

Statement by the Hon. Gaston Browne, on U.S. visa restrictions

Story on page 2



The Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams (seated) surrounded by the awardees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme

Local News

Statement by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Gaston Browne, on US visa restrictions

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has taken careful note of a proclamation issued by the Government of the United States suspending, with effect from 12:01 a.m. on 1 January 2026, the issuance of United States visas to nationals of Antigua and Barbuda.

We are deeply disappointed that Antigua and Barbuda has been included in this proclamation on the stated ground that our Citizenship by Investment Programme has historically operated without a residency requirement. That assertion does not reflect the present reality of our laws.

Over the past year, Antigua and Barbuda has worked closely and constructively with several departments of the United States Government to strengthen safeguards within our Citizenship by Investment Programme. We have engaged in good faith, accepted practical suggestions, and taken concrete steps to ensure that our programme presents no risk whatsoever to the security of the United States.

As part of this process, the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda has recently enacted comprehensive new legislation strengthening every aspect of the Citizenship by Investment Programme, including due diligence, transparency, information-sharing, and enforcement. Importantly, this legislation introduces a mandatory 30-day physical residency requirement in Antigua and Barbuda as a strict condition for qualification for citizenship. It is therefore an error to state that Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme operates without a residency requirement.

Immediately upon the issuance of this proclamation, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States, Sir Ronald Sanders, contacted the United States Department of State. He was informed that State Department officials were themselves surprised by the proclamation and had received no prior notice of its issuance.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Ambassador Sanders has since initiated arrangements for urgent, high-level engagement with the State Department and the White House to clarify the matter, to present the full and accurate facts, and to begin the process of resolving this issue with a view to restoring normal visa access for citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.

In parallel, I am writing directly to President Donald J. Trump and to the

Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, offering the full engagement and cooperation of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to address any concerns and to take all reasonable steps necessary to allow for the restoration of all visa categories.

Antigua and Barbuda values its relationship with the United States, a relationship that predates the independence of both our nations and is grounded in long-standing ties of friendship, shared democratic values, and close people-to-people connections. The United States is Antigua and Barbuda's most significant trading partner and continues to enjoy a substantial and consistent trade surplus with our country.

The Government will do everything within its power to ensure that the excellent relations between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States continue on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation, and accurate understanding.



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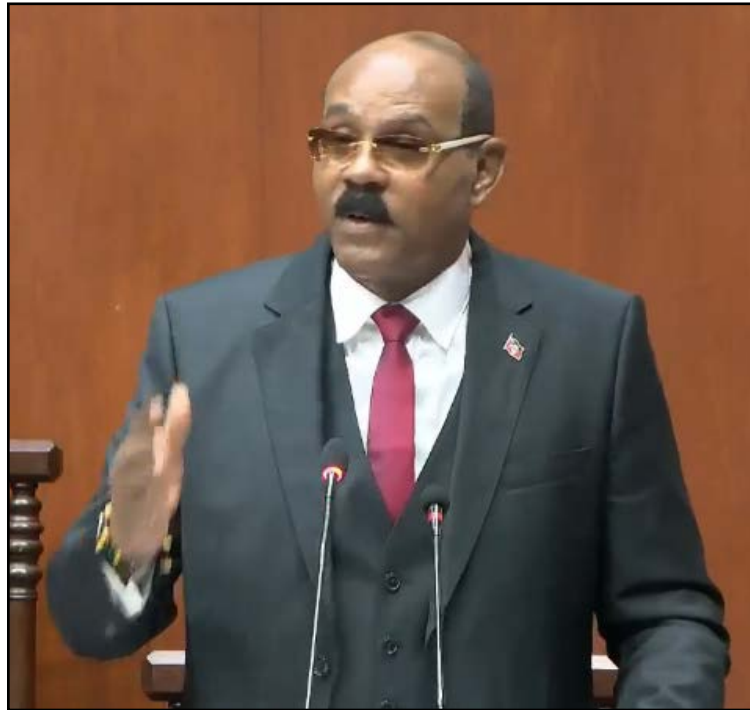
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So-called 'vehicle-gate' is now a settled matter, says PM Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said while he accepts that there were procedural violations in the procurement of thirty motor vehicles from local dealerships, there was no illegality involved in the matter.

Speaking during the wrap up of the debate on the National Budget 2026 on Monday, PM Browne, said the opposition has been making wild assumptions and accusations regarding the matter that were not grounded in the truth or to reality.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

He noted that the opposition members of the

House raised the issue of what they refer to as 'vehicle-gate' with nothing but unsubstantiated claims and mis-information.

"They brought the 'vehicle-gate' fabrication into this honourable House, trying to impugn the character of the member for St. John's Rural East. It is well-known within the society that there is no \$15 million loss by the government. There is no \$200 million loss by the government; it is all a fabrication. The facts are,



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Local News



there was an excess of vehicles that was purchased, about 30 cars, and those vehicles were returned to the dealers. Every year we do a set off of vehicles that we receive against taxes due. So it means therefore, when the set off is done at the end of the year, those thirty vehicles will not be paid for; in other words, the government would not have lost a cent," he explained.

PM Browne further explained that the government accepts responsibility for the matter as well as the fact that there were procedural violations, but not criminality.

"I want to make the distinction between procedural violations and illegality. An illegality is when you do something against the law. There is nothing stopping those individuals from purchasing vehicles; there's nothing stopping them from processing the documentation. What was required for completeness and control purposes, was a Cabinet decision. That's what was missing," he emphasized.

According to the prime minister the dealers were previously informed that there were to be no vehicle purchases without an accompanying Cabinet

decision.

"It was that policy violation that caused us to return the vehicles. So the matter is fully settled," he declared. He further emphasized that there is

no evidence, direct or indirect, to suggest that the member for Rural East was involved in any way as this was a matter for the procurement committee. "As a member of my household, she is barred

from getting involved in any form of contracting or procurements. This is a control mechanism that my administration has put in place as part of the governance framework," he indicated.



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New Chinese ambassador welcomed with warm reception



Senior members of the Antigua and Barbuda government as well as members of the parliamentary opposition and other officials attended a reception at the Chinese Embassy to formally welcome the new Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Jaing Wei, who arrived in the country a few weeks ago.

Led by Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, the other officials included Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and other Cabinet colleagues, Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle and other members of his team, members of the diplomatic corps, head of the ABDF, Brig. Telbert Benjamin, Police Commissioner, Everton Jeffers, Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood and other senior members of the administrative arm of the government.

“Her Excellency brings to her appointment considerable diplomatic experience and a distinguished record of service, having served

the PRC with professionalism and dedication in a range of international assignments. We are confident that her experience, insight and diplomatic acumen will serve to further strengthen the already robust ties between Antigua and Barbuda and China,” he observed. Foreign Minister Greene welcomed the new ambassador noting that China has contributed to practically every sector in the country as it stands out as Antigua and Barbuda’s most significant development partner. “China’s support covers the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, the expansion of the Deep Water Harbour, the VC Bird International Airport and the housing development underway at Booby Alley in the Point. China’s contribution extends into the future with further construction of housing in Bolans and Barbuda,” the minister noted.

Ambassador Jaing said since she arrived in Antigua and Barbuda she has been made to feel welcome and

the warmth, sincerity and hospitality of the people have contributed to making her feel at home.

“It is my great honor to serve as the Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda. By taking up the baton of ad-

vancing the development of China-Antigua and Barbuda relations, I am committed to giving it my all and accelerating our journey forward during my tenure,” she indicated.



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New dredging equipment arrive to complete work at the SJH, Crabbes

Completion of the dredging at both the St. John's Harbour and at Crabbes Peninsula is likely to be achieved early in the New Year with government acquiring a new piece of equipment to complete the task.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has confirmed that the new equipment had been delivered in pieces and was currently being assembled by technicians. This acquisition, he explained, was essential to complete dredging works, particularly in Parham Harbour (Crabbes). Existing equipment operated by Blue Ocean had proven incapable of handling heavy bedrock. Even a foreign firm, Dutch Dredging, had been unable to complete the task, leaving the government with no alternative but to procure this large, specialized machine.

The Prime Minister stated that the equipment should be operational within a week, and that a barge would also be leased from Guadeloupe within approximately two weeks. He expressed optimism that dredging could begin either just before or immediately after Christmas, first at Parham Harbour and then returning to St. John's Harbour to complete remaining works.

Meanwhile, the prime minister expressed his satisfaction with the pace of work taking place at Global Ports Upland development. The Prime Minister noted the rapid pace of construction, particularly along Newgate Street, where multiple buildings are now visible. One major section is nearing completion, and by mid-next month, the new cruise terminal is expected to officially open.

The remaining retail shops are projected to be completed by April or May, marking the end of the first phase of development. A second phase will follow, positioning Antigua and Barbuda as a marquee cruise tourism destination, boasting some of the best facilities in the Caribbean — and, in some respects, rivaling those in Florida.

It was noted how closely connected



the cruise ships are to the shore, creating an immersive and visually impres-

sive experience for visitors and local



Wishing the people of Antigua & Barbuda a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

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Local Students Shine in Caribbean Poetry Contest



Ms Denae Bontiff.jpg



Mr Shakeir Thomas.jpg



Mrs Nari Haywood-Belle.jpg

Two Antigua and Barbuda students - Shakeir Thomas of Antigua Grammar School and Denae T. L. Bontiff of St Anthony's Secondary – have won the top prizes in a regional poetry competition, according to an announcement from the Ministry of Education.

Thomas won the Secondary School category of Macmillan Education's Language Tree: New Branches Poetry Competition while Bontiff was awarded the runner up position in the same category.

The competition, which opened on 12th June and ended 12th September 2025, saw entries from across the Caribbean. The poems submitted by the two creative students, as well as one by Mrs. Nari Haywood-Belle of the Language Arts Unit, who submitted an entry in the Teachers category are featured in a Macmillan Education special edition poetry book.

The publication was created from winning and commendable entries in the regional poetry competition sponsored

by Macmillan Education. Entries to the competition were based on the following themes: the weather, nature, the sea, food, an animal, and a festival.

Thomas' brilliant poem was based on Nature while Bontiff and Belle demonstrated their creativity on the theme of Food. The Ministry of Education congratulates the two students and Mrs. Belle on their outstanding achievement.



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- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications.
- Proficiency with inventory and billing software (QuickBooks Enterprise is a plus)

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- An associate or bachelor's degree (having a degree in business administration or any studies or experience in supply chain management, or a related field is advantageous).
- 3–5 years of experience in inventory control or warehouse operations with demonstrated supervisory or leadership roles, preferably in wholesale or distribution.
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Interested candidates should send their resume and cover letter to: **The Human Resource Manager, St John's, Antigua** by email: humanresources.ntw@gmail.com by December 29, 2025. Only those short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Twenty-five young people receive Duke of Edinburgh awards



Twenty-five young people, accompanied by their team leaders and family members, were presented with awards for their successful participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme.

The presentation formed part of an investiture ceremony that was held at Government House on Tuesday with the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams officiating.

Sir Rodney noted that both he and Lady Williams take great pride in supporting a programme that so effectively nurtures leadership, service, discipline, and resilience among young people.

“We also warmly acknowledge

and thank the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award family for its continued support and participation in the annual Commonwealth Day activities hosted by the Office of the Governor General, which so fittingly reflect our shared commitment to youth development, service, and global citizenship,” he stated.

Sir Rodney highly commended the programme, as in his view, it aids in the development of young people. “The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is far more than a programme, it is a journey. A journey that challenges young people to discover their potential, to serve others, to per-

severe through difficulty, and to grow in confidence, discipline, and purpose. These are qualities that build not only strong individuals, but strong communities and strong nations,” the GG remarked.

Sir Rodney had kind words for the support system that accompanied each awardee noting that this was a key factor in the success of the programme. “I wish to commend the Award Leaders, volunteers, educators, and parents whose guidance and encouragement make this programme possible. Your investment in our youth is an investment in the future of this nation,” he stated.



The list of awardees and the level(s) they completed is featured below;

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Ethan Bailey | Bronze |
| 2. | Nicholas Parkinson. | Bronze |
| 3. | Emerald Thomas | Bronze |
| 4. | Trenari Edwards. | Bronze |
| 5. | Jean Claude Burnette. | Bronze and Silver |
| 6. | Elijah Phillip. | Bronze and Silver |
| 7. | Mark Jonas. | Bronze and Silver |
| 8. | Daniel Browne. | Bronze and Silver |
| 9. | Xavier Patrick. | Bronze and Silver |
| 10. | Asaiah Bailey. | Bronze and Silver |
| 11. | Shanika George. | Bronze and Silver |
| 12. | Haneel Parker | Bronze and Silver |
| 13. | Shanae Jervier. | Bronze and Silver |
| 14. | Nayton Kildare | Bronze and Silver |
| 15. | Damani Zakers | Bronze and Silver |
| 16. | Everton Jacobs | Bronze and Silver |

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 17. | Athalia Crump. | Bronze and Silver |
| 18. | Gerrick Schouten. | Bronze and Silver |
| 19. | Sateba Stevens | Bronze and Silver |
| 20. | Tquan James. | Bronze and Silver |
| 21. | Charles Roberts | Bronze and Silver |
| 22. | Beatrice Matthias | Bronze and Silver |
| 23. | Tyanna Phillip | Bronze and Silver |
| 24. | Jamual Peters. | Bronze and Silver |
| 25. | Joel Esprit. | Bronze and Silver |

Award leaders:

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Winston Drew |
| 2. | Mrs. Petal Adams-Nedd |
| 3. | Ms. Arianne Adams |
| 4. | Ms. Denise Jarvis |
| 5. | Mr. Patrick Riley? |

Electoral Commission Chairman Highlights Need for Regional Cooperation and Public Trust in Electoral Technology

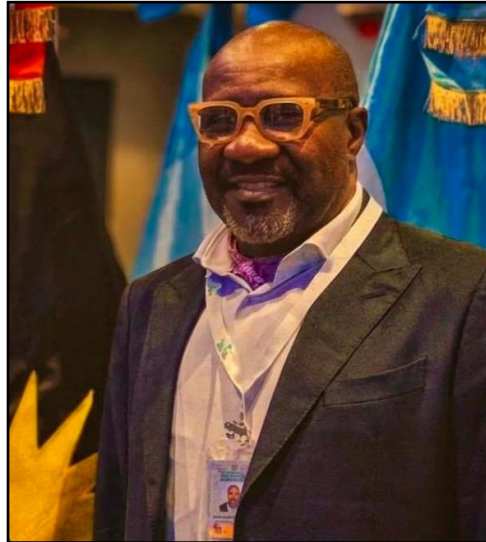
Following participation in the 3rd International Congress on Electoral Technology in Guatemala, the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) underscores that innovation in electoral systems must be guided first and foremost by public trust, transparency, and democratic integrity rather than operational efficiency alone.

ABEC's Chairman, Ambassador G.B Thomas and Data Processing Manager, Samantha Leacock attended a three-day congress, organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights through CAPEL, which brought together electoral authorities and technology experts from across Latin America and the Caribbean to examine emerging challenges facing democratic institutions in the digital era.

Discussions revealed a shared regional concern: declining public confidence in democratic institutions represents the greatest threat to electoral integrity. While new technologies, including artificial intelligence, digital identity systems, and biometric authentication, offer meaningful opportunities to improve electoral administration and accessibility, their adoption must be accompanied by robust legal safeguards, clear accountability frameworks, and sustained human oversight.

ABEC's Chairman noted that potential applications of artificial intelligence in electoral management, such as voter assistance, document processing, and workflow optimization, require unprecedented levels of transparency, strict data protection measures, and comprehensive public consultation before any consideration of implementation.

The Congress also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in developing shared standards for technology evaluation, vendor accountability, system auditing, and crisis management. Coordinated approaches, facilitated by CAPEL, were identified as



ABEC's Chairman, Ambassador G.B Thomas



Data Processing Manager, Samantha Leacock

essential to strengthening democratic resilience across the Americas.


The Electoral Commission reaffirmed its commitment to cautious, consultative, and principled engagement with electoral technology. Any future consideration of technological innovation will prioritize constitutional protections, citizen privacy, accessibility, and public confidence, with

broad stakeholder involvement including political parties, civil society, and the electorate.

The Commission emphasized that electoral integrity ultimately rests on institutional competence, transparency, and democratic values, and it remains committed to ensuring that technology serves democracy, not the reverse.


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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.

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AGES: 18 - 30

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Regional News

Government defends quarrying operations at Deux Branches

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has rejected calls to halt quarrying at Deux Branches, insisting the activity is essential for Dominica's international airport project and will be carried out under strict environmental safeguards.

At his End of Year Press Conference on Monday, Prime Minister Skerrit addressed growing concerns over quarrying at Deux Branches, a site supplying aggregate for the construction of Dominica's international airport. He emphasized that the airport is a strategic investment in Dominica's long-term economic resilience and global connectivity, serving sectors from tourism and agriculture to trade and small business.

Skerrit argued that halting quarrying would leave no viable alternative for sourcing construction material. Importing millions of tons of aggregate from abroad, he warned, would shift environmental harm to another developing nation, increase costs, create supply uncertainties, delay the project, and reduce employment op-



portunities for Dominicans. "No responsible government can justify exporting the environmental burden to another nation while refusing to utilize resources available at home," he said.

The Prime Minister outlined several measures to ensure that quarrying activities remain environmentally responsible. He emphasized the strict enforcement of the Physical Planning Act, which requires environmental impact assessments and continuous monitoring of operations. In addition, sediment control and rehabilitation programs will be implemented to minimize ecological damage and restore affected areas. He also

made clear that immediate action would be taken to pause or adjust quarrying operations whenever impacts exceed acceptable limits, underscoring the government's commitment to balancing development with environmental protection.

Skerrit stressed that regulated extraction for a national development project is distinct from reckless exploitation, framing the government's role as balancing infrastructure needs with protection of Dominica's natural heritage.

The debate intensified after former Chief Physical Planner, Annie Edwards, publicly urged the government to

suspend quarrying at Deux Branches. Edwards cited risks to river systems, biodiversity, and nearby communities, and questioned whether environmental safeguards were sufficient. His intervention came during stakeholder meetings convened by the Prime Minister to address public concerns. Murphy's call reflects broader anxieties among environmental advocates who fear quarrying could undermine Dominica's reputation as the "Nature Island." Critics argue that the scale of extraction may exceed what is sustainable, despite government assurances of regulation.

The international airport project has been described by Skerrit as "essential for our children's future." It is expected to transform Dominica's connectivity, enabling direct long-haul flights, boosting tourism, facilitating agricultural exports, and strengthening trade links. The government views the airport as a cornerstone of national development, making the sourcing of construction materials a critical issue. (Dominica News Online)



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Regional News

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Tourism minister hails Canadian diaspora as CA\$3 million raised for hurricane recovery



Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett has expressed profound gratitude for the Canadian diaspora's extraordinary leadership and generosity in raising more than CA\$3 million in relief and recovery support for communities across Jamaica impacted by Hurricane Melissa.

The ministry cited the swift mobilisation of Jamaicans living in Canada — through targeted fundraising campaigns, relief concerts, community drives, and direct donations — as a testament to the enduring bond between Jamaica and its diaspora abroad.

"The outpouring of support from our Canadian diaspora has been nothing short of inspirational," said Bartlett.

"When our island called for help, our Jamaican family in Canada answered with leadership, compassion and considerable contributions that are already making a real difference in people's lives."

Over the past few weeks, members of the diaspora have consistently executed several initiatives to raise

funds for families impacted by the hurricane. These include an initial benefit concert held on November 6 at the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) in Toronto, which raised over CA\$51,000, along with an online funding drive that raised over CA\$650,000 after just two weeks.

The JCA members have been working around the clock and similar efforts have been undertaken by other diaspora communities and associations across Canada.

Sunday, the Harmonies of Hope benefit concert held under the patronage of Dr Wes Hall, chancellor of the University of Toronto and Dr Donette Chin-Loy Chang, chancellor of the Toronto Metropolitan University, raised a whopping CA\$2.3 million and counting.

Harmonies of Hope worked with three humanitarian agencies to support this huge relief effort — Food for the Poor Canada, Sandals Foundation and Helping Hands Jamaica Foundation.

"We are humbled and heartened by the generosity of our brothers and sisters in Canada," the minister continued. "This shared commitment reinforces the enduring love for Jamaica that our diaspora carries with them — and proves that distances cannot weaken the ties that bind us."

These contributions, which are aligned with Jamaica's national recovery efforts, will help to support urgent humanitarian needs, community restoration and long-term efforts to rebuild homes, infrastructure and livelihoods for families hit

hardest by the storm.

Director of Tourism Donovan White wholeheartedly applauded the efforts of the diaspora groups, highlighting the "positive impact the relief will have on many lives".

Regional Director for Canada, Angella Bennett, who was integral in the execution of Harmonies of Hope, also hailed the diaspora, especially stakeholders of the relief concert for the excellent production that "indeed brought hope through Jamaica's powerful musical renditions of Bob Marley songs". (Jamaica Observer)

NOTICE

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Dated the 28th November, 2025
Colis Knights
722-5948
732-5279

New report and draft bill press national blueprint for road safety in Dominica

A detailed new study on road safety in the Commonwealth of Dominica emphasizes the urgent need for a coordinated national strategy to curb avoidable fatalities and serious injuries on the roads, especially among motorcyclists, pedestrians, and young drivers.

According to a press release from Darren Louis, who compiled the document, titled “National Road Safety Report for the Commonwealth of Dominica,” it provides a data-driven evaluation of the current road safety landscape in the country. It also reportedly offers practical, attainable recommendations aligned with global best practices and the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2021–2030).

Dominica’s rugged terrain, narrow and winding roads, rising vehicle ownership, and gaps in legislation continue to elevate risks for road users stated the release. It added that although the country has seen a decline in road traffic deaths over the past ten years, recent years reveal ongoing, largely preventable fatalities, notably involving motorcycles and other vulnerable groups.

Key areas identified for immediate action include:

- The lack of national laws on helmet use for motorcyclists, child safety seats, speed regulation, distracted driving, and regular vehicle inspections;
- Infrastructure deficiencies such as inadequate lighting, limited pedestrian facilities, and dangerous road layouts;



- Fragmented crash data collection that hampers proactive safety measures; and

- Challenges in emergency medical response, especially in rural areas.

A core element of the report advocates for a Safe System approach, emphasizing improvements in road design, vehicle safety standards, driver behavior, governance, and post-accident care. It features a detailed plan for implementing Periodic Vehicle Inspections (PVI) and a draft Motorcycle Helmet and Child Restraint Safety Act (2025) aimed at closing legislative gaps.

The report also examines the safety implications of major motorcycle events like Bike Fest, noting both the associated risks and the opportunity to foster a safer riding culture through enforcement, education, and tailored safety measures.

“Road traffic deaths are not inevitable,” states the report. “With targeted

legislation, smarter enforcement, safer infrastructure, and public education, Dominica can significantly reduce road fatalities and protect lives while supporting sustainable development and tourism.”

The release indicated that the findings have been officially submitted to the Dominican government for review and are being publicly disseminated to foster informed dialogue around necessary reforms in road safety.

Darren Louis, a Dominica native based in the UK and soon returning to settle in Dominica permanently, is an experienced entrepreneur and the director of Phoenix Builders, a construction company in England, with over 20 years in the industry. An avid motorcyclist passionate about road safety, he has previously funded a safety road sign in Portsmouth and regularly contributes to local projects in his family’s village of Salisbury in Dominica. (Dominica News Online)

Court rules PSG must pay more than US\$70M to Mbappé in dispute over unpaid wages

A labour court in France has ruled Paris Saint-Germain must pay more than 60 million euros (US\$70 million) to footballer Kylian Mbappé in a dispute over unpaid wages and bonuses. The case is linked to the end of his contract before his 2024 move to Real Madrid.

Lawyers argued last month before the Conseil de prud'hommes de Paris in a judicial saga involving colossal sums. The court on Tuesday sided with the player amid accusations of betrayal and harassment surrounding the breakdown of his relationship with PSG, a French club.

Mbappé's lawyers claimed PSG owed him more than 260 million euros (\$305 million), and PSG was seeking 440 million euros from Mbappé, citing damages and a "loss of opportunity" after he left on a free transfer.

The court's ruling can be appealed and is unlikely to end the dispute.

Mbappé's representatives said the ruling "confirms that commitments must be honored. It restores a simple truth: Even in the professional football industry labour law applies to everyone."

There was no immediate reaction from PSG.

The relationship between the 2018 World Cup winner and the reigning European champion turned bitter when Mbappé decided in 2023 not to extend his contract, which was set to expire in summer 2024.



This deprived the club of a juicy transfer fee despite having offered him the most lucrative contract in club history when he signed a new deal in 2022.

He was sidelined from a preseason tour and forced to train with fringe players. He missed the opening league game but returned to the lineup for a final season after discussions with the club — talks that are central to the dispute.

The club accused Mbappé of backing out of an August 2023 agreement that allegedly included a pay reduction should he leave on a free transfer, an arrangement PSG said was meant to protect its financial stability.

PSG claimed that Mbappé hid his decision not to extend his contract for nearly 11 months, from July 2022

to June 2023, preventing the club from arranging a transfer and causing major financial harm. It accused him of violating contractual obligations and the principles of good faith and loyalty.

Mbappé's camp insisted PSG has never produced evidence that the striker agreed to forego any payment. His lawyers claimed the club failed to pay wages and bonuses for April, May, and June 2024.

"Mbappé scrupulously fulfilled his sporting and contractual obligations for seven years and right up to the final day," his advisers said on Tuesday. "He did everything possible to avoid litigation, even going so far as to withdraw a harassment complaint in a spirit of conciliation. In total, he had been seeking payment of

his salaries and bonuses for more than 18 months."

PSG rejected all accusations of harassment, highlighting that Mbappé took part in over 94% of matches in 2023–24 and always worked under conditions compliant with the Professional Football Charter.

PSG was seeking a total of 440 million euros in damages, including 180 million euros for the lost opportunity to transfer Mbappé because he left as a free agent after declining a 300 million euros offer from Saudi club Al-Hilal in July 2023.

Mbappé joined Real Madrid in the summer of 2024 on a free transfer after scoring a club-record 256 goals in seven years at PSG, which won the Champions League this year without him. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Thousands of dinosaur footprints found on Italian mountain



Thousands of dinosaur footprints dating back 210 million years have been found in a national park in northern Italy.

The footprints - some of which are up to 40cm (15in) in diameter - are aligned in parallel rows, and many show clear traces of toes and claws.

It is thought the dinosaurs were prosauropods - herbivores with long necks, small heads and sharp claws.

"I never would have imagined I'd come across such a spectacular discovery in the region where I live," said Milan-based paleontologist Cristiano Dal Sasso.

Last September a photographer spotted the footprints stretching hundreds of metres on a vertical mountain wall in the Stelvio national park, north-east of Milan.

In the Triassic period - between about 250 and 201 million years ago - the wall was a tidal flat, which later became part of the Alpine chain.

"This place was full of dinosaurs; it's an immense scientific treasure," Mr Dal Sasso said.

The herds moved in harmony, he added, "and there are also traces of more complex behaviours, like groups of animals gathering in a circle, perhaps for the purposes of defence."

The prosauropods, which could be up to 10m (33ft) long, walked on two

legs but in some cases handprints were found in front of footprints, indicating that they probably stopped and rested their forelimbs on the ground.

Elio Della Ferrera, the photographer who discovered the site, said he hoped the discovery would "spark reflection in all of us, highlighting how little we know about the places we live in: our home, our planet".

According to a press release from the Italian culture ministry, the area is remote and not accessible by paths, so drones and remote sensing technology will be employed instead.

The Stelvio national park is located in the Fraele valley by Italy's border with Switzerland, near where the Winter Olympics will take place next year.

"It's as if history itself wanted to pay homage to the greatest global sporting event, combining past and present in a symbolic passing of the baton between nature and sport," said the Italian Ministry of Culture. (BBC)

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BBC to fight Trump's \$10 bn defamation lawsuit

The BBC said Tuesday it would fight a \$10 billion lawsuit brought by United States (US) President Donald Trump against the British broadcaster over a documentary that edited his 2021 speech ahead of the US Capitol riot.

"As we have made clear previously, we will be defending this case," a BBC spokesperson said in a statement sent to AFP, adding the company would not be making "further comment on ongoing legal proceedings."

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Miami, seeks "damages in an amount not less than \$5,000,000,000" for each of two counts against the British broadcaster, for alleged defamation and violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

The video that triggered the lawsuit spliced together two separate sections of Trump's speech on January 6, 2021 in a way that made it appear he explicitly urged supporters to attack the Capitol, where lawmakers were certifying Joe Biden's 2020 election win.

The lawsuit comes as the UK government on Tuesday launched the politically sensitive review of the BBC's Royal Charter, which outlines the corporation's funding and governance and needs to be renewed in 2027.

As part of the review, it launched a public consultation on issues including



the role of "accuracy" in the BBC's mission and contentious reforms to the corporation's funding model, which currently relies on a mandatory fee for anyone in the country who watches television.

Minister Stephen Kinnock stressed after the lawsuit was filed that the UK government "is a massive supporter of the BBC".

The BBC has "been very clear that there is no case to answer in terms of Mr Trump's accusation on the broader point of libel or defamation. I think it's right the BBC stands firm on that point," Kinnock told Sky News on Tuesday.

Trump, 79, had said the lawsuit was imminent, claiming the BBC had "put words in my mouth," even positing that "they used AI or something."

The documentary at issue aired last year before the 2024 election, on the BBC's "Panorama" flagship cur-

rent affairs program.

— Apology letter —

"The formerly respected and now disgraced BBC defamed President Trump by intentionally, maliciously, and deceptively doctoring his speech in a brazen attempt to interfere in the 2024 Presidential Election," a spokesperson for Trump's legal team said in a statement to AFP.

"The BBC has a long pattern of deceiving its audience in coverage of President Trump, all in service of its own leftist political agenda," the statement added.

The British Broadcasting Corporation, whose audience extends well beyond the United Kingdom, faced a period of turmoil last month after a media report brought renewed attention to the edited clip.

The scandal led the BBC director general, Tim Davie, and the organisation's top news executive, Deborah

Turness, to resign.

Trump's lawsuit says the edited speech in the documentary was "fabricated and aired by the Defendants one week before the 2024 Presidential Election in a brazen attempt to interfere in and influence the Election's outcome to President Trump's detriment."

The BBC has denied Trump's claims of legal defamation, though BBC chairman Samir Shah has sent Trump a letter of apology.

Shah also told a UK parliamentary committee last month the broadcaster should have acted sooner to acknowledge its mistake after the error was disclosed in a memo, which was leaked to The Daily Telegraph newspaper.

The BBC lawsuit is the latest in a string of legal actions Trump has taken against media companies in recent years, several of which have led to multi-million-dollar settlements. (AFP)

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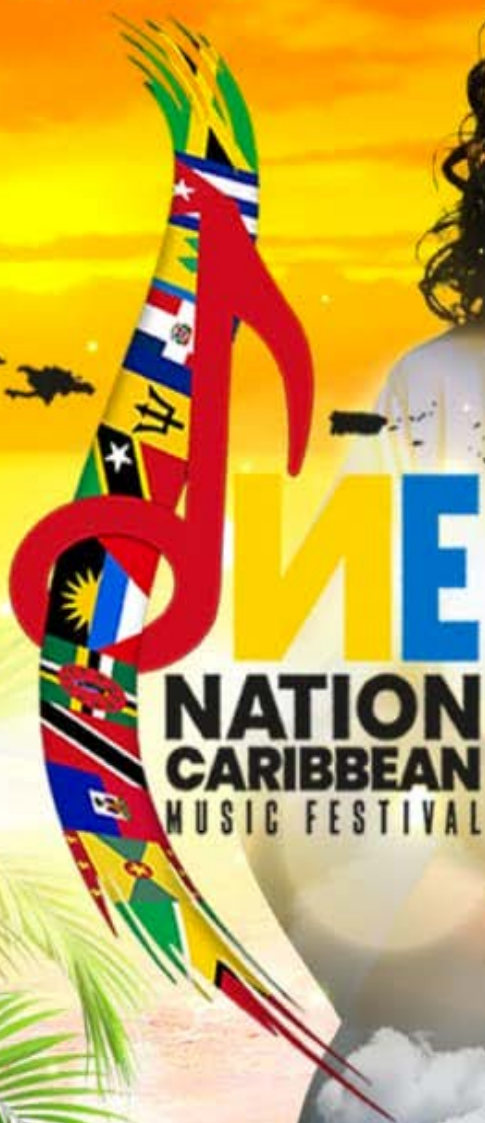
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ABDF beat TG Welding again in Mandy Premier League

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) defeated defending champions TG Welding for the second time in the current Mandy Premier League (MPL), Cool and Smooth, Poolside Villa Glendon and Arlene Air BNB, and Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League.

The ABDF pulled off an eight-wicket victory against TG Welding during the latest round of matches at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's.

TG Welding were restricted to 85 for nine off their 10 overs. Malique Jacobs hit 26, Deran Benta scored 18, Essan Warner struck 17, and George Elvin made 15.

Tron Payne snapped up two wickets for four runs, Vaughn Charles claimed two for 11, Ronell Jeffery picked up two for 15, and male player of the game Shaquan Reifer captured two for 22.

The ABDF coasted to victory at 90 for two in 8.5 overs. Shaquan Reifer slammed 35, Ronell Jeffery hit 30, and Mervin Higgins scored 16 for the ABDF to claim their fifth win in seven matches.

Deran Benta took one for 10, and Essan Warner claimed one for 28 for TG Welding, who lost for the third time in nine matches.

The ABDF recorded their sixth win in eight matches with a 10-wicket win against Construction Solutions, who crashed to their fifth defeat in seven encounters.

Construction Solutions were limited to 59 for nine off their 10 overs. Clarence Francis scored 20, and Kenny Benjamin made 17.

Vaughn Charles snapped up three wickets for three runs, Tron Payne grabbed three for 12, Ronell Jeffery took two for 12, and female player of the game Mouricia Willette claimed one wicket for four runs.

Male player of the game Shaquan Reifer struck an unbeaten half century to propel the ABDF to victory at 65 without loss in 4.4 overs. Reifer slammed



Shaquan Reifer of the ABDF

50 not out, including six sixes.

Buck and Sons Landscaping Services notched up their seventh win in eight matches with a nine-wicket victory against Construction Solutions, who lost for the sixth time in eight encounters.

Construction Solutions were restricted to 56 for eight off their 10 overs. Walter Carr hit 21, and Clarence Francis made 19.

Melvin Charles snapped up four for 10, female player of the game Kim-

berly Anthony grabbed two wickets for one run, and Charanlall Ramjohn claimed one for 15.

In reply, Buck and Sons wrapped up victory by scoring 60 for one in 5.1 overs. Male player of the game Ka-deem Henry cracked 35 not out, and Steve Martin struck 21.

PEL Workers secured their second win in seven matches with an eight-wicket victory against Long Island Lightning, who tumbled to their sixth defeat in as many games.

Long Island Lightning were restricted to 101 for six off their 10 overs. Terence Thompson hit 29 not out, and Kenrique Mentore struck 28.

Male player of the game Brian Bailey bagged two wickets for seven runs, Karl Simon took two for 18, and Shailem Dhaunjot captured one for 23. PEL Workers romped to victory at 102 for two in 6.3 overs. Brian Bailey struck 28, and Karl Simon cracked 24 not out.



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GBA looks all set for return to the Olympics



GEORGETOWN, Guyana (CMC) - Boxers from Guyana will now be eligible to compete at the Olympic Games after the Guyana Boxing Association (GBA) secured provisional recognition from World Boxing. The formal endorsement, communicated in a letter dated December 11, means the GBA and its athletes are

now immediately eligible to compete in all World Boxing-sanctioned events, including the World Challenge, World Cup, and World Championships, as the federation moves through the final stages of its membership process.

The recognition is seen as a major breakthrough for Guyanese boxers with Olympic aspirations, as World Boxing is currently the only federation acknowledged by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to manage the qualification pathways to the Olympic Games.

While GBA President Steve Ninvalle welcomed the news, he said the process had been frustrating, noting that Guyana's application was first submitted in February, 10 months ago.

"We welcome the approval, but I am peeved at how long this process took. We only received confirmation one

day before the International Boxing Association Congress in Dubai," Ninvalle said.

He revealed that the lengthy delay had hampered the GBA's ability to plan and compete with certainty, forcing him to inform the Guyana Olympic Association of the issue.

"Guyana, through the GBA, has always been compliant in the world of amateur boxing. We remain fully committed to following the rules and directives of the IOC and ensuring that our boxers are given a fair and unhindered opportunity to compete at the highest level," Ninvalle added.

The application for full GBA membership will now be presented and considered at the World Boxing Congress scheduled for 2026, marking the final hurdle in securing their long-term position within the federation.



ABI Insurance Announces Winners of its 2025 Climate Awareness Art Competition

St. John's, Antigua — 17th Dec 2025 — ABI Insurance Company Ltd. is pleased to announce the winners of its 2025 Climate Awareness Art Competition, an initiative designed to inspire creativity while encouraging young people across Antigua and Barbuda to reflect on one of the most urgent issues of our time: climate change and resilience.

The competition invited students to visually interpret the theme "Climate Change". Participants were asked to showcase how communities can prepare for climate change, protect their homes and environment, and adopt sustainable practices for a safer, more resilient future. The response was overwhelming, with students submitting powerful pieces that captured hope, urgency, and innovation.

After careful deliberation by a panel of judges from the arts, education, and environmental sectors, ABI Insurance proudly recognizes the outstanding creativity of this year's winners:

2025 Art Competition Winners – Climate Awareness Theme

Age Category - 5-12

1st place - Tameah Joseph (Liberta Primary) & Zoey Carter (SNRS)
2nd place - Savanah Holborough (St. Nicholas)
3rd place - Shye Chastanet (CKHS)

Age Category - Under 14

1st - Khloe Charles (CKHS)
2nd - Ariel Morris (CKHS)
3rd - Sanaa Simon (CKHS)

Age Category - 14-18

1st - Terresha Harris (Jennings Secondary)
2nd - Shaniqua Benjamin (ABCAS)
3rd - Summer Goodwin (CKHS)



ABI Insurance extends heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and participants. The submissions vividly showcased the creativity and environmental awareness of Antigua and Barbuda's youth, highlighting rising sea levels, stronger hurricanes, conservation, renewable energy, and the collective responsibility to safeguard our planet.

"We are truly inspired by the talent and climate consciousness demonstrated by our young artists this year," said Julie Porter, ABI Insurance. "Their artwork reminds us that climate resilience is not only a national priority but a generational one. ABI Insurance is committed to supporting initiatives that educate and empower our youth to shape a sustainable future."

Winners received cash prizes and certificates. Select artwork will be featured in a special exhibition at ABI Insurance's head office, as part of an ongoing public awareness campaign on climate resilience and environmental protection.



French court orders PSG to pay Mbappe 60 million euros



Kylian Mbappe

PARIS (Reuters) - A Paris labour court on Tuesday ordered Paris St. Germain to pay Kylian Mbappe 60 million euros (US\$70.6 million) in unpaid salary and bonuses, bringing a partial end to one of the most acrimonious disputes in French football.

The ruling followed months of legal wrangling after the France striker took PSG to court over earnings he said were withheld for April, May and June 2024, shortly before he left the Ligue 1 club to join Real Madrid on a free transfer.

"We are satisfied with the

ruling. This is what you could expect when salaries went unpaid," Mbappe's lawyer Frederique Cassereau told reporters.

The court found that PSG had failed to pay three months of Mbappe's salary, an ethics bonus and a signing bonus due under his employment contract.

Those sums were recognised as due by two decisions of the French Professional Football League (LFP) in September and October 2024, and the judges said PSG had not produced any written agreement showing Mbappe had waived his en-

titlement.

The judges rejected PSG's arguments that Mbappe should forfeit his unpaid wages entirely, but also dismissed several of the player's additional claims, including allegations of concealed work, moral harassment and breach of the employer's duty of safety.

The court did not view Mbappe's fixed-term contract as a permanent one, a decision that limited the scale of potential compensation related to dismissal and notice pay.

"This judgment confirms that commitments entered into must be honoured. It restores a simple truth: even in the professional football industry, labour law applies to everyone," Mbappe's legal team said in a statement. "Mr. Mbappe, for his part, scrupulously respected his sporting and contractual obligations for seven years, right up to the final day."

PSG had argued that

Mbappe acted disloyally by concealing for nearly a year his intention not to renew his contract, preventing the club from securing a transfer fee similar to the 180 million euros they paid to sign him from AS Monaco in 2017.

Mbappe's representatives said the dispute concerned the strict application of French labour law and unpaid remuneration, rather than transfer policy.

Paris St. Germain takes note of the ruling handed down by the Paris labour court, which it will comply with, while reserving the right to appeal," PSG said in a statement.

"Paris St. Germain has always acted in good faith and with integrity, and will continue to do so. The club is now looking to the future, built on unity and collective success, and wishes the player all the best for the remainder of his career."





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Dembele named FIFA player of 2025

DOHA (Reuters) - Paris St. Germain and France forward Ousmane Dembele was named FIFA men's player of the year in Doha on Tuesday with Spain and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati winning the women's award for the third year in a row.

Dembele was instrumental in PSG's first Champions League triumph when they beat Inter Milan 5-0 in the final and scored 35 goals last season across all competitions, including 21 in Ligue 1 to finish as top scorer.

The 28-year-old, who won this year's Ballon d'Or in September, was part of the PSG team which also swept all before them on the domestic front last season and reached the final of the Club World Cup.

Dembele was able to attend the ceremony, as he was already in Qatar for Wednesday's Intercontinental Cup final where PSG take on Flamengo.

"I want to thank all my teammates, it just shows that hard work pays off," Dembele said.

"It's been a fantastic year for me, both individually and collectively. I hope to come back here again next year."

Bonmati, the Champions League player of the season, also won the women's Ballon d'Or for the third time in a row this year, and helped Barcelona win the domestic treble along with reaching the Champions League final.

The 27-year-old also reached the Euro 2025 final with Spain, losing the decider to England on penalties, and Bonmati was named Player of the Tournament.

"Thank you to the players, coaches



Ousmane Dembele

and fans who have voted for me to win this award," Bonmati, who is currently recovering from surgery on a fractured fibula, said.

Sarina Wiegman won the best women's coach award for the fifth time after leading England to retain their European Championship title, and Luis Enrique won the men's coach award after taking PSG to their first Champions League win.

The best women's goalkeeper award went to England and Chelsea's Hannah Hampton who played a major role in the Lionesses' Euro 2025 win with her penalty shootout saves and also

won the domestic treble with her club. Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma, who now plays for Manchester City, won the men's keeper award for his role in PSG's treble win.

Mexico's Lizbeth Ovalle won the FIFA Marta Award for the best goal in women's football, for her scorpion kick for Tigres against Guadalajara in March. Santiago Montiel won the Puskas Award for the best men's goal for his overhead strike for Independencia against Independiente Rivadavia during an Argentine Primera match in May.



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Sea View Farm maintains perfect run in Second Division



The Sea View Farm football team

Sea View Farm FC maintained their perfect winning start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Monday.

Sea View Farm FC recorded their sixth win in as many games by snatching a one-nil victory against North Coast Academy Juniors at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Nigel Graham scored the only goal of the game with a 27th-minute conversion. The result allows Sea View

Farm to remain at the top of the Second Division by advancing to 18 points, while the North Coast Academy Juniors remain on seven points after suffering their third defeat in six matches. Kelton Dalso Real Blizzard also kept their unbeaten run intact. Real Blizzard notched up their fourth win in six matches with a two-nil victory against the Urlings Golden Stars at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Jayden Martin scored in the 11th minute, and Karl

Hampson converted a penalty kick in the 76th minute. The result carries Real Blizzard to 14 points, while the Urlings Golden Stars remain on five points after succumbing to their second defeat in five matches.

Alren Lewis scored four goals to lead Fort Road to their third win in six matches with a 7-1 drubbing of TAMO FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Lewis had conversions in the 54th, 67th, 71st, and 77th minutes. Fort Road

also benefitted from an own goal, which was converted by Basil Allen in the 63rd minute.

The other goals for Fort Road FC, which advanced to nine points, were scored by Deon Lavonn in the 14th minute and Shaquille Perry in the 68th minute.

Captain Jaheim Grant scored a consolation goal in the 78th minute for TAMO FC, which remains on three points after crashing to their fourth defeat in five matches.