a major wholesale outlet for CMC.

"This acquisition will position us to better support our local farmers by providing expanded opportunities to sell their produce and meats. In addition, Mr. Speaker, CMC will be constructing both dry and cold storage facilities to further strengthen our farmers' ability to supply the market consistently and efficiently.

"CMC will also be establishing an agro-processing facility at the new location. This 15-million-dollar project will create hundreds of jobs and will be a true game changer for farmers across Antigua and Barbuda. Let me make it clear, Mr. Speaker: CMC outlets are not intended to compete with local supermarkets," he stated.

He described CMC's purpose as helping to stabilize supply chains, ensure affordability, and provide low-cost, nutritious, locally grown food options to the people, especially the most vulnerable.

"The government must play an active role in helping to keep the cost of living down, and this investment is a direct reflection of that responsibility," he remarked.

Beyond the developments related to CMC, the minister also announced major plans for Diamond Estate where the intention is to build an agro-industrial ecosystem.

"Mr. Speaker, our commitment to transforming agriculture goes beyond



**Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jnr.,**

primary production, we are building an entire agro-industrial ecosystem. At Diamonds Estate, we are developing

a full Agro-Industrial Park that will include a feed mill, light manufacturing operations, and modern packaging facilities. This will significantly boost value-added production and reduce our dependence on imported inputs," he revealed.

Meanwhile, he added, at Christian Valley, the ministry is advancing an Agro-Eco Industry that merges agriculture with ecotourism, including plans for eco-lodges and educational tourism experiences. "Together, these initiatives will create new jobs, stimulate innovation, attract investment, and solidify Antigua and Barbuda as a regional leader in sustainable agro-industrial development," Minister Smith declared.

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## Ambassador Webson Advocates for Innovative Climate Finance and Regional Resilience Architecture in Trinidad and Tobago



**Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson**

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson placed the future of Small Island States (SIDS) at the very centre of high level discussions at the recent 22nd Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), held in Trinidad and Tobago.

The meeting, which took place on Dec. 8 and 9, was held under the theme "Unlocking Caribbean Potential: Enhancing Growth and Development through South-South Cooperation." Also joining Ambassador Webson in representing Antigua and Barbuda at the meeting was First Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission in New York, Claxton Duberry.

Ambassador Webson, made use of the opportunity to serve as a member of a distinguished panel on

"Financing for Development: Increasing Caribbean Access to Climate Finance and Innovative Financing Mechanisms," to articulate a vision of urgency and hope for the future of the Caribbean.

In a stirring intervention, he told a captive audience that the region has arrived at "a turning point that will define the next decade of resilience and prosperity" for the region. Drawing on the transformative vision of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS - ABAS 2024-2034, Ambassador Webson urged his fellow delegates to recognize that the historic document is a turning point for the region, what he called "a generational decision and a promise" to secure a sustainable, prosperous future for island communities across the Caribbean and for all SIDS.

He stressed that Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) continue to

be trapped within a global financial architecture that penalizes vulnerability and rewards metrics that overlook climate risk. With over 40% of SIDS in or nearing debt distress, Ambassador Webson highlighted the urgent need for new financing rules, better tools, and a regional shift from recovery to resilience.

Against this background, he highlighted the critical role of the new SIDS Centre of Excellence, describing it as a bold initiative that will make use of modern and innovative tools in charting new pathways to resilient development.

As part of Ambassador Webson's intervention, he outlined the various ground breaking measures being pursued to correct course on the future for SIDS. He cited the operationalization of the Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS) as a central tool in this effort as well as working on stream-

lining and increasing the efficiency in accessing climate finance.

Other key highlights of his intervention include the scaling of debt-for-climate swaps and the introduction of structured resilience bond and domestic currency financing options. He also proposed the expansion of regional mechanisms to include shock-responsive social protection systems, new disaster insurance products, resilience reserves, and drought/heat-response frameworks.

"The Caribbean does not lack investment opportunity — it lacks risk alignment," Ambassador Webson affirmed, urging action from international financial institutions and calling for public, concessional, and private capital partnerships that align financing with climate realities.



## Former teacher, humanitarian and community leader, Genevieve Smith, has passed

There are few persons who have had an impact on their communities as have Genevieve 'Teacher Gen' Smith, on the Potters Village community.

As a teacher at the Potters Primary School for more than 40 years, she has taught generations of students not only from the Potters village, but from neighbouring villages such as Pigotts and St. Johnson's Village.

As a teacher, Teacher Gen, was a no-nonsense person, a disciplinarian who believed that teaching goes beyond academics; it also meant molding the person to be an outstanding member of the community.

Many of the successful individuals who passed through her tutelage, often credit her for helping to set the foundation upon which their later successes were built.

For the people of Potters, especially the 'Bottom Farm' area where she lived, Teacher Gen was more than a teacher; she was the humanitarian who opened her doors to scores of people, many of whom she adopted or assisted in some way to make their lives more bearable. This, she did, even though she was not known to be a person of great means herself.

She raised six children of her own; all of whom have lived accomplished lives. Two are ministers in the Moravian Church – Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis, who is



**Matriach-Genevieve-Smith-surrounded-by-her-extended-family-members-**

also a writer and poet, and Rev Ulston Patmore Smith, an outstanding musician and songwriter, who is also the Music Minister within the Moravian Church.

Her many grandchildren include, the Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr. and journalist, J'Noure Smith-Kellman, one of the news presenters at Point FM/Point Television.

Teacher Gen herself has been an outstanding member of the Potters Moravian Church as she has served on many of the church's committees and has many meaningful contributions towards the spiritual growth and development of the church over the years.

A stalwart in the education, Teacher Gen was known for her unwavering dedication to nurturing young minds, inspiring both students and fellow educators alike.

The cherished teacher also



**The principal of the Potters Primary School makes a presentation to Genevieve 'Teacher Gen' Smith**

fostered 63 children, but her caring influence reached far beyond that number, positively affecting countless lives over her lifetime. She was particularly passionate about unlocking the potential of children with special needs.

In January 2024, several annual scholarships at Potters Primary School to hon-

our outstanding students as a tribute to her. This scholarship will recognize the top male and female students, the student who is most in need, and the most improved student.

Potters Village and Potters Zion Moravian Church are in mourning for this beloved matriarch of the community.



## Statement by Ayre Group Re Wirecard Allegations

It has been brought to the attention of the Ayre Group that an article circulating in the public domain contains allegations attempting to connect its Chairman, Mr. Calvin Ayre, to Wirecard.

Mr. Ayre has never had any involvement with Wirecard and has never had any dealings with, and has never met, any of the senior executives or employees of the company.

Neither Mr. Ayre, nor, to his knowledge, any of his businesses



*Chairman, Mr. Calvin Ayre*

have ever used Wirecard to make payments or have ever held accounts there. Nothing in the Wirecard criminal complaint indicates, in any way, any wrongdoing or impropriety on the part of Mr. Ayre or any of his companies in connection with the Wirecard embezzlement allegations.

In deference to the legal proceedings currently underway in Germany, Mr. Ayre is not prepared to make any further statements at this time.

## Another Antiguan achieves an academic milestone

Linda-Shea Samuel of Bendals Village, Antigua and Barbuda and now residing in the southern Atlanta area, has announced her graduation from Middle Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation.

Samuel completed her degree through



*Linda-Shea Samuel*

the university's on-line programme, and she celebrated this milestone as she sets her sights on becoming a pilot, whether in private or commercial aviation. She is excited for the journey ahead and grateful for the support that helped her reach this goal.



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# CAGE (Antigua-Barbuda) Ltd.

CAGE (Antigua-Barbuda) Ltd is seeking to recruit an energetic, experienced **Sales and Business Development Representative** to join our team.

## **Job Summary:**

The Sales and Business Development Representative (SBDR) will be responsible for helping the General Manager drive the anticipated growth and expansion of CAGE's video lottery terminals/gaming machine route network, by identifying, negotiating and securing new agent/retailer locations, expanding existing locations and venues, managing agent/retailer relationships, and assisting in the optimization of the financial performance of video lottery terminals and gaming machines for CAGE.

## **Required Qualifications & Skills**

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Sales, or related field from a recognized academic institution is preferred.
- Proven track record and experience in sales, business development, or a related role for more than seven (7) years.
- Experience in the gaming or lottery industry is a plus.
- Strong sales and negotiation skills.
- Ability to explain and interpret a P&L statement and Budget forecasting requirements.
- Self-motivated and results oriented.
- Strategic growth mindset.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- **Must own or have access to a private motor vehicle and possess a valid drivers' license.**

## **Key Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Research and identify potential locations to operate as a CAGE agent/retailer location.
- Negotiate Agent/Retailer strategic alliance agreements ("Agent Contracts") ensuring favorable terms and conditions for both parties.
- Designing Agent/Retailer Strategies to increase Commissions and Return on Investment ("ROI") for Agents/Retailers operating CAGE Locations
- Provide training to the Agent/Retailer owners and staff on VLT/Gaming Machine operation and maintenance.
- Conduct market analysis to identify new business opportunities.
- Develop strategic plans for network expansion and growth
- Foster long term relationships to encourage continued collaboration

**Closing Date for the submission of applications is December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Applications are to be submitted to [hr@cageantigua.com](mailto:hr@cageantigua.com)**





## **ALBA CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE ACT OF PIRACY AND THEFT AGAINST VENEZUELA**

The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) condemns in the strongest terms the act of blatant piracy perpetrated by the government of the United States in illegally seizing and confiscating a Venezuelan oil tanker in the Caribbean Sea. This act constitutes a grave violation of International Law and a direct attack on the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

This act, added to the criminal seizure of CITGO, reveals a strategy of plunder aimed at taking control of Venezuela's energy resources, setting an extremely dangerous precedent for international legal and maritime stability. ALBA firmly rejects this imperial aggression and reaffirms its full support for the people and government of Venezuela.

The Alliance demands the immediate return of the vessel and the cessation of all actions to seize Venezuelan property. It also urges multilateral, regional, and global organizations to urgently speak out against this blatant violation of International Law.

**Caracas, December 11, 2025**



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Submit a cover letter and resume to **hrtalentmanagement268@gmail.com** by **18<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**. Only candidates who meet the stated requirements will be considered. Immediate availability is an asset. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Antigua Barbuda  
**FESTIVALS  
COMMISSION**

**10<sup>TH</sup> JAN  
2025**  
**NIGHT ONE**



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**CHRISTOPHER  
MARTIN**

**ANTIGUA  
RECREATION  
GROUND**

**GEN \$100 | REGGAE KINGDOM \$375 | TIME: 8PM**

**ticketing**  
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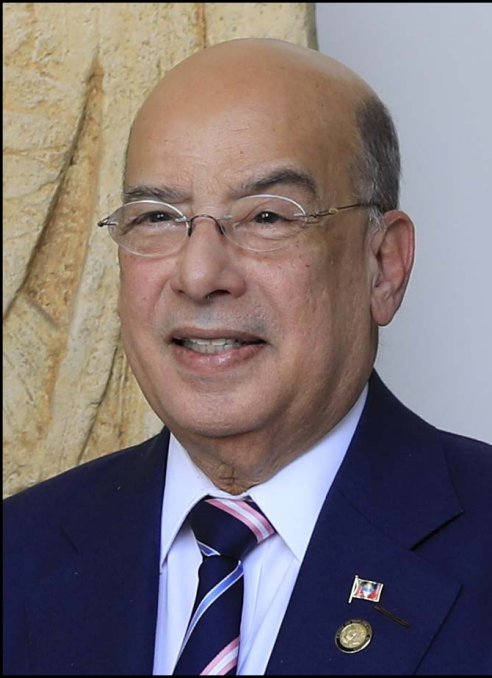
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# Weakness of Sovereignty Exposed: Why CARICOM Should Stand Together



By Sir Ronald Sanders

The Caribbean is living through a moment of rising geopolitical tension. As the United States intensifies pressure on the Maduro government in Venezuela, the ripples reach CARICOM shores fast. None of these countries chose this confrontation, yet each of them is forced to navigate its consequences.

This is nothing new. Small states always live at the edge of power. But recent events have exposed, with painful clarity, how thin the shield of individual sovereignty becomes when the pressure of great-power politics mounts.

Community Tested by High Politics  
CARICOM has long described itself as a “Community of Sovereign States.” It is a noble phrase, suggesting unity grounded in mutual cooperation. Yet this crisis has shown how fragile that unity becomes when confronted with high politics—especially politics involving the United States, a country on which many CARICOM economies depend.

In mid-October, CARICOM Heads of Government reaffirmed the region's doctrine: the Caribbean must remain

a Zone of Peace; disputes must be resolved by dialogue; and sovereignty and territorial integrity must be upheld in international law. But the ink was barely dry when divisions surfaced.

Trinidad and Tobago reserved its position and later distanced itself from the collective statement. Guyana—facing a territorial claim and military posture from Venezuela that have overshadowed it for sixty-three years—welcomed the U.S. presence as a deterrent. Some governments stayed silent. A few reiterated the need for de-escalation and respect for law.

Within days CARICOM's supposed unity became a patchwork of national interests. The Zone of Peace became less a shared principle than a slogan of interpretation.

## The Peril of Fragmentation

This fragmentation should alarm all

CARICOM peoples. Small states cannot endure as isolated fragments; they last only as part of something larger. When the small divide, the strong decide. And if the Caribbean cannot speak with one voice in defence of law, others will speak for it in the language of might.

Our region must confront a truth that is uncomfortable but unavoidable: sovereignty for the small is both precious and precarious. It is precious because it affirms the moral equality of nations, giving each—no matter its size—a rightful place in the international system. Yet it is precarious because true sovereignty depends on the capacity to exercise it—a capacity no CARICOM state truly possesses.

Global politics operates through hierarchy. Five countries wield veto power at the UN Security Council.

A festive red background with white text and images of paint products and tools. At the top, the text "SHERWIN-WILLIAMS" is in a white serif font, followed by "Cassada Paints & Supplies" in a larger, bold white serif font. Below this, on the left, is a can of Emerald paint with a red bow tied around its handle. On the right is a can of A-100 paint. In the center, the dates "19/20/21 Dec" are written in a white serif font. Below the dates, the text "ABST 10% OFF" is on the left and "Storewide 10% OFF" is on the right, separated by a vertical white line. At the bottom, the text "MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR" is in a white serif font. To the left of this text is a red and black paint sprayer, and to the right is a red step ladder. At the very bottom, the address "Utility Drive Cassada Gardens" is on the left, and the phone number "1 (268) 562-9450" is on the right, both in a white serif font. A white location pin icon is to the left of the address.

Wealthy shareholders dominate multilateral institutions. Trade outcomes favour power, not fairness. Climate diplomacy leaves the smallest states, like Sisyphus, pushing a boulder up a mountain—fighting for compensation for destruction caused by others.

Small Caribbean nations live these realities every day. Economic fragility, limited defence resources, reliance on external markets, and exposure to natural disasters narrow the practical meaning of sovereignty.

### The Case for Collective Strength

Yet because of these vulnerabilities, sovereignty matters more—not less. It is the shield that prevents small nations from being swept away by the currents of power. But a shield is useful only if wielded with strength—and no small state has that strength alone.

Sovereignty must be asserted individually but exercised collectively. That is the heart of the Caribbean project and its most persistent challenge.

Too often, governments allow external relationships to influence internal decision-making. Too often, they anticipate what a powerful partner wants and act accordingly—even when doing so weakens the regional collective. Sovereignty cannot survive if continuously surrendered through self-censorship.

The remedy is not uniformity of views. It is consistency of process. Debate within the family. Decisions jointly reached and collectively maintained. For if we cannot resolve differences among ourselves, we invite outsiders to define the region's positions.

### Law as the Discipline of Power

Power will always shape the international landscape. Small states cannot pretend otherwise. But law moderates its sharpest edges. International law does not abolish power politics, but it disciplines it. It transforms might into obligation; it turns coercion into an act that must justify itself. Courts, tribunals, and international forums allow the small to confront the large using reason and norms—not force.

### A Region at a Crossroads

This is where the Caribbean coun-

tries stand today: geopolitical pressures demand coherence, but domestic calculations often pull them apart. CARICOM has come far, but not far enough, in building a political community capable of withstanding global storms.

Caribbean governments must continue to affirm that law applies as much to the powerful as to the powerless. They should resist any order that tries to turn might into right. And they must ensure the region does not slip back into patterns where external powers pick off states one by one.

The real work of Caribbean integration today is existential. It is about ensuring that sovereignty is strengthened by community. If they stand together—on principle, on dignity, and on the sovereign equality promised in the UN Charter—then even in a world of rising geopolitical storms, the Caribbean will not merely endure. It will shape its own course.

Give to get: Working together with the reality of power

These concepts need not collide; they can be reconciled if we accept that both the mighty and the small must be

persuaded—through reason and reciprocity—to accept limits on autonomy out of enlightened self-interest.

The old doctrines of absolute sovereignty, and the old formulas of development and aid, must give way. All countries—including small ones—must learn to give in order to get. Only then can we build an international order in which cooperation is a two-way street—anchored in human rights and humanitarian law, giving small states a chance not only to survive but to prosper. But no single CARICOM country, nor a partial group, can negotiate such a strategy. All must do it together.

This commentary is based on my 2025 Distinguished Lecture of the Organisation of Caribbean Bar Associations, available here:

<https://www.sirronaldsanders.com/Docs/FINAL%20Text%20of%20%20OCCBA%20Lecture%2025%20November%202025.pdf>

(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))



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# 21st -Century state pirates and gunship politics

By Cuban Ambassador Sergio Martinez

What we have just witnessed off the coast of Venezuela is not “the application of sanctions” nor “compliance with international law.” It is a vile act of the most despicable modern piracy, carried out not by Caribbean pirates but by the military forces of the greatest imperialist power of our time.

For centuries, the international community has combated piracy precisely because it represents the very negation of international maritime and legal order. Actions such as intercepting ships on the high seas, confiscating cargo without due process, and the law of the strongest prevailing over the law have been rejected by the vast majority of nations. Those pirates of previous centuries, at least, had the decency not to claim to be acting in the name of justice.

Today, we witnessed the same thing, but with a perverse difference: the modern pirate, dressed in the uniform of the American army and under the orders of his bosses in Washington. For that purpose, they make drafts or ordinances that are intended to justify the theft of his loot. In several occasions, also laws have been approved in US Congress given a so call legal context to confiscate what belongs to others, citing his own legislation as if it were the word of God.

Let’s ask ourselves with brutal honesty: by what authority does the United States intercept a ship near the coasts of another sovereign country? Since when does the US Congress have jurisdiction over ships sailing in the waters of our Caribbean?

The answer is simple. With the authority granted by their nuclear aircraft carriers, which threaten small, sovereign countries in our region without the slightest hesitation. With the capacity to freeze bank accounts or im-



pose genocidal economic wars, like the one waged against the Cuban people, aimed at starving and sickening an entire population that refuses to accept their imperial designs. Nothing more. Nothing less.

Venezuela is a sovereign state. Its territorial waters are not a backyard where Washington can come and take whatever it pleases.

The irony is brutal: the United States, which presents itself as the guardian of the “rules-based international order”, has just demonstrated that those rules only apply when it suits its selfish interests.

Where is the Security Council resolution authorizing this confiscation? It doesn’t exist. Where is the international tribunal that declared the cargo illegal? There wasn’t one. Where is due process, the right to a defense, the minimum guarantees that supposedly characterize the “free world”? They disappeared somewhere between the detection of the ship and its capture.

The most dangerous aspect is not this isolated act, but the apocalyptic precedent it sets. If the United States can confiscate ships with complete impunity, then any naval power can turn its legislative whims and self-interest into universal maritime law and practice.

Added to the above are the extrajudicial executions that can be categorized as real murders of alleged drug

traffickers, who in practice have been found to be humble fishermen.

With its criminal acts, the United States is showing itself willing to dismantle more than three centuries of international legal framework and impose the era of barbarism. Only now, instead of black flags with skulls, they use the rhetoric of “human rights,” “democracy,” and the “war on drugs.”

This operation has nothing to do with law or justice. It’s a pure and simple mafia message: “Trade with whom ever we prohibit, and you’ll pay the consequences. It doesn’t matter where you are. It doesn’t matter what international law says. It doesn’t matter your sovereignty.” It’s the language of extortion elevated to foreign policy. The next time the United States denounces the “violations of international law” by others, let’s remember this image: a ship seized in waters that don’t belong to it, transporting legal merchandise between two sovereign countries, without an international court order, without due process.

Piracy didn’t disappear. It just changed flags. And what’s truly tragic is that this piratical act is committed while those who carry it out dare to lecture the rest of the world on “international order.” Hypocrisy has its limits. Imperial arrogance, it seems, does not.





# Antigua Barbuda Chess Federation

## ANNUAL WINTER CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY

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## EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network Ends 2025 with a Transformative Year of Community-Led Impact Across Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean



The EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN) proudly closes 2025 with a powerful record of growth, local and regional momentum, with community-driven actions across its expanding portfolio of environmental, social, creative and educational programmes. This year marks a milestone in ESFN's vision for sustainable, equitable, and resilient futures built by and for the people of Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean.

From grassroots activism to regional conservation, ESFN's programmes continued to centre community voices, strengthen local capacity, and amplify environmental stewardship. With small steps, our programmes have led to large and unexpected impact. Over thirteen (13) transformative projects have been established by the bold non-profit organization to channel community input into dynamic action.

Portfolio Manager, Britney McDonald, shares, "At

ESFN, our work begins with listening. Community voices have guided every programme we delivered in 2025. We listened deeply, and we responded proactively. The work we do belongs to the people we serve, and in 2026 we will continue to transform community feedback into action that protects our environment, strengthens families, and uplifts the most vulnerable."

McDonald continued, "We are profoundly grateful for our community, private sector, and public sector supporters whose collaboration made this ambitious nonprofit portfolio possible. Yes, we faced challenges in funding, resources, and the sheer urgency of community need, but these challenges made us more innovative, more responsive, and more committed to disrupting the status quo." She added, "Our growth is a testament to the ESFN Team, our volunteers, and the unwavering support of the EcoShores

Community. With little, we have multiplied our impact. We welcome partners to join us in 2026 and beyond as we continue to serve, learn, and work wherever we are called."

Strengthening Climate Advocacy & Regional Awareness

The Endeavour Publication emerged as one of ESFN's flagship achievements in 2025, gaining a strong local and regional following. This body of work elevated stories of climate activism, conservation, gender equity youth empowerment and community action. The Endeavour demonstrates the power of creative media and storytelling to shape policy, inspire youth, and strengthen resilience across islands.

The Photo of the Day series continues to grow into a beloved regional platform, connecting Caribbean citizens through shared environmental heritage and the visual celebration of endangered species, marine life, and fragile ecosystems we

call home.

Driving Conservation Across Islands

ESFN proudly expanded its support for Sea Turtle Conservation in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica, working closely with community groups, rangers, and conservation networks to safeguard nesting beaches, monitor endangered species, and raise public awareness.

The Regenerative Tourism Project deepened the connection between visitors and nature by allowing tourists to learn about our local ecosystems while contributing meaningfully to conservation and community initiatives across Antigua and Barbuda and the region.

Empowering Community Resilience & Social Support

In 2025, ESFN continued its commitment to holistic community wellbeing through targeted support to Black men and boys via back-to-school initiatives and partnerships with local CSOs. Our men and



community and we support gender equity for men's and boy's issues.

Our Community Swim Programme offered essential survival skills and strengthened youth connection to the marine environment, laying the groundwork for future environmental leadership and data-driven marine research to be conducted in 2026.

The EcoCourses Programme delivered across communities and marine protected areas helped participants understand the critical link between environmental education, conservation, businesses and sustainable livelihoods. ESFN is excited to see the next phase of this programme support community members.

Youth Leadership, Apprenticeship & Professional Development

The Expeditioner Programme equipped four (4) exceptional young people with hands-on apprenticeship experience in project management, environment, finance, disaster relief, communications, and advocacy. This initiative ensures that the next generation of Anti-

is prepared to steer environmental and community development work with competence and confidence.

Financial Education & Economic Empowerment

This year, ESFN advanced its broader commitment to community empowerment through the Build Your Future Financial Literacy Workshop and Programme. The initiative will continue as an extended virtual series in 2026, accompanied by a practical workbook to support budgeting, financial planning, and wealth-building for families and youth.

Strengthening Civil Society & Regional Development

ESFN provided creative communications, proposal development, and grant writing support to over ten (10) organizations across the Caribbean, strengthening initiatives in cultural heritage, sustainable finance for biodiversity, the climate-and-care nexus, and blue-green infrastructure for disaster resilience.

Our Climate and Care Campaign brought regional connectivity and awareness to the gendered realities of climate change. In 2026, the

campaign will expand into on-the-ground programmes supporting women, girls, men, boys, and vulnerable groups through care redistribution, capacity-building, and holistic resilience planning.

Elevating Youth & Community Learning on Wetlands

In celebration of World Wetlands Day 2025, ESFN empowered youth and community members across Antigua and Barbuda to deepen their understanding of wetland ecosystems, their biodiversity significance, and their role in climate adaptation.

Looking Ahead to 2026

ESFN will enter 2026 with a strengthened commitment to:

Expanding environmental research and community data programmes

Launching the next phase of the Climate and Care initiative

Scaling regenerative tourism experiences

Enhancing youth apprenticeship and training opportunities

Deepening financial education offerings

Growing regional conser-

vation networks

And continuing to embed community voices at the heart of every action

About the EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN)

The EcoShores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainability, environmental conservation, and community empowerment across Small Island Developing States (SIDS). ESFN works to address key challenges, including climate justice, biodiversity, youth development, technology innovation and education. Through initiatives such as the Expeditioner Internship Program, and the Endeavour Newsletter, ESFN fosters innovative solutions and inspires action to protect marine and coastal ecosystems. ESFN strives to create a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

For partnerships, collaborations, or programme enquiries and to stay updated on the latest news from ESFN, follow us on IG/ Facebook: @esfn\_anu



Parliament of  
Antigua and Barbuda

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Young Women in Leadership



**CIWIL**

Caribbean Women in Leadership

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL CHAPTER



# YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

JANUARY 2026-MARCH 2026

AGES: 18 - 30

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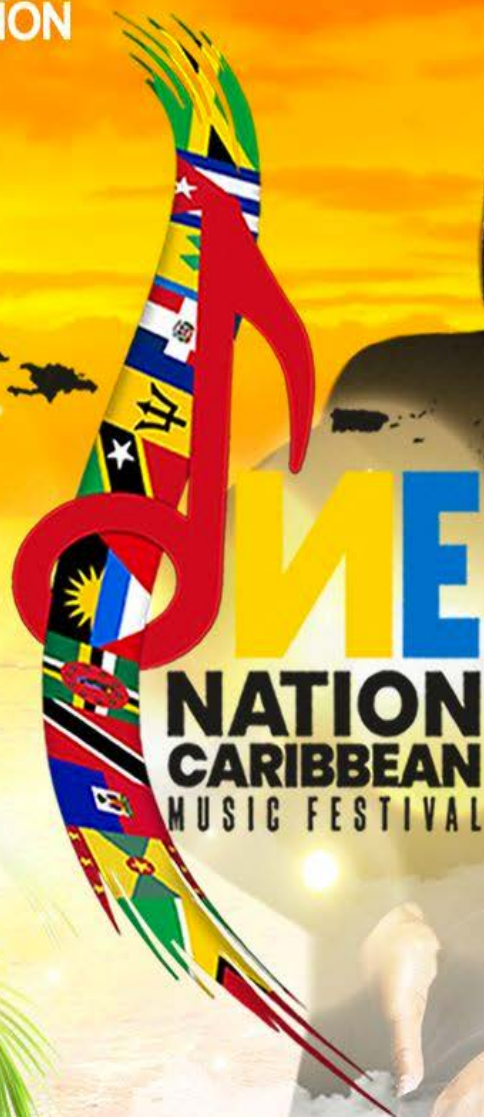
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# Regional News

## Guyana says oil tanker seized by US was illegally flying its flag

The Guyana Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) has condemned the illegal use of the country's flag after the United States seized a sanctioned oil tanker falsely claiming Guyanese registration in international waters off the coast of Venezuela.

In a statement, MARAD said U.S. authorities notified Guyana on Wednesday that they had intercepted the Motor Tanker SKIPPER (ex-ADISA), IMO 9304667, which was not registered in Guyana despite flying the nation's flag.

"Today, the Government of the United States of America informed the Guyana Maritime Administration Department that they have encountered the Motor Tanker SKIPPER... It was falsely flying the Guyana Flag, as it is not registered in Guyana," MARAD said.

The agency condemned the act and stressed that it would continue collaborating with international partners to address "the unauthorized use of the Guyana Flag." MARAD added that it has observed "the proliferation and unacceptable trend" of vessels fraudulently operating under Guyana's flag.

The seizure was announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, who said authorities had taken control of "a very large tanker" off Venezuela's coast. Reuters later reported that the action sent global oil prices higher and escalated tensions between Washington and Caracas.

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi confirmed the seizure on X, noting that the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of War executed the operation. She said the vessel had been sanctioned for years due to its involvement in an illicit oil-shipping network supporting foreign terrorist organizations.

"This seizure... was conducted safely and securely — and our investigation alongside the Department of Homeland Security to prevent the transport



of sanctioned oil continues," she said.

The Venezuelan government quickly condemned the seizure, calling it "blatant theft" and "an act of international piracy." Officials in Caracas vowed to defend the country's sovereignty and indicated they would bring the matter before international bodies.


For Guyana, the incident underscores

growing concerns about the misuse of its national flag by foreign vessels involved in illicit operations.

"MARAD will continue to reach out to and work with international partners and other maritime agencies to identify, pursue, and take firm action against any unauthorized use of the Guyana Flag," the agency said.



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## 32 Hurricane Melissa deaths still under investigation in Jamaica



**Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Commander Alvin Gayle, addresses Wednesday's (December 10) Post-Cabinet Press Briefing at Jamaica House.**

Thirty-two deaths remain under investigation following the passage of Hurricane Melissa in October, according to an update delivered Wednesday by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM).

Director General Commander Alvin Gayle told the Post-Cabinet Press Briefing at Jamaica House that the confirmed death toll stands at 45, with 13 people still unaccounted for.

"Our thoughts remain with the families of those we've lost," he said.

Commander Gayle also reported significant public-health concerns emerging in Melissa's aftermath. Authorities have recorded 84 suspected and 30 confirmed cases of leptospirosis, along with 12 related deaths, seven of which have been officially confirmed.

Additionally, two tetanus cases have been identified, including one death.

"These figures underscore the scale of the human impact and the seriousness with which the ministries, departments and agencies of Government continue to approach the recovery effort," he said.

As of Tuesday night, 101 emergency shelters remain open across seven parishes, housing 1,061 people displaced by the storm.

Commander Gayle noted that while the road to recovery will be long, the country is now moving steadily from emergency response into early recovery and, ultimately, rebuilding.

"We affirm that no community will be forgotten," he said. "The ODPEM and other local authorities, international partners, the private sector, faith-based and community organisers are united in a single mission to restore lives, livelihoods and dignity, and to build back better, safer and stronger."

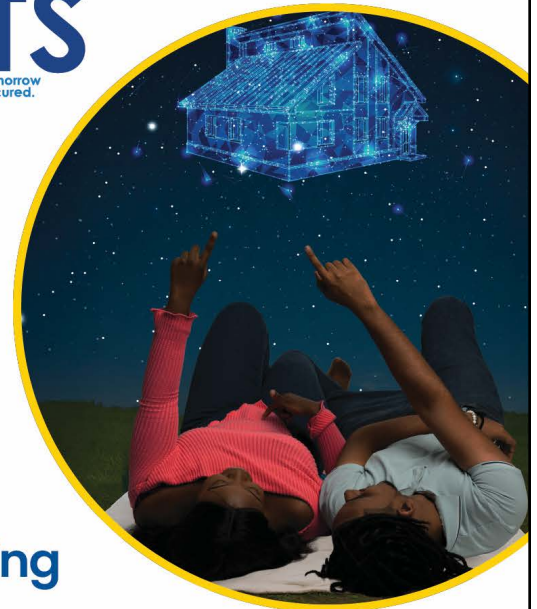


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## Bahamas moves to crack down on human smuggling with new legislation



Prime Minister Philip Davis has announced a major push to dismantle human-smuggling networks operating in and around The Bahamas, as his administration tables the Smuggling of Migrants Bill, 2025, in Parliament.

Addressing the House of Assembly recently, Davis said the new legislation strengthens the country's legal framework to pursue smugglers more effectively and impose tougher penalties on those who profit from illegal migration.

"This Bill makes it easier to prosecute smugglers, and punishes them with tougher penalties than ever before," he said. "This is how we protect Bahamian communities. This is how we rule our waters. And this is how we reduce the number of migrants who enter our country illegally."

### Targets Criminal Networks, Expands Jurisdiction

The Bill formally defines migrant smuggling as a distinct criminal offence and ensures that anyone involved in planning, financing, transporting, or harbouring migrants can be charged—whether the operation starts, passes through, or ends in The Bahamas.

Under the new provisions, offenders face fines up to \$300,000 and prison terms of up to 15 years. The legislation also extends Bahamian jurisdiction to

smuggling-related crimes committed outside national waters or on foreign-flagged vessels. Vehicles, vessels, and other assets tied to smuggling operations may be confiscated as well.

### Reinforcing Border Security

Davis said the measure builds on recent investments in border and maritime security, including new patrol vessels, drones, radar systems, upgraded communications, and expanded manpower within the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) and the Immigration Department.

Since 2022, more than 13,000 migrants have been repatriated — the highest number in Bahamian history — while detention centre populations have fallen due to faster processing and repatriation.

### "Our First Duty Is to Our Citizens"

The Prime Minister stressed that the government will maintain a careful balance between compassion and firm enforcement, especially amid regional migration pressures.

"Our first duty is to our citizens and to those who are here lawfully," he said. "We have refused to sign declarations that would commit us to accepting more migrants. We have refused calls to suspend deportations to Haiti. And we will continue to act in the best interests of The Bahamas."

He added that the Bill clarifies the difference between human smuggling and immigration offences, ensuring that migrants receive humanitarian treatment while affirming the country's right to enforce its laws.

"Being a victim of smuggling does not grant a right to remain in The Bahamas," Davis said. "Our asylum laws remain unchanged, and anyone enter-

ing illegally will be repatriated."

### Warning to Bahamians Who Assist Smugglers

Prime Minister Davis issued a sharp warning to Bahamians who knowingly help smugglers by renting homes, providing transportation, or lending vessels for illegal activities.

"If you are participating in or supporting human smuggling in any way, you will find yourself within the crosshairs of our justice system," he said. "This is a turning point. What might have felt like a side income will now carry consequences that can change your life."

He commended the RBDF, Immigration Department, and the Ministries of National Security and Immigration and National Insurance for their ongoing work.

"We will not allow criminal networks to use our islands as corridors," he said. "We will not allow lawlessness to challenge the safety and stability of our communities. We will not tolerate the exploitation of vulnerable people. And we will not compromise our sovereignty."

The Prime Minister also addressed migrants who may be considering dangerous illegal voyages.

"To migrants themselves, I say do not place your lives, or the lives of your children, in the hands of criminals," he said. "They will take your money, put you on an overloaded vessel, and send you into open water with little regard for whether you survive."

"If you come here in breach of our laws, you will be returned to your country of origin," he added.

The Bill is expected to advance through Parliament in the coming weeks.

## Charlie Kirk murder suspect makes first in-person court appearance



The man accused of killing right-wing activist Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University has made his first in-person court appearance, as a judge deliberates on the extent of media access to the high-profile case.

Attorneys for Tyler Robinson, 22, and the Utah County Sheriff's Office have asked the judge to ban cameras in the courtroom out of concern that media attention could hamper a fair trial.

Kirk's widow and a coalition of national and local news organisations have

pushed for transparency in the case.

Robinson has been charged with aggravated murder, alongside other charges, and prosecutors have said they are seeking the death penalty. Robinson has not yet entered a plea.

Robinson turned himself in to authorities after an extensive manhunt following Kirk's shooting at an open-air event at Utah Valley University in September.

He confessed to the crime to his father who recognised him from images released

by authorities and who eventually persuaded him to surrender.

On Thursday, Robinson arrived in court with restraints on his wrists and ankles.

He wore a dress shirt, tie and slacks and smiled at family members sitting in the front row of the courtroom, according to the BBC's US news partner CBS. His mother, father and brother were in court with him.

A coalition of national and local news organisations wants to preserve media access to the case, arguing for transparency and public accessibility. They are pushing for the release of a recording and transcript from an October hearing in the case.

Kirk's widow Erika Kirk, who has been combatting conspiracy theories about her husband's death, has also asked for transparency in the case. On Fox News

last month she said that "we deserve to have cameras in there".

Part of the hearing on Thursday is to review a 14 October audio recording and a 24 October transcript of hearings that were closed to the public. Another section of the hearing was streamed online for public viewing.

"I need to hear what should or should not be sealed or protected and it would not benefit to have everyone listen to what should be sealed," Judge Tony Graf said.

He plans to issue a ruling later on Thursday.

In October, the judge allowed Robinson to wear civilian clothes during pre-trial hearings to avoid prejudicing potential jurors, but he required Robinson to wear restraints during hearings.

Photo or video of him in restraints have been barred.


 An advertisement for Curry House Antigua. The background is dark with a wooden surface. In the center, the text "Curry House" is written in a large, red, cursive font, with "ANTIGUA" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it. To the right, there are several bowls of Indian food, including a bowl of yellow rice, a bowl of white rice, a bowl of orange curry, a bowl of green chutney, and a bowl of red chutney. There are also some fresh herbs and a small bowl of spices. At the bottom, the text "Open Daily - 12:00pm - 10:30pm" is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, followed by the text "currytandoorihouseanu", "curryhouseanu", and the phone number "(268) 736-7165".



## US wants 'special economic zone' in Ukraine's frontline region, Zelensky says

The US has proposed Ukraine withdraw from the eastern Donetsk region and create a “special economic zone” in the areas it currently controls, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said.

Zelensky said territory and control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant remained the two main unresolved issues in the peace plan proposal for Ukraine.

In a sobering briefing to reporters, Zelensky addressed the US desire for a quick end to the conflict, the complex nature of the ongoing negotiations, and his belief that Russia had no desire to stop the war.

Ukraine has sent the US an updated 20-point plan plus separate documents on security guarantees and provisions for Ukraine's reconstruction, Zelensky said.

It follows weeks of high-level diplomatic activity which has seen several peace plans drawn up, adjusted and revised by the US, Ukraine, Russia and European leaders.

“The final mile is the hardest. Everything could fall apart for many reasons,” Zelensky said on Thursday.



Russia demands that Ukraine relinquishes control of roughly 30% of the eastern Donetsk region it still holds - something Ukraine has refused to do, both on principle and because it fears it would allow Moscow a foothold for future invasions.

According to Zelensky, the US is now envisaging a solution that would see Ukrainian forces withdraw from parts of Donetsk, and Russian forces committing to not advancing into the territory. This area would become a “special economic zone” or a “demilitarised zone”, Zelensky said.

However, he noted that it would not be fair for the Ukrainians to withdraw unilaterally, and that Russia should also pull back by the same distance.

“What will restrain [Russia] from advancing? Or from infiltrating disguised as civilians?” he asked.

Zelensky said these were “very serious concerns” and that Ukraine might not accept the proposal at all – although he opened the door to elections or a referendum to give the Ukrainian people a choice.

But he acknowledged that the fighting would continue and may yet shape the future of the negotiations: “Much depends on our military – what they can hold, where they can stop the enemy, what they can destroy. This affects the entire configuration.”

The management of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was another highly contentious point, Zelensky said.

The power plant – Europe's largest – sits on the front line and has been under Russian control since March 2022.

Zelensky said a possible solution would be for the Russians to withdraw and Kyiv to share control of the

plant with the Americans – although he acknowledged that the details of such an arrangement were still unclear, and it is doubtful that Moscow would agree.

US President Donald Trump appears to have grown frustrated with the intricacies of the conflict, and Kyiv and its allies fear the Americans might eventually seek to impose a Russian-led solution on Ukraine.

Zelensky told reporters that although the Americans wanted a “quicker conclusion” to the war, there were no deadlines for an agreement.

Ukraine - which is targeted by widespread aerial attacks on a near-nightly basis - has been pushing for respite and would want an immediate ceasefire to be implemented ahead of a more laborious agreement being fleshed out.

But Russia stands to gain more from a ceasefire being delayed, as its troops continue to make small but incremental gains on the frontline and its attacks exhaust the Ukrainian population.

“After multiple rounds of talks with Russia” the Americans were now aligned on Moscow on this position, Zelensky said.

## Ghana deports Israelis in retaliation for alleged mistreatment of Ghanaians



*The three Israelis were deported from the Kotoka International Airport in Accra*

Ghana has deported three Israeli nationals who arrived in the country on Wednesday in what appears to be a tit-for-tat move over the alleged mistreatment of Ghanaian nationals at Ben Gurion International Airport in Israel.

Seven Ghanaians, including four members of an official delegation attending a cyber-security conference in Tel Aviv, were allegedly detained without explanation.

They were released after five hours, while the three others were deported, according to Ghana, which condemned their “humiliating treatment”.

Ghana’s foreign ministry says a senior diplomat from the Israeli embassy in Accra was summoned over the incident, and both countries have agreed to resolve the row amicably.

The BBC has contacted the Israeli embassy for comment but is yet to receive a response.

Ghana’s foreign ministry noted that the two countries have enjoyed decades of friendly relations, making Israel’s alleged actions inconsistent with their historic ties.

“The Government of Ghana consid-

ers the actions of the Israeli authorities as unfairly targeting Ghanaian travellers and conveys its strong reservations against the humiliating treatment of our citizens,” it said.

It added that the Ghana “expects our citizens to be treated with dignity and respect in much the same way as other governments expect Ghana to treat their nationals”.

Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa later told local media JoyFM that they would deport one Israeli for every Ghanaian who was sent back from Israel.

The source of the tensions between Ghana and Israel is not entirely clear, but Ghana’s recent stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict might be a factor.

In September, Ghana condemned Israeli air strikes which hit Qatar, describing the attacks as a “clear violation of international law” and an affront to Qatar’s sovereignty. Israel had targeted senior Hamas leaders who had gathered in Qatar’s capital, Doha.

The previous month, Ghanaian au-

thorities urged Israel to allow more aid into Gaza, describing the civilian suffering there as “heart-breaking”.

President John Mahama donated 40 tonnes of Ghana-made chocolate and cocoa products to Palestinians, reaffirming the country’s longstanding support for the Palestinian cause and for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Analysts suggest that these actions might have contributed to the current strained relations, especially if Israel perceives Ghana’s stance as biased or unfavourable.

However, Ghana said that it was told the row was linked to Israeli accusations that Ghana’s embassy wasn’t cooperating over the deportation of its citizens from Israel.

Ghana insists that its embassy in Tel Aviv is “responsive and compliant with international law”.

The foreign minister said that Israel wanted assistance deporting six people, one of whom was from Gabon and another was too sick to travel.





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, **SPORTS** AND THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

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## NOMINEES FOR 2025 NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS - *RATIFIED*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, 11th December 2025 – *St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda*.** The Ministry of Sports, through its rigorous ratification process, has confirmed the list of nominees for the 2025 National Sports Awards across various categories. The grand ceremony scheduled for March 1st, 2025, will see the nation's sporting ambassadors and officials recognized for their major accomplishments and contributions.

Nominees will compete in eight categories. While all listed will be recognized for their prowess, an august panel of judges will determine the winners in various categories. Winners will be determined based on their track record of success in regional and international competitions, as submitted by the athletes' respective sporting associations. The accuracy of submissions will be triangulated by independent research.

The Ministry of Sports takes this opportunity to congratulate all nominees and wish them success in the countdown to the 2025 National Sports Awards.

The categories and nominees are presented below for transparency and media publication:

### **SENIOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>
Christopher B. Johnson	Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association
Daniel Antonio	Antigua and Barbuda Arm-wrestling Association
Tariq Kienesberger	Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding & Weightlifting
Federation Alzarri Joseph	Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association
Alexander Whittaker	Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Association
Shahoi Dorsett	Antigua and Barbuda Football Association
Omarry James	Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association
Nicholas Geyleyns	Ralling Racing Association
Jules Mitchell	Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association
Ethan Stubbs - Green	Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation
Jody Maginley	Antigua and Barbuda Tennis Association
Cairson Davis	Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association



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### **JUNIOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>
Gedion Roberts	Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association
Tajahron Davis	Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association
Matthew Miller	Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association
Tahje JJ Browne	Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation
Dajari Bartley	Antigua and Barbuda Football Association
Shanoy K. A. Malone	Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association
Alessandro Bazzoni	Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation
Mekhi Simmons	Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association
Elite Thomas	Antigua and Barbuda Tennis Association 2025
Asafa Donovan	Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association

### **SENIOR SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>
Joella Kenjel Lloyd	Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association
Shawnisha Hector	Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association
Gabriella Desuza	Antigua and Barbuda Football Association
Jewel Crump	Antigua and Barbuda Fencing Association
Kimberlyn Weatherill	Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association
Erverdine Parker - Barnade	Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association
Emily Gaillard	Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association
Ambassador Melissa Seaforth	Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Federation
Ounjelique Liddie	Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation
Jassania Joseph	Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association

### **JUNIOR SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>
Tyra Fenton	Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association
Nafisa Quashi	Antigua and Barbuda Football Association
Nicole Weatherill	Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association
Madison J. MacMillian	Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation
Stuti Kashyap	Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association
Philisha Burnette	Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association





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### **MIND SPORTS OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

#### **NAMES**

Kalid Jarvis

Bernard Dowdy

#### **ASSOCIATIONS**

Antigua and Barbuda Dominio Association

Antigua and Barbuda Pool Association

### **COACH OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

#### **NAMES**

Teddy Daley

George Hughes

Ollyn Martin

Ian Tittle

Jyme Bridges

Frank Govia

Schyan Jeffers

Jamila Fitz

Timothy Thomas

Carl Williams

#### **ASSOCIATIONS**

Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association

Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association

Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Federation

Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association

Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation

Antigua and Barbuda Domino Association

Antigua and Barbuda Football Association

Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association

Antigua and Barbuda Triathlon Association

Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association

### **OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

#### **NAMES**

Ivalin Murrain

Dwayne Edwards

Felix Auguiste

St. Clair Williams

Carol - Faye L. Bynoe

Ken Pennyfeather

Akiel Hazelwood

Gary Edwards

Charles Bellot

Mr. Rawle Lee

#### **ASSOCIATIONS**

Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association

Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Federation

Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association

Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation

Antigua and Barbuda Domino Association

Antigua and Barbuda Football Association

Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association

National Polling Association

Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association

Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association



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### **ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>
Shawnor Charles - Joseph	Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association
Beverley Percival - Tonge	Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Federation
Dave Gustave	Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association
Joshua Michael	Antigua and Barbuda Domino Association
Kelesha Antoine	Antigua and Barbuda Football Association
Andrea Roberts - Nicholas	Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation
Wilbur Harrigan	Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association

### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR 2025 NOMINEES**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>
Neil Lloyd	Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association
Joseph H. Meade	Antigua and Barbuda Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Federation
Wilbur Harrigan	Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association

Thank you for your attention.

-END-







## CAGE Antigua-Barbuda

CAGE (Antigua-Barbuda) Ltd., is seeking a suitably qualified candidate to fill the position of **General Manager**, according to the following criteria:

### **Job Summary:**

The General Manager will be responsible for the overall management of CAGE Antigua-Barbuda through the execution of the Company's strategic goals, policies, procedures and annual operating budget. **Duties include managing** its profit and loss by managing staff, and establishing and accomplishing agreed-upon business objectives. Also required to facilitate a high level of productivity and a harmonious industrial relations climate. May be required to travel regionally or extra-regionally as required. Maintains and supports effective staff and customer relations.

*The preferred candidate should possess the following Qualifications & Experience:*

### **Education and Work Experience:**

- A Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, Marketing or related field from a recognized academic institution, with a minimum of five (5) years' experience in a middle to senior management level position, with P&L responsibility for a business unit.
- In lieu of formal qualifications, a minimum of seven (7) years' experience in a middle to senior management level position, with some P&L responsibility for a business unit.
- Certificate in Computer Applications, including but not limited to Microsoft Office Suite.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Communicates values, strategies and objectives; assigns accountabilities; plans, monitors and appraises job results; develops incentives; develops a receptive climate for information and opinions; provides environment of continuous learning and development.
- Develops strategic plans for local operations by studying market, technological and financial opportunities, presenting assumptions and recommending objectives.
- Accomplishes objectives by establishing plans, budgets and results measurements, allocating resources, reviewing progress and making timely interventions.
- Establishes procurement, production, marketing, field and technical services, policies and practices; coordinates actions with corporate headquarters.
- Serves as liaison between corporate office and local governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- Reviews operations of venues as required.
- Assist in the preparation of annual budgets, reports and analysis, as required.
- Provides counseling and assistance as necessary to employees.
- Performs any related duties, to ensure or facilitate effective and efficient operations.

Application with Curriculum Vitae along with two references are to be submitted to [hr@cageantigua.com](mailto:hr@cageantigua.com) no later than December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## Bethesda and Real Blizzard stay unbeaten in Second Division League

Bethesda FC and Kelton Dalso Real Blizzard maintained their unbeaten runs in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Wednesday.

Bethesda FC claimed their fourth win in five matches with a 4-0 victory against Fort Road FC at the Bethesda Playing Field.

Vernon Jeffers Jr. opened the scoring with a second-minute conversion, and Kurt Richards converted a penalty kick in the 27th minute to give Bethesda a two-nil lead at halftime.

Bethesda FC wrapped up their victory with second-half goals by O'Shale Simon in the 58th minute and Zabia Floyd in the 85th minute.

The result allows Bethesda FC to advance to 13 points, while Fort Road FC remains on six points after crashing to their third defeat in five matches.

Real Blizzard notched up their third win in five matches with a 5-2 victory against Blackburn Palace at the Fort Road playing field.

Zerwanzah Celestine scored twice, while the other goals for Real Blizzard were scored by Amos Christian, Taharie James, and Dravid Richardson.

The result carries Real Blizzard to 11 points, while Blackburn Palace remains on seven points after



Players of the Real Blizzard football team. (File Photo)

slumping to their second loss in five matches.

Ajabe Ray scored six times as North Coast Academy Juniors recorded their second win in five matches with a 13-0 drubbing of the Young Warriors FC, who played with just eight players, at the Buckley's Primary School's playing field.

Rae, who is a student at the St. Joseph's Academy School, had conversions in the 12th, 17th, 20th, 49th, 60th, and 65th minutes. Andrew Paddy, Lyle Tonge, and Deneal Thomas each converted twice, while Roshan Samuel scored the other goal in the 75th minute.

The result allows the North Coast Academy Juniors to move on to seven points, while the Young Warriors remain without any points after crashing to their fourth defeat in as many matches.

However, the match at the Keithley Sheppard Rec-

reational Park between TAMO FC and Herberts FC was not played due to a clash of colours in the teams' uniforms.

TAMO FC remains on

three points from four matches, while Herberts United FC is without any points, having lost their two matches thus far in the league.

The Second Division will continue with four matches on Friday at 4:15 pm. Belmont FC will take on JSC Progressors at Cashew Hill, and Police will meet Glanvilles FC at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Guydadli Jets FC will tackle the Young Lions at Old Road, and Point West Ham FC will clash with the Liberta Blackhawks at PMS.



## Christmas Watt a Wonderful Time

A  
bright WATT  
of cash to jump-start  
your goals and energize  
your savings for  
the New Year!



# ENTER TO WIN \$15,000 CASH!

**WEEKLY DRAWS:**

- One location per week.
- Win household appliances, supermarket & utility vouchers, and much more!

**GRAND DRAW:**

- January 16, 2026
- \$15,000 CASH GRAND PRIZE!

**HOW TO ENTER:**

• Simply pay your Electricity or Water bill in FULL between Dec 1, 2025 – Jan 9, 2026. (Partial payments are not eligible.)

PAY IN FULL. GET ENTERED. START YOUR NEW YEAR BRIGHT.



# Sports News

## More support for MDBA Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp

Hot Deals Outlet, powered by Cool & Smooth and located on Old Parham Road, has generously provided attire for the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) coaching staff to help them execute their duties during the 9th Annual Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp next week.

Hot Deals Outlet is the latest corporate citizen to offer support to the event, which will take place at the JSC Sports Complex from December 15 to 19.

Miss Monique Lambert, one of the managers at Hot Deals Outlet, officially handed over the bright orange shirts to Coach Mahijah Davis, who accepted the donation on behalf of the MDBA.

The establishment noted that the vibrant shirts are intended to inspire the student-athletes, reminding them that they each possess a bright and sparkling future in the sport of basketball.

The kind gesture by Hot Deals Outlet came after Bridget Supermarket and KFC Antigua and Barbuda made generous donations to this year's MDBA Christmas Camp.

The assistance is geared towards the



**Monique Lambert, left, presents one of the shirts to Coach Mahijah Davis of the MDBA.**

support of the young children in utilizing safer and more positive environments. It will also assist in youth development and the empowering of young men and women striving for their dreams.

The MDBA Christmas Fiesta Camp remains a key platform for nurturing basketball talent, building discipline, and inspiring the next generation of

players in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy will be utilizing the services of American coach TJ Cox at this year's Christmas Fiesta Basketball Camp.

Cox, who is also a sports agent and player development specialist, will be the main facilitator at the event.

Former national forward Mahijah Davis, who is the creator of the MDBA, will be hosting the five-day camp for boys and girls aged 12 to 25 years in his continuing drive to develop young basketball talent in Antigua and Barbuda.

This month's MDBA camp will be conducted in two sessions per day. A session for the 12 to 16 age group will take place from 3 pm to 4:55 pm, while another session for the 17 to 25 age group will be held from 5 pm to 6:55 pm.

A fee of US\$120 or EC\$300 per person is being charged to participate, and registration will be done at the venue on the first day of the camp. Interested persons can call 721-2264 for more information.

**AFRICA UNITE**

HOSTS:  
**DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE**

**POINTE FM 99.1**

**THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM**



## Business League All-Stars complete successful tour to St. Lucia



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League All-Stars team. (Photos courtesy of the ABBA)



The contingent of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League All-Stars team at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

A 24-member contingent of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League All Stars recently completed another successful goodwill tour to a neighbouring island in the Caribbean.

The ABBA Business League All Stars, which comprised players who participated in the Antigua and Barbuda domestic competition that concluded in November, won two of their three matches during this year's tour to St. Lucia from December 4 to 11.

The Antiguan All Stars, who participated in the Cross Caribbean Invitational, snatched a 56-48 victory against the Morne Gladiators in their opening encounter at the Gros Islet Court.

The ABBA Business League All Stars recorded a 58-50 victory against BFTF at the Beausejour Indoor Facility.

Keroi Lee sank 14 points and snatched 12 rebounds, Adonis Humphreys converted 12 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, and Lindsay McDonald chipped in with 11 points, seven steals, and five assists for the Antiguan.

However, the Antigua Business League All-Stars wrapped up their tour to St. Lucia with a 56-72 loss to the Morne Gladiators in their final en-

counter at the Beausejour Indoor Facility.

Selassie Brathwaite converted 13

points, Lindsay McDonald and Marlon "Buju" Charles each scored 12 points, and Keroi Lee sank 11 points and claimed 15 rebounds.



Caribbean Union Bank

SJDC

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LIGHT, JOY &  
Togetherness**

**13 DECEMBER ⌚ 4:30PM**

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(HEROES PARK, PUBLIC MARKET COMPLEX)





**COMMONWEALTH**  
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2026

# **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR CHOGM 2026 ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS**

We are pleased to announce that accommodation providers across Antigua and Barbuda can now register to participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, taking place 1- 4 November 2026.

With an anticipated 5,000 delegates expected to attend this historic event, it is **vital that all accommodation providers register through the CHOGM Accommodation Team.**

**Registration ensures your property is included in the official accommodation listings** and positioned to benefit from the significant opportunities this groundbreaking conference will bring to our destination.

**Registration will close on Friday 12 December 2025.**

We encourage all providers not to delay and to be part of showcasing the very best of Antiguan and Barbudan hospitality.

**REGISTER TODAY:**

To register your property, SignUp here:  
<https://bit.ly/chogmhotels>

**Let's work together to welcome the Commonwealth to our shores!**



## New Zealand nose ahead against West Indies in Second Test



**New Zealand's pacer Michael Rae, right, celebrates with teammates after picking up the first wicket of West Indies' second innings on the second day of the second Test at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, New Zealand, on Thursday, December 11, 2025. (Getty Images)**

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - Opener Devon Conway and debutant Mitchell Hay struck half-centuries to earn New Zealand a handy first-innings lead of 73 before their depleted bowling attack reduced West Indies to 32 for two to take control of the second Test in Wellington on Thursday.

Having bowled out West Indies for 205, New Zealand posted 278 before being all out in the final session on day two at Basin Reserve.

The West Indies wobbled in their second innings as well. Brandon King was batting on 15 not out and Kavem Hodge unbeaten on three at the other end with the tourists still 41 runs behind.

New Zealand fast bowler Blair Tickner did not bat in the first innings, and will not bowl or field in the

match, having dislocated his shoulder while diving to stop a boundary on Wednesday.

"I think there might be a couple of guys that are gutted to get the start and not quite kick on, but I think 80-90 lead and we got them two down already, so I think I'll be happy with that," New Zealand bowler Jacob Duffy said.

Earlier, New Zealand captain Tom Latham, who made 11, lost his off stump to Kemar Roach after the hosts resumed on 22, but Conway and Kane Williamson steadied the ship with a 67-run second-wicket stand.

Anderson Phillip, who claimed three for 70, clean bowled Williamson for 37 and Roach removed Rachin Ravindra for five to put the pressure back on the hosts.

Hay, however, looked keen to capitalise on his Test de-

but, replacing Tom Blundell, who suffered a hamstring injury in the drawn series opener.

Soon after bringing up his fifty, Hay hit Ojay Shields for back-to-back fours before pulling him straight to Roach at square leg. Hay's 61 included nine fours and a six.

The West Indies got a double-reprieve early in their second innings when opener Brandon King drove Duffy, who spilled the return catch and the deflected ball narrowly missed the stumps at the non-striker's end with

John Campbell well out of the crease.

A much-relieved Campbell (14) celebrated by hitting Foulkes for three fours in the next over before shouldering arms to a delivery from debutant Michael Rae that crashed onto his stumps.

Anderson Phillip walked in as the nightwatchman but returned after a three-ball duck, pinged lbw by Duffy, who convinced his skipper Latham to review the original not-out decision.

## NOTICE

**TO: Your Worship**  
**St. Johns Magistrate Court**  
**High Street**  
**St. Johns**  
**Antigua**

**TO: The Commissioner of Police**  
**Police Headquarters**  
**American Road**  
**St. John's**  
**Antigua**

**Dear Sir/Madame,**  
**Re: Notice - Application for Tavern License**

I, Jenniffer Roman Adams of Jennings Village, with registered business situated at Edward Street Lower All Saints Road St. John's Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday 5th January, 2026 next ensuring for a Tavern License Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Rencon Cubana Bar & Restaurant" situated at Edward Street Lower All Saints Road in the parish of St. John's Antigua and Barbuda.

**Dated the 4th day of December. 2025**  
**Tel # 784-0607**



## Antigua Benna Girls to contest matches in Turks and Caicos Islands



**Players of the Antigua and Barbuda senior women's national football team prior to their departure at the V.C. Bird International Airport. (ABFA)**

The Antigua and Barbuda national women's senior team (Benna Girls) left the island on Wednesday to participate in a tournament in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Antiguanians will be taking part in the Turks & Caicos Women's Football Festival from December 11 to 14.

The three-team event, which is hosted by the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA), will feature the Turks and Cai-

cos Islands senior women's national team, Antigua and Barbuda, and Renegades FC of the Bahamas.

The Antigua Benna Girls will face the Turks and Caicos Islands on Friday at 6 pm and will take on Renegades FC on Saturday at 6 pm.

The tournament will be focusing on skill, empowerment, and regional women's football development.

Antigua and Barbuda will be using the tournament to

aid in their continued preparation and participation in the qualifying round of the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Championship, which will also serve as the Confederation's qualifier for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

The Antigua and Barbuda's senior team made a losing start to their campaign in the qualifying round of the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Championship in a 4-0

defeat to Nicaragua at home in their first qualifier in Group B of the tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Thursday, November 27, 2025.

The Antigua and Barbuda women's team is competing in five-team Group B alongside Jamaica, Guyana, Nicaragua, and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda are among 29 CONCACAF member associations—excluding the region's two highest-ranked nations (USA and Canada)—that will be competing in six groups in the preliminary stage of the competition, which will be played during the FIFA Women's International Match Windows in November 2025 and February and April 2026.

Antigua and Barbuda will play Guyana at home in their second qualifier at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on March 5, 2026.

The Antiguanians will travel to Kingston to face Jamaica's Reggae Girls on April 10, 2026, and will tackle Dominica on April 14, 2026.

The group winners will qualify for the CONCACAF Women's Championship, which will be played in November 2026.