

Prime Minister Gaston Browne responds to his T&T counterpart Kamla Persad Bissessar

Story on page 2



Scenes from the annual children's Christmas party organized by the Social Protection Board

Local News

Statement by Prime Minister Gaston Browne on the remarks of Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister, Kamla Persad Bissessar

Recent comments by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago regarding CARICOM and the position taken by Antigua and Barbuda merit a measured response grounded in facts, respect, and the long history of Caribbean cooperation.

Antigua and Barbuda has never questioned the sovereign right of any CARICOM member to conduct its bilateral relations as it sees fit. Equally, no member should question the legitimacy of another CARICOM state engaging responsibly, transparently, and respectfully with international partners, including the United States, on matters that directly affect its citizens.

Assertions that CARICOM is an unreliable partner to Trinidad and Tobago are difficult to reconcile with the economic record.

In 2024 alone, Trinidad and Tobago earned more than US \$1.1 billion in foreign exchange from trade with CARICOM, comprising approximately US \$784.7 million in domestic exports and US \$501.3 million in re-exports to CARICOM states. CARICOM was Trinidad and Tobago's second-largest export market, exceeded only by the United States.

That trade has not been balanced. Trinidad and Tobago recorded the largest merchandise trade surplus within CARICOM, and it remains the only member state to have maintained a net positive trade balance with the Community consistently since the inception of CARICOM in 1973.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

This outcome has been facilitated in part by the Common External Tariff, under which CARICOM states—including Antigua and Barbuda—apply protective tariffs on extra-regional imports to support Trinidad and Tobago's manufacturing sector. In 2024, CARICOM countries collectively forwent approximately US \$142.7 million in customs revenue as a result of sourcing goods from Trinidad and Tobago under CET protection—an economic sacrifice borne by Caribbean consumers in the spirit of regional solidarity.

CARICOM's reliability has extended well beyond trade. Trinidad and Tobago faces some of the highest levels of organised crime in the Caribbean, and regional cooperation through CARICOM security mechanisms, intelligence sharing, and coordinated law-enforcement initiatives has been


an essential pillar of the response. Antigua and Barbuda, like other member states, has consistently supported that collective security effort.

The Caribbean Community is a partnership rooted in shared history, shared bloodlines, shared struggle for independence, and a shared determination that small states are stronger when they act together.

Finally, Antigua and Barbuda categorically rejects the unsubstantiated assertion that its leaders have “bad-mouthed” the United States. No evidence has been offered because none exists. On the contrary, Antigua and Barbuda maintains a record of close collaboration with the United States, including constructive engagement on security matters, immigration, and consistent cooperation in multilateral fora such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

Respectful dialogue with international partners is not subservience; nor is regional consultation disloyalty. Antigua and Barbuda will continue to engage the United States responsibly and transparently in full cooperation, while remaining fully committed to CARICOM and to the dignity, sovereignty, and mutual respect that define Caribbean integration.

That balanced approach has served our region well for decades. It should not now be diminished by rhetoric that divides where facts demonstrate the value of interdependence.

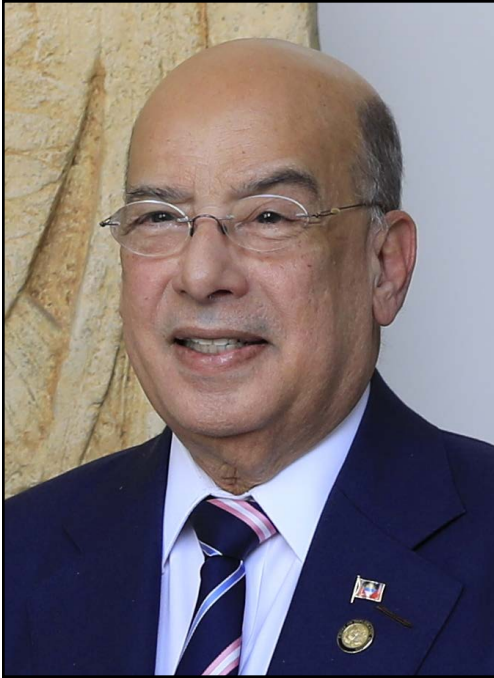


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Statement by Sir Ronald Sanders Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the Organization of American States



On the instructions of, and with the guidance of, the Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda—with whom I have been working closely following the issuance of the United States Proclamation entitled “**Restricting and Limiting the Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the Security of the United States**,” issued on **16 December 2025**—I met today (Friday December 19, 2025) with senior officials of the United States Department of State. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Proclamation and its implications for Antigua and Barbuda.

At that meeting, the following matters were **confirmed and agreed**, and I wish to place them clearly on the public record.

First, all visas **currently in existence** and validly issued to holders of Antigua and Barbuda passports will **continue to be respected and accepted for entry into the United States**. This applies to **all visa categories**, including **B-1, B-2, J, and M visas**.

For the avoidance of doubt, this includes **tourist, business, student, and other valid United States-issued visas**.

Second, there will be **no revocation** of any existing visas issued to nationals of Antigua and Barbuda **prior to 31 December 2025**.

Third, with regard to **new visa applications** submitted after that date, these will be subject to **new arrangements** that are still to be worked out with several Caribbean countries, including Antigua and Barbuda.

These arrangements relate specifically to the **collection of biometric information of Antigua and Barbuda passport holders** to ensure full compatibility with United States biometric systems.

I emphasize that the process of gathering the biometric information will be no different than now applies to all Antigua and Barbuda citizens; only the technology will change to align it

with the US system.

This alignment of biometric data systems will apply to **all citizens of Antigua and Barbuda**, including citizens by **birth, descent, naturalisation, or investment**.

On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I wish to express appreciation to the officials of the United States Government who have worked with us constructively and in good faith to address this matter.

We are grateful for their commitment to continue working with us in furtherance of the cooperative relationship that our two countries have long enjoyed.

Antigua and Barbuda recognises and respects the responsibility of the United States to protect its national security.

We have pledged—and we reaffirm—our commitment to continue working closely with United States authorities on all necessary measures to ensure that our systems present **no risk** to U.S. security, while preserving **legitimate travel** for our citizens.

We are pleased that clarity has been achieved on these immediate concerns, and we will continue to participate fully in the work now underway to ensure the continuation of strong **people-to-people exchanges** between the United States and Antigua and Barbuda.

Payment of Wages and Salaries to Eligible Public Sector Employees Affected During COVID-19 Pandemic

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has approved the payment of wages and salaries to all eligible public sector employees whose remuneration was discontinued or interrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Permanent Secretaries

across all Ministries have been directed to compile and verify claims from affected employees. Eligible employees are therefore required to submit their claims for payment to the Permanent Secretary in their respective Ministry no later

than December 31, 2025.

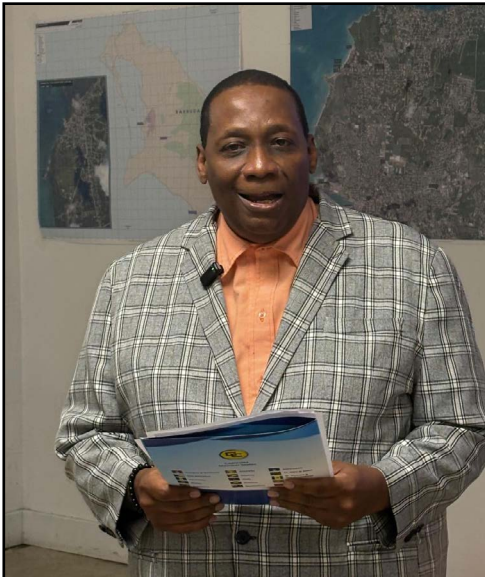
This deadline is necessary to facilitate the timely verification and processing of claims. Once claims have been verified, the relevant documentation will be prepared and forwarded to the Treasury Department to be-

gin processing payments in January 2026.

This decision underscores the Government's commitment to restoring financial stability to employees who were impacted by pandemic-related mandates.

Local News

Antigua and Barbuda embraces the responsibilities that come with hosting CHOGM



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the CHOMG Task Force, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim

As the smallest nation to host the second largest grouping of nations, Antigua and Barbuda has embraced the responsibility of hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) with 'confidence, professionalism and resolve'.

The 56-member, Commonwealth of Nation will convene its biennial meeting in Antigua and Barbuda from November 1 to 4, 2026.

Last Friday, a two-week training sessions for many of the individuals who will be engaged in the planning and execution of the various events associated with CHOGM concluded at the headquarters of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, Camp Blizzard.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the CHOMG Task Force, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, said he is satisfied that the training exercise has been both successful and consequential.

"It has produced clear, actionable deliverables that will directly inform and strengthen the forward planning of the COGM project cycle," he stated.

CHOGM Coordinator, Celia Morgan,



CHOGM Coordinator, Celia Morgan

commended the participants for their active involvement in the training that led to what she described as 'a success-



Director General of Foreign Affairs, Ann Marie Layne

ful outcome', but she cautioned that the work has just started. "The work has just started; as you would have

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ally hard recognizing the time of the year. So on behalf of Canada, thank you for allowing us to be here to present the operational planning process to you. Hopefully, it will enable you in all things you want to do to be ready and to be more prepared for CHOGM,” he remarked.

Many of the participants expressed their gratitude to the team from the Canadian Armed Forces for guiding them through the critical process of strategic planning as they prepare for the task ahead in planning and executing this major event.

realized, over the next few weeks, we will be calling on each of you individually to get updates, to bring everybody together again as well, because this is not the end of it; it is just the beginning,” she remarked.

For her part, Director General for Foreign Affairs, Ann Marie Layne, offered appreciation to the Canadian team that conducted the training, noting that exercises such as the two-week training are not possible without the input from ‘key partners’ such as the Canadian government in this case. She noted that other governments such as the UK and Australia are assisting in other areas. She also provided an overview of how the training had helped her personally. “When I started two weeks ago, I wondered where we were going, especially with the use of military jargon. However, we came to a place where we recognized that there was a purpose to what we were exposed to over the period of time. It is worthy to note that we, as a group, have made so much progress over the past two weeks that it is now quite obvious to us all,” she indicated.

Lt Col. of the Canadian Army, Stephen Haly, one of the trainers, said he was pleased to see the progress being made ‘day in and day out’ by the participants.

“I know that we pushed you really, re-



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The Government of Antigua and Barbuda Invites Expressions of Interest for The UWI Five Islands Campus Expansion Project

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Ministry of Finance, Project Management Unit, is pleased to announce an open call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified contractors for The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus Expansion Project.

This UWI Five Islands Campus Expansion Project represents one of the most significant educational infrastructure investments in the Eastern Caribbean, supported by an US\$80 million loan from the Saudi Fund for Development. The project at its completion will transform The UWI Five Islands Campus into a world-class educational hub capable of accommodating over 5,000 students.

The UWI Five Islands Campus Expansion Project will significantly enhance the campus infrastructure through the construction of modern academic facilities, student accommodation, research centers, and supporting amenities. This expansion is designed to meet growing regional demand for higher education and establish Antigua and Barbuda as a premier destination for tertiary education in the Caribbean.

Following the completion of final designs and the tendering process, construction is expected to commence in summer 2026. The project will be implemented in phases to ensure minimal disruption to current campus operations while delivering maximum impact. Contractors, Suppliers and Service providers with demonstrated experience in building and infrastructure projects are invited to complete and submit the Contractor Registration Form to express their interest in providing works or services as part of the international tendering process for this transformative project.

This Expression of Interest is not a formal offer and does not constitute a legally binding agreement. It is an invitation for contractors to regis-



ter their interest and capabilities. For questions regarding the EOI process or submission requirements, interested parties should contact the Ministry

of Finance, Project Management Unit at finance.pmu@ab.gov.ag or by telephone at 1-268-562-1662.



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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Governor-General Confers Faithful and Meritorious Service Awards at Investiture Ceremony



Governor-General Sir Rodney Williams has conferred the Governor-General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Awards at an Investiture Ceremony held at Government House.

The ceremony formally recognised four distinguished individuals whose lives of dedicated service have made a

lasting and meaningful contribution to national development across culture, public health, architecture, sport, and business.

The award recipients were:

■ Mr. Eustace "Gaytooks" Harris, honoured for more than six de-

cades of faithful service to culture through the steelpan, elevating it as a national treasure and an international symbol of Antigua and Barbudan identity.

■ Mrs. Phylis Ephena Vanetta Mathew, recognised for distinguished service to public health and com-



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munity development through professional nursing, faith-based leadership, and advocacy for vulnerable and marginalised groups.

- Mr. Colin John Jenkins, honoured for outstanding contributions to the built environment, including leadership in architecture, sustainability, climate resilience, and national development.
- Mr. Donald Zorol Barthley, recognised for pioneering service to sport and business development, particularly through leadership in West Indies cricket, sports administration, entrepreneurship, and youth mentorship.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney Williams noted that the Governor-General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Awards were established by Warrant in 2015 to complement the National Honours system, recognising that not every deserving individual may

be reached through a single awards framework. He explained that the awards were introduced to encourage excellence, dedication, and commitment to nation-building, and to affirm the value of faithful service over time.

The Governor-General also highlighted that nominations for the awards are made by application, noting that outstanding service often occurs quietly and may not always be visible unless brought forward by individuals, organisations, and communities. He encouraged institutions to continue recognising excellence within their own ranks as part of building a culture of appreciation and service.

The Faithful and Meritorious Service Awards are conferred in four grades: the Faithful and Meritorious Service Cross, the Faithful and Meritorious Service Medal – Gold, Silver, and Bronze, each reflecting varying levels of distinction and service.

Sir Rodney Williams expressed appreciation to the families, colleagues, and communities who supported the awardees throughout their journeys, acknowledging that their encouragement and sacrifice were integral to the recipients' achievements.

As the ceremony concluded, Sir Rodney and Lady Williams extended warm holiday greetings and best wishes for a peaceful, prosperous, and productive 2026, marked by unity, service, and national progress.

Photo 13 caption: Mr. Eustace Harris, Mrs Phylis Ephena V Matthew, Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams, Mr. Colin John Jenkins, Mr. Donald Zorol Barthley

Photos of Honourees with family members and friends



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Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Serves as Regional Referral Hub in International Diving Emergency


Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has successfully activated its emergency hyperbaric response pathway to receive and manage an international patient with suspected Type 2 decompression sickness (DCS) following a recreational scuba dive in the Virgin Islands.

The patient, a 34-year-old female recreational diver, developed neurological symptoms after a dive to approximately 80–90 feet with standard ascent and decompression stops. She was initially assessed and stabilized at Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital (*Peebles Hospital*) in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, where she received high-flow oxygen and supportive care.

Following consultation with Divers Alert Network (DAN), the case was reviewed with DAN's emergency team and medical director, who recommended urgent Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy using U.S. Navy Treatment Table 6 as the definitive treatment. As hyperbaric facilities are not available in the BVI, SLBMC was identified as the appropriate regional referral center.




Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis, Medical Director of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, emphasized the broader significance of the response:

“At Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, we continually strive to optimize the care offered locally because serving our people is always our first responsibility. At the same time, we recognize the importance of regional collaboration, and we are proud to play a growing role



SLBMC SERVES AS REGIONAL REFERRAL HUB IN INTERNATIONAL DIVING EMERGENCY

“At Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, we continually strive to optimize the care offered locally because serving our people is always our first responsibility. At the same time, we recognize the importance of regional collaboration, and we are proud to play a growing role as a referral center for specialized services like hyperbaric medicine. This case reflects our commitment to preparedness, partnership, and delivering timely, high-quality care whenever it is needed.” — **Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis SLBMC Medical Director**

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE
 SHARE    @slbmedical

as a referral center for specialized services like hyperbaric medicine. This case reflects our commitment to preparedness, partnership, and delivering timely, high-quality care whenever it is needed.”

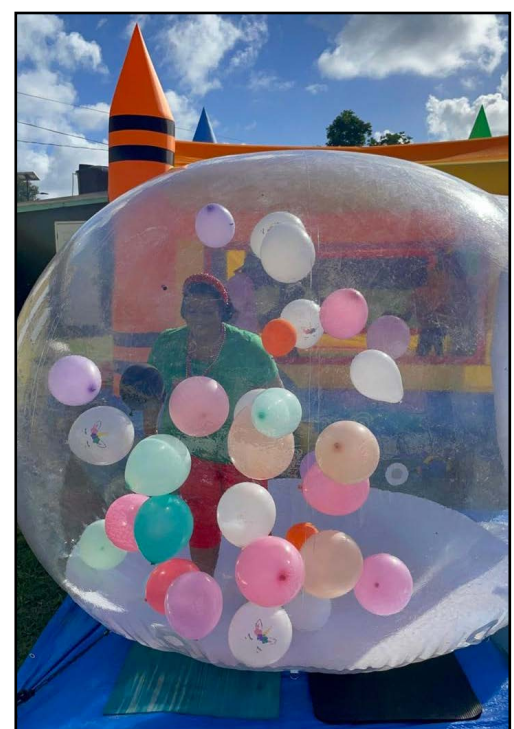
The transfer and treatment were coordinated by Dr. Benjamín Bridge, Senior Registrar in Internal Medicine and Hyperbaric Medicine Lead at SLBMC, who oversaw the clinical and logistical planning.

“This case highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in managing diving emergencies. By working closely with the re-

ferring hospital, Divers Alert Network (DAN), and air-ambulance providers, we were able to deliver timely recompression therapy and comprehensive medical care without delay,” Dr. Bridge said.

SLBMC's hyperbaric unit is equipped to provide U.S. Navy Treatment Table 6 and other evidence-based hyperbaric protocols for decompression illness and selected emergency indications. Upon arrival, the patient was assessed by the internal medicine and hyperbaric team, with treatment initiated promptly and supported by ongoing neurological monitoring.

Social Protection Board shares the joy of Christmas with the children



Hundreds of children gathered at the Lion's Den last week for the annual Christmas party hosted and organized by the Social Protection Board.

More than three hundred children attended the event that has become a fixture in the calendar of the government social agency. The children were presented with toys as part of an afternoon of fun that included the bounce castle, a visit from Santa Claus, music and refreshment.

"The children look forward to this event each year as they can expect

toys and a lot of other goodies at our Christmas party. This is all made possible by the sponsors who support our event each year. Without these sponsors we would not have been able to pull this event off. Our biggest sponsors include Sunny Ltd., Royalton Hotel, and Signs and Impressions. We wish to express heartfelt thank you to these companies as well as all the others who contributed," Coordinator

of the Social Protection Board, Mary Baltimore stated.

Baltimore expressed much appreciation for the staff of the SPB who go the extra mile to ensure the success of the event. "Thanks very much for your unwavering support over the past twelve months," she declared.

Halo donates to differently abled children at Christmas

The Halo Foundation, led by President Lady Sandra Williams and Patron Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, donated \$5000.00 to the Friends of the Care Project in the spirit of Christmas.

In her remarks to the gathering, Lady Williams said that she was “moved to tears” to see how greatly the mental and physical skills of the children had improved over the past year. She thanked the management and staff, including the physiotherapist and other care givers, for the wonderful supervision which they continue to provide to each resident of the Care Project and participant in the Outreach Program.

Lady Williams also praised the parents for recognising the challenges faced by their offspring and seeking the necessary assistance for the enhancement and enrichment of the quality of their lives. She highlighted the emotional encouragement and provision of formal education that aid the development of their young minds.



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The Smiles Say It All as Young Sailors Enjoy Christmas Fun on the Water at AYC



By Zoë Carlton

Laughter and learning set the tone at the Antigua Yacht Club as around 15 children took to the water for the AYC Christmas Fun Camp, offering a refreshing and active way to spend the holiday break.

With schools closed for Christmas, the young participants enjoyed a varied programme that included sailing, fishing, snorkelling and hiking. Alongside learning basic sailing skills, the children built confidence, worked together and made the most of time spent on and around the water.

“The smiles really do say it all,” said one AYC instructor. “For many of these children it’s about freedom, friendship and enjoying being on the water and at Christmas that means even more.”

For several participants,

the camp delivered experiences they did not expect. “I really enjoyed this camp,” said Coral. “We did a lot of things I didn’t expect and it was extremely fun. My favourite part was the fishing. We caught a barracuda.”

Others were quick to share their enthusiasm. “I think the camp is amazing. It’s my first time but I will definitely do it again,” said one participant. Cheyanne said the camp was fun because “it’s more than just sailing,” while Cameron added simply, “I love this camp.”

Set against the backdrop of the harbour, the camp offered a relaxed and supportive environment where children of all experience levels felt comfortable trying something new. Parents and instructors praised the balance between structured activ-

ity and free time, allowing the children to enjoy the water safely and confidently.

The AYC Christmas Fun Camp continues the club’s commitment to youth sailing and community involvement, giv-

ing young Antiguans the chance to learn new skills and enjoy a memorable Christmas break.

As the boats returned to shore each afternoon, the tired but happy faces said enough — time well spent on the water.

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Local News

Flow hosts Christmas luncheon for the less fortunate



Flow continues to show its commitment to the meaning of Christmas; the call to share with those less fortunate amongst us. Last week, the staff of the company held a Christmas luncheon event for these in need from the immediate and surrounding areas. The event was held at Heroes Park adjacent to the VC Bird Bust on Lower All Saints Road.

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA COMPLETES HISTORIC YEAR LEADING HEMISPHERIC DRUG POLICY BODY



Lt. Col. Edward H. Croft, Director of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP), has completed Antigua and Barbuda's tenure as Chair of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Organization of American States' principal body on drug policy.

The Chairmanship, which began in November 2024, concluded at CICAD's 78th Regular Session held in Washington, D.C. on 15–16 December 2025.

Key accomplishments during Antigua and Barbuda's Chairmanship include:

- Convening two Regular Sessions of the Commission (CICAD 76 and 77)
- Establishing and chairing the Working Group for the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2026–2030
- Presenting CICAD's Annual Report at the OAS General Assembly held in Antigua and Barbuda



Lt. Col. Edward Croft hands over CICAD Chairmanship after advancing regional cooperation agenda

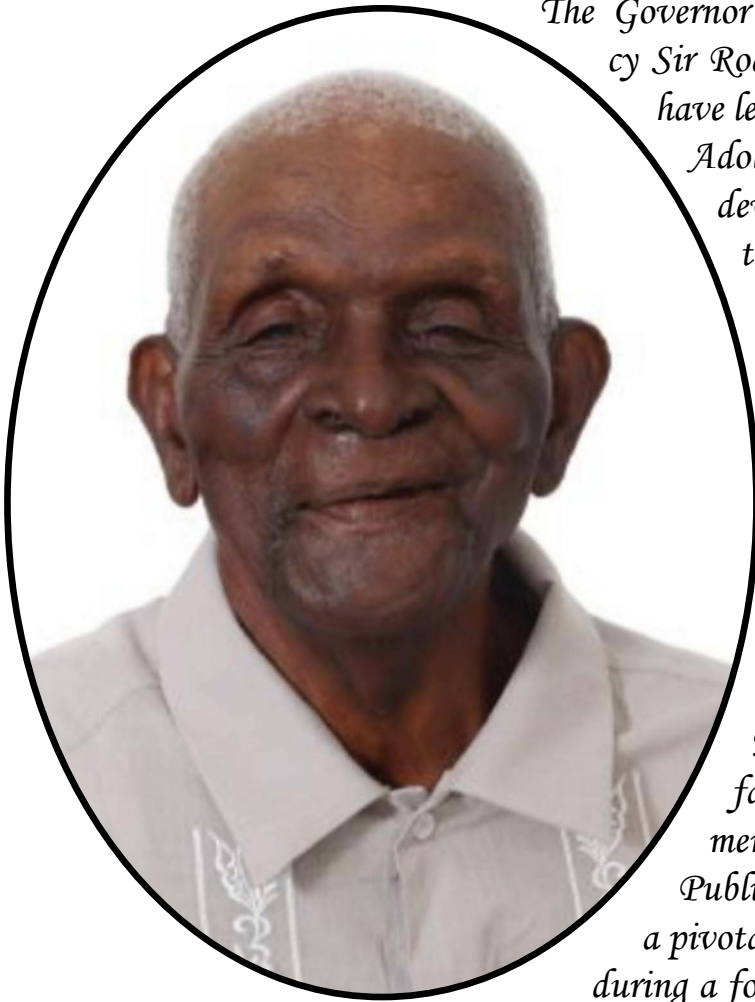
in May 2025—the first time the Caribbean has hosted this event “This experience has reinforced a fundamental truth: leadership within international bodies is not defined by size, but by commitment,” Lt. Col. Croft stated in his closing address. “I encourage other Caribbean and Central American nations to step forward and continue shaping hemispheric policy.”

Lt. Col. Croft thanked the CICAD Executive Secretariat, particularly Acting Executive Secretary Angela Crowdy, as well as the Antigua and Barbuda Mission in Washington and the staff of ONDCP for their support.

CICAD comprises all 33 OAS member states and serves as the consultative and advisory body on drug-related issues across the Americas.

Tribute

Tribute by His Excellency, the Governor General on the passing of Mr Rufus Lewis, OM



The Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, and Her Excellency Lady Williams have learned with deep sadness of the passing of Mr. Rufus Adolphus Lewis, OM, a distinguished son of the soil, a devoted community builder, and a stalwart servant of the nation. Mr. Lewis passed away on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the age of 94.

Sir Rodney, himself a native of the village of Swetes, recalls Mr. Lewis as a man whose life was inseparably linked to the development, spirit, and well-being of that community. The Lewis and Williams families shared close and enduring ties over many decades, rooted in village life, public service, and a shared commitment to the upliftment of others.

Mr. Lewis worked closely with Sir Rodney's late father, Sir Ernest Emanuel Williams, former Parliamentary Representative for St. Paul's and Minister of Public Works and Communications. Together, they played a pivotal role in shaping the physical development of Swetes during a formative period, deciding where roads would be laid, where street lighting would be installed, and how water infrastructure would be extended to serve the people. These decisions, made with foresight and a deep understanding of community needs, continue to benefit residents to this day.

A master carpenter by trade, Mr. Lewis served with distinction at the Ministry of Works and supervised numerous government construction projects across Antigua and Barbuda. These included primary schools in Old Road, John Hughes, Cobbs Cross, Liberta, Newfield, Five Islands, and Parham, as well as the All Saints and Freetown Police Stations. His contribution to the nation's built environment was both wide-ranging and enduring.

Even after formal retirement, Mr. Lewis' sense of duty never diminished. In his later years, His Excellency approved his continued service as Caretaker of the Swetes Government School, later renamed the Irene B. Williams School, notwithstanding his age. Living directly opposite the school, Mr. Lewis took it upon himself to carry out plumbing, carpentry, and general maintenance, quietly and faithfully, ensuring that

the institution remained safe, functional, and welcoming for generations of children.

Mr. Lewis was also a towering figure in the labour movement. He joined the Antigua Trades and Labour Union as a teenager and devoted more than six decades to the cause of workers' rights. He served as Secretary of the Swetes Section, Shop Steward at the Public Works Department, Chairman of the Union's Works Committee, and for 22 years on the Union's Executive, ending his tenure as First Vice President. He also served on the National Labour Board and the National Minimum Wage Committee and represented Antigua and Barbuda at numerous local and international conferences. As a union operative, Mr. Lewis was a fierce and principled advocate for workers, regardless of which government was in office, including during the formative years of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

Faith was a central pillar of Mr. Lewis' life. He was a devout and lifelong member of the Cana Moravian Church, where he served faithfully as an Elder and Steward and contributed significantly to the church's development, including work on the Christian Education Building and other projects. His life bore consistent testimony to humility, service, and trust in God.

While Cana Moravian was his spiritual home, Mr. Lewis' commitment to community transcended denominational boundaries. He willingly assisted other ministries and civic initiatives, including supporting the Swetes Men 4 Life initiative when they recently honoured outstanding residents of the village. His presence reflected a lifelong belief in recognising service and uplifting people wherever good work was being done.

Mr. Lewis was also known for his warmth, humanity, and love of cricket, so strong that he named several of his sons after legendary West Indian cricketers. A devoted family man, he was married for 57 years to his beloved wife, Hildred Jerome Lewis, and was the proud father of thirteen children. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family, even establishing a trucking business in his later years, a passion that continues through successive generations.

In recognition of his exceptional contribution to labour relations and national development, Mr. Lewis was awarded The Order of Merit (OM) in 2009, an honour richly deserved.

In paying tribute, His Excellency stated:

"Rufus Lewis was a builder in the truest sense of the word. He built roads and schools, institutions and movements, families and communities. He served Swetes and Antigua and Barbuda with skill, integrity, and deep compassion. His legacy is visible in our infrastructure, our labour history, and in the lives of the many people he mentored and helped. We have lost a giant."

On behalf of Her Excellency Lady Williams, the wider Williams family, and on his own behalf, the Governor General extends sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Lewis family, the people of Swetes, the labour movement, the Cana Moravian Church, and all who mourn the passing of this remarkable Antiguan.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his life of service continue to inspire generations to come.

Regional News

President of Dominica to get raise in salary among other amendments

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has announced an increase in the President's salary in the new year.

He made the announcement during a press conference held this week.

According to him, the issue of the salaries that are issued by the constitution and require parliamentary or cabinet's approval by way of amendments to the Act, there is a law that deals with the President and the terms and engagement of the President.

Skerrit said his government has done a comprehensive review of the terms of the President and not only the emoluments, but also how the government as a nation treats both serving and former Presidents.

"We have done a comprehensive review of the President's emoluments and engagement so I look forward in the first quarter of next year that we can take this to Parliament and that will also include an increase in the President's salary," he revealed.

The Prime Minister further added that the government is also taking into consideration, particular legal treatment of the President's spouse while in office.

"Once you become the



President's spouse then you become limited in what you can do, what you can engage in and I think that a burden should not be placed on the President's family if they decide to serve the nation," Skerrit said. "That there must be some facilitation. And so we are also taking into consideration the particular legal treatment of the President's spouse while in office, because there are some things that the President's office must be extended to..."

He continued, "And as you saw by way of a cabinet decision in respect to the former Prime Ministers we took a cabinet decision to provide \$7000 a month to every former Prime Minister. You have a driver, you have a helper at the house, in some cases you have a vehicle."

Furthermore, he indicated that in respect to the

done.

He went on to add that there was a change of salary for the Chief Elections Officer.

"As you know we also took a decision to change the retirement date for the Director of Audit and the Chief Elections Officer, because as it was before the Chief Elections Officer had to demit office at age 55 and that was changed during the process of electoral reform," Skerrit explained. (Dominica News Online)

NOTICE

TO: HIS/HER WORSHIP, The Licensing Magistrate
District "A" Magistrate's Court
High Street,
St. John's, Antigua

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

I, Fadi Awad of Redcliffe Street, St. John's Antigua DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next ordinary session to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street St. John's, Antigua on the 5th day of January, 2026 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Big Bite Restaurant" situate at Redcliffe Street in the Parish of Saint John in the Island of 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 21st day of December, 2025



Tia Dunnah
Attorney-at-Law for the Applicant

More overseas linesmen arrive to boost electricity restoration

There is a renewed sense of hope in western Jamaica following Wednesday's arrival of 117 linemen from the Canadian company Graystone who are equipped with heavy-duty equipment to speed up the electricity-restoration programme in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

Energy Minister Daryl Vaz and Jamaica Public Service Company CEO Hugh Grant were present at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, St James, to welcome the linesmen, the third group to arrive in Jamaica within two days.

Vaz said the Government and the JPS are now working closely together to honour the restoration timelines, which thousands of affected residents are banking on.

"Some people will get light by Christmas, some by New Year, and the majority by mid-January to the end of January. That's a commitment," said the minister, stressing that the restoration operation would not pause for the holidays.

"This is a 24/7 focus until the people get light. We try to fit in Christmas with maybe a piece of ham, but right now, this is the work," he added.

"I know a lot of you are still out in the darkness. I know the anxiety, the frustration, and the misery, but

we're doing everything we can collaboratively between JPS and the Government of Jamaica. I just want to give the people some hope," Vaz added, noting that the number of overseas workers had exceeded initial projections.

"This is the third aircraft that has arrived in the last two days. The numbers so far have exceeded the 200 that was projected out of the 300," he said. "I think we are close to 228 if I'm not mistaken. The remaining 70 to 80 workers are expected to arrive on December 23, ahead of the arrival of critical equipment by sea."

He said that the first barge would arrive on the 24th and the second on the 25th, with more than 200 pieces of equipment.

"JPS is living up to their commitment based on the arrangement and understanding we have with the funds that we have provided," he added.

While acknowledging that the process has not been perfect so far, Vaz said the pace of mobilisation has been extraordinary, given the timing and scale of the operation.

"Cabinet approval only came two months ago, and JPS only got board approval last week. To be in this position tonight is huge," he said.

According to Grant, the ar-

rival of international crews represents a critical boost to an already massive recovery effort.

"Just over 50 days after the hurricane, we have restored power to 84 per cent of our customers," said Grant, who credited round-the-clock operations, careful planning, and crews working under difficult conditions for the success.

"In parishes like Westmoreland, St Elizabeth, Hanover, and St James, what we are seeing is not restoration. It is redesign and rebuild. There are hundreds of poles down,

some still in water. Circuits have to be redesigned and rerouted, and that requires additional resources and equipment," he explained.

In speaking to what the overseas linesmen are bringing to the table, Grant said they have specialised tools, which the local workers will also be able to use to speed up the restoration.

"Our crews are working 24/7, and we remain committed to restoring power as safely and as timely as possible," he said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

NOTICE

TO: HIS/HER WORSHIP, The Licensing Magistrate
District "A" Magistrate's Court
High Street,
St. John's, Antigua

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

I, Sean Cenac of Fitches Creek, St. George, Antigua DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next ordinary session to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street St. John's, Antigua on the 5th day of January, 2026 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "The Diving Pelican" situate at Fitches Creek in the Parish of Saint George in the Island of 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 21st day of December, 2025



Tia Dunnah
Attorney-at-Law for the Applicant

Regional News

Reopening anxiety

Principals grapple with anxiety, safety fears as damaged schools face full resumption January

With schools set to fully reopen in two weeks, anxiety is mounting among the principals of some hurricane-damaged institutions as they grapple with unclear repair timelines, safety concerns, and limited communication from education authorities.

Across western Jamaica, school leaders say the absence of structured communication and predictable repair schedules has left them struggling to balance the urgent need to resume classes with concerns about student safety, learning loss and long-term social fallout.

Linvern Wright, principal of William Knibb Memorial High School in Trelawny and the head of the Jamaica Association of Principals of Secondary Schools (JAPSS), says administrators are being forced into makeshift arrangements while trying to prevent further disruption to already-fragile learning outcomes.

“Out of nine buildings at my school, seven lost their roofs,” Wright told *The Sunday Gleaner*. “What we are doing now is completely makeshift – ply, tarpaulin, anything to keep the rain and heat out.”

But Wright stressed that the crisis extends well beyond his campus.

“There are schools like Anchovy High where both campuses were badly damaged,” he said. “Some schools have been devastated, and yet principals are expected to plan without knowing when work will begin or how long it will take.”



Wright estimates that restoring basic infrastructure at William Knibb Memorial, including electricity, technology, fencing and water, will cost close to \$9 million. That does not include the cost of full roof replacement.

“What is causing the greatest anxiety is that we have no timetable,” he said. “Assessments were done, but principals have no idea when work will start or end.”

He said an initial meeting was held with affected principals in November, at which school leaders asked for regular updates, clear timelines and ongoing consultation.

“Since that meeting in November, principals have largely been left in the dark,” he said.

As the JAPSS president, Wright said he has received repeated calls from school leaders across the island expressing frustration and concern.

“Principals are calling, wondering what is happening, because they are hearing nothing,” he said. “That lack

of predictability is creating real anxiety.”

Wright also pointed to confusion surrounding donor assistance, noting that schools with willing donors have been instructed to hold off while approval processes remain unclear.

“There are donors ready to help schools, but the framework is not clear,” he said. “We understand the need for oversight, but the process should not paralyse recovery.”

At Maggotty High School in St Elizabeth, Principal Sean Graham says the scale of damage to his campus makes full reopening in January impossible.

“Sixteen classrooms are out,” Graham said. “When you lose that many spaces, you cannot operate efficiently or safely.”

In addition to classroom losses, Graham said a significant portion of the school’s perimeter fencing was destroyed during the hurricane, creating serious security risks.

“That means students can leave at any time, and anyone can access the campus,” he said.

Electricity limitations also prevent the school from accommodating its full student population at once, forcing administrators to consider rotational attendance.

“We are now looking at a rotational timetable,” Graham said, acknowledging that such arrangements will deepen learning gaps.

“Since early November, some groups have been out of school, and there will be learning loss, particularly in literacy and numeracy,” he said, noting that some students are already reading below grade level.

Graham said he has received no communication from the ministry-based National Education Trust (NET), which is expected to oversee school repairs.

“If work starts in February, it means the school may not function properly until the next school year,” he told *The Sunday Gleaner*.

He warned that prolonged disruption places vulnerable students at risk of disengagement and displacement.

“When children are out of school for too long, some drift into maladaptive behaviour, some become displaced, and some may never return,” Graham said.

Those concerns are echoed at Belmont Academy in Westmoreland, where Principal Rayon Simpson says roughly 80 per cent of the campus is unusable. The school is also

Regional News

still being used as a shelter.

“I was shocked and petrified to receive instructions for full resumption in January in the absence of assessment findings or any indication of when repairs will begin,” Simpson said.

He questioned how schools could be expected to reopen without clear safety certification.

“If you don’t see the findings of an assessment, how can you be certain about safety?” he asked.

Simpson said the directive to resume operations appears disconnected from the realities on the ground.

“This is the last week before reopening, with Christmas and New Year holidays in between. It is an impossibility,” he said.

He described campuses littered with hazards, including broken glass, blown-out windows and unsecured structures.

“We are traversing campuses with broken glass and dangerous hazards, and we are not taking safety seriously,” Simpson said.

He warned that principals are being placed in an ethical bind, pressured to rely on their sense of duty to reopen unsafe environments.

“They are banking on the fact that we are exam-centric, that teachers care deeply about children, and that principals will return to unsafe environments,” he said.

For Simpson, however, the priority is clear.

“If students cannot return, at least they will be alive. That has to be the first consideration,” he said.

Collectively, the principals

say they are not resisting reopening but are calling for clarity, coordination and sustained engagement to ensure students return to safe, functional learning environments.

“We want students back in January,” Wright said, “but we cannot afford to repeat the kind of learning loss we saw during COVID, or to compromise safety because of uncertainty.”

Responding to the donor concern, NET Executive Director Latoya Harris-Ghartey told *The Sunday Gleaner* that principals are being urged to notify the NET where donor support is already in place to avoid duplication of work and the unnecessary deployment of contractors to schools where repairs are already under way.

“With more than 700 schools reporting damage, the pool of available contractors is limited. If a donor is already covering certain works at a school, we need to know that so we can deploy contractors elsewhere,” she explained.

She stressed that the Trust is not discouraging donor assistance, but insisted that all works adhere to national standards, particularly the supplemental roof specifications developed after repeated storm damage.

“We provide donors with the guiding specifications, and we assign a project manager to offer technical support and oversight. Our goal is to ensure quality and safety, not to block anyone from helping.”

Harris-Ghartey noted that in some cases, damage extends beyond roofs to the structural integrity of buildings, requiring additional assessments before work can begin.

“This is a very dynamic process. In some schools, once you start looking at the roof, you realise the structure itself may not be sound enough to support repairs.”

Addressing concerns raised by principals about delays since a November meeting with the Ministry of Education, Harris said contractor assignments began in early December, with commencement letters issued to schools with severe damage.

“Of the 290 schools classified as severely affected, 189 were assigned contractors in early December. Since then, we’ve issued additional instructions and continued assessments where required.”

She acknowledged that timelines have been frustrating for school leaders but said repairs were always expected to take months.

“The contracts we’re doing range between four and eight months, so work will continue into the new year. Schools are being encouraged to prioritise critical areas – bathrooms, canteens, staff spaces – so operations can resume while repairs continue.

In some cases, temporary measures are being used to allow schools to function.

“We have schools operating with temporary heavy-duty coverings that can last up to a year, tents being used as classrooms, and discussions under way about deploying modular classrooms where feasible.”

Harris-Ghartey said assessments have taken longer than anticipated due to the age of many school buildings, competition for contractors across multiple sectors, and severe access and connectivity challenges in rural areas.

“Contractors are working in communities with poor road access and limited connectivity. Reports often can’t be submitted until they return to Kingston. Even basic communication with principals has been difficult in some areas,” she told *The Sunday Gleaner*.

She also defended the NET’s field teams, noting that verification visits often involve hazardous terrain.

“My team has been in swamp-like areas this week. These are not normal working conditions, and people need to appreciate that.”

On concerns about student learning loss, Harris said the risk is real and requires national collaboration.

“Yes, of course, I am worried. Our children already faced COVID-19 disruptions. Recovery will take time, and it will require flexibility, agility, and cooperation from all stakeholders.”

She said interim solutions may look unconventional but are necessary.

“A shaded tree may become a classroom. What matters is acting in the best interest of the child.”

Harris pointed to partnerships with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to distribute printed materials, digital resources, and offline-accessible content, while urging greater community involvement.

“Schools are always the centre of their communities. Now more than ever, we have to call on that national pride and collective responsibility to support them.” (Jamaica Gleaner)

India express train kills seven elephants crossing tracks

Seven wild Asian elephants, including calves, were killed when a high-speed train collided with a herd crossing the tracks in north-eastern India, local officials say.

They say another calf was injured in the incident early on Saturday in Hojai district, Assam state.

The Northeast Frontier Railway says the train driver spotted dozens of elephants and used the emergency brakes - but some animals were still hit.

Five carriages derailed after the collision, but no injuries were reported among passengers and staff on the Delhi-bound express. Train cancellations and diversions were reported in the area during the day.

The killed elephants were later examined by veterinarians and buried.

Assam has one of the biggest elephant populations in India, with nearly 6,000 animals recorded in the state.

Local railway tracks are often crossed by elephant herds - but Saturday's incident happened at a location that was not a designated elephant corridor, the Northeast Frontier Railway says. (BBC)



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Minute's silence held to remember Bondi Beach attack victims

Mourners in Australia fell silent on Sunday in honour of the victims of the Bondi Beach attack.

The memorial was part of a national day of reflection to mark a week since the shooting in which two gunmen opened fire on an event celebrating the Jewish festival of Hannukah.

A 10-year-old girl, a British-born rabbi and a Holocaust survivor were among 15 people killed in the attack.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was booed when he arrived at the memorial event - an expression of anger by Australia's Jewish community against his government after a rise of antisemitic attacks over the past few months.

As the sun set over Sydney on Sunday evening, a minute's silence was observed at 18:47 (07:47 GMT) - exactly one week since the first reports of gunfire at the famous beach.

There was heavy security at the memorial event. Some cordoned-off areas were guarded by armed riot squad officers who had their faces covered, while a police patrol boat was visible off the coast of Bondi Beach.

For many Australians, this level of security is an unfamiliar sight.

A large crowd - many wearing kippas, the Jewish skullcap, or draped in Australian flags - gathered to listen to speeches after the observing the silence.

Bee balloons floated in the wind in honour of the youngest victim of the attack, Matilda, who was

nicknamed "Matilda Bee".

Later in the ceremony, the crowd sang Waltzing Matilda, the song the 10-year-old was named after.

Soon after, the crowd chanted the name of another child - Chaya, a 14-year-old who put herself in the firing line to protect a stranger's children.

Shot in the leg, she used crutches to take to the stage. "If you guys get inspired by one thing, one thing on all this, be the light in that field of darkness," she said.

The event ended with the lighting of the menorah - something the crowds gathered for Hannukah last week couldn't do.

But Sunday's memorial was not limited to Bondi Beach or the state of New South Wales.

In a nation-wide gesture of "light over darkness", the windowsills of countless homes across Australia were lined with candles.

As Albanese arrived for the ceremony, one person in the crowd shouted: "Blood on your hands."

The prime minister looked startled at the hostility and his wife Jodie Haydon grasped his arm in support. At least one member of the crowd was tackled by police after moving towards the prime minister.

The Jewish community in Australia has repeatedly said this attack was a shock but not a surprise after a rise in antisemitic attacks in Australia since the 7 October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel, and the subsequent military retaliation war launched by Israel in the

Gaza Strip.

The overwhelming view is that more could and should have been done to prevent the Sydney attack from happening.

Albanese has acknowledged the criticism, saying: "I accept my responsibility for the part in that as prime minister of Australia."

More widely, Albanese has been accused by some of siding with the Palestinians over supporting Israel.

The relationship worsened when he moved to recognise the state of Palestine earlier this year.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused him - as well as the leaders of other countries that have recognised a Palestinian state - of rewarding Hamas.

After the Bondi Beach attack last Sunday, Netanyahu said Albanese's government "did nothing to stop the spread of antisemitism in Australia".

Australia was seen as a world leader in gun control - Bondi has exposed a more complicated reality

In contrast to the reception for the Australian prime minister, Chris Minns, the Premier of New South Wales, was praised at the Sydney memorial service as an exemplary leader, partly for the speed with which he admitted government errors in the lead-up to the attack. He also attended the funerals of several victims this week. Albanese was not invited to some.

"We are deeply sorry," Minns said at the event.

"We grieve with you, and

with humility, I acknowledge that the government's highest duty is to protect its citizens. And we did not do that one week ago."

The shooting had "highlighted a deep vein of antisemitic hate in our community", Minns said, adding: "This must be confronted."

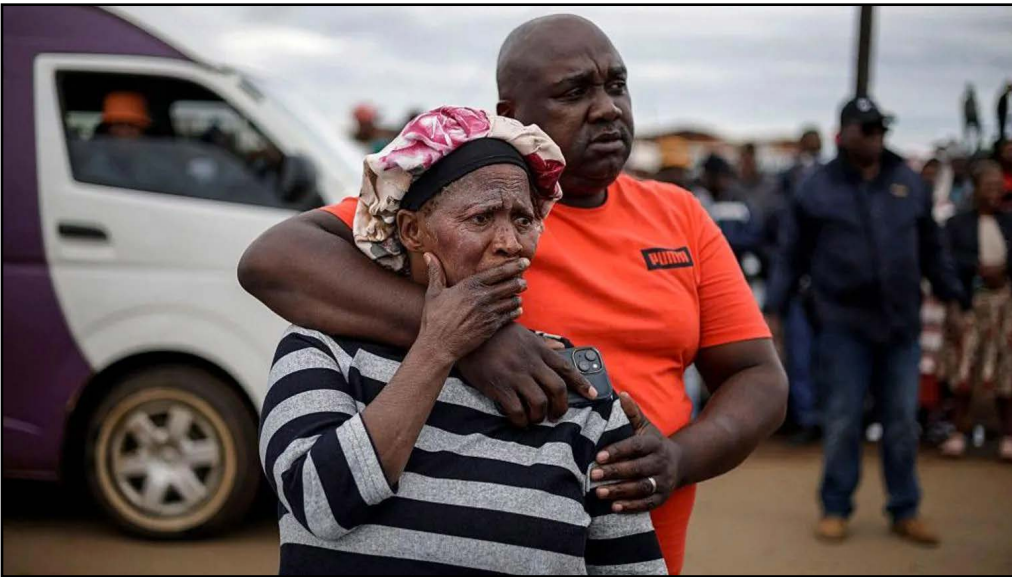
The president of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, David Ossip, was hailed with loud cheers as he called for a "Royal Commission which goes beyond New South Wales, to get to the bottom of how this catastrophe took place". Suspected gunman Naveed Akram, 24, has been charged with 59 offences, including 15 counts of murder and one of committing a terrorist act. His father Sajid was killed during the attack. Days after the attack, Albanese announced a raft of measures to crack down on hate speech and incitement to violence.

Shortly before Sunday's ceremony, he announced a review into the police and national intelligence agencies.

"The ISIS-inspired atrocity last Sunday reinforces the rapidly changing security environment in our nation," Albanese said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

He has also said he will reform gun laws and the government has launched a gun buyback scheme - the largest since the Port Arthur massacre in 1996, which left 35 people dead and prompted Australia to introduce world-leading gun control measures. (BBC)

Gunmen kill nine in South Africa tavern attack



A manhunt is under way after a shooting at a tavern in South Africa left nine people dead and another 10 injured.

Police said seven men and two women were killed in Bekkersdal, near Johannesburg, after about 12 unidentified gunmen arrived in two vehicles and opened fire at patrons.

The shooting happened at about 01:00 local time on Sunday (23:00 GMT Saturday) and the perpetrators “continued to shoot randomly as [people] fled the scene”, police added.

South Africa has one of the highest murder rates in the world. Sixty-three people were killed every day on average between April and September this year, according to police figures.

Murders are often the result of arguments, robberies and gang violence. The motive for this attack is not clear.

At the scene, deputy provincial police commissioner Maj-Gen Fred Kekana told broadcaster Newzroom Afrika that the perpetrators, armed with pistols and one AK-47, were “unprovoked”.

“The poor patrons were just enjoying themselves when people came and

shot,” he said.

Two of the victims were shot outside the tavern as they tried to flee and a third was a taxi driver who had dropped off a passenger nearby, Maj-Gen Kekana added.

Resident Nokuthula Bhukwana went to the tavern after she heard the shooting.

“When we arrived at the scene, we opened the doors and indeed scores of people were lying on the floor,” she told the Reuters news agency.

“We rushed around and others were calling the police, and we also called the ambulance and they arrived. We had to carry some of the injured people using wheelbarrows to the clinic.”

Speaking to Newzroom Afrika, one resident described how gunfire had become a normal thing at night in Bekkersdal.

“Criminals, they do as they please here,” the unnamed man said.

“These guns, they sound each and every evening... as soon as it’s dusk we know that gunshots are about to sound and they will sound severely.

“It is terrorising our communities.”

Interviewed at the scene, deputy mayor for the local municipality Nontombi Molatlhegi said that locals were afraid of speaking out and identifying those responsible.

She said that the police were under-resourced, and too thinly spread, and called for the military to get involved in protecting residents.

“We are crying, as well as the city political leadership, for the intervention of the national government to release [the army] so that they can be able to come in this space” and be visible.

There are about three million legally held firearms in South Africa, but there are at least the same number of unlicensed weapons in circulation in the country, which has a population of 63 million, according to statistics cited by Gideon Joubert from the South African Gunowners’ Association.

Earlier this month, at least 11 people - including a child - were shot dead at a hostel near Pretoria.

There has been a significant increase in mass shootings - where four or more people are either killed or injured - since 2020, Claire Taylor, a researcher at campaign group Gun Free South Africa, told the BBC.

Looking at media reports from 2024 her organisation recorded 80 such incidents, which was up from 71 the previous year. There has, however, been a decline in reported mass shootings in 2025.

Among the most common locations are licensed taverns, such as in Bekkersdal this weekend, or illegal drinking spots, known locally as shebeens, which was the case in the 6 December killings. (BBC)

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- A diploma or bachelor's degree in business administration. (having a degree in business administration is an advantage).
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- 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.



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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

Daley qualifies for 2026 CARIFTA Games in Grenada

The Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA) has announced Kasiya Daley as the nation's first qualifier for the 2026 CARIFTA Games to be held in Grenada.

Daley, the 2023 NACAC Under-18 double gold medalist and 2024 Junior Sportsman of the Year, achieved the feat during his first indoor meet at the Washburn Alumni Invite on December 6.

Representing Allen Community College in Kansas, Kasiya Daley qualified in the men's 200-meter event by clocking a time 21.54 seconds, within the 21.75-second indoor standard.



Kasiya Daley

Earlier, Daley also debuted with a 60-meter time of 6.82 seconds, also within the qualification standards for the 100 meters (6.85).

The ABAA expressed con-

gratulations to Daley on being the first qualifier for team Antigua and Barbuda for the 2026 CARIFTA Track and Field Games, which will be held in Gre-

nada from April 4 to 6.

The ABAA's 2026 season will open on January 10, with the first of a series of Development Meets at the YASCO Sports Complex.

NOTICE

TO:
HER HONOUR
The Licensing Magistrate
District "A" Magistrate's Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua

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

I, Dwayne Pascal, of English Harbour, St. Paul, Antigua DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday 5th, January, 2026 for a Tavern License for the premises known as "Pascalito Bar & Pizzeria" situated at English Harbour, in the Parish of St. Paul in the Island of Antigua pursuant to Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicated Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 12th, December, 2025
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant



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Sports News

Scorpions extend unbeaten run in First Division League

The Freemans Village Scorpions continued their unbeaten run during the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

The Scorpions notched up their fourth win in five matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Willikies FC at the Willikies playing field.

Roy Gregory scored the only goal of the match with a strike in the 84th minute.

The result carries the Freemans Village Scorpions to 13 points, while the Willikies FC remains on three points after slumping to their fifth loss in six games.

There was success as well for English Harbour in their latest outing. English Harbour claimed their third win in eight matches by snatching a one-nil victory against Bendals FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Clarence Marsh struck the winner with the only conversion of the match in the 59th minute.

The result allows English Harbour FC to advance to nine points, while Bendals FC remains on two points after suffering their sixth defeat in eight matches.

But there were no winners in the encounter between Parham and Swetes Vipers FC, who battled to a 2-2 draw at the Parham playing field.

Lyndon Goodwin scored in the 40th minute, and Kimoi Alexander had a 48th-minute conversion for the Swetes Vipers FC.

Dale Gardner produced a 55th-minute conversion, and teammate Trevaughn Harriette scored an equalizer in the first minute of added time to sal-

vage the draw for Parham.

The result carries Parham FC to nine points after securing their third draw in seven matches. The Swetes Vipers FC moved on to seven points after salvaging their fourth draw in seven matches.

However, the match at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park between the Greenbay Hoppers and SAP FC was not played.

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Guydadli Jets continue to dominate Second Division League

The Guydadli Jets maintained their unbeaten run in their campaign during their latest outing in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Friday.

The Guydadli Jets notched up their fifth win in six matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Point West Ham at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Imani Joyce struck the winner for Guydadli Jets with a 40th-minute conversion. The result carries Guydadli Jets to 16 points, while Point West Ham FC remains on four points after suffering their third defeat in five matches.

The Young Lions enjoyed a goal feast as they notched up their fourth win in six matches with a 6-2 drubbing of Belmont FC at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Zavier Joseph achieved a hat trick, with conversions in the fifth, 62nd, and 80th minutes. The other goals for the Young Lions were scored by Deante' Anthony in the 22nd minute, Stefan Smith in the 58th, and Calique Simon in the 66th minute.

Zamaal Greene scored in the fourth minute, and Iandre Hodge had a 76th-minute conversion for Belmont FC. The result allows the unbeaten Young Lions to advance to 14 points.



The Guydadli Jets football team

Jahmari George scored twice as Blackburn Palace recorded their third win in six matches with a 3-1 victory against Glanvilles FC at the Fort Road playing field.

George had conversions in the 54th and 68th minutes, while Demarre Swift scored the opening goal in the 18th minute for Blackburn Palace. Ashane Mattison scored for Glanvilles FC with a strike in the 67th minute.

The result allows Blackburn Palace to advance to 10 points, while Glanvilles FC remains on three points after slumping to their third loss in four

matches.

Police maintained their unbeaten run by securing their third win in five matches with a 3-0 drubbing of the Liberta Blackhawks at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

The goals for Police were scored by Glenroy Prince in the 55th minute, Carl Kirby in the 57th, and Vivian Gonsalves in the 74th minute.

The result carries Police to 11 points, while the Liberta Blackhawks remain on one point after suffering their fifth defeat in six matches.




Festivals Greetings

From the Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission!

As we celebrate the spirit of Christmas and welcome a bright New Year, we extend heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. We look forward to creating even more moments of joy, creativity, and national pride together.

Cheers to new beginnings, strengthened partnerships, and an inspiring 2026 ahead.

 Antigua Carnival
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Antigua Barbuda Chess Federation

ANNUAL WINTER CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY

28

DECEMBER
2025

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CWI and CPL review 2026 timing for Breakout T20 League



Breakout T20 League Trophy

Cricket West Indies (CWI), in collaboration with the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), has completed a review of the proposed window for the Breakout T20 League in 2026.

Given the increasingly congested international and domestic cricket calendar, coupled with preparations for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, it has been determined that the tournament cannot be staged in its originally planned window.

Following the successful inaugural edition earlier this year, both CWI and CPL remain firmly committed to the Breakout T20 League, which is regarded as a key component of the region's player development pathway and a critical bridge to regional, franchise, and international cricket.

CWI Chief Executive Officer Chris Dehring emphasized that the league's primary purpose is player development, particularly the identification and nurturing of talent beyond traditional or highly visible

pathways.

"While we have not yet identified a suitable window for the Breakout League in 2026, it remains an important pillar of our domestic tournament strategy," said Dehring.

"This pause, particularly during a stringent fiscal period, provides an opportunity to assess the league's structure and to determine whether it is optimally positioned within the World Cup cycle to deliver the best possible developmental outcomes.

"We must cast a wider net across the Caribbean to ensure we are identifying players with the skill, athleticism, and mindset required for the modern game, including those who may emerge later or who have not yet had sustained exposure to elite environments.

"That requires stronger scouting, improved data capture, and clearer alignment between the Breakout League and our high-performance systems, so that progression to the

senior international level is intentional and measurable."

Dehring added that alignment across all levels of West Indies cricket is particularly critical during the current cycle, with multiple national squads active on the global stage.

"With the Under-19 Men's and Senior Men's teams focused on upcoming World Cups, this is an especially demanding period for our players," he said.

"While the Breakout League remains part of our forward planning, it will not be staged in the same window. Both CWI and CPL agree that the tournament must have sufficient space to make a meaningful developmental impact and to truly engage our fans. We will continue to look for a space for this event in 2026."

CPL Chief Executive Officer Pete Russell echoed this commitment, highlighting the importance of ensuring the competition's long-term viability and developmental value.

"The CPL fully supports the Breakout League and its role within Caribbean cricket," Russell said.

"Although we have not yet been able to secure a suitable window for 2026, our commitment to the competition remains unchanged. This period will allow us to refine the format, timing, and supporting structures to ensure the league fulfils its intended role within the regional development system, both now and in the future."

CWI said updates on the execution of the tournament will be communicated in due course.

Grenades stay unbeaten but drop more points in Premier Division



A starting XI of the Jennings Grenades football team

The Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades maintained their unbeaten run but dropped points for the second time this season in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

The Jennings Grenades secured their second draw in eight matches with a goalless stalemate against the Potters Tigers in the last game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center. The result allows the Jennings Grenades to remain in second place by moving within a point of leaders

and back-to-back defending champions All Saints United at the top of the standings.

Their result allows the Jennings Grenades to advance to 20 points, one adrift of All Saints United, who also have a game in hand. The Potters Tigers moved on to nine points after salvaging their third draw in eight matches.

Struggling Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United ended their dismal start to their Premier League campaign, picking up their first points and a win in eight matches with a one-nil victory

against the Ottos Rangers in a bottom-of-the-table clash in Saturday's second game. Swayne Thomas struck the winner by converting the only goal of the match in the sixth minute.

The result allows Jennings United to climb out of the cellar, advancing to three points by recording their first win after losing all previous seven matches.

The Ottos Rangers dropped into the cellar position with one point after crashing to their seventh defeat in eight matches.

Akeem Isaac scored twice as Pigotts Bullets notched

up their fourth win in seven matches by snatching a 2-1 victory against Garden Stars FC in Saturday's opening game.

Weekes scored on either side of halftime with goals in the second minute of added time in the first half and in the 51st minute, which allowed the Pigotts Bullets to advance to 12 points.

Kemoi Walsh scored the only goal in the 50th minute for the Garden Stars, who remain on 11 points after slumping to their second defeat in seven matches.