

Antigua and Barbuda is open for business, says tourism minister



The Ministry of Agriculture formally launched the Backyard Gardening (BYG) Competition this week as an initiative that is aimed squarely at reducing the country's dependence on imported food.

Local News

Antigua and Barbuda is open for business, says tourism minister

The Antigua and Barbuda government is taking proactive measures to assure American visitors that it is okay for them to visit the country as nothing has changed regarding their entry or exist from the twin-island state.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has issued a statement to this effect specifically to reassure U.S. travelers, travel advisors, airlines, and industry partners that recent media reports concerning U.S. visa issuance for citizens of Antigua and Barbuda have no impact whatsoever on travel to or from the destination.

“There have been no changes to entry or exit requirements for U.S. citizens or other international visitors travelling to Antigua and Barbuda. All airports and seaports remain fully operational, and travel to and from the destination continues smoothly and uninterrupted,” the statement noted. Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, stated:

“Antigua and Barbuda is open for business, and we are delighted to welcome visitors as always with our signature



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez

hospitality, world-class beaches, rich culture, and exceptional service. Our tourism sector continues to operate normally, and travelers can plan their visits with complete confidence.”

Antigua and Barbuda remains a safe, welcoming, and vibrant destination,

offering visitors unforgettable experiences across its 365 beaches, luxury resorts, heritage sites, culinary offerings, and warm, friendly communities. With the winter season officially underway, Antigua and Barbuda anticipates another strong tourism period and extends best wishes to travelers and friends of the destination for a joyful holiday season and exceptional travel experiences.

Travelers and travel partners are encouraged to continue planning trips to Antigua and Barbuda with confidence. We look forward to welcoming you.

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda go to: www.visitantiguabarbuda.com

Antigua’s smaller sister island, is the ultimate celebrity hideaway. The island lies 27 miles north-east of Antigua and is just a 15-minute plane ride away. Barbuda is known for its untouched 11-mile stretch of pink sand beach and as the home of the largest Frigate Bird Sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere.

KFC

FESTIVE FEAST

Festive Bucket

Festive Box

-6 PCs
-Corn
-2Biscuits
-A Choice of Wedges or Fries or Mash

\$56.50

-Burger
-1 PC
-A Choice of Wedges or Fries
-Medium Drink

\$28.50

Cabinet receives an update on PLH's first years of operation in Barbuda



Justin Wilshaw

The Chief Operations Manager of the PLH Project/ Barbuda Ocean Club, Justin Wilshaw, has provided the Cabinet with a comprehensive update on the project that is making a significant contribution to the national economy.

Reports from the Cabinet said Wilshaw, made a presentation on the status, contributions, and proposed next-phase initiatives of the PLH / Barbuda Ocean Club Project.

He stated that the PLH/Barbuda Ocean Club Project is a long-term, phased development in Barbuda, guided by the Barbuda Master Plan and designed to support sustainable tourism, employment, and infrastructure development. Cabinet was advised that to date the project has achieved the following: Completion of 50 homes

and condominiums, representing approximately 280 bedrooms, with 112 completed property sales; Total investment to date of approximately US\$650 million (about EC\$1.5 billion); Completion and operation of an 18-hole golf course and associated amenities; Employment of 402 persons, including: 176 Barbudans, 139 Antiguan, 44 OECS nationals, and 43 CARICOM and expatriate nationals. PLH further advised that there remains an estimated US\$2.0 billion in planned future investment across subsequent phases of the project. Cabinet was advised that so far for 2025, PLH made total payments of approximately EC\$21.3 million to the Government of Antigua

and Barbuda, including about EC\$3.1 million paid directly to the Barbuda Council.

These contributions include payments for:

- Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax;
- Customs and port charges;
- Social Security and Medical Benefits;
- Land lease payments;
- Immigration and related fees.

PLH indicated that, subject to the resolution of outstanding matters, annual contributions could rise.

Cabinet was briefed on a proposal to construct a strategic road corridor linking Codrington, the Barbuda Airport, Port, River Dock, and Palmetto, with the following features:

- Approximate length of 5.3–5.4 miles;
- Two-lane carriageway with associated drainage and roundabouts;
- Estimated construction period of 15–18 months;
- Estimated cost of approximately US\$12 million.

The proposed financing model involves upfront, zero-interest financing by a PLH-affiliated entity, with cost recovery through a defined portion of stamp duty collected on third-party property resales, subject to Cabinet approval and legal agreement.

No final decision has been taken, and the matter is subject to further review by the Ministry of Works, Legal Affairs, and other relevant agencies.

Cabinet was advised of a proposal to establish a ma-

rine reserve at Coco Bay, recognising its ecological importance as a turtle habitat and kite-surfing area.

Key elements include: PLH-funded turtle monitoring, currently estimated at US\$80,000 per annum; PLH-funded installation of mooring buoys (estimated at US\$250,000) to prevent anchoring damage; Establishment of governance and revenue arrangements to be determined by Government.

PLH also proposed the establishment of a recycling facility on Barbuda, structured as a non-profit entity, with Board representation from:

- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda,
- The Barbuda Council, and
- PLH.

In support of national development objectives, PLH also expressed willingness to:

- Invest in the training of local trades and skills affiliated with the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education; and
- Increase participation of local businesses and contractors in construction and related activities.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that all major investments in Barbuda proceed in a manner that is transparent, environmentally responsible, and aligned with national development priorities, while delivering tangible benefits for Barbudans and Antiguan alike.

The issue of noise pollution in the English Harbour reaches Cabinet for resolution

The issue of noise pollution in the English Harbour area, and which was raised a week ago in parliament by the area MP, has been brought to the Cabinet for a resolution.

At its meeting on Wednesday (the last for the year), the Cabinet met with key stakeholders from the area to address ongoing concerns regarding noise pollution, particularly arising from night-time entertainment activities within the National Parks jurisdiction.

Reports from the Cabinet said the meeting was convened to:

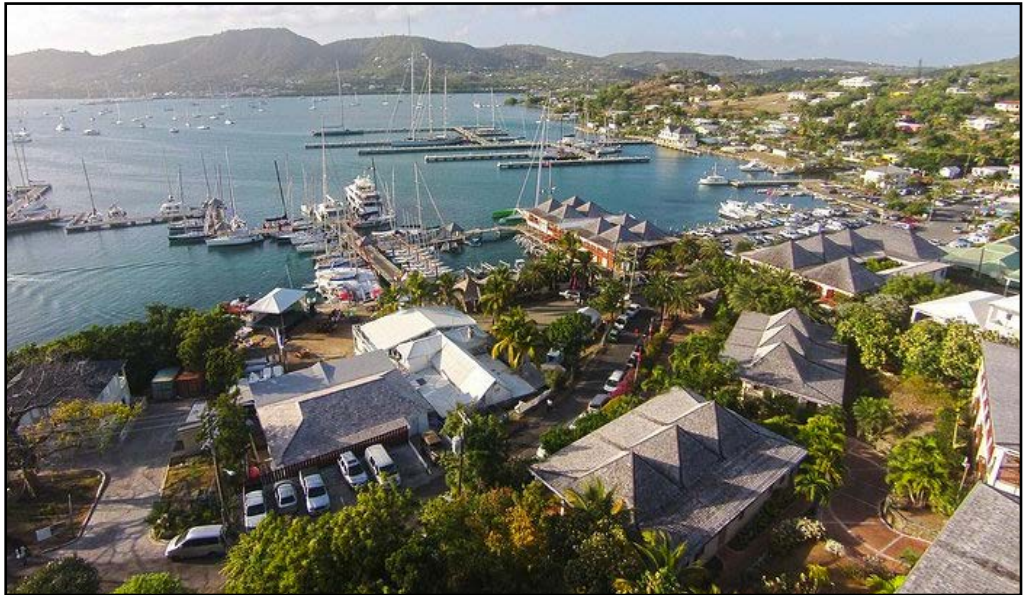
- Hear concerns from residents, homeowners, and hoteliers regarding noise nuisance;
- Allow club operators and business owners to outline the economic importance of nightlife activities;
- Review the existing legal and regulatory framework governing noise abatement; and
- Establish a balanced, workable compromise that protects residential amenity while supporting tourism, culture, and business activity.

According to the Cabinet Notes, the participants included the following interests;

- Homeowners and residents of English Harbour
- Restaurateurs, club operators, and hoteliers
- National Parks Authority (NPA)
- Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda

During the discussion, the stakeholders outlined that English Harbour is a shared space comprising three principal demographics:

1. Residents and homeowners, including families, school children, and elderly persons;
 2. Hoteliers and guest house operators, whose guests expect rest and comfort; and
 3. Entertainment and hospitality operators, whose businesses contribute significantly to the tourism economy and cultural vibrancy of the area
- Parliamentary Representative, E. P.



Chet Greene, emphasised the need for compromise, shared responsibility, and respect for all stakeholders. He stressed that the objective was not to shut down music or nightlife, but to regulate activities in a manner that balances economic, cultural, and residential interests.

The Minister proposed a structured operating framework distinguishing between weekends, weekdays, and special events, supported by enforcement and community notification.

Following discussion, Cabinet agreed to the following framework, which was accepted by stakeholders:

Operating Hours for Clubs and Entertainment Establishments

1. Fridays and Saturdays
 - Clubs and entertainment establishments may operate until 3:00 a.m.
- Sundays to Thursdays
 - Operations must conclude by 1:00 a.m.
3. Special Occasions
 - o Extended hours may be permitted for:
 - Antigua Sailing Week;
 - Public Holidays; and
 - Other special events, subject to approval by the National Parks Au-

thority.

4. Daytime Noise

- o There shall be no noise nuisance during daytime hours, and sound levels must remain within acceptable limits at all times.

Cabinet further agreed that:

- Operators are required to adjust and calibrate sound systems to reduce sound travel and minimize noise pollution;
 - External speaker placement and excessive amplification are discouraged;
 - Music volumes should be managed in a manner that allows patrons to enjoy entertainment without unduly affecting nearby residences and hotels.
- It was agreed that:
- The National Parks Authority, in collaboration with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, will act as custodians of the agreed framework;
 - Operators who fail to comply may be subject to warnings, penalties, or further enforcement action for continued violations;
 - The National Parks Authority will be responsible for issuing approvals for special events and for notifying the community in advance when extended hours are authorised.

Antigua Barbuda
**FESTIVALS
COMMISSION**

**10TH JAN
2025**
NIGHT ONE



**ONE
NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

ONE PEOPLE ONE L VE

**CHRISTOPHER
MARTIN**

**ANTIGUA
RECREATION
GROUND**

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

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE

TICKET LOCATIONS:
**EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING
COOL & SMOOTH | THE LARDER**



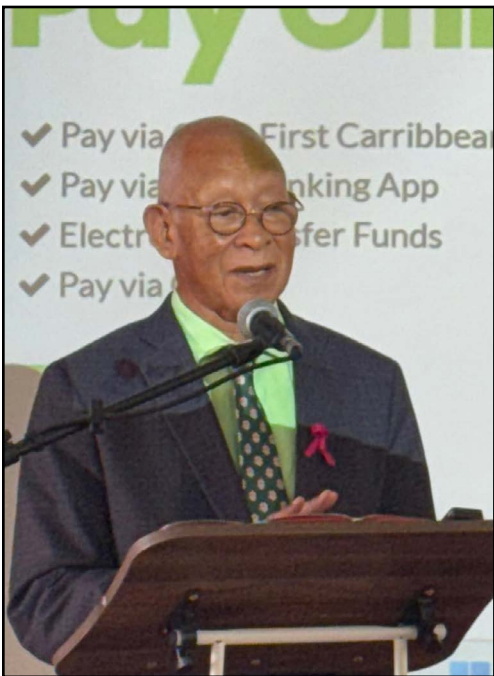
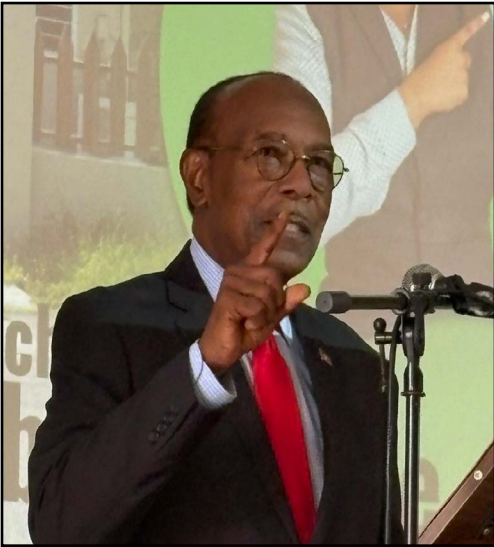
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL



ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Local News

MBS spends \$40 million annually on medications for NCD's, overseas medical care



participates in the OECS Drug Procurement programme and it is the leading entity within that organization by meeting all its obligations. Through the programme, he revealed that MBS spends over \$25 million annually to procure drugs through the programme. Most of the drugs go to treat NCD's

which he described as a major problem facing the country's healthcare system. Another \$15 million is spent on sending patients overseas for specialized medical care not available in Antigua and Barbuda.

Sir Molwyn wants to see a concerted effort made to reduce the number of

The Medical Benefits Scheme spends over \$40-million annually to purchase medications mainly to treat Non-communicable diseases (NCD's) and for sending patients overseas for medical care that is not available locally.

The disclosure comes from Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph on Thursday as he addressed a ceremony marking the formal opening of a new satellite pharmacy for MBS at the Villa Polyclinic.

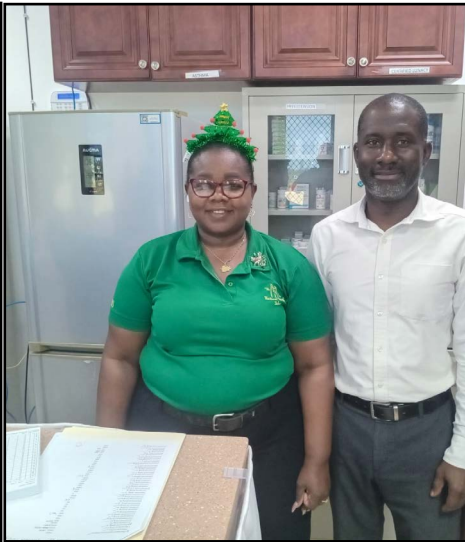
According to the minister, the MBS

Fries or Wedges?

It's your choice with any combo!!

****Limited time offer****

KEEP ANTIGUA CLEAN @KFCANU AllMart



NCD's noting that its costs are counted not just in dollars and cents, but in

the rate of deaths in the country.

"The number of cases of NCD's in the country will continue to go up if we do not evolve with the management of these diseases. I want to introduce my ideas on how to arrest the rate of NCD's in the country; I call it traveling on parallel tracks. We cannot find ourselves in a cycle where we are always treating diseases and not investing in preventing diseases. If we do not get on that track and take seriously the potential for us to reduce dramatically NCD's by promoting, encouraging and institutionalizing the importance of preventing diseases we are not going to win this battle," he cautioned.

Chairman of the MBS Board, Sir Lionel Max Hurst, commended the decision to establish the pharmacy at the polyclinic as it brings all the services

together under one roof, thus making it much more convenient for patients accessing service at the health facility, that now includes a pharmacy.

Head of MBS Pharmaceutical Services, Dr. Andre Bovell took the view that this was an opportune time to open the pharmacy at the polyclinic given the country's evolving health landscape.

"A landscape affected by both the demographic shift and epidemiologic transition, a landscape where care is now targeted to an ageing population and a burgeoning NCD's problem, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases to name a few," he noted.

The ceremony culminated with a ribbon cutting featuring Sir Molwyn, Sir Lionel, PS for Health Stacy Gregg-Paige and MBS CEO, Kevin Silston.



ABST REDUCTION WEEKEND



OPENING HOURS

DEC. 19 th	08:00am - 06:00pm
DEC. 20 th	08:00am - 05:00pm
DEC. 21 st	09:00am - 01:00pm

SLBMC wants the public to take precautions as it warns of an early and severe flu season

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Urges Public to Take Precautions as Early and Severe Influenza Season Emerges



Dr. Margrethe Belle and Dr. Gail-Ann Fortune of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre share important guidance with the community as the influenza season begins earlier and more intensely than usual.

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE
SHORT f @ @ @ @slbmedical

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) is advising the public to take increased precautions as the hospital records an early and more severe-than-usual onset of the influenza season.

Hospital laboratory data show an early and concerning rise in influenza cases. Since the start of December, SLBMC has confirmed 15 cases of Influenza A, following 8 cases recorded in November, with most cases involving patients who required hospital admission. To date, one influenza-related death has sadly been recorded. Clinicians are also seeing a higher-than-usual number

of patients requiring hospitalization and intensive care for severe influenza at this time of year, reflecting trends being observed internationally.

Administrative Head of the Infectious Diseases Employee Health Division and Infectious Disease Specialist at SLBMC, Dr. Margrethe Belle, emphasized the importance of early action and community awareness.

“We are seeing influenza activity earlier than expected, and in some cases, the illness is more severe,” Dr. Belle said. “The flu is not something to take lightly, especially for older adults, children, pregnant women, and people

living with chronic conditions. Vaccination is one of the most effective ways we can protect ourselves and those around us, and it also helps reduce the strain on our healthcare system.”

Dr. Belle noted that influenza vaccination not only reduces the risk of developing symptomatic flu but lowers the risk of severe illness and hospitalization by 40–70%. Influenza vaccines remain available at community clinics across Antigua and Barbuda.

Acknowledging that some people may have concerns, Dr. Belle reassured the community that the flu vaccine is both safe and well-studied. Mild effects such as soreness at the injection site, a low-grade fever, or headache can occur, but usually last no more than one or two days. Severe reactions are extraordinarily rare, reported in just 1–2 cases per million doses, making vaccination one of the safest ways to protect against severe influenza.

SLBMC Intensivist and Head of the Intensive Care Unit, Dr. Gail-Ann Fortune, reported that several patients have required advanced life-support measures, including intubation.

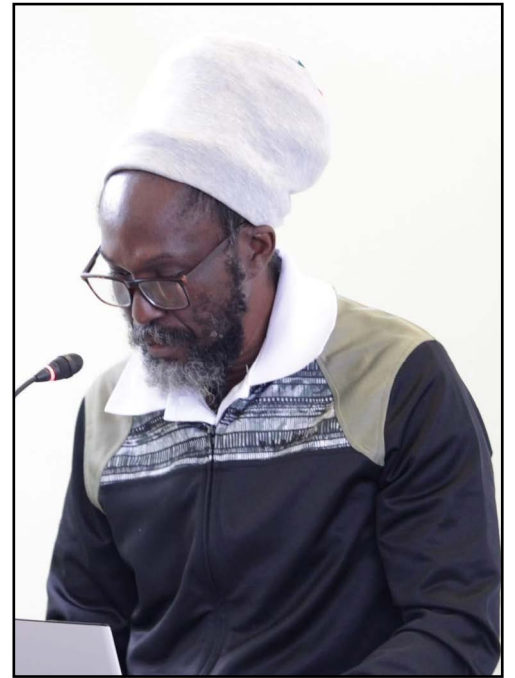
“We are seeing a concerning increase in severe influenza cases, particularly among individuals with underlying health conditions, but also among otherwise healthy adults and children who are becoming critically ill and requiring advanced life support measures,” said Dr. Fortune. “Prevention remains our most effective defense. Protect yourself and your loved ones by staying informed, taking basic public health precautions, and getting vaccinated.”

SLBMC is urging residents to take the following precautions:

- ▶ *Get vaccinated, especially if you are over 65, pregnant, or living with chronic illness*
- ▶ *Wash hands frequently*
- ▶ *Cover coughs and sneezes*
- ▶ *Stay home if feeling unwell*
- ▶ *Avoid close contact with others when sick*

Hospital officials stress that early prevention can save lives and encourage the community to act now to protect themselves, their families, and the wider public.

Backyard Gardening Competition Launched



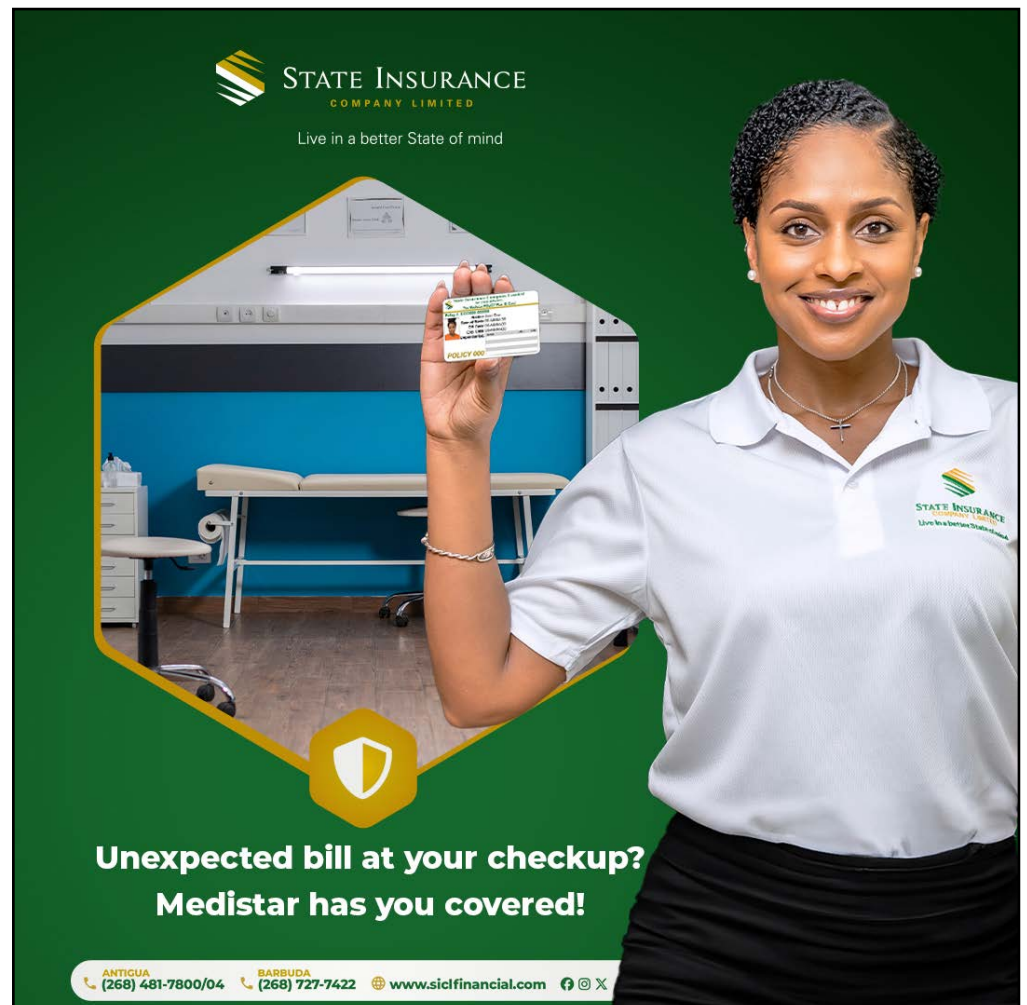
The Ministry of Agriculture formally launched the Backyard Gardening (BYG) Competition this week as an initiative that is aimed squarely at reducing the country's dependence on imported food.

In his feature address, Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr., announced that the competition is now re-branded under the "Plant-2Plate Antigua and Barbuda Initiative". The Minister highlighted the country's vulnerability arising from heavy reliance on imported food and underscored the need for proactive measures to strengthen local food production systems. He explained that the theme for this year's programme, "Homegrown Today, Food Secured Tomorrow," captures the essence of the initiative – transforming backyards into productive spaces that support families, communities, and the national economy.

The Minister further announced enhanced incentives and prize mon-

ey for participants and introduced a new optional component, the

"Cook What You Grow" Culinary Showcase. This additional catego-



STATE INSURANCE
 COMPANY LIMITED
 Live in a better State of mind

**Unexpected bill at your checkup?
 Medistar has you covered!**

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 www.sicfinancial.com f @ X



ry allows participants to prepare and present dishes using produce harvested from their home gardens, reinforcing the full **Plate2Plate** concept from production to consumption while celebrating innovation and culinary creativity.

Permanent Secretary Walter Christopher, who spoke at the launch, said backyard and community gardening function as a form of social protection. He explained that household food production provides an economic buffer during period of economic uncertainty and global food price spikes. The PS noted

that this is highly commendable, while emphasizing that the overarching goal is for every household in the twin-island state to establish a backyard garden as he revealed that to date, more than 600 households have already registered.

Director of Agriculture Gregory Bailey provided an overview of the project by outlining the scope and intent of the competition, positioning it as a practical, household-level intervention designed to boost local food production, encouraged participation across com-

munities and build long term resilience. According to the Director from as early as 2008 this initiative was introduced and by 2015 there was approximately 450 backyard gardeners on record. “Today, the Agricultural Extension Division manages a database of nearly 700 active, registered gardeners. Backyard gardening has evolved into a structured, nationally recognized movement, celebrated each year on April 21st as “National Backyard Garden Day”.





ABS REDUCTION WEEKEND

OPENING HOURS

DEC. 19 th	08:00am - 06:00pm
DEC. 20 th	08:00am - 05:00pm
DEC. 21 st	09:00am - 01:00pm

Unwrap unlimited internet.

Surf, browse or scroll non-stop and enjoy a **\$200** grocery voucher with our new internet plans.

Superfast
Large Plan
Unlimited
\$300

Superfast
Medium Plan
500GB
\$160



Sign up today.

Terms & Conditions Apply. Fair Usage Policy Applies

FL**OW**

Antiguan student makes her parents, country proud

Antigua and Barbuda students continue to shine at overseas institutions of higher learning. The latest is Dr. J. Najwa Oliver, who graduated last Saturday, with a Doctor of Philosophy in Materials Science and Engineering from the prestigious University of North Texas, with a concentration in Biomedical Engineering.

Dr. Oliver previously earned a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering in 2021, graduating with distinction (GPA: 3.823). Her doctoral studies culminated in a final cumulative graduate (GPA: 3.835) coupled with a Leadership Award.

Dr. Oliver's dissertation focused on interdisciplinary research at the intersection of materials science, biomedical engineering, and implant technology, with a focus on bioactive glass coatings for dental and orthopedic applications. Her work addressed challenges related to implant biocompatibility, inflammation, and antimicrobial performance, contributing to improved implant longevity and patient outcomes.

Dr. Oliver has authored and co-authored multiple scientific articles in leading journals. Most recent, she published an article entitled "The Effect of Boron Oxide on the Biocompatibility, Cellular Response, and Antimicrobial Properties of Phosphosilicate Bioactive Glasses for Metallic Implants' Coatings" in *Applied Sciences*, in December 2025.

Dr. Oliver plans to continue advancing biomedical materials research with applications in medical devices, implant



technologies, and translational science for the improvement in the dental and medical industry.



Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm

268 736 7165



- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

Colin R. Maynard has been reappointed as a member of the Industrial Court



Former banker, Collin R. Maynard, has been on his reappointed as a Member of the Industrial Court, during a brief ceremony held at Government House on Thursday where, Governor-General, Sir Rodney Williams, administered the Oath of Office to

In his remarks, Sir Rodney underscored the pivotal role of the Industrial Court in safeguarding fairness in employment and labour relations, noting its contribution to industrial harmony, social stability, and confidence in the rule of law. He acknowledged the leadership of the President of the Industrial Court, Samantha May-Francis, and commended the members and staff of the Court for their continued service.

The Governor-General noted that Maynard's reappointment reflects the con-

fidence reposed in him and the depth of experience he brings to the Court. Maynard is widely known within the banking and financial services community, having spent many years at the Antigua Commercial Bank, where his work required discretion, sound judgment, and adherence to regulatory discipline. Sir Rodney also highlighted Maynard's strong record of community service, including his role as Secretary of Caribbee Lodge No. 2829 EC, where values of ethical conduct and service are upheld.

By renewing the oaths of office and secrecy, Maynard reaffirmed his commitment to serve with independence, integrity, and impartiality, and to discharge his duties without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and the highest level of confidentiality.

The ceremony concluded the books of oaths. with the formal signing of

Apua

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:

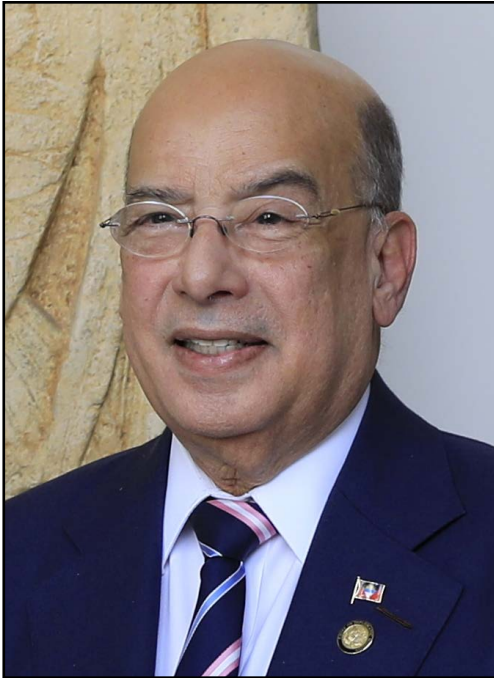
- January 16, 2026
- \$15,000 CASH GRAND PRIZE!

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.

SUSPENSION OF U.S. VISAS — A Moment for Clarity, Calm, and Cooperation



By Sir Ronald Sanders

The recent proclamation issued by the Government of the United States, announcing its intention to suspend the entry of nationals of Antigua and Barbuda and the Commonwealth of Dominica, effective at 12:01 a.m. on 1 January 2026, has understandably caused concern among citizens of the two Caribbean countries. Since then, it has been learned that nationals of other Caribbean countries, including government ministers, have been denied U.S. visas.

For many in these countries — as in the rest of the Caribbean — access to the United States for family ties, education, medical care, business, and opportunity is deeply valued. Any uncertainty about that access naturally gives rise to anxiety, not only for individuals but also for economies that are closely linked to the United States through trade, tourism, investment, and people-to-people exchange. There is therefore an urgent and legitimate need for clarity about what will apply after 1 January 2026, particularly with respect to existing visas.

From the moment the proclamation was published, Prime Minister Gaston Browne and I have been actively

engaged with senior representatives of the United States Government to seek clarity and to work constructively toward resolution. Those efforts are ongoing. It is relevant to note that the proclamation came as an unexpected development, including to officials within the U.S. system responsible for Caribbean affairs.

It would be disingenuous not to acknowledge that it was disappointing for Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica that this proclamation was issued without advance notice to either gov-

ernment. This is especially so given that, for almost a year, representatives of several departments of the United States Government and the governments of the five Caribbean countries operating Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programmes have been engaged in sustained and detailed discussions on precisely these issues. That engagement was constructive and undertaken in good faith on all sides.

Moreover, the five countries took collective steps — based on recommendations from U.S. officials — to



Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS
COMMISSION

11TH JAN
2026
NIGHT TWO

ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE

ROXY

ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND

GEN \$100 | KINGDOM \$250 | TIME: 5PM
ALL INCLUSIVE

EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTIKING | COOL & SMOOTH
THE LARDER | QUINTESSANCE VARIETY PLUS

ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Opinion

PAGE 15

streamline and strengthen the legislative and regulatory frameworks governing their CBI programmes.

The stated reason for the proclamation, as it applies to Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica, is that these countries have historically operated CBI programmes “without residency.” In Antigua and Barbuda’s case, that characterisation does not reflect the full facts. Antigua and Barbuda has always had a residency requirement, and in November of this year Parliament significantly strengthened it as part of a broader package of legislative reforms. Dominica has also enacted extensive reforms. These measures were taken precisely to address concerns raised and to align systems with the highest international standards.

Some surprise has also been expressed that Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica were identified for visa restrictions when three other Caribbean countries operating similar programmes were not included. This, too, is a matter that merits calm clarification through dialogue.

There has inevitably been speculation by commentators and political activists about what they describe as the “real reasons” behind the proclamation. Governments, however, cannot conduct relations on the basis of speculation. Diplomatic engagement must proceed on the basis of the reasons formally stated by governments themselves. In this instance, those reasons relate to CBI programmes and residency requirements, and that is therefore the issue that must be addressed directly, factually, and constructively. Antigua and Barbuda fully recognises the sovereign right — and indeed the responsibility — of the United States to protect its citizens from external threats and to ensure that visas are not used for illicit or harmful purposes. We share those objectives. That is why we remain ready to work with the United States to establish and refine all necessary safeguards and guardrails to ensure that the systems we operate present no risk to U.S. security.

For 250 years, Caribbean countries

and the United States have shared a tradition of close, cooperative, and mutually beneficial relations — economically, socially, and strategically. That relationship has served all our peoples well. It is that tradition which must now guide us: preserving security while maintaining lawful and legitimate access for citizens to each other’s countries.

This moment therefore calls not only for calm, but for timely clarity. Prolonged uncertainty benefits no one. For citizens who have already been vetted and issued valid visas by United States authorities, it is reasonable that lawful travel be allowed to continue — subject to any additional checks the United States considers necessary — while longer-term solutions are finalised for new visa applicants.

Antigua and Barbuda approaches this

matter in good faith, with respect for the sovereign responsibilities of the United States and confidence in the value of our long-standing relationship. We look to that tradition of dialogue and cooperation to ensure that security is upheld without unintended harm to ordinary people, legitimate commerce, education, and family ties. That work has already begun, and mechanisms are now being examined by officials of the United States and Antigua and Barbuda with the intention of identifying early and practical solutions.

That balance has been achieved before. It can — and should — be achieved again.

(The writer is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda and Dean of the Group of Western Hemisphere Ambassadors accredited to the United States)



HARRIS **WAREHOUSE DEALS**
DEC 16TH - 19TH
At Powells Main Road Warehouse

Select colours & sizes while stocks last!

UP TO 60% OFF

DOORBUSTER!
ONLY EC \$275

Perma 5gal Satin Emulsion

The advertisement features a festive red background with gold and white text. It promotes a warehouse sale for Harris products, specifically highlighting a 60% discount on Perma 5gal Satin Emulsion. Images of paint cans and a doorbuster sign are included.

Opinion

Antigua and the USA: A Century of Partnership, and A Call for Renewal



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

“True friendship is tested not in times of ease, but in moments of challenge.” For over a century, Antigua and Barbuda and the United States have shared a bond rooted in security, education, trade, and human connection. Today, recent U.S. visa restrictions cast a shadow over that legacy. Consequently, it is time to reaffirm our partnership and restore opportunities that

strengthen security and prosperity for both nations.

Antigua and Barbuda A Strategic Ally in U.S. Security

Antigua’s role in U.S. defence dates back to 1941, when Coolidge Airfield—now V.C. Bird International Airport—served as a critical base during World War II. Our island later supported NASA’s missile tracking, including the Mars Science Laboratory launch in 2011. These milestones underscore Antigua’s enduring value as America’s trusted Caribbean partner in global security and other endeavours.

Diplomatic Milestone: Hosting a U.S. Embassy

In 1981, when Antigua and Barbuda achieved independence, we became one of the smallest nations in the world ever to host a U.S. embassy—a powerful symbol of trust and partnership. I was privileged to work at that embassy before migrating for studies. Those

American values of service, integrity, and benevolence shaped my outlook, as they did for so many others who grew up in that era and got their first visa to visit the land of the free and home of the brave. As such, nearly every Antiguan family, as the peoples of the Caribbean, has ties in the United States.

Living the American Dream

Years later, I was privileged to move to the United States for work, personal growth, and development—to get a taste of the American dream, as so many from across the Caribbean have done. America is our friend and will always be our friend. That experience reinforced my conviction that shared ideals of freedom, democracy, and opportunity are the foundation of the Antigua and Barbuda–U.S. relationship—and the compass for its future, for as the old negro spiritual reminds us, there is a healing balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

Single-lane traffic for sections of Old Parham Road

Members of the public have been advised to be aware that a Special Notice has been issued noting that C.O. Williams (Antigua) Limited will conduct asphalt repairs on a section of Old Parham Road near Christ the King High School on Friday, 19th December, 2025.

Single-lane traffic will be implemented, starting at approximately 8 am, leading to delays and inconvenience.

Motorists are asked to follow the directions of flag persons.

All businesses remain open.

C.O. Williams sincerely regrets the inconvenience. The repairs are being done to ensure a quality surface to the road under the Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project being carried out by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Telephone queries can be made by calling the C.O. Williams Project Office at 562-9573.

Opinion

PAGE 17

Investing in People and Education

Since 1961, Peace Corps volunteers have advanced literacy and education in Antigua and Barbuda. The Fulbright Program continues to nurture scholars who return home with U.S. values and expertise, strengthening democratic institutions and economic growth.

Diaspora Success: A Shared American Dream

Caribbean-Americans, including those of Antiguan descent, contribute to U.S. leadership and innovation. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson exemplifies this success, championing diversity and opportunity—proof that open exchange benefits both nations. Economic and Cultural Bridges The Mill Reef Club, founded in 1947 by a group of visionary Americans, has long served as a bridge between our two nations—economically, socially, and culturally. What began as a private retreat evolved into a philanthropic force through the Mill Reef Fund, which has supported education, healthcare, and community development in Antigua and Barbuda for decades. This partnership reflects the best of American generosity and Caribbean hospitality, proving that friendship is not only about shared history but about shared responsibility and mutual upliftment. The Club's contributions remind us that when nations and people invest in each other, both societies thrive.

The Present Challenge: Visa Restrictions

On December 16, 2025, a U.S. proclamation introduced partial visa restrictions for Antigua and Barbuda, effective January 1, 2026, over concerns regarding our country's CIP programme. The Antiguan government has implemented stronger due diligence and residency reforms to address these concerns. As such, any remaining gaps can be resolved quickly, and doing so will benefit both nations and at the same time demonstrate how diplomacy, accountability, shared re-

sponsibility and people-to-people ties overcome challenges.

A Call to Renew Friendship


From Coolidge Airfield to NASA tracking, from Peace Corps classrooms to Fulbright scholars, from the U.S. Embassy in St. John's to Caribbean-Americans living the American dream—our history says we are better and stronger together. Let us therefore work in good faith to resolve differences, strengthen security, and expand opportunity. There is no doubt that Antigua and Barbuda stands ready to partner with the United States—to protect freedom, promote prosperity, and keep our shared ideals alive.

A Word to the Critics

To those quick to condemn or demonize our nation, remember this is not the way forward. For the same stick

licking the wild goat, the same stick licking the tame. True leaderships and patriotism call for hope, not hostility. For in times of challenge, people and nations must stand together—not apart. Antigua and Barbuda and the United States have overcome trials before; we can do so again.

Let us choose partnership, and patriotism over division, and progress over pessimism—for the ties that bind us together are greater than any current misunderstanding and future difficulties real or imagined. And this is the hope we live by, that this issue will be resolved to the mutual benefit of our respective countries. God Bless America, land of the free and home of the brave and God Bless Antigua and Barbuda, land we love.



Season's Greetings

FROM

ACB
CARIBBEAN

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

ACB Caribbean
Serving our Community with Pride for 70 Years



ACB Caribbean Group: ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR PERFORMANCE

OVERVIEW

On Thursday, December 4, 2025, the ACB Caribbean Group convened its 69th Annual General Meeting (AGM) under the theme "Steady Hands. Bold Steps." This event was especially meaningful as it coincided with the Group's 70th Anniversary, a significant milestone in its history.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Throughout the financial year ended September 30, 2024, the Group operated with discipline, resilience, and a focus on strategic growth. Demonstrating prudence and purpose, ACB Caribbean continued to deliver value not only to its Shareholders but also to the communities it serves.

The Group reported a Consolidated Net Profit of \$46.6 million, reflecting strong performance across its subsidiary companies, including ACB Mortgage & Trust Company Limited and ACB Grenada Bank Ltd. This achievement showcased the successful execution of its long-term strategy.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Fiscal year 2024 marked a significant acceleration in ACB Caribbean's digital transformation journey. The Group made notable progress towards becoming a digital-first, customer-centric bank, future-proofing its operations and enhancing customer engagement.

SHAREHOLDER RETURNS

For the first time, Shareholders approved a cash dividend of \$12 million, or \$1.20 per share as of the record date, October 31, 2025. This payout represented the highest dividend in the Group's history and underscored the Board's commitment to maximizing returns for Shareholders, while maintaining regulatory compliance and lending capacity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the AGM, retiring Directors C. Kevin Silston, C. Kamilah Roberts, and Mavis George were re-elected to the Board, along with Lorraine Raeburn, a former Chairman of the Group. **The current Board of Directors comprises:**

- Sandra Derrick – Chairman
- Cassandra P. Simon – Vice Chairman
- C. Davidson Charles – Vice Chairman
- C. Kevin Silston – Vice Chairman
- C. Kamilah Roberts
- Desiree A. Zachariah
- Eric E. Joseph
- Mavis George
- Desirée Edwards
- Lorraine Raeburn.

Shareholders also approved an increase in Directors' fees, as recommended during the meeting.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

Looking forward, ACB Caribbean's strategy will focus on remaining agile, efficient, and customer focused. The key features of this strategy include technology leadership, capital strength, high-quality customer experience, and a strong regional purpose.

The Group expressed its gratitude for the support and loyalty of its Shareholders, Customers, Employees, and the communities of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and beyond.

ACB Caribbean is led by a dedicated team of professionals and is well-positioned to capitalize on future opportunities. The introduction of a new Digital Transformation Office and other high-value strategic initiatives will further strengthen the Group's position.

As authorized for publication by the Board
Rhodette Paige
 Legal Counsel/Corporate Secretary
 December 19, 2025





Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd t/a ACB CARIBBEAN
Summary Consolidated Financial Statements
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE
SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Shareholders of
Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean

Opinion

The summary consolidated financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated statement of financial position as of September 30, 2024, the summary consolidated statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean for the year ended September 30, 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the IFRS Accounting Standards. Reading the summary consolidated financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated September 29, 2025. The audited financial statements are included in the 2024 Annual Report.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

For more information, please refer to the full financial statements of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean for the year ended September 30, 2024.

St. Kitts
Jefferson Hunt
Lisa Roberts

St. Kitts
Jefferson Hunt
Lisa Roberts

Audit & Tax Advisory
Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd



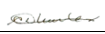
Grant Thornton
11 Old Parham Road
P.O. Box 1531
St. John's, Antigua
West Indies
T +1 268 462 3000
F +1 268 462 1902
www.grantthornton.aq

Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean
Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2024

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank	304,846,335	439,910,919
Due from other banks	469,682,338	345,462,205
Treasury bills	77,913,384	89,801,683
Statutory deposit	7,940,055	7,607,879
Loans and advances	1,100,014,994	1,041,892,187
Other assets	29,262,807	37,441,226
Investment securities	473,143,267	290,271,538
Goodwill	14,539,983	14,539,983
Property and equipment	73,124,606	49,831,895
Right-of-use assets	875,791	1,544,293
Core intangible assets	10,490,310	11,406,725
Deferred tax asset	1,318,176	4,261,229
Total Assets	2,563,152,046	2,333,971,762
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Income tax payable	16,595,092	5,336,349
Customers' deposits	2,087,160,136	1,936,710,424
Lease liabilities	815,071	1,491,183
Provisions and other liabilities	30,544,950	30,996,099
Pension liability	2,914,147	5,006,402
Total Liabilities	2,138,029,396	1,979,540,457
Equity		
Stated capital	36,000,000	36,000,000
Statutory reserve	43,301,658	37,321,270
Other reserves	113,792,444	89,311,836
Retained earnings	202,978,662	165,147,776
Equity attributed to owners of the Bank	396,072,764	327,780,882
Non-controlling interest	29,049,886	26,650,423
Total Equity	425,122,650	354,431,305
Total Liabilities and Equity	2,563,152,046	2,333,971,762

Approved for issue by the Board of Directors on September 25, 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

 Chairman  Director
 Director

Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean
Summary Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended September 30, 2024

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Interest income		
Income from loans and advances	68,395,819	69,845,844
Income from deposits with other banks and investments	32,986,824	22,755,880
	101,382,643	92,601,724
Interest expense		
Savings accounts	20,687,818	19,799,719
Time deposits and current accounts	4,286,480	4,000,429
Investment Expenses	184,277	104,128
Lease liabilities	23,007	26,945
	25,181,582	23,931,221
Net interest income	76,201,061	68,670,503
Other operating income	60,258,888	47,011,916
Total income	136,459,949	115,682,419
Operating expenses		
General and administrative expenses	60,102,960	57,287,157
Provision for loan impairment	3,906,413	5,064,244
Depreciation of property and equipment	3,421,200	3,296,221
Directors' fees and expenses	1,071,080	1,098,722
Amortisation of intangible assets	916,415	1,089,792
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	668,502	654,311
Provision for impairment of other financial assets	451,878	4,430,958
	70,538,448	72,921,405
Total expenses	70,538,448	72,921,405
Net Income before taxation	65,921,501	42,761,014
Taxation charge	19,341,049	1,577,046
Net income after taxation	46,580,452	41,183,968

Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean
Summary Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income...continued
For the year ended September 30, 2024

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Profit attributed to:		
Owners of the Bank	44,128,972	39,777,345
Non-controlling interest	2,451,480	1,406,623
	46,580,452	41,183,968
Earnings per share	4.41	3.98
Net income after taxation	46,580,452	41,183,968
Other comprehensive income:		
<i>Items net of tax that will never be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Increase in market value of FVOCI equity securities net of taxes of \$206,500 (2023: \$343,519)	4,438,187	1,353,022
Property revaluation	21,200,280	-
Actuarial gain/(loss) for the year, net of taxes of \$443,081 (2023: \$481,762)	1,313,520	(1,425,825)
Other comprehensive gain/(loss) for the year, net of taxes	26,951,987	(72,803)
Total comprehensive income for the year	73,532,439	41,111,165
Total comprehensive income attributed to:		
Owners of the Bank	70,819,282	39,743,645
Non-controlling interest	2,713,157	1,367,520
	73,532,439	41,111,165





Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd t/a ACB CARIBBEAN

Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean

Summary Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended September 30, 2024

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Operating income before taxation	65,921,501	42,761,014
<i>Items not affecting cash:</i>		
Depreciation of property and equipment	3,421,200	3,296,221
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	668,502	654,311
Amortization of intangible assets	916,415	1,089,792
Provision for credit losses	3,906,413	5,064,244
Provision for impairment of other financial assets	451,878	4,430,958
Adjustment to cost of property and equipment	1,232,820	8,988
Adjustment to cost of right-of-use assets	—	(310,473)
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	—	89,086
Unrealised gain on FVTPL investments	(11,168,115)	(6,173,152)
Realised (gain)/loss on FVTPL investments	(651,866)	1,158,919
Pension income	176,224	232,531
Interest expense	25,167,719	23,931,221
Interest income	(101,382,643)	(92,601,724)
Cash flows used in operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities	(11,339,952)	(16,368,064)
Change in statutory deposit	(332,176)	(360,768)
Change in mandatory deposit with Central Bank	—	3,481,196
Change in other receivables and other assets	4,198,955	349,900
Change in pension liability	—	8,505,376
Change in loans and advances	(51,265,533)	1,131,060
Change in customers' deposits	134,520,369	(45,653,129)
Change in lease liability	(1,045)	—
Change in provisions and other liabilities	(375,335)	(7,509,431)
Cash flows generated from/ (used in) operating activities before interest, taxes and pension contributions	75,405,283	(56,423,860)
Interest received	100,793,076	83,739,954
Interest paid	(27,861,956)	(23,865,338)
Principal payments of lease liabilities	(652,060)	(606,987)
Income taxes paid during the year	(5,285,965)	(13,617,840)
Pension contributions paid during the year	(362,447)	(380,560)
Net cash flows generated from/ (used in) operating activities	142,035,931	(11,154,637)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of investment securities and term deposits	(431,966,730)	(323,834,885)
Proceeds from disposals of investment securities	84,289,179	107,707,780
Purchase of property and equipment	(6,746,451)	(4,506,144)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(354,424,002)	(220,633,249)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid during the year to non-controlling interest	(2,100,000)	(577,688)
Dividends paid during the year to owners	(313,694)	(7,000,000)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(2,413,694)	(7,577,688)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(214,801,765)	(239,365,574)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	408,177,397	647,542,971
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	193,375,632	408,177,397

Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean

Summary Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended September 30, 2024

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Stated Capital \$	Statutory Reserve \$	Revaluation Reserve: FVOCI Investments \$	Capital & Revaluation Reserve: PPE & Pension \$	Regulatory Loan Loss Reserve \$	Retained Earnings \$	Attributable to equity holders \$	Non-controlling interest \$	Total \$
Balance as of September 30, 2022	36,000,000	30,832,845	27,102,595	18,324,457	36,634,794	146,665,589	295,560,280	25,860,591	321,420,871
Net income after taxation for the year	—	—	—	—	—	39,777,345	39,777,345	1,406,623	41,183,968
Other comprehensive income for the year	—	—	—	—	—	(1,381,556)	(1,381,556)	(44,269)	(1,425,825)
- Actuarial loss on pension	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,166	1,353,022
- Increase in FVOCI securities	—	—	1,347,856	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	1,347,856	—	—	38,395,789	39,743,645	1,367,520	41,111,165
Transfer to statutory reserve	—	6,488,425	—	—	—	(6,488,425)	—	—	—
Reserve for interest on impaired loans	—	—	—	—	7,349,171	(7,872,214)	(523,043)	—	(523,043)
Decrease in pension reserve	—	—	—	(1,447,037)	—	1,447,037	—	—	—
Decrease in revaluation reserve- property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Transactions with owners</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dividends paid during the year	—	—	—	—	—	(7,000,000)	(7,000,000)	(577,688)	(7,577,688)
Balance as of September 30, 2023	36,000,000	37,321,270	28,450,451	16,877,420	43,983,965	165,147,776	327,780,882	26,650,423	354,431,305

Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean

Summary Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity...continued
For the year ended September 30, 2024

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Stated Capital \$	Statutory Reserve \$	Revaluation Reserve: FVOCI Investments \$	Capital & Revaluation Reserve: PPE & Pension \$	Regulatory Loan Loss Reserve \$	Retained Earnings \$	Attributable to equity holders \$	Non-controlling interest \$	Total \$
Balance as of September 30, 2023	36,000,000	37,321,270	28,450,451	16,877,420	43,983,965	165,147,776	327,780,882	26,650,423	354,431,305
Net income after taxation for the year	—	—	—	—	—	44,128,972	44,128,972	2,451,480	46,580,452
Other comprehensive income for the year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
- Actuarial loss on pension	—	—	—	—	—	1,277,753	1,277,753	35,767	1,313,520
- Property revaluation	—	—	—	20,978,219	—	—	20,978,219	222,061	21,200,280
- Increase in FVOCI securities	—	—	4,434,338	—	—	—	4,434,338	3,849	4,438,187
Total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	4,434,338	20,978,219	—	45,406,725	70,819,282	2,713,157	73,532,439
Transfer to statutory reserve	—	5,980,388	—	—	—	(5,980,388)	—	—	—
Reserve for interest on impaired loans	—	—	—	—	(228,506)	(198,894)	(427,400)	—	(427,400)
Decrease in pension reserve	—	—	—	1,908,072	—	(1,908,072)	—	—	—
<i>Transactions with owners</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dividends paid during the year	—	—	—	—	—	(2,100,000)	(2,100,000)	(313,694)	(2,413,694)
Balance as of September 30, 2024	36,000,000	43,301,658	32,884,789	39,763,711	43,755,459	200,367,147	396,072,764	29,049,886	425,122,650

Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean

Note to Summary Consolidated Financial Statement
For the year ended September 30, 2024

(expressed in Eastern Caribbean dollars)

1 Basis of preparation

These summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. t/a ACB Caribbean for the year ended September 30, 2024.

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by IFRS Accounting Standards. Reading these summary financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, therefore is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon dated September 29, 2025.





**11TH JAN
2026**
NIGHT TWO



**ONE
NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

ONE PEOPLE ONE L VE

**TASHA
COBBS LEONARD**

**ANTIGUA
RECREATION
GROUND**

GEN \$100 | KINGDOM OF PRAISE \$250 | TIME: 5PM
ALL INCLUSIVE

ticketing

TICKET LOCATIONS:
ROTI KING | THE LARDER | EXOTIC ANTIGUA | COOL & SMOOTH
QUINTESSENCE VARIETY PLUS & CARIBBEAN LOTTERY RETAIL STORE



ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL



ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Regional News

Fontaine warns of bleak future for Dominica amid concerns about U.S. travel ban and environmental destruction

Recently re-elected Leader of the United Workers Party (UWP), Dr. Thomson Fontaine, has painted a grim picture of Dominica's future during a press conference this week, warning of deepening crises that threaten both the livelihoods of citizens and the country's fragile environment.

Speaking at a press conference today, Fontaine highlighted two urgent issues: the partial suspension of U.S. travel for Dominicans beginning January 2026, and what he described as the "horrific destruction" of the nation's rainforest under the current administration.

Fontaine condemned Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit's handling of Dominica's Citizenship by Investment (CBI) program, which he said has led to international distrust and punitive measures.

"In less than two weeks, thousands of Dominicans will be denied entry into the United States of America," the UWP leader declared, noting that the restrictions follow similar actions by Canada and the United Kingdom. He warned that students seeking higher education, families attending funerals or graduations, and patients needing medical care abroad will all be affected.

Fontaine accused the government of ignoring long-standing concerns about the sale of Dominican pass-



ports, alleging that lax due diligence allowed "crooks and criminals" to exploit the program. He recalled raising alarms as far back as 2009, only to be dismissed as unpatriotic.

"This government had 15 years to fix this mess, yet it did nothing," he said, adding that billions of dollars from the program were funneled into projects benefiting a select few, while ordinary Dominicans now face the consequences. Fontaine confirmed that the UWP has filed a lawsuit demanding accountability for the CBI program, with a hearing scheduled for January 26, 2026.

Turning to environmental concerns, Fontaine accused the Skerrit administration of overseeing an "unprecedented and vicious assault" on Dominica's natural her-

itage. He cited quarrying activities in Deux Branches, within the Central Forest Reserve, as a violation of the Physical Planning Act and a direct threat to the island's ecosystem.

"The fragile rainforest is being destroyed in the name of progress, without any environmental impact assessment," Fontaine said. He rejected government claims that quarrying at Deux Branches was the only option for airport construction, pointing out that rocks from other parts of Dominica have been used for similar projects.

He linked the current destruction to earlier incursions at Cabrits National Park, warning that unchecked exploitation could irreparably damage Dominica's reputation as the "Nature Island." The UWP leader pledged

solidarity with residents of Concord, the Kalinago Territory, Marigot, and environmental groups calling for an immediate halt to quarry operations.

Against the backdrop of escalating violence and economic hardship, Fontaine described Dominicans as facing "a bleak Christmas and an even darker future." He urged citizens to show compassion for the vulnerable and to summon the courage to demand change at the ballot box.

"This Christmas, many families will go without, even as a handful accumulate wealth at the expense of state resources," Fontaine said. "But we must fight back — for accountability, for transparency, and for the protection of our environment." (Dominica News Online)

117 Canadian electrical linesmen arrive to help JPS with power restoration

A team of 117 electrical linesmen from Canada arrived on the island Wednesday night, bolstering the Jamaica Public Service Company's (JPS) efforts to restore electricity in hurricane-battered western Jamaica.

This is the third arrival overseas utility workers within two days, pushing the total number of foreign linesmen deployed so far to approximately 228, surpassing the initial projection of 200 under a planned 300-person mobilisation.

The Canadian crew will be deployed primarily across St Elizabeth, Westmoreland and St James, where JPS says the damage has been so severe that many areas now require redesign and rebuilding of electricity networks, rather than simple restoration.

Speaking at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, Daryl Vaz, Minister of Energy, Transport and Telecommunications said the rapid mobilisation underscores strong collaboration between the Government of Jamaica and JPS.

"JPS is living up to their commitment based on the arrangement and understanding we have with the funds that we have provided. I'm a bit disappointed, but understanding that during the Christmas season, the logistics of coordinating and getting everything done still has been done in record



time, we only got cabinet approval two months ago, and JPS only got their approval from their board last week," Vaz told reporters last night.

"So to be in this position tonight is huge, and it is a commitment of us being able to give the people light, some by Christmas, some by New Year, and the majority by middle of January to end of January. That's a commitment, and we're working closely," he added. The Government has loaned JPS US\$150 million to help speed up restoration. The loan is expected to be repaid over five years.

JPS President and Chief Executive Officer Hugh Grant reiterated that 84 per cent of their customers have already been restored, crediting 24-hour operations and structured recovery plans. He noted that while the Canadian crews arrived without specialised vehicles, they came fully equipped

with tools and will begin work immediately, particularly in hard-to-access areas.

"These particular resources will be focused on restoration in the western parishes, and in particular they'll be focusing areas such as Westmoreland, Saint Elizabeth, Hanover and Saint James, to accelerate the restoration efforts there," Grant said.

Specialised equipment, including bucket trucks, is expected to arrive on two barges on December 24 and 25, carrying more than 200 pieces of equipment, which will further accelerate restoration efforts. (Jamaica Gleaner)

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
 Magistrate's Court
 High Street
 St. John's
 Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. John's
 Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS

"N.S.K ICE CREAM PARLOUR & SNACKETTE"

I, Colis Patrick Knights, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua, on Monday, 5th January, 2026 next ensuing for Tavern License in respect of premises known as "N.S.K ICE CREAM PARLOUR & SNACKETTE" situated at Grays Farm, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

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

Regional News

PM Skerrit says latest partial travel ban will not affect 'very good' Dominica-U.S. relations

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit expressed that the recent decision by the United States (U.S) Government to include Dominica on its latest list of countries facing U.S partial travel restrictions will not negatively impact the overall smooth relationship between Dominica and the U.S under the current administration.

"We have had, I would say, more communication with the Trump administration than we had with the Biden administration, [regarding] the extent of the contacts and engagement on a regular basis on a number of issues that we're working on," he said during a live interview on State-Owned Radio DBS on Wednesday.

According to Skerrit, Dominica has seen an increase in spending by the United States on the country's national security, providing additional support.

"So even when U.S. Aid came to an end, we continued to get support fully," he noted.

Furthermore, he added that Dominica has received important infrastructural, training, and material support from the United States Government.

"So the relationship in my mind between Dominica and the current Trump administration has been very good," Skerrit stated.

He went on to state that access to the U.S. State Department, the Treasury and the U.S Embassy have been very effective at all levels.



"And so I don't see it as affecting the relationship in any way," he emphasized. (Dominica News Online)



50%

GET RECONNECTED FOR FREE!

PAY 50% ON YOUR OUTSTANDING BALANCE & GET RECONNECTED.
ELECTRICITY, WATER & INET SERVICES

NO RECONNECTION FEES. FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLAN TO PAY DOWN THE REMAINING BALANCE.

French 'Doctor Death' who poisoned patients jailed for life

A former anaesthetist has been jailed for life for intentionally poisoning 30 patients, 12 of them fatally.

Frédéric Péchier, 53, was convicted Friday at the end of a four-month trial in the eastern city of Besançon.

In one of France's biggest ever medical malpractice cases, Péchier was found to have introduced chemicals like potassium chloride or adrenaline into the infusion bags of patients.

His youngest victim, a four-year-old child, survived two cardiac arrests during a routine tonsil surgery in 2016. The oldest victim was 89.

"You are Doctor Death, a poisoner, a murderer. You bring shame on all doctors," said prosecutors last week. "You have turned this clinic into a graveyard."

The chemicals Péchier added triggered cardiac arrest or haemorrhaging in patients, which required emergency intervention in the operating theatre.

This was often provided by Péchier himself, who was then able to pose as the patient's saviour.

But in 12 cases he was unable to intervene, or it was too late, and the patient died. The prosecution argued that Péchier acted in order to discredit fellow anaesthetists against whom he bore a grudge.

In most of the operations, he was not the primary anaesthetist. It was alleged he came in early to the clinic to tamper with the infusion



bags.

Then, when things went wrong, he was able to step in after diagnosing the problem and ordering an antidote.

Péchier was first placed under investigation eight years ago, when he was suspected of poisoning patients at two clinics in Besançon between 2008 and 2017.

The alert was raised in 2017 after a surfeit of potassium chloride was found in the infusion bag of a woman who had a heart attack while being operated on for a back complaint.

Investigators found a pattern of "serious adverse events" at the Saint-Vincent private clinic in Besançon. While the national average for fatal heart attacks under anaesthetic was 1 in 100,000, at the clinic it was more than six times that.

And in most cases nationally, an explanation for the heart attack was subsequently found, whereas at Saint-Vincent the cause remained a mystery.

It was also found that the "serious adverse events"

ceased when Péchier left for a short period to work at another clinic, which itself then saw an uptick. Then when he returned to Saint-Vincent, the emergencies resumed there. When he was disbarred from practising in 2017, the anomaly stopped.

Péchier's first known victim, Sandra Simard, was 36 when she experienced a sudden cardiac arrest in the middle of spine surgery. She survived thanks to intervention by Péchier, although she went into a coma.

Tests on her infusion bags showed concentrations of potassium 100 times the expected dose and the alarm was sounded with local prosecutors.

During the 15 weeks of the trial, Péchier sometimes acknowledged that some of the patients who fell ill or died may have been poisoned but he denied any wrongdoing. "I have said it before and I'll say it again: I am not a poisoner... I have always upheld the Hippocratic oath," he stated.

Péchier will now spend a

minimum of 22 years behind bars, having been at liberty throughout the trial.

He has 10 days to lodge an appeal, which would entail a second trial within a year.

According to the trial prosecutor: "His colleagues said he always seemed to have the answer. That he made himself out to be the best, that he created this character of the saviour, so that colleagues would instinctively turn to him."

Péchier denied the charges and his lawyers argued that there was no hard proof linking him to the crimes. But his own testimony varied in the trial, and he ended up admitting there must have been a poisoner at large in the clinic, but it was not him.

The son of two parents in the medical profession, Péchier was described by a court psychologist as having a Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde personality – one side respectable, the other side capable of doing great harm. In 2014 and again in 2021 he made attempts to kill himself.

A divorced father of three children, he told the court before the verdict that his sole concern was to protect his family. His children wept as the sentence was read but he remained impassive.

"It's the end of a nightmare," said survivor Sandra Simard.

Another patient who survived, Jean-Claude Gandon, said: "We can have an easier Christmas now." (BBC)

World's tallest teen sets new basketball record



A 7ft 9in (2.36m) teenager has become the tallest player to score a basket in the history of college basketball.

Olivier Rioux, of the Florida Gators, dunked late on as his side beat Saint Francis 102-61 on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Canadian had become the tallest player to play on a college court when he made his first appearance last month.

He was declared the tallest teenager by Guinness World Records in 2021 when he was then 7ft 5in (2.26m).

While the dunk was the centre's first, he had scored a free throw against Merrimack on 21 November.

If he were to enter the game's top level, Rioux would be above any of its current players in terms of height.

The NBA lists 21-year-old French sen-

sation Victor Wembanyama as its tallest, with the San Antonio Spurs star measuring 7ft 4in (2.24m).

Zach Edey, of the Memphis Grizzlies, is next - with the 23-year-old standing 7ft 3in (2.21m).

Three other players are 7ft 2in (2.18m), according to the NBA's website.

They are 23-year-old Donovan Clingan, of the Portland Trail Blazers, 24-year-old Walker Kessler of the Utah Jazz, and Kristaps Porzingis of the Atlanta Hawks.

The NBA's tallest-ever players are listed as Manute Bol and Gheorghe Muresan, who were both 7ft 7in (2.31m).

Bol played between 1985 and 1997, while Muresan, who was nicknamed the Giant, was on court from 1991 to 2001.

Guinness World Records had previously listed China's Sun Mingming, who is 7ft 8.98in, as the tallest active basketball player in 2013 when he was playing in his home country. He retired a year later. (BBC)



Curry House
ANTIGUA

**Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm**

 [currytandoorihouseanu](#)  [curryhouseanu](#)  (268) 736-7165

Indonesian court sentences an Australian to 12 years in prison for smuggling cocaine to Bali

An Indonesian court on Thursday sentenced an Australian citizen to 12 years in prison after finding him guilty of smuggling cocaine to the tourist island of Bali. Lamar Aaron Ahchee, 43, from Cairns in north Queensland, was arrested in May when police raided his rented house near Kuta beach, a popular tourist spot on the island. They seized 1.7 kilograms (3.7 pounds) of cocaine in 206 clip plastic bags, along with a digital scale and cellular phone. The arrest followed an investigation conducted by Bali police anti-drug surveillance teams who reported the man had received two suspicious packages sent by mail from England. He was suspected of importing or distributing narcotics, ac-



cording to Indonesian police. Judge Tjokorda Putra Budi Pastima, who presided over a three-judge panel, announced a sentence of 12 years imprisonment and a fine of 2 billion rupiah (US\$119,583).

The verdict was harsher than the prosecutor's demand for

a nine-year prison sentence. During the hearing, Ahchee denied that he knew the package he received was cocaine.

The judges considered several factors that aggravated the sentence, including the fact that Ahchee had received a large amount of cocaine, which could harm

many people and damage the quality and safety of tourism in Bali, Pastima said. The judge also said that the defendant was evasive and tried to obscure the facts.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime says Indonesia is a major drug-smuggling hub despite having some of the strictest drug laws in the world, in part because international drug syndicates target its young population.

About 530 people, including 96 foreigners, are on death row in Indonesia, mostly for drug-related crimes, the Ministry of Immigration and Corrections' data showed. Indonesia's last executions, of an Indonesian and three foreigners, were carried out in July 2016. (AP)



HOSTS:
DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1

THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM

VACANCY NOTICE

A reputable import/distribution organization with over 25 years of experience is seeking skilled and motivated individuals to join our dynamic team.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Responsibilities

- Provide full secretarial support to the Management Team.
- Maintain accurate records of equipment and service contracts to include creating and maintaining a billing schedule.
- Develop, create and maintain service logs for the company's equipment, to include but not limited to vehicles and equipment.
- Demonstrate a high level of professionalism, discretion, and attention to detail.
- Have excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.

Qualifications

- A diploma or bachelor's degree in business administration. (having a degree in business administration is an advantage).
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in a similar administrative or executive support role.
- Strong proficiency in Microsoft Office applications.
- Must be a holder of a valid driver's license.

2. WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

Responsibilities

- Oversee the overall operations of the warehouse, to include, but not limited to, receiving & dispatching goods, ensuring that orders are delivered according to the company's standards
- Supervise daily inventory operations
- Optimize warehouse layout, organization, maintaining a high level of cleanliness, safety and proper storage of goods.
- Demonstrate strong team management leadership abilities.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications.
- Proficiency with inventory and billing software (QuickBooks Enterprise is a plus)

Qualifications

- 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.
- Must be a holder of a valid class D3 driver's license or willing and able to upgrade to a D3.

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.

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES
SIR RODNEY WILLIAMS & LADY WILLIAMS

THE
INSPIRE
YOUTH CHOIR

&

Antigua & Barbuda
Youth
Symphony
Orchestra
Promoting Excellence Through Music

PRESENT

The Spirit of CHRISTMAS

**KEITH
SLADE**
CONDUCTOR

Saturday 20th December 2025

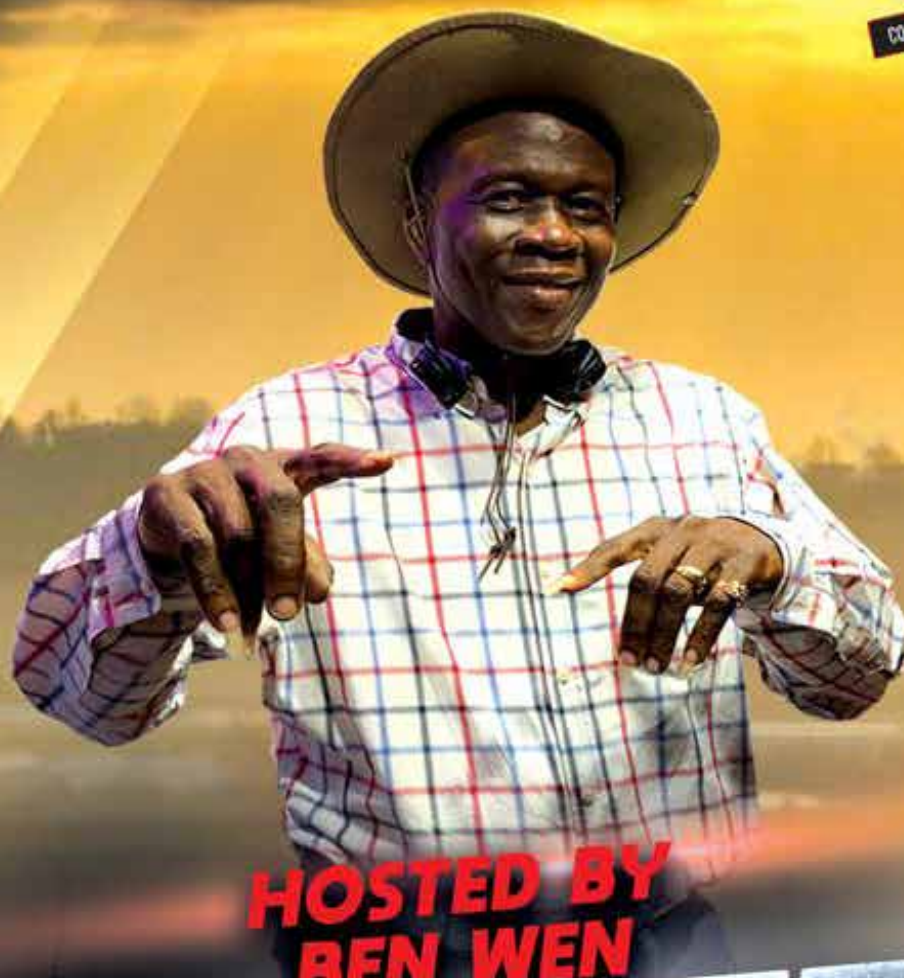
START TIME: 7:30PM • TICKETS - ADULTS: \$50 • CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$25

TICKET OUTLETS: THE LARDER • WOODS PHARMACY • CRAB HOLE LIQUORS

**📍 AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ANTIGUA
CONFERENCE CENTRE**



**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Blackhawks and English Harbour Rays to meet in 2nd charity match

The friendly, good-natured cricket game between the English Harbour Rays and the Liberta Blackhawks Sports Club has evolved into both parties clashing in their second annual charity match during the Christmas season.

Both teams will clash this year in the second annual charity match, which will be a T20 game at the Ball Beef playing field in Liberta, home of the Blackhawks, on Sunday, December 28, at 2 pm.

President of the Liberta Sports Club and former West Indies fast bowler Kenneth “Flipper” Benjamin said the initiative is driven by Alex Norton of the English Harbour Rays, which is a group comprising some Englishmen and expatriates from the United Kingdom who are now residents of Antigua and Barbuda.

“One time they wanted to play a little match down at Falmouth, so they came and asked us to lend them some cricket gear. We gave them the equipment and allowed them to have a good time,” Benjamin said.

“When they returned the cricket gear, they realized we have a cricket field here in Liberta, and that was surprising to them. A couple months

later, Alex Norton called me back asking for a game against us at our field in Liberta and suggested we use it to raise funds to contribute to a particular project.”

Benjamin said both

were used to help purchase some floodlights in China. The lights are now installed at Ball Beef in Liberta. It means the players can practice or play matches at night at the venue.

Benjamin said the organiz-

Visitors are being asked to contribute a fee of EC\$40, while there will be free entry for Antiguan to the event.

The Spirited Band, featuring legendary Antiguan and West Indies cricketers Sir Richie Richardson and Curtly Ambrose, will provide live entertainment after the charity match.

Benjamin said the proceeds from the second charity game will go towards purchasing a commercial mower to cut the field.

“We are trying to purchase a commercial mower. The mower we currently have has seen better days, so we are trying to replace it, and the funds that we raise will go towards purchasing a new commercial mower,” he said.

“It is quite expensive to cut the field. Each time we have to cut the field, we are paying about EC\$900 to get it done, so we think if we have our own, it would be much more economical for us.”

Benjamin said the fundraiser could evolve into something bigger in the future.

“This currently involves the Blackhawks and the English Harbour Rays, but you never know; this could get bigger and be held over two days with more teams in years to come,” Benjamin said.



LIBERTA BLACK HAWKS

VS

ENGLISH HARBOUR RAYS

ANNUAL CHARITY CRICKET MATCH

28/12/25

2PM - LATE

LIBERTA SPORTS CLUB
All proceeds donated to Liberta Cricket Club

FOOD & DRINK PROVIDED

LIVE BAND FROM 5:30PM

TICKETS
 40EC for Visitors
 FREE for Antiguan

CONTACT
 +44 7730 049320

parties agreed, and the first charity game was held at Ball Beef last year. He said the event was well supported and the Liberta Sports Club received good contributions.

Benjamin said the proceeds from the first charity games

ing of the second charity game on December 28 is once again being spearheaded by Norton. It is expected to be a fun-filled event that allows people to come together and socialize in a family-style atmosphere.

ABNOC confirms new executive at AGM

The Antigua and Barbuda Olympic Association (ABNOC) successfully convened its Elective Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, confirming the executive that will lead the Association through its next term.

The election resulted in Mr. Thomas Greenaway securing the position of first vice president following a contested vote, while all other executive positions were filled unopposed.

Parliamentary representative of the St. Paul's Constituency, Paul Chet Greene, retained his post as president of the ABNOC. Greene, who is the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs, was unchallenged in the position he has held since 2010.

Similarly, all other executive members will continue to serve in their posts



Paul Chet Greene

for another four-year term. Among them are Second Vice President Dr. Philmore Benjamin, Third Vice President Karen Joseph, and Treasurer Yolanda Samuel.

The Ordinary Members remained the same as well. They are Charles Bellot,

Franklyn Braithwaite, Kebra Nanton, Leonard Mussington, Shorna Charles-Joseph, Dionne Isaacs, and Fitzroy Quinland.

Following the installation of the new ABNOC executive, the newly constituted board confirmed Cliff Williams, who has been

retained as Secretary General, with Joel Rayne appointed as Assistant Secretary General, ensuring administrative continuity and operational support.

The ABNOC reiterated its commitment to working closely with member federations and partners to advance the Olympic movement in Antigua and Barbuda through purposeful, results-driven leadership.

In his address to the membership, President Greene thanked the associations for their continued confidence and paid tribute to Neil Cochrane for his service over the past two executive cycles.

President Greene reaffirmed that the ABNOC is firmly in action mode, emphasizing delivery, collaboration, and tangible outcomes for national sport development.



New Zealand batsmen dominate Windies at start of third Test

MOUNT MAUNGANUI (Reuters) - New Zealand's Devon Conway and Tom Latham struck hundreds in a mammoth opening stand of 323 to deflate West Indies on the opening day of the third and final cricket Test in Mount Maunganui on Thursday.

Home captain Latham elected to bat after winning the toss and then combined with Conway to forge New Zealand's second-highest opening partnership against a West Indies attack, which toiled with little success at the Bay Oval.

New Zealand, who are 1-0 up in the three-Test series, were 334 for one at stumps with Conway on 178, having hit 25 fours. Nightwatchman Jacob Duffy was on nine.

"It's obviously a great day, a great partnership between Dev and myself, and obviously happy with the day's work," Latham said.

"I think the way Dev played today was outstanding, pretty free flowing. He took the pressure off me a little bit as well and we just dovetailed quite nicely."

The West Indies bowlers produced the occasional good ball but could not sustain the pressure for long enough. They lacked discipline and leaked boundaries regularly, particularly in the 133-run second session when they failed to record a maiden over.

Latham edged Anderson Phillip while on 104 but wicketkeeper Tevin Imlach dropped a regulation catch behind the wicket.

The West Indies also wasted a review trying to get Latham lbw to Justin Greaves in their desperation to break the partnership.

Just when it looked like West Indies would endure a wicketless day, Kemar Roach dismissed Latham, who edged the ball to Roston Chase at slip. Latham's 137, his second hundred of the series, contained 15 fours and a six.



New Zealand's Tom Latham

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.
Cassada Paints & Supplies



19/20/21 Dec

ABST 10% OFF

Storewide 10% OFF





MERRY CHRISTMAS
 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



 **Utility Drive Cassada Gardens**

 **1 (268) 562-9450**



Antigua Barbuda Chess Federation

ANNUAL WINTER CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY

28

DECEMBER
2025

CATAMARAN HOTEL

FALMOUTH HARBOUR

9AM TO 5PM



SCAN TO REGISTER
or

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Sections
Under 16
Unrated
Rated Players

Adults: \$50
Children: \$25



antiguachess



Antigua and Barbuda
Chess Federation



Review technology under fire again in Adelaide Ashes Test



Australia's Alex Carey celebrates his century during play on day one of the third Ashes cricket Test between England and Australia at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide, Australia, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. (AP)

ADELAIDE (Reuters) - The 'Snicko' technology used in the Ashes came under fresh scrutiny during the third Test on Thursday after England wicketkeeper Jamie Smith was dismissed caught behind despite the ball not appearing to have touched his bat.

A day after Alex Carey survived a caught-behind appeal due to an error by the technology's operator, England were left fuming again when Smith was given out for 22 when he took what looked like a fresh-air swipe at a Pat Cummins delivery. On-field umpire Nitin Menon declined to rule on the appeal, calling on third umpire Chris Gaffaney to review the delivery.

There was no clear image of ball touching bat on the video replay but a spike on Snicko indicated a noise, and with the ball caught above the grass by wicketkeeper Carey, Gaffaney instructed Menon to give Smith out. The England batsman shook his head in disgust as he trudged off,

leaving England 159 for six in reply to Australia's 371.

Smith had earlier survived a caught-behind appeal when on 16 after a Cummins ball appeared to deflect off his gloves and helmet to Usman Khawaja in the slips.

After using the technology to review the delivery Gaffaney decided the ball had missed the glove, though it was also unclear whether Khawaja had caught it before it touched the grass.

Australia were upset by that outcome, with Starc's derision picked up by the stumps microphone.

"Snicko needs to be sacked," he said. "That's the worst technology there is. They made a mistake yesterday, they make another mistake today."

A Snicko error on Wednesday cost England a vital wicket on day one when Carey survived an appeal, the keeper later admitting he had hit the ball from Josh Tongue.

Cricket Australia boss Todd Green-

berg criticised the technology, saying the governing body was seeking answers from its operator.

"It certainly caused me some heartburn because the whole idea of technology is to take away the clinger or the howler," Greenberg said.

"From what I can understand having dug into it last night and this morning is human error. There's two human errors there - one is the actual decision from the umpire and then there's supposed to be a fail-safe with the technology and it didn't happen.

"In my view it's not good enough. We're asking a lot of questions of the provider through the broadcasters and we're hoping to get some answers so we can be assured it won't happen again."

Carey was on 72 when he edged Tongue's delivery through to wicketkeeper Smith but England's appeal was turned down and the decision stood after they reviewed the decision.

Snicko picked up a sound but it did not align with the ball's flight past the bat in the video review of the dismissal. The reprieved Carey scored another 34 runs before he was dismissed for an innings-high 106 late on Wednesday.

Snicko's provider BBG Sports took full responsibility, blaming human error for selecting "the wrong stump (microphone) for audio processing." England lost a review for failing to overturn the decision but the match official reinstated it. Australia were bowled out for 371 early on day two on Thursday after winning the toss and choosing to bat. The hosts lead the series 2-0 after wins in Perth and Brisbane.

LICB hails LI players' selection in Windies squad for U-19 World Cup

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) is celebrating the selection of six players from the region upon their recent selection in the West Indies squad for the 2026 ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup, which is slated to take place in Namibia and Zimbabwe from January 15 to February 6.

Four Antiguans, wicket-keeper/batsmen Jewel Andrew and Tanez Francis, leg-spinner Micah McKenzie, and all-rounder Matthew Miller, along with Isra-el Morton of St. Maarten and Kunal Tilokani of St. Kitts, were named in the West Indies 15-member squad, which was announced by Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Wednesday.

According to a press release, the LICB claimed the selections are the result and testimony of the work being done in the Leeward Islands to develop and nurture the young talented cricketers.

"The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) and the LI (Leeward Islands) cricketing community today stand in justified pride as six of our young cricketers have been selected on the West Indies 15-man squad for the ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup, scheduled to commence on January 15 in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"This level of representation from the Leeward Islands is neither common-



Four of the Leeward Islands players who have been selected in the West Indies squad for the 2026 ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup. From left to right, Kunal Tilokani, Tanez Francis, Isra-el Morton, and Matthew Miller. (Photo courtesy of the LICB)

place nor coincidental. It is the result of years of patient development, competitive exposure, and an unwavering belief that talent, when properly guided, will rise to the surface.

"To see nearly half of the national squad drawn from our territories is a powerful affirmation of the work being done across the Leeward Islands. Each player has earned his place through performance, discipline, and character, and together they now carry the hopes of their territories onto the world stage."

Speaking on the achievement, President of the Lee-

ward Islands Cricket Board, Enoch Lewis, said it was also a defining moment for cricket in the sub-regional territories.

"This is a proud and defining moment for Leeward Islands cricket. The selection of six of our young players to a West Indies World Cup squad speaks volumes about their commitment and about the strength of the systems supporting them," Lewis stated.

"These young men have earned this honour. They represent not only their countries but also the collective progress of cricket across our islands."

Selection to a West Indies World Cup squad is a great distinction, particularly at the Under-19 level, where the foundation of international careers is laid.

It places these players among the most promising young cricketers in the region and entrusts them with the responsibility of representing the West Indies against the best youth sides in the world.

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board also commends the respective territorial associations, coaches, schools, clubs, and families who have contributed to this achievement.

The release states, "Development at this level is never the work of one hand alone. It is built through structure, sacrifice, and sustained belief in the long game.

"We reaffirm our full support for these players as they prepare for the demands of World Cup competition and renew our commitment to the continued development of all Leeward Islands cricketers.

"This moment stands as both a celebration of how far we have come and a reminder of what is possible when opportunity meets preparation. As these young men take the field in maroon, they do so with the confidence of an entire region behind them, proud, expectant, and resolute in its support."