

# “We were not frivolous,” insists PM Browne

*Story on page 2*



Prime Minister Gaston Browne as his alter ego 'Gassy Dread' made a special appearance on Night One of the **One Nation Caribbean Music Festival** at the ARG on Saturday night. Point Express presents a photo essay of the night's events on pages 14 and 15

# Local News

## “We were not frivolous (on the refugee issue),” insists PM Browne



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show**

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is taking the unusual step of publishing a letter sent to the US Government since last August detailing a number of concerns that Antigua and Barbuda had regarding the acceptance of refugees that were being expelled from the United States to third party countries.

Speaking on the *Browne and Browne* show on Saturday, PM Browne observed that under normal circumstances, he would not have released the sensitive details of the letter to the public, but he wanted to inform the people of Antigua and Barbuda that the government had approached the matter with due care and attention.

“This letter sent five months ago (August 11, 2025) showed our intent to cooperate with the US government. However, at the same time, expressing our concerns about certain aspects and literally

stating just how we see this issue and how we will participate in the programme. Now, I am not sure if this is what provoked the ire of certain individuals, but we could not just have accepted refugees and deportee without expressing those concerns,” he emphasized.

According to the prime minister he is publishing the letter to further concretise in the minds of the people of Antigua and Barbuda that the government was not ‘frivolous’ on the issue. He further reported that the matter was first discussed as much as six months ago with multiple countries including many here in the Caribbean.

“In the context of members of the opposition seeking to exploit this issue for political purposes, they have been suggesting that we are allowing criminal elements into the country and that we will have

thousands of them. This is not so! We are getting licks from within as our political opponents are using lies and misinformation to create mayhem within the society,” he remarked.

PM Browne was adamant when he stated that as a government...both he and the Cabinet had to defend the national interest even if that means that certain actions are taken against Antigua and Barbuda. “We have to stand firm on principle,” he declared.

He noted that there is a view that taking such a stance would prejudice the issue of entry visas to the US. However, he maintains that if Antigua and Barbuda had agreed to accept large numbers of criminals that this act would destabilize the country.

PM Browne assured the people of Antigua and Barbuda that high-level discussions are underway with senior US government representatives to have the matter resolved as soon as possible.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States and the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders, said he hopes that the matter can be resolved within the 120-day margin suggested by the US.

For clarity, the prime minister again emphasized that the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the US specifies that no one with criminal records will be accepted and that the government reserves the right to accept or deny anyone suggested by the US.

See full text of the letter sent by Ambassador Sir Ronald. Sanders to US authorities on page 11.

## HAPI delivers two houses to separate families in Swetes and Hatten



The government-administered housing improvement programme for the less fortunate in the society – the Home Assisted Programme for the Indigent (HAPI) – delivered two homes to families in Swetes and Hatten over the weekend.

Social and Urban Improvement Minister, Rawdon Turner, was on hand to assist with making the presentations to the families benefiting from this initiative – Arlene Wilson and her family of 15 in Swetes and Shamara Thomas and

family of 9 in Hatten, explains the philosophy of the programme as he displayed photos of the houses before and after the renovations carried out by teams from National Housing.

“It’s very important for people to understand the work of HAPI. HAPI is determined to help poor people in this country, and it is also important to note that HAPI does not recognize colour; it doesn’t matter if

you support the ABLP or the UPP; our mission is to help people to get out of poverty. There are still pockets of poverty in this country and we are committed to helping those individuals,” he declared.

Turner said he has a mandate from the prime minister to work towards ‘rooting’ out those pockets of poverty that still exist and the HAPI programme’s housing improvement initiative is

# Local News



already making an impact in this regard. He said thus far, HAPI has improved and turned over 107 homes to families in the country in the ten plus years of its existence.

The Housing Minister expressed his disappointment that HAPI, for all that it is doing to help the poor in the society, has recently come under attack from elements within the opposition, United Progressive Party (UPP).

“I want to be frank and straightforward here,” Turner told the ***Browne and Browne Show*** on Saturday, “you see poor people who are living in deplorable conditions and we have a programme to help take them out of those conditions. It pains me to say this, but the HAPI programme has come under attack from elements within the UPP. I don’t understand that you have poor

people living in less than ideal conditions and they are encouraging them not to take advantage of the HAPI programme,” he reported.

According to Turner the actions of the opposition, in his mind, are ‘sad’ and he presented the photos of the houses prior to the refurbishment and after so that the public can see for themselves the remarkable work that the HAPI programme is doing in communities across Antigua and Barbuda.

Undeterred by the opposition protestations, Minister Turner said the arrival of the 28 truck-loads of lumber and galvanise last week, will enable his ministry to undertake multiple home improvements simultaneously.

“Today (last Saturday), we were able to help two families out of that deplorable condition and I was able to

see one of the home owners shed tears of joy as she and her family took possession of the refurbished home. That meant a lot to me!” he remarked.

Turner reported that the improvements to the homes were done at no cost to the home-owners.

Coordinator of the Social

Protection Board, Mary Baltimore, who combined efforts with HAPI programme coordinator, Inspector Veldon Raggette, to undertake the housing upgrades, described the presentation of the two homes in a single day as a historic event, both for the home-owners and for the agencies involved.

## Antigua and Barbuda is to host another international meeting next month

Antigua and Barbuda's growing reputation as a host-venue for major international gatherings will receive a further boost as the Cabinet has approved the country's hosting of the Caribbean-European Union (EU) Parliamentary Assembly, scheduled to take place here from 14 to 20 February, 2026. The Assembly will bring together parliamentary representatives from Caribbean states and the European Union and represents an important opportunity to strengthen political dialogue, parliamentary cooperation, and international partnerships. The hosting of this high-level meeting also aligns strategically with Antigua and Barbuda's ongoing preparations and institutional readiness for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026. Cabinet has designated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the lead co-ordinating Ministry for the planning and execution of the Assembly. The Ministry will work closely with the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda, the Office of the Prime Minister, and all relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, including National Security, Tourism, Immigration, Transport, and Works, to ensure the successful delivery of the event. In addition, Cabinet approved that the CHOGM 2026 Coordinator, Cecilia Roberts-Morgan, collaborate closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordinating and executing the hosting of the Assembly. Existing coordination mechanisms, logistical frameworks, and inter-agency arrangements established for CHOGM 2026 will be utilized to support planning and implementation. Cabinet has further directed the establishment of an inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism or task force to oversee preparations and ensure the timely fulfillment of all host country obligations.





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# Local News

## Government rejects Misleading and Inaccurate claims regarding Antigua and Barbuda's relationship with the USA.



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda strongly rejects the misleading and inaccurate claims recently circulated regarding the nation's relationship with the United States, the status of the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC), and the operation of the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programme.

The commentary in question presents conjecture as fact and creates a distorted picture of Antigua and Barbuda's policies and international engagements. Several of the claims are demonstrably false.

### 1. U.S.–Antigua and Barbuda Relations

The assertion that relations with the United States are "under extreme strain" is incorrect. Both governments remain in regular communication, including at senior diplomatic and technical levels. Where policy adjustments

occur—such as changes to visa procedures—they are part of wider U.S. global measures and not targeted actions against Antigua and Barbuda.

Any suggestion that Antigua and Barbuda is being singled out or punished is unfounded.

### 2. West Indies Oil Company (WIOC)

Claims that WIOC is the subject of U.S. pressure or that its operations are in jeopardy due to its shareholding structure are inaccurate. The Government has been fully transparent regarding WIOC's ownership for many years and continues to operate within all applicable international legal frameworks, including those relating to entities under sanctions.

There has been no request—public, private, direct, or indirect—from the United States for Antigua and Barbuda to seize, expropriate, or forcibly transfer any shareholding in WIOC. In addition, WIOC has been doing business with United States entities without restrictions over the past seven years.

### 3. Citizenship by Investment Programme

The allegations that the CBI programme is being used by "adversaries" to circumvent security systems are speculative and irresponsible. Antigua and Barbuda maintains one of the most rigorous due-diligence regimes in the region, including multi-layered vetting, international security checks, and continuous review of procedures

in cooperation with trusted global partners.

There is no evidence whatsoever that the programme presents the type of security risks claimed by the commentator.

### 4. Use of False or Invented Information

The narrative presented is heavily coloured by personal bias and includes several statements that have no basis in fact. The public should treat such material with caution, particularly when it attempts to manufacture tension or portray routine governmental processes as evidence of crisis.

### Conclusion

Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to responsible governance, respect for international law, and constructive diplomacy with all partners, including the United States. Attempts to portray the country as isolated, pressured, or non-compliant are inaccurate and misleading.

The Government will continue to correct misinformation wherever it arises to ensure that the public, investors, and international partners receive accurate and verifiable information. (Ends)

**MAURICE F. MERCHANT**

Director-General of Communications  
 | Government of Antigua and Barbuda



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## NODS gets greenlight to erect District Disaster Command Centres across Antigua and Barbuda



The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) gets the greenlight to place District Disaster Command Centres (DDCCs) on designated Crown Lands across Antigua and Barbuda.

The Cabinet approved a request from the agency to establish the centres and the decision forms part of Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen national disaster preparedness, response, and resilience at the community level. NODS, as the national lead agency for Disaster Risk Management and the coordinating body for the National District Disaster Volunteer Committee system, is implementing this initiative in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

The District Disaster Command Centres will be constructed using durable 20-foot and 40-foot cargo-worthy containers and will serve as secure, fully equipped hubs for coordinating disaster response, mobilising volunteer personnel, and supporting

disaster mitigation activities within communities. The establishment of one command centre in each district is expected to significantly enhance decentralized coordination and communication during emergencies.

Cabinet granted approval for the placement of these centres at the following locations:

- ▶ St. Mary's South – Bolans Police Station
- ▶ St. Philip North – Glanvilles Poly-clinic Grounds
- ▶ St. Philip South – Newfield Primary School
- ▶ Rural South – Golden Grove Police Outpost
- ▶ St. George – Pigotts Primary School
- ▶ St. Peters – Parham Primary School
- ▶ City West – Villa Polyclinic Grounds
- ▶ St. Paul – Liberta Primary School
- ▶ All Saints West – Sea View Farm

### Playing Field

- ▶ All Saints East and St. Luke – JT Ambrose Primary School
- ▶ Rural North – Cedar Grove Clinic Grounds
- ▶ City South – Police Headquarters
- ▶ St. Mary's North – Antigua State College
- ▶ Rural West – Greenbay Police Station / Clinic Grounds
- ▶ Barbuda – Disaster Office Premises

The Cabinet's approval underscores the Government's commitment to safeguarding lives, strengthening community-level disaster response capabilities, and improving national resilience to natural hazards.

Implementation of the project will proceed in accordance with established planning, safety, and coordination protocols, with NODS continuing to work closely with relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

# Local News

## Creative Minister sees “One Nation” music festival expanding in the coming years



Minister of Creative Industries, Darryl Matthew, is full of optimism regarding the future growth of the **One Nation Music Festival** that took place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds this past weekend.

Minister Matthew told state television last week, that the festival has to potential to become a major international event hosted right here in Antigua and Barbuda.

“**One Nation** is a brand here in Antigua and Barbuda as we have done it for quite a few years and we see it going through a natural organic growth and transition thereby be-

coming an even bigger festival. The prime minister had a vision when he wanted Antigua and Barbuda to have an international music festival along the lines of some of the other festivals that take place within the OECS and **One Nation** is perfectly positioned to do just that,” he suggested.

The Creative Minister said **One Nation** may be expanded to an entire week of events indicating what could be on the roster.

“We want to have events that decentralize the festival from the Antigua Recreation Grounds. In a few years, this festival may be expanded

to an entire week where you would have master classes with our producers and our artists by bringing in international persons to give a different perspective of production and writing and so on,” he remarked.

**One Nation** started some years ago on the recommendation of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and it was originally a one-night affair. Since then it has grown in popularity and scope and it is now a two-night festival; a soca and reggae night of celebration and a gospel festival on the Sunday night.

## Halo Welcomes Good Humans 268 Under Its Patronage

Good Humans 268, the socially-conscious environmental group, has been officially welcomed under the umbrella of the Halo Foundation, the organisation founded by the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams.

The event happened last week when the Governor General and Lady Williams — Patron and President/Founder of the Halo Foundation, respectively — met formally with Joshuanette Francis, the founder of Good Humans 268, at Government House.

During what has been described as 'a warm and engaging meeting', Francis, President of Good Humans 268, shared her vision for the organisation and highlighted its efforts in promoting environmental awareness and advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

"The Halo Foundation is proud to support initiatives that align with its



Governor General and Lady Williams met formally with Joshuanette Francis, mission of compassion, inclusion, and social responsibility," a statement

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## One of two men wanted by the police for escaping lawful custody is back in custody

One of two men for whom the police issued Wanted Bulletins on Saturday, is now back in police custody.

Police spokesman Inspector Frankie Thomas confirmed on Sunday afternoon that Tevin Willock of Grays Farm is back in custody. No further details were given. Willock was wanted for gun-related offences and for escaping lawful custody.

The Wanted Bulletin for Donte Hunkins remains in effect as he is still on the run from the law.

Early Saturday morning, the police issued the first bulletin;

**Name:** Donte Hunkins

**Status:** WANTED

**Offences:** Several Fraud Offences

Escaping Lawful Custody

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is seeking the public's assistance in locating Donte Hunkins, who is wanted in connection with multiple fraud-related offences and for escaping lawful custody.

The suspect's last known addresses are between Cassada Gardens and Golden Grove.

He is strongly advised by the police



**Name:** Donte Hunkins

**Status:** WANTED

**Offences:** Several Fraud Offences

Escaping Lawful Custody

to surrender himself immediately at any police station without further delay.

Members of the public who may have information regarding his whereabouts are urged not to confront the suspect, but to contact the police promptly.

Investigations are ongoing, and ef-



**Name:** Tevin Willock

**Address:** Grays Farm

**Status:** WANTED

**Offences:** Gun-related Offences, Escaping Lawful Custody  
orts to locate him are continuing.

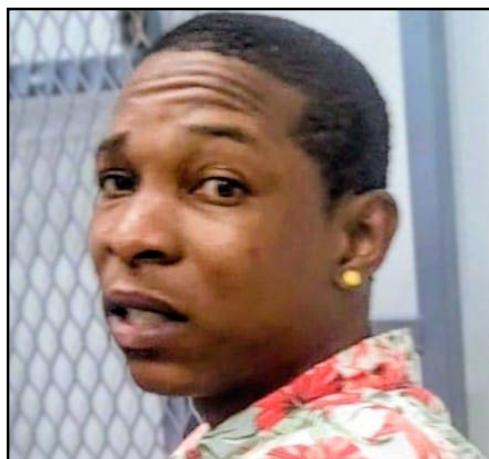
Anyone with information is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department (CID): 462-3913, the nearest Police Station, or call Crime Stoppers (Anonymous): 800-TIPS (8477). All information will be treated with the strictest confidence.

## Parham Man Charged with Larceny at Ffryes Beach

The police have arrested and charged 25-year-old Alvin O'Brien of Parham in connection with a larceny incident at Ffryes Beach.

Reports indicate that a woman had parked her vehicle at the beach and left her handbag on the front passenger seat. The accused was later spotted at the driver's side door with part of his body inside the vehicle.

An alarm was raised, and he fled the scene in a silver motor car. The vehicle was subsequently intercepted by officers attached to the Bolans Police



**Alvin O'Brien of Parham**

Station and he was arrested and taken into custody.

He is expected to appear before the court next week to answer to the charge.

Meanwhile, the police continue to appeal to the public to desist from leaving valuable items unattended inside vehicles.

The Police Administration encourages everyone to play their part to help safeguard against theft and other criminal activities.



**Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda  
Washington, DC**

11<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Mr. Michael (Mike) Kozak  
Senior Bureau Official  
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear SBO, Mr Mike Kozak

I thank you for our constructive discussions regarding a possible “Understanding” (hereinafter, the “Understanding”) between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda concerning the transfer to Antigua and Barbuda of certain third-country nationals now present in the United States.

We acknowledge receipt of the Note dated 28 July 2025 transmitting the Draft Proposed Text and inviting our comments. My Government has authorized me to submit the following responses to the seven bullet points in the draft.

**Preliminary – Scope and Eligibility of Transferees**

For the avoidance of doubt, **only** individuals who are **(i) designated refugees under U.S. law or (ii) registered asylum seekers with a pending, non-frivolous asylum application recognized by U.S. authorities** are within scope (“Eligible Persons”). **No other category** of inadmissible, removable, or “illegal” immigrant in the United States is eligible for transfer under this Understanding.

**On the first bullet point (transfers):**

**A. Mutual Agreement & Notice (Condition Precedent).** Transfers shall occur only by **mutual written agreement** of both Governments on a **case-by-case** basis, with the United States providing at least **fourteen (14) days**’ advance notice of each proposed transferee’s identity, nationality, and a **complete pre-arrival package** including: full biometrics in U.S. standard format; criminal and immigration history; any derogatory intelligence; verified civil-status/identity documents; medical screening results (including communicable diseases); and the **per-case Funding Letter** (see seventh bullet). **No transfer proceeds absent a complete package.**

**B. Exclusion of High-Risk Individuals.** Antigua and Barbuda **cannot accept** any individual who raises **national-security or public-safety concerns** for the United States, or who poses such concerns for Antigua and Barbuda.

**C. Eligibility Conditions (for Eligible Persons only).** Antigua and Barbuda will consider only persons who:

- i. have **no criminal convictions** other than immigration-status offenses; have **no pending charges**; are **not** subject to sex-offender registration; are **not** on terrorism, organized-crime, or sanctions lists; and are **not** otherwise excludable on security grounds;
- ii. possess a **certified skill or professional licence** recognized by the relevant regulatory authorities of Antigua and Barbuda; and
- iii. demonstrate at least **basic working proficiency in English**.

**D. Nationality, Documents & Consent.** The United States will **verify nationality**, provide appropriate **travel/identity documents**, and obtain **written informed consent** from each individual proposed for transfer.

**E. Capacity Limit.** Antigua and Barbuda will consider accepting **no more than twelve (12) persons in the aggregate per calendar year (including immediate family)**, at Antigua and Barbuda's sole discretion to accept fewer, in view of our small-state capacity constraints (population 95,000; land area 440 km<sup>2</sup>).

**On the second bullet point (discretion):**

Acceptable as drafted.

**On the third bullet point (status):**

**A. Immigration Status & Screening.** Antigua and Barbuda intends to grant an appropriate **temporary** immigration status to each accepted transferee and immediate family, consistent with domestic law, subject to successful **security and public-order screening** before acceptance. The Understanding **does not** create a "safe third country" arrangement and **confers no permanent residence or citizenship right**.

**B. Duration.** Status will be granted for not exceeding **twenty-four (24) months**; any extension requires **mutual consent**.

**C. Re-transfer Guarantee.** If the transferee and immediate family have not achieved self-sufficiency by the end of twenty-four (24) months, Antigua and Barbuda may request their return. The **United States shall accept such return** and arrange transport **within thirty (30) days**, securing all travel documents and covering all costs.

**On the fourth bullet point (international obligations & data protections):**

Measures taken under the Understanding will accord with Antigua and Barbuda's obligations under the **1951 Refugee Convention** and **1967 Protocol**, the **Convention against Torture (1984)**, and applicable national laws and policies. **Personal data** will be exchanged over **secure channels**, used **solely** for vetting and case management, and retained **no longer than necessary**. Antigua and Barbuda shall have **audit/inspection rights** to verify data-security practices; upon case closure, the United States will certify **deletion or archiving** consistent with law. **Unauthorized disclosure** will trigger **immediate consultations** and may **automatically pause** further transfers pending remedial steps.

**On the fifth bullet point (procedures/consultations):**

Within **thirty (30) days** of entry into force, the participants will adopt **Standard Operating Procedures** covering scope (Eligible Persons only), eligibility screening, data protection, reception, monitoring, and re-transfer logistics, and will establish a **joint consultative committee** that meets at least **quarterly** (or ad hoc as needed) to address interpretation or implementation issues. **Dispute escalation** will proceed to principals within **seven (7) days** if unresolved at the working level. Public messaging will be **coordinated in advance**; individual case details will **not** be publicly disclosed.

**On the sixth bullet point (discontinuation):**

Acceptable **subject to**:

- (i) **sixty (60) days'** written notice;
- (ii) **grandfathering** of all persons already transferred, with the **Funding Letter commitments** and the **re-transfer guarantee** remaining in force until each case is closed or twenty-four (24) months elapse, whichever is later; and
- (iii) **an immediate suspension** right for either participant in the event of a **material breach** or funding failure, pending consultations.

**On the seventh bullet point (funding – substitute text):**

The template text is **not acceptable**. Please substitute:

“For each proposed transfer, the United States, or its designated agency, will issue a **Funding Letter** specifying the responsible paying entity and funding coverage for **transportation, pre-arrival screening, reception, accommodation, subsistence, healthcare, language services, education for minors, and case management** for the principal and immediate family for **up to twenty-four (24) months**, subject to U.S. appropriations. **No transfer will occur absent the Funding Letter**. These commitments shall **survive any discontinuation** under the sixth bullet for all persons already transferred.”

**Pilot and Sunset:**

The Understanding will operate as a **twelve (12)-month pilot**, automatically expiring unless renewed by mutual written consent following a review by the joint consultative committee. Antigua and Barbuda remains ready to finalize the text in the spirit of cooperation that has long been the hallmark of our relationship.

Please accept, Mr. Kozak, the assurances of my highest personal regards.



**Sir Ronald Sanders**

Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda

# Photo Essay

## The One Nation Caribbean Music Festival



# Photo Essay



# Regional News

## Trump tells Cuba to 'make a deal, before it is too late'

US President Donald Trump urged Cuba on Sunday to "make a deal" or face unspecified consequences, warning that the flow of Venezuelan oil and money to Havana would now stop.

"THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA – ZERO!" Trump said on his Truth Social channel. "I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

His remarks come a week after US forces seized Venezuela's authoritarian leader Nicolas Maduro in a night-time operation in Caracas that killed dozens of Venezuelan and Cuban security forces.

Earlier on Sunday Trump reposted a message suggesting that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio could become the president of now communist-ruled



Cuba.

In his own post soon afterwards, Trump said that "Cuba lived, for many years, on large amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela. In return, Cuba provided 'Security Services' for the last two Venezuelan dictators, BUT NOT ANYMORE!"

"Most of those Cubans are DEAD from

last week's U.S.A. attack, and Venezuela doesn't need protection anymore from the thugs and extortionists who held them hostage for so many years."

Under a US trade embargo, Havana since 2000 has increasingly relied on Venezuelan oil provided as part of a deal struck with Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez. (Jamaica Observer)



## DAILY PROGRAMMING




**EARLY VIBRATIONS** 6AM - 10AM MON. - FRI.  
WITH GREMSTA

**THE RUSH HOUR SHOW** 5PM - 7PM MON. - FRI.  
6AM - 9AM SATURDAYS  
WITH ROGER LAKE

**TOUCHLINE** 7PM - 9PM MON. - THURS.  
WITH EPILUS

**BAD COMPANY** 2PM - 6PM THURS. 12PM - 4PM SATURDAYS  
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM - 5PM ON SUNDAYS

**REGGAE INSPIRATION** 9PM - 12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY  
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

**JAH WADADLI** 7PM - 9PM FRIDAYS  
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

## Government to train 20 air traffic controllers in preparation for completion of international airport

Tourism Minister Denise Charles-Pemberton has announced that the Government of Dominica will provide training for 20 air traffic controllers this year, as preparations continue for the operation of the new international airport.

Speaking during a site visit to the International Airport Development Project on Thursday, Charles-Pemberton highlighted the employment opportunities the facility will create.

“Upon completion of this airport, we are looking at an estimated increase in employment of about 200 personnel,” she said. “These are the opportunities the Prime Minister has been talking about. We have to assess our current skill sets and determine the skills required to operate the airport.”

She noted that training has already begun for three air traffic controllers, with 17 more to follow. “We need maintenance workers, we need air traffic controllers, and as we speak, we have identified about 20 people to send for training,” she explained. “If you are interested in becoming an air traffic controller, you can apply to DASPA [Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority].”

Charles-Pemberton added that additional electricians, engineers, maintenance workers, and immigration officers will also be required. “Opportunities are vast for every Dominican,”



she emphasized.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, who also toured the site, expressed satisfaction with the progress of the project.

“The runway is basically settling. After the rainy season in 2026, we will be ready to apply the concrete and asphalt surface,” he said. “The tunnel is under construction, and I understand it will be completed between August and October of this year.”

Skerrit explained that the tunnel will connect Wesley to Woodford Hill and Portsmouth, improving connectivity in the area. “The tunnel will enhance that communication, and we are moving ahead with this,” he noted.

He further reported that all on-site buildings are under construction, in-

cluding the terminal building, VIP facilities for private aircraft, the fire service, customs, and other essential infrastructure.

“My understanding from the schedule and from what the developers are saying is that by November this year, all of the structures will be completed, and internal works will commence immediately thereafter,” Skerrit said. “We are looking at completion in the last quarter of 2027 for the airport, barring any unforeseen challenges—and we pray to God there will be none.”

Calling the project a “major achievement for the country,” Skerrit added, “One can only appreciate the kind of positive transformation that this airport will bring to Dominica.” (Dominica News Online)



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# Regional News

## Machel chases Road March history...releases 'Encore' Monday in pursuit of Kitchener's 50-year record

Machel Montano chases history Monday with the release of his Road March contender, "Encore".

The emotive track reunites the same creative team behind last year's title winner, "Pardy"—songwriter Andre Jeffers and producers XplicitMevon (Mevon Sooden) and Kyle Phillips of Badjohn Republic.

Together, they delivered a defining Carnival moment that brought the "soca monk" level with calypso icon Lord Kitchener (Aldwyn Roberts) on 11 Road March titles, a record that has stood since 1976.

Just behind Montano and Kitchener on the all-time Road March leaderboard are Superblue (Austin Lyons) with ten titles and Mighty Sparrow (Slinger Francisco) with eight.

With "Encore", Montano retraces his journey to the pinnacle of soca music atop a mas-ready drum cadence, peppered with quotable lyrics.

He sings: "Dey say yuh only as good as yuh last performance

So leh we gih dem performance."

Montano said "Encore" emerged through what he described as "divine intervention", as his creative team wrestled with a seemingly impossible question of how to follow the massive success of "Pardy".

"It didn't come easy," Montano told the Sunday Express via WhatsApp yesterday morning. "We were looking for how do we top 'Pardy', how do we move it one step further, but still keep the pedigree?"

That search was shaped by what "Pardy" became during Carnival 2025. Beyond its fete-shaking energy, the song produced unexpected moments of connection, from viral fan interactions to children singing along in spaces Montano admits he did not anticipate.

"People wanted more of that feeling," he said. "Jeffers came with the



idea and I felt it immediately. There are many lines in there that speak to my life, but not just my life personally. I think it will touch everybody's lives and they will understand that feeling."

Lord Kitchener, dubbed "The Grand Master of Calypso", ruled the road during the genre's heyday in the 1960s and '70s with classics like "The Road" (1963), "My Pussin" (1965), "Miss Tourist" (1968) and "Rainorama" (1973).

The Arima-born bard captured his final Road March crown in 1976 with "Flag Woman".

Montano's Road March wins, spanning from the late 1990s into the modern soca era, chart the genre's evolution itself, from horn-driven anthems to digitally produced road energy.

Among his notable wins are "Big Truck" (1997), "Jumbie" (2007), "Like Ah Boss" (2015), "Soca Kingdom" with Superblue (2018), and "Famalay" with Skinny Fabulous (Gamal Doyle) and Bunji Garlin (Ian Alvarez) (2019).

However, he is careful not to frame his own pursuit as eclipsing the late

great singer and composer, stressing that Kitchener's contribution to the artform remains unmatched.

"I could never eclipse Kitch," Montano said. "Kitchener is one of the greatest ever to do it. What he did for calypso, steelpan and Road March, I don't think I've put in half that work."

Rather than viewing the moment as overtaking a legend, Montano sees his pursuit as cumulative, built on foundations laid long before him.

"We are resting on his shoulders," he said. "This is really about reaching a milestone that should be celebrated because of the hard work that I have put in, but mainly because of the amount of different people that I've worked with that brought into this achievement."

That distinction matters. Where Kitchener largely wrote and constructed his Road March winners himself, Montano's path has been defined by collaboration, evolving production teams and a new generation of creatives shaping a modern soca.

"Winning road marches is about num-

bers, and in this time that I've lived, it was probably an easier lift for me than it was for him, because he had to take it to London, come back home, write songs for the panmen, and he had less things to work with than me," he said.

Standing on the cusp of history, Montano insists his motivation is not the titles but the constant chase for growth.

"I chase the creativity," he smiled. "When you create music on a high level and especially with others, you're chasing excellence, and excellence is something that's constantly moving, because you're trying to be better than your last performance. If you really understand life, it is infinite. It is eternal. It is exponential. It keeps getting better and better, if you keep improving."

Finding new ways to evolve soca's sound and message for a global audience continues to fuel him.

"We really want to change our messages and sing, you know, different messages beyond just Carnival vibrations," he said.

As for retirement, Montano, who once told the Express he envisioned a quiet life "in de bush", says that chap-

ter has already begun—just not in the way many assume.

"The beard and dreadlocks going black is just fashion," he laughed. "It was suggested to me by my barber who wanted to make me look like Leonidas from 300. One day I might just go back full grey."

On life in the bush, he added, "Since 2020, I did move into the bush and I still live there and it's lovely, but it's not retirement. It's rest and recovery and inspiration to work hard. It's like going into the mountain to plant seeds, waiting for them to grow, then coming down and sharing it with everybody in the valley.

"Then you go back and sow the seeds again. That space is something we want to develop for growing food, making music, creating ideas and building concepts. I'm very fortunate to say that dream has come true."

Road March wins

(Tied at 11-11)

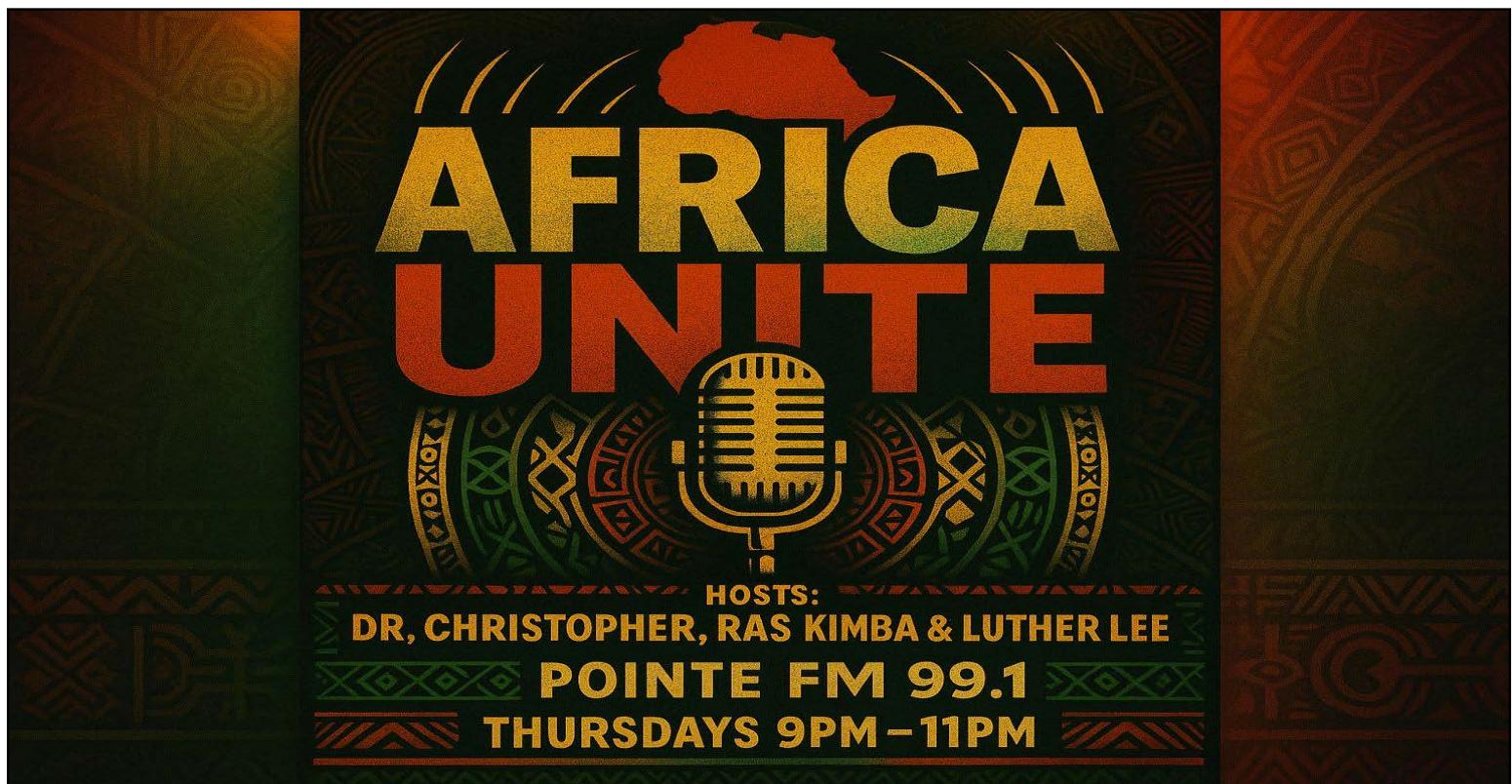
Lord Kitchener's Road March wins

1. "Jump In The Line"—1946
2. "The Road"—1963
3. "Mama This Is Mas"—1964

4. "My Pussin"—1965
5. "Sixty Seven"—1967
6. "Miss Tourist"—1968
7. "Margie"—1970
8. "Mas At Madison"—1971
9. "Rain-O-Rama"—1973
10. "Tribute to Spree"—1975
11. "Flag Woman"—1976

Machel Montano's Road March Wins

1. "Big Truck"—1997
2. "Band Of De Year (BODY)" with Patrice Roberts—2006
3. "Jumbie"—2007
4. "Advantage"—2011
5. "Pump Yuh Flag (PYF)"—2012
6. "Ministry of Road (MOR)"—2014
7. "Like Ah Boss"—2015
8. "Waiting on the Stage"—2016
9. "Soca Kingdom" with Superblue—2018
10. "Famalay" with Skinny Fabulous and Bunji Garlin—2019
11. "Pardy"—2025 (Trinidad Express)



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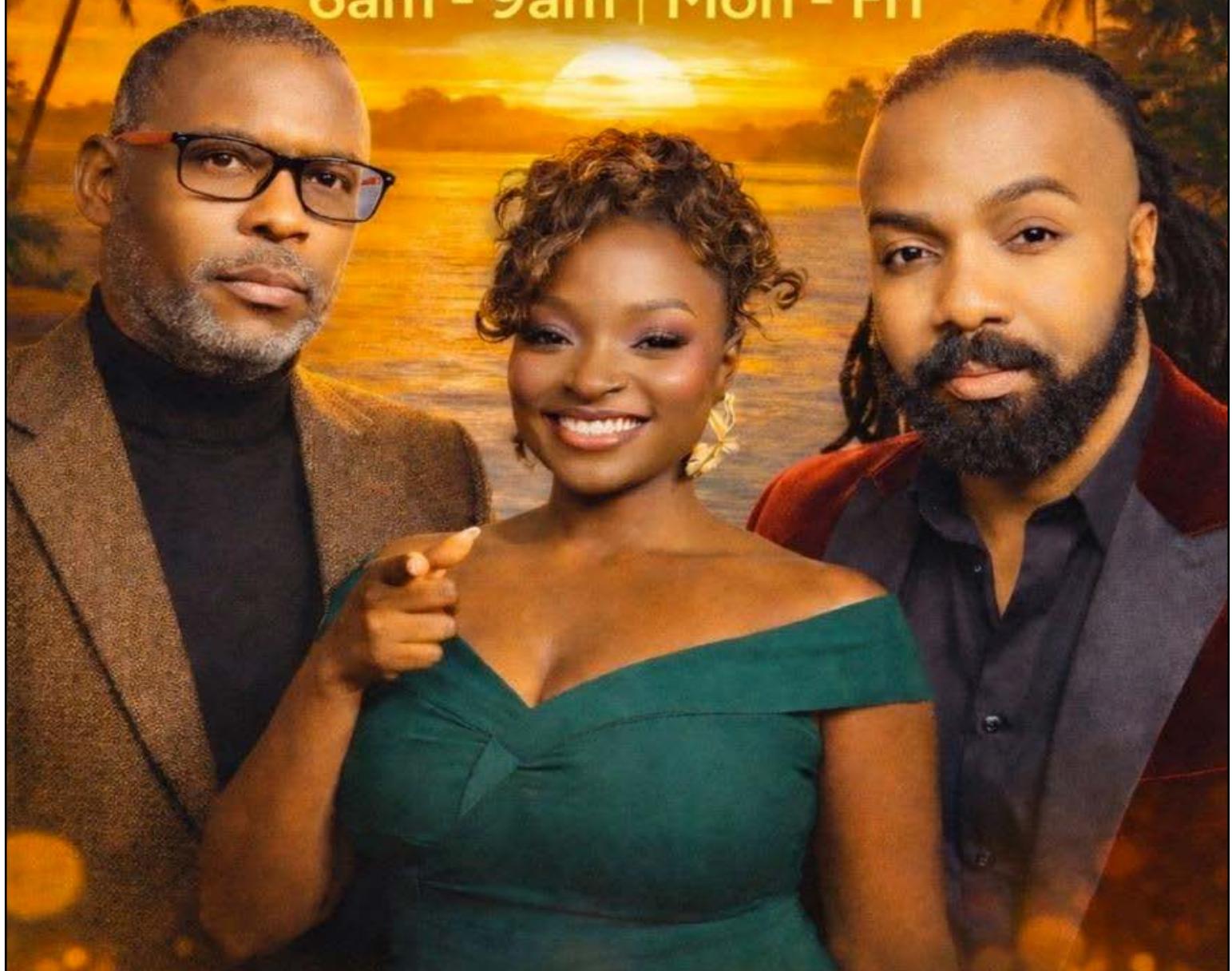
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## One person dead and 300 buildings destroyed in Australia bushfires



One person has died and 300 properties have been destroyed in bushfires that have torn across south-east Australia.

The fires have raged in dozens of locations across the country for several days, mostly in the state of Victoria, but also in New South Wales, burning through land almost twice the size of Greater London.

A state of emergency has been declared in Victoria as thousands of fire-fighters and more than 70 aircraft battle the blaze. Residents in more than a dozen communities have been advised to leave their homes.

Authorities fear the fires, which are being fuelled by very hot, dry and windy conditions, could burn for several weeks.

Victoria's Premier Jacinta Allan said 30 active fires were burning across the state, 10 of which were of particular concern.

She said 350,000 hectares had been burnt across the state as of 08:00 local time on Sunday (23:00 GMT on Sat-

urday).

“We will see fires continue for some time across the state and that is why we are not through the worst of this by a long way,” she told Australian media.

“There are fires that are continuing right now that are threatening homes and property.”

Human remains were found in the village of Gobur, near the town of Longwood, some 110km (70 sq miles) north of the state capital Melbourne, police said. The victim has not yet been identified.

Allan praised the emergency workers who worked to retrieve the body. “This is difficult and confronting work, and it takes a heavy toll.”

“The Gobur community is grieving,” she said.

Bushfire smoke is impacting air quality in many areas across Victoria, including metropolitan Melbourne.

Authorities said the fires were the worst to hit the south-east of Australia

since the 2019-2020 blazes that destroyed an area the size of Turkey and killed 33 people.

Firefighter Tyrone Rice said losing his own home in the fire in Harcourt was “a kick in the guts”

One of the worst-affected places is the small town of Harcourt in the central highlands of Victoria, where firefighter Tyrone

Rice lost his own home in the blaze. He was out fighting one of the bushfires when he learned it was on fire.

He told Australian media it was “like a kick in the guts, but I’m not the first person to go through it, and I won’t be the last”.

The destruction in Harcourt was “gut-wrenching”, local fire captain Andrew Wilson said.

A reporter for Australia’s 9 News, Jack Ward, told the BBC World Service he had visited the damage in several towns across Western Australia.

What he saw was “catastrophic”, he said, and in many places, “all that’s left of these houses is a tin roof lying on the ground”.

While it is hard to link individual wildfires to climate change as how humans manage the land can play a factor, scientists say climate change is making the hot, dry weather conditions conducive to bush fires more common. (BBC)

## Iran warns against US strikes as activists say protest death toll reaches 203

Iran's parliament speaker warned Sunday that the United States military and Israel would be "legitimate targets" if the US strikes the Islamic Republic over the ongoing protests roiling the country. US President Donald Trump has threatened action.

At least 203 people have died in violence surrounding the demonstrations, activists said, with fears the death toll is far higher.

Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf made the warning after nationwide protests challenging Iran's theocracy saw protesters flood the streets in the country's capital and its second-largest city into Sunday morning, crossing the two-week mark.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult.

Those abroad fear the information blackout is emboldening hard-liners within Iran's security services to launch a bloody crackdown.

Trump offered support for the protesters, saying on social media that "Iran is looking at FREEDOM, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!"

The New York Times and Wall Street Journal, citing anonymous US officials, said on Saturday night that Trump had been given mil-



itary options for a strike on Iran, but hadn't made a final decision.

Iranian state television broadcast the parliament session live. Speaker Qalibaf, a hard-liner who has run for the presidency in the past, gave a speech applauding police and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, particularly its all-volunteer Basij, for having "stood firm" during the protests.

He went on to directly threaten Israel, "the occupied territory" as he referred to it, and the U.S. military, possibly with a preemptive strike.

"In the event of an attack on Iran, both the occupied territory and all American military centers, bases and ships in the region will be our legitimate targets," Qalibaf said. "We do not consider ourselves limited to reacting after the action and will act based on any objective signs of a threat."

Lawmakers rushed the dais in the Iranian parlia-

ister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio overnight on topics including Iran, the official added.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, which relies on activists in Iran cross-checking information, offered the new death toll of 203 on Sunday, a large jump.

Of those killed, 162 are protesters and 41 are members of the security forces, it said. The agency also acknowledged receiving claims of far more deaths that it was still assessing as over 3,280 others have been arrested.

The group has offered accurate tolls in previous rounds of unrest in the Islamic Republic. The Iranian government has not offered any overall casualty figures for the demonstrations.

The Associated Press has been unable to independently assess the toll, as communications with Iran have been cut.

At the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV mentioned Iran as a place "where ongoing tensions continue to claim many lives."

"I hope and pray that dialogue and peace may be patiently nurtured in pursuit of the common good of the whole of society," he said. (Jamaica Observer)

# International

AROUND THE WORLD

## Nobel Institute says Peace Prize cannot be transferred after María Corina Machado suggestion



The Norwegian Nobel Institute said the Nobel Peace Prize cannot be transferred, shared, or revoked, following remarks by Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado suggesting she might give her 2025 award to U.S. President Donald Trump.

In a statement, the institute said the decision to award a Nobel Prize is final and permanent, citing the statutes of the Nobel Foundation, which do not allow appeals. The organization also noted that committees awarding the prizes do not comment on the actions or statements of laureates after receiving awards.

“Once a Nobel Prize is announced, it cannot be revoked, shared or transferred to others,” the Norwegian Nobel Committee and the Norwegian Nobel Institute said on Friday. “The decision is final and stands for all time.”

On Monday, Machado, speaking to Sean Hannity on Fox News, said that presenting the prize to Trump would be an act of gratitude from the Venezuelan people for the removal of Nicolás Maduro, the country’s president, who was captured last week by the United States.

“Did you at any point offer to give him the Nobel Peace Prize?” Hannity asked. “Did that actually hap-

pen?”

She responded, “Well, it hasn’t happened yet.”

Trump, who has long expressed interest in winning the prize and has at times linked it to diplomatic achievements, said he would be honored to accept the prize if offered by Machado during a planned meeting in Washington next week.

Machado, a former National As-

sembly member, was barred from running in Venezuela’s 2024 general election by authorities aligned with Maduro.

She backed a stand-in candidate who was widely considered to have won the vote, although Maduro claimed victory. Ballot audits by independent observers showed irregularities in the official results. (Reuters)

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

(Probate)

ANUHPB2026/\_\_\_\_\_

In the Estate ELIZABETH BARNES née ERSKINE, Deceased  
of Potters Village, St. John’s, Antigua

### ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT (FIRST PUBLICATION)

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by EVERTON BARNES of, Weirs Estate, St. Georges, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the Deceased, the Deceased having died intestate on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
EVERTON BARNES  
Applicant

Filed by Westlin Chambers, Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is Independence Drive, St. John’s, Antigua.

Telephone: 1 (268) 462 4444/ 1 (268) 772 2023  
Email: westlinlaw@gmail.com

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## Tyra Fenton qualifies for the 2026 CARIFTA Games in Grenada



**Tyra Fenton**

Tyra Fenton of Roots Athletic Club has qualified for the 2026 CARIFTA Track and Field Games, which will be held in Grenada from April 4 to 6.

Fenton qualified for the regional meet by attaining the qualifying standards in the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 400-meter sprints

at the first Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association's (ABAA) Development Series at the YASCO Sports Complex on Saturday.

Competing in the under-17 girls' category, Fenton has secured qualification by winning the 100m, 200m, and 400m

races.

It means Fenton will be defending her 2025 CARIFTA title in the under-17 girls 400-meter event, a true testament to her consistency, speed, and determination.

This milestone achievement allows Fenton to

become the second Antiguan to qualify for the 2026 CARIFTA Track and Field Games in Grenada.

Kasiya Daley became the nation's first qualifier for the 2026 regional track and field meet last month.

Daley, the 2023 NACAC Under-18 double gold medalist and 2024 Junior Sportsman of the Year, attained the qualifying standards in the boys' 100-and-200-meter events during his first indoor meet at the Washburn Alumni Invite on December 6.

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

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



# Sports News

## Villa Lions stay third in Premier Division League



**A starting XI of the Villa Lions football team**

The Aston Villa Lions consolidated their third-place position in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

Aston Villa Lions notched their eighth win in 10 matches with a 2-0 victory against the Ottos Rangers in the second game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Both goals were scored in the first half via strikes by Judah Christian in the 14th minute and Isaac Hughes in the 23rd minute.

The result allows the Villa Lions to consolidate their position in third place by advancing to 24 points, while the Ottos Rangers remain on four points after tumbling to their ninth loss in 11 matches.

There were wins for Old Road FC

and John Hughes FC in the other two matches on Saturday.

Rakeem Joseph scored twice to propel Old Road to their sixth win in 10 matches with a 4-1 victory against the Attacking Saints in the last game on Saturday.

After both teams were deadlocked at nil-nil at halftime, all five goals were scored in the second half. Joseph had conversions in the 49th and 65th minutes.

Shavorn Thomas scored an own goal, and Obediah Browne converted the fourth and final goal for Old Road FC with a strike in the first minute of added time. Rick Gordon scored a consolation goal for the Attacking Saints by converting a penalty kick in the 70th minute.

The result allows Old Road FC to

move on to 20 points, while the Attacking Saints will remain on 10 points after suffering their seventh defeat in 11 matches.

John Hughes recorded their third win in 11 matches by coming from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory against the Potters Tigers in the first game on Saturday.

Donald Bradley struck the winner for John Hughes FC with a strike in the third minute of added time. His teammate Dashawn Plunkett snatched the equalizer with a goal in the 68th minute after Ordel Samuel gave the Potters Tigers a one-nil lead at halftime with a 37th-minute conversion.

The result allows John Hughes FC to move on to 10 points, while the Potters Tigers will remain on 13 points after suffering their fourth defeat in 11 matches.

## Golden Grove drop points to stay second in First Division



**Players of the Golden Grove football team**

The Golden Grove FC dropped points for the fourth time to remain in second place and two points adrift of unbeaten leaders, the Freemans Village Scorpions, during the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

Golden Grove FC suffered their second loss in 10 matches in a 2-1 defeat to the Swetes Vipers FC at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Lyndon Goodwin scored in the 24th minute, and teammate Joel Jacobs struck the winner for the Swetes Vipers FC with a strike in the 84th minute. Te'rique Smith scored for Golden Grove with a 62nd-minute conversion.

The result allows Golden Grove FC to remain second in the standings with 20, two adrift of leaders Freemans Village Scorpions, who have two games in hand.

The Swetes Vipers FC moved on to 13 points after recording their third win in 10 matches.

Nickado Lindsay struck a hat trick

to lead Empire FC to their fifth win in 10 matches with a 6-1 drubbing of the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Lindsay had conversions in the 13th, 33rd, and 89th minutes. The other goals for Empire FC were scored by Kamali Looby in the 8th minute, Maykele Culzac in the 71st minute, and Marckens Dorisca in the 82nd minute.

Kishorn Hamilton scored a consolation goal in the 24th minute for the Cedar Grove Blue Jays.

The result allows Empire FC to move on to 17 points, while the Cedar Grove Blue Jays dropped to the bottom of the standings with six points after suffering their seventh loss in nine matches.

Bendals FC moved out of the bottom of the standings by clinching their second win in 11 matches with a 2-1 victory against FC Master Ballerz at the Cashew Hill playing field.

Goals by Guishard Jr. in the 34th minute and Daren Stevens in the 37th minute snatched victory for the Bendals FC after a fourth-minute conversion

by Clive Sansculotte gave FC Master Ballerz a one-nil lead.

The result allows Bendals FC to move out of the cellar by advancing to eight points, while FC Master Ballerz remain on nine points after succumbing to their fifth defeat in 10 matches.

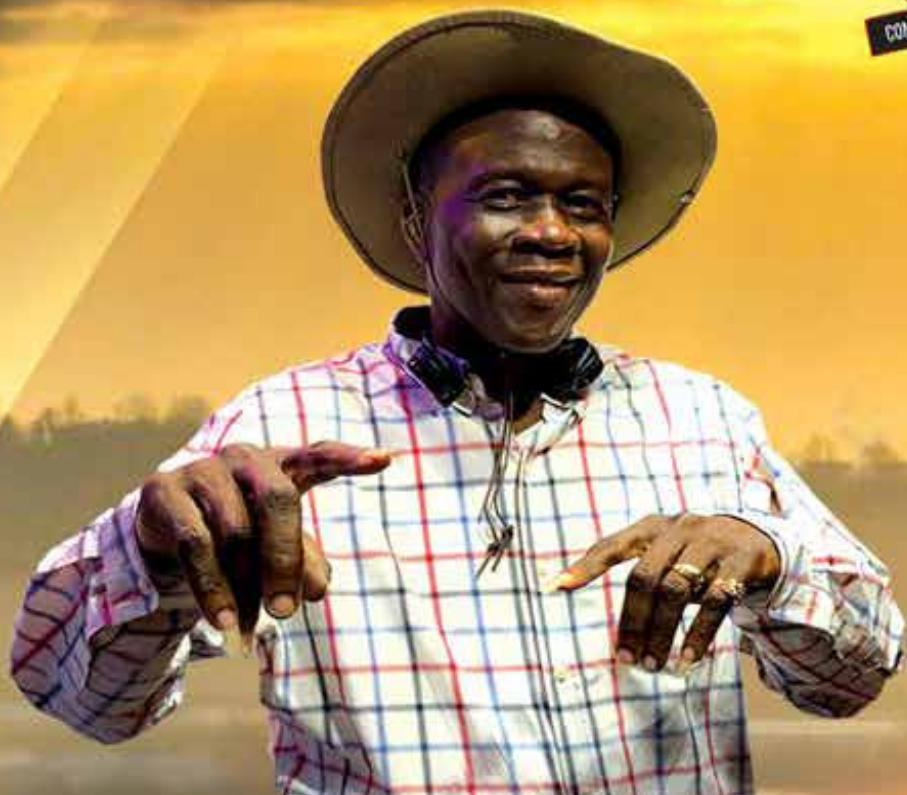
However, there was no winner in the encounter between Willikies FC and SAP FC, as both teams battled to a 2-2 draw in their meeting at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, all four goals were converted in the second half. Emerson Henry scored both goals for SAP FC, converting a penalty kick in the 80th minute and adding a second with a strike in the 81st minute.

Zahdeir Forde had a 73rd-minute conversion, and Randy Thomas scored in the 76th minute for Willikies FC.

SAP FC moved on to 10 points after salvaging their fourth draw in seven matches. Willikies FC advanced to eight points after securing their second draw in nine matches.

**SUNDAYS  
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## PMS, AGS and HCABSCE advance to school football league finals



**The Princess Margaret School football team with their medals after winning the 2024 Under-20 Girls Division League title by beating Antigua Girls High School 3-0 in the final at the ABFA Technical Center on Wednesday, April 9, 2024.**

Princess Margaret School (PMS), the Antigua Grammar School (AGS), and the Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE) have advanced to the finals in their respective divisions in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition.

Defending champions Princess Margaret School booked their spot in the final of the Under-20 Girls Division with a 12-1 drubbing of the Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) in the semi-final at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday.

Four players, Rolesha Humphreys, Iressia Allen, J'Kayla Bellot, and Karmieta Hughes, recorded hat tricks for the Princess

Margaret School in their demolition of Clare Hall Secondary.

Humphreys struck in the third, 20th, and 39th minutes; Allen scored in the 12th, 32nd, and 38th minutes; Bellot had conversions in the 25th, 35th, and 56th minutes; and Hughes converted her strikes in the 35th, 63rd, and 68th minutes.

The Princess Margaret School will advance to the final to defend their title against Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) in the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Friday, January 16.

The AGHS qualified for the championship decider by virtue of finishing at the top of the standings at the end of the preliminary stage of the Under-20 Girls Division League.

Defending champions Antigua Grammar School booked their spot in the final by pulling off a 1-0 victory against the Jennings Secondary School (JSS) in the semi-final of the Under-14 Boys Division.

Temorey Henry scored the only goal of the match, striking the winner for the Antigua Grammar School with a conversion in the 23rd minute.

The Antigua Grammar School advanced to the final to face Princess Margaret School at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Friday, January 16.

The Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education advanced to the final of the Under-20 Boys Division by prevailing 4-3 in a penalty shootout against defending champions Princess Margaret School in the semi-final.

The game was forced to be decided in the penalty shootout after both teams fought to a 2-2 draw at the end of regulation. Shumba Thomas had a double conversion for PMS with goals in the sixth and 69th minutes.

Romario Christian scored both goals for HCABSC with strikes in the 35th and 55th minutes.

The HCABSCE will move on to tackle the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) for the title in the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Friday, January 16.

# Sports

MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

POINT EXPRESS  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

## Edwards continues to lead Leewards in CWI women's tournaments

Antiguan Amanda Edwards will continue to lead the Leeward Islands Stormers during the 2026 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's T20 Blaze and CG United Super50 Cup in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from January 13 to 31.

Edwards remains at the helm of the Leeward Islands' 14-member squad that has made three changes to the team that participated in the 2025 T20 Blaze, which was also held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from May 1 to 11.

The inclusion of three newcomers is the only change that has been made to the composition of the squad for this year's T20 Blaze, which will be held at Arnos Vale playing field from January 13 to 23. They are Aaliya Weekes, Katherine Bean-Rosario, and Jess St. John on Antigua.

Nevisian Saneldo Willett has been omitted from the squad. Willett was a member of the Leeward Islands team that contested the 2024 Cricket West Indies (CWI) CG United Women's Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze regional competitions that were both held in St. Kitts.

Melicia Clarke and Divya Saxena are the other two players that have not regained selection on the Leewards for the competitions, which will return to a dual format.

Edwards is one of six Antiguans who have been selected in the Leeward Islands' 14-member squad to compete in the 20-over contest against the other five regional territorial teams, including defending champions Guyana.

The other Antiguans selected are all-rounder Shawnisha Hector, Tonya



**Amanda Edwards**  
Martin, Chey-Anne Moses, and Kimberley Anthony.

Last year, the 2025 regional T20 Blaze was held separately from the Women's Super50 Cup. This year's T20 Blaze will bowl off in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday, January 13. The Women's Super50 Cup will follow from January 27 to 31.

The tournament represents the pinnacle of women's domestic T20 cricket in the Caribbean and will feature the region's finest talent.

The competition will feature six regional teams -- Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad & Tobago, and hosts the Wind-

ward Islands -- competing in a round-robin format in the preliminary stage.

All the matches will be played at Arnos Vale Ground. The tournament will bowl off with the opening round of matches on Tuesday.

The Windward Islands will face Guyana at 9:30 am; Jamaica will meet the Leeward Islands at 2:30 pm, and Trinidad and Tobago will clash with Barbados at 7 pm. The top two teams after the preliminary stage will advance to the final on January 23.

All matches will be broadcast live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel, while a live scorecard will be available on the Windies Cricket official website.

**Leeward Islands Squad:** Amanda Edwards (captain), Jahzara Claxton (vice-captain), Qiana Joseph, Reniece Boyce, Kayzg Boyles, Aaliya Weekes, Katherine Bean-Rosario, Jess St. John, Rozel Liburd, Shawnisha Hector, Tonya Martin, Chey-Anne Moses, Kimberley Anthony, and Davronique Maynard.