



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

# POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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# Community Rallies to Immortalise Genevieve Smith



*RasFreeman Foundation Unification of Rastafari and the Rastafari Community in Antigua celebrates Ethiopian Christmas - Wednesday 7th January 2026*

## Signals of a Nation in Motion



by **Petra Williams**

Mid-week editions rarely announce themselves with drama. Instead, they reveal direction.

Together, the stories shaping this week's paper point to a country quietly adjusting its bearings, honouring where it has come from, and negotiating how it moves forward in an increasingly competitive and interconnected world.

Sport, this week, tells that story at multiple levels.

At sea, Antigua and Barbuda's 2026 sports-tourism calendar has already begun with the RORC Transatlantic Race, finishing in Antigua this January. Its significance lies not in spectacle, but in substance, reinforcing Antigua's credibility as a serious yachting destination rather than a seasonal host.

On land, football continues to demonstrate how development is taking root at community and youth levels. In the ABFA Second Division, Sea View Farm FC's perfect seven-match run highlights competitiveness and consistency at the club level, while schools football is moving toward its climax, with finals scheduled for

the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. From community pitches to national venues, sport operates simultaneously as both economic activity and social investment.

Culture follows a similar arc. Anticipation is building for the One Nation Caribbean Music Festival, an event that goes beyond entertainment to reinforce unity through music, faith, and shared identity. Its dual format—high-energy Caribbean genres alongside a gospel edition—signals a deliberate effort to hold diversity and cohesion within the same national space.

That same commitment to values is reflected in the community movement lobbying to rename Potters Primary School in honour of Genevieve "Teacher Gen" Smith. By honouring an educator who devoted decades to teaching, mentorship, and care for the vulnerable, Antigua and Barbuda affirms that service, compassion, and quiet leadership still matter.

The nation is also pausing this week to mark the passing of Harold Carter, the last surviving "39er." His life bridged the era before organised labour and the freedoms now taken for granted. Remembering Carter is a reminder that democratic rights and fair labour conditions were earned through sacrifice, not granted by default.

Elsewhere, governance advanced in less visible but consequential ways. The National Solid Waste Management Authority's acquisition of a new tyre shredder capable of handling steel-belted tyres addresses a long-standing environmental risk, with implications for public health, fire safety, and land use. Such decisions rarely draw applause, but they shape resilience over time.

In education, parents received tangible relief as CXC examination fees were refunded, easing household pressures and reinforcing the principle that

access to education should not be limited by financial strain. Paired with the Director of Education's call for partnership between homes and schools, the policy reflects an understanding that educational success is collective.

Beyond Antigua and Barbuda, regional developments offered a reminder of global constraints. St. Vincent and the Grenadines' recall of senior diplomats and investment officials reflects a regional reality in which foreign policy, diaspora engagement, and economic performance are now tightly linked. Personnel shifts are signals, internally and externally, about national priorities.

That regional awareness is also present in the visit of a Trinidad-based violence-reduction specialist, invited to share models for addressing gang activity and youth delinquency. The engagement acknowledges that prevention and early intervention are now essential pillars of national stability, not optional add-ons.

Individually, these stories may seem disconnected. Together, they trace a pattern. A nation leveraging high-value tourism while nurturing grassroots sport. A society honouring educators and labour pioneers as moral reference points. A government addressing environmental systems, education costs, and institutional performance. A region recalibrating under international pressure.

This is not a country or region standing still, but one making deliberate, sometimes unglamorous, adjustments to remain viable, cohesive, and competitive.

Mid-week papers do not capture eruptions. They capture movement.

And this week, Antigua and Barbuda and the region are clearly in motion.

## And in Brief:



Antigua and Barbuda formally welcomed Cecil Chinenere as Zimbabwe's newly appointed ambassador, marking another step forward in strengthening diplomatic relations between the two countries.



Electronic Bicycles Distributed to Support Agricultural and Inter-Agency Operations. Donated by the People's Government of Hainan Province, People's Republic of China, through the Antigua and Barbuda Chinese Embassy.



HAPI Program moves to the next level, \$1 million of building materials arrive for distribution to needy households in Antigua. This initiative is designed to support the poorest in our society by improving the conditions of their homes with dignity and care.



## Breaking News

the United States of America adds Antigua and Barbuda to list of countries required to pay up to US\$15,000 Visa Bonds

## Anticipation Builds for One Nation Festival 2026 as Antigua Kicks Off the Year in Unity and Sound

Anticipation is building across Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean as final preparations take shape for the One Nation Caribbean Music Festival 2026, set for January 10–11 at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

Produced by the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, the festival once again positions Antigua and Barbuda at the centre of the region's cultural calendar, blending music, faith, and Caribbean identity under the theme *One People. One Love. One Nation.*

Now firmly established as a signature event, One Nation is built on the spirit of unity and shared Caribbean heritage. The two-night experience brings together world-renowned artistes, diverse musical genres, and high-quality production to celebrate creativity, culture, and collective identity.

Night One | January 10

Soca • Reggae • Dancehall • Bouyon • Benna

Night One promises a high-energy fusion of the Caribbean's most influential sounds, delivering nonstop performances designed to ignite the 2026 events season.

Night One Lineup

- ▣ Masicka
- ▣ Capleton
- ▣ Burning Flames
- ▣ Christopher Martin
- ▣ Gramps Morgan
- ▣ Tian Winter
- ▣ Claudette Peters with The Disturbance Band
- ▣ Mr. Vegas

▣ Signal Band

Night One Tickets - General Admission: \$100. Includes access to the Reggae Village with food and drinks on sale. Reggae Kingdom (All-Inclusive): \$375 - A premium experience featuring elevated comfort, exclusive hospitality, premium viewing, immersive ambience, and premium food and drinks.

Night Two | January 11

The Gospel Edition – Worship, Praise

& Unity

Night Two shifts the tone to inspiration and reflection with The Gospel Edition, delivering an evening of worship, praise, and hope-filled messages. Gates open at 4:00 p.m., with performances beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Night Two Lineup

- ▣ Tasha Cobbs Leonard
- ▣ Naomi Raine
- ▣ Samuel Medas



Antigua Barbuda  
FESTIVALS  
COMMISSION

ONE  
NATION  
CARIBBEAN  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE

MASICKA - CAPLETON - BURNING FLAMES  
TIAN WINTER - CLAUDETTE PETERS - MR VEGAS - CHRISTOPHER MARTIN  
GRAMPS MORGAN - SHELLY & SIGNAL BAND

ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND 10<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2026 NIGHT ONE GEN \$100 | REGGAE KINGDOM \$375 | TIME: 8PM

ticketing TICKETS AVAILABLE

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

ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

- JohnMark Wiggan
- Melanie Sanders
- Madelyn & Dunamis Worship
- Richie Pelle
- Rashid Walker
- ROXY
- Psalmist Robyn
- Beverley Danvers

Night Two Tickets - General Admission: \$100, Children under 16 (with valid ID): \$25, Children under 5: Free (Night Two only). Kingdom of Praise All-Inclusive (Early Bird): \$250 - A premium worship experience offering elevated comfort, all-inclusive hospitality, and a spiritually rich atmosphere with premium food and drinks.

Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, Elizabeth Makhoul, said the festival continues to grow in scope and impact: “We are excited to present the annual One Nation Caribbean Music Festival, a celebration that embodies collaboration and our Caribbean unity. Every year is epic, and this year we are elevating the experience once again with our strategic, dynamic lineup for all music fans. The excitement around Night One has been incredible, but personally, I believe Night Two will be a game-changer. We encourage everyone to come out and support what promises to be the festival of all festivals for 2026.”

Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Daryll S. Matthew, underscored the festival’s strategic importance: “The One Nation Caribbean Music Festival is a strategic cultural music event that highlights the importance of music and the creative industries in building national and regional identity. This festival demonstrates our commitment to promoting Caribbean music and delivering top-quality production, position-

ing Antigua and Barbuda as a premier entertainment destination. We invite the public and our regional partners to join us in celebrating Caribbean excellence through this historic event.”

Digital tickets are available via the Ticketing App, with physical tickets on sale at Exotic Antigua, Roti King, Cool & Smooth, The Larder, Caribbean Lottery Retail Stores, and Quintessence Variety Plus.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda

Tourism Authority, the Citizenship by Investment Unit, Antigua Luxury Vans, LIAT Air, and Long Bay Lager as the official beer support the festival.

As the curtain rises on 2026, One Nation is set to deliver more than a festival. It promises a statement of identity, faith, and Caribbean excellence, signalling that Antigua and Barbuda intends to start the year united, inspired, and unmistakably on the world’s cultural stage.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

# Community Rallies to Immortalise Genevieve Smith

## *Potters Village has spoken.*

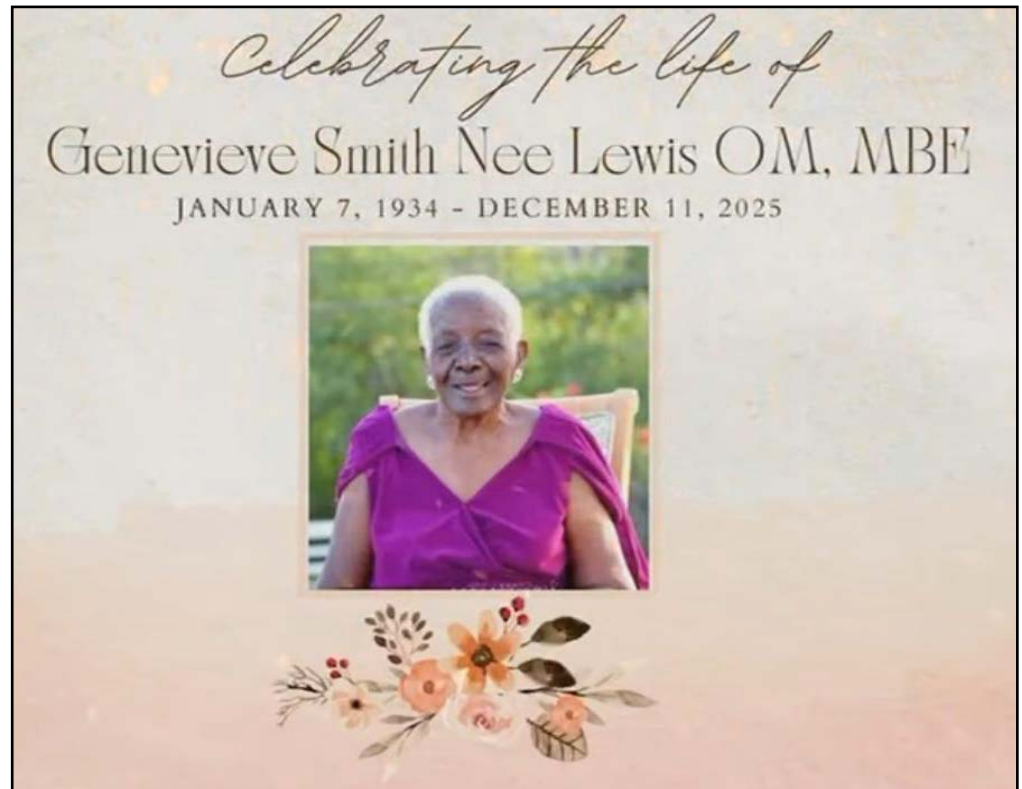
Community leaders and residents have thrown their full weight behind a proposal to rename Potters Primary School in honour of the late Genevieve Smith, cementing her legacy as one of the community's most influential educators and social pillars.

The proposal, first disclosed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne during an appearance on The Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM, has gained renewed momentum following a Night of Tribute on Monday, January 5, at the Potters Zion Moravian Church. There, respected voices from across the political and civic spectrum framed the renaming not as symbolism but as a historical correction.

That sentiment was echoed by ABLP Caretaker for St. George Michael Freeland, who described the proposed renaming as a natural and deserved recognition of Smith's lifelong contributions to education and community life. Freeland noted that for more than four decades, "Teacher Gen" dedicated herself to nurturing young minds, particularly children with special needs, while opening her home and heart to 63 foster children over her lifetime.

He said the renaming of Potters Primary School is a fitting tribute that honours her remarkable life of service and selfless love, adding that her legacy continues through the scholarship established in her name and the countless lives she shaped through compassion, discipline, and unwavering belief in human potential.

Deputy Sports Commissioner and former St. George political hopeful Joel Rayne urged the Government to go further, calling for Smith to be posthumously awarded the national honour



of Dame. He also proposed that the institution be formally named the Dame Genevieve Smith Junior Academy, a suggestion that was met with strong approval from attendees.

United Progressive Party MP for St. George Algernon "Serpent" Watts echoed the sentiment, describing Smith's influence as generational and far-reaching. He noted that her work extended beyond academics, shaping families, values, and the social fabric of Potters Village itself.

Former St. George MP Dr. Jacqui Quinn characterised the proposed renaming as both fitting and enduring, saying it would permanently anchor Smith's contribution to national development within the education system she served so faithfully.

The outpouring of support at the tribute underscored a broader consensus: that Genevieve Smith's life represents the highest ideals of service, compassion, and nation-building. Attendees

not only endorsed the school renaming but also joined calls for formal national recognition of her work.

While no official confirmation has yet been issued regarding the honourific, community leaders appealed to the Government to act decisively, arguing that Smith's decades of dedication warrant permanent national recognition.

A former educator and revered community stalwart, Genevieve Smith devoted her life to teaching, mentoring, and caring for the vulnerable, adopting and supporting more than 60 individuals over her lifetime.

Supporters say renaming the school would do more than honour her memory. It would place her values at the centre of the learning experience, inspiring future generations to uphold the principles of service, discipline, and compassion that defined her life.

Antigua Barbuda  
**FESTIVALS  
COMMISSION**



# TASHA COBBS LEONARD

NAOMI RAINE - SAMUEL MEDAS - JOHNMARK WIGGAN

RASHID WALKER - MINISTER BEVERLEY DANVERS - ROXY - RICHIE PELLE

PSALMIST ROBYN - MADELYN & DUNAMIS WORSHIP - MELONNIE SADLER

**ANTIGUA  
RECREATION  
GROUND**

**11<sup>TH</sup> JAN  
2026  
NIGHT TWO**

GEN

**\$100**

**KINGDOM  
OF PRAISE**

**\$250**

**ALL INCLUSIVE**

TIME:

**5PM**



TICKET LOCATIONS:

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



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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

## Regional Expert on Island to Support Efforts to Tackle Gun Violence and Youth Delinquency

January 7, 2026 - A respected regional youth-development expert is now on the island as Antigua and Barbuda intensifies efforts to confront rising concerns around gun violence, gang activity, and juvenile delinquency.

**Dr. David Muhammad**, who resides in Trinidad and Tobago, is visiting Antigua and Barbuda at the special invitation of **Bro. Khalid Shabazz**, with the explicit aim of assisting national stakeholders in identifying effective, evidence-based models to curb youth involvement in crime and violence.

The visit focuses on sharing regional best practices, examining the root causes of youth vulnerability, and exploring prevention and intervention strategies that have proven successful elsewhere in the Caribbean. Accord-



**Dr. David Muhammad**

ing to Luther Lee, Dr. Muhammad is scheduled to hold initial discussions with the Prime Minister and the Min-

ister of Education, with plans also being explored for him to engage directly with students, including potential visits to schools on the island.

Dr. Muhammad's work centres on understanding the progression from juvenile delinquency to organised gang involvement, with a strong emphasis on early intervention, mentorship, education, and community-based solutions. His engagement signals a growing recognition that addressing gun violence and youth crime requires not only enforcement, but informed social strategies grounded in research and regional experience.

Further details on his engagements and public interactions are expected to be released as the visit progresses.

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**Festive Bucket**

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

**\$56.50**

**Festive Box**

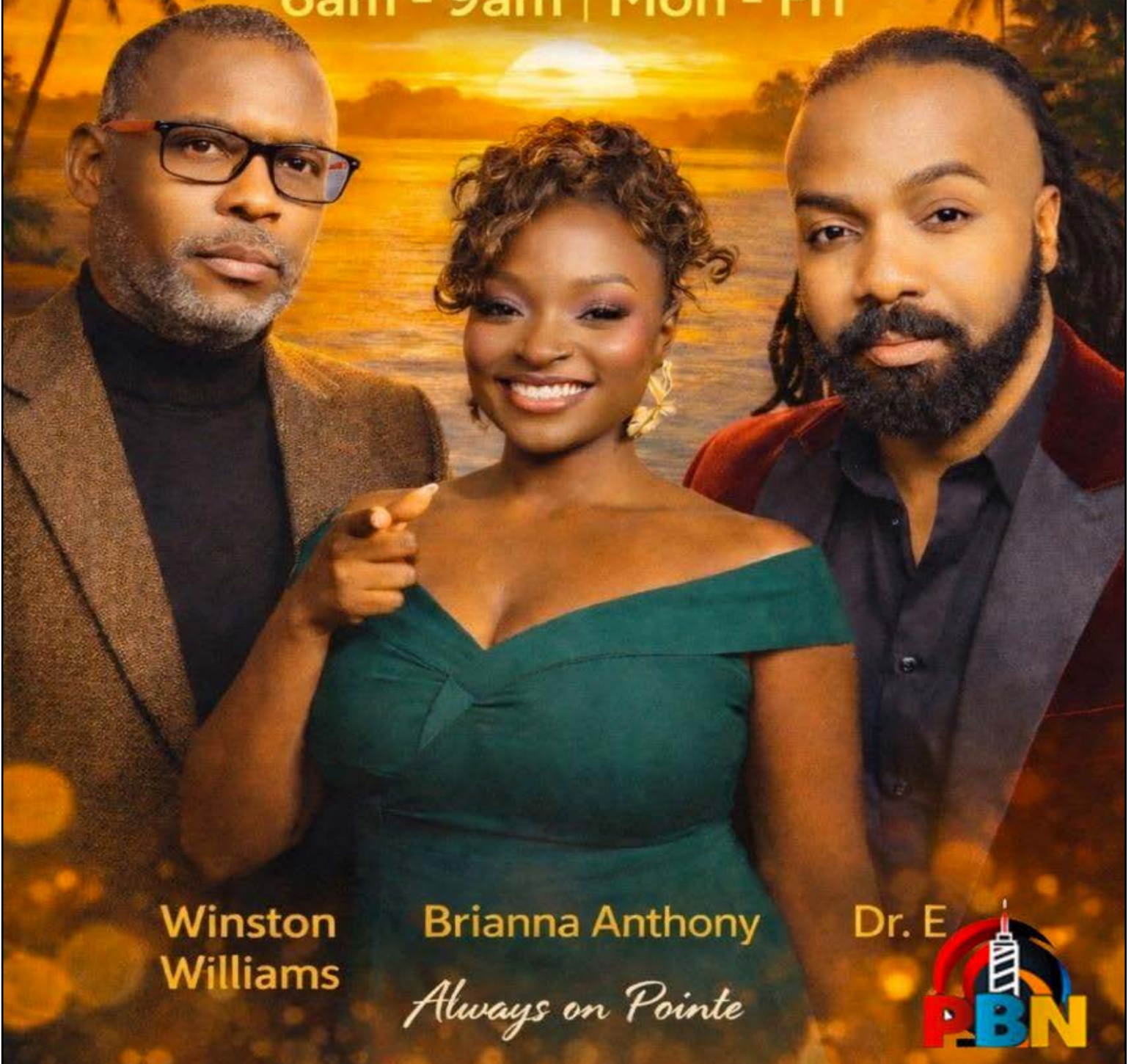
- Burger
- 1 PC
- A Choice of Wedges or Fries
- Medium Drink

**\$28.50**

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# The MORNING P<sub>ointe</sub> Show

Coming January 2026  
6am - 9am | Mon - Fri



Winston  
Williams

Brianna Anthony

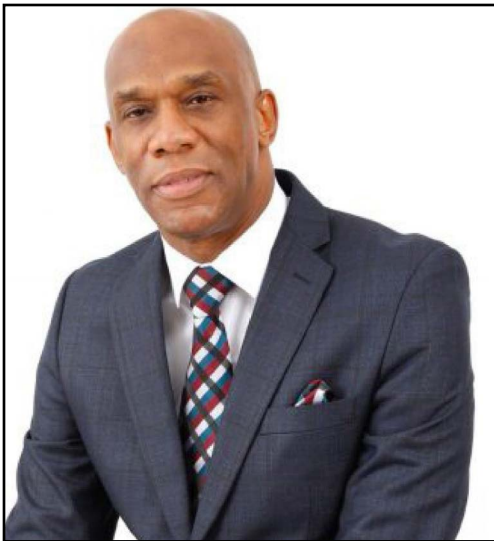
Dr. E

*Always on Pointe*





## Parents Get Financial Relief | Education Director Sets Vision for Term Two



**Director of Education Clare Browne**

As thousands of students across Antigua and Barbuda returned to classrooms this week, parents are welcoming not only the start of a new school term but a significant financial reprieve.

Director of Education Clare Browne has confirmed that more than EC\$1 million is being reimbursed to parents and guardians who had already paid for their children to sit Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) examinations scheduled for May and June 2026.

The reimbursement fulfils a commitment announced by Prime Minister Gaston Browne during his December budget presentation, under which the Government will assume responsibility for CXC examination fees going forward. Officials say the measure is part of broader efforts to ease inflationary pressures on families while ensuring that no student is prevented from sitting critical examinations due to financial constraints.

With refunds now flowing back to households and examination fees covered going forward, the start of Term Two brings reassurance and renewed focus for families across Antigua and Barbuda, as well as renewed purpose in the classroom.

Beyond the financial relief, the Director of Education used the start of Term Two to outline a broader vision for the school year ahead, calling for a “shared commitment to excellence” among educators, students, and parents.

Addressing students directly, Browne welcomed them back from the Christmas break and urged them to convert rest and reflection into renewed academic focus. Each new term, he said, brings fresh opportunities to learn, strengthen talents, and grow into the best version of oneself.

He reminded students that success in school is built on patience and persistence, noting that learning is a journey rather than a race. Doing one’s best each day, developing strong character alongside academic ability, and showing kindness and respect to peers were among the key values he highlighted. Browne also assured students that school leaders and teachers stand ready to support them throughout the

term.

The Director reminded parents and guardians of their ongoing role in shaping student outcomes, stressing that classroom success often mirrors the encouragement and discipline provided at home. He urged parents to continue reinforcing values of respect, responsibility, and perseverance, while maintaining consistent attendance, open communication with teachers, and support for diligent study habits.

According to Browne, the partnership between home and school remains one of the most powerful drivers of both academic achievement and personal development.

The term ahead holds strong promise, and Director Browne expressed confidence in the nation’s educators and the potential of its student population. His hope, he added, is for a safe, productive, and successful school term, anchored by a shared national commitment to education.

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## NSWMA Secures Grant for New Tyre Shredder as World Bank Support Advances

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) has confirmed that it has applied for and received a grant to purchase a new tyre-shredding machine capable of handling all tyre types and sizes, including steel-belted and heavy-duty tyres.

The new shredder, purchased with the World Bank’s assistance, is expected to significantly expand the Authority’s capacity to manage tyre waste more safely and efficiently, marking an important step toward reducing long-standing pressures at the landfill and strengthening Antigua and Barbuda’s overall waste-management infrastructure

According to General Manager Indira James-Henry, the equipment previous-



**General Manager Indira James-Henry**

ly used at the landfill was not fit for purpose. “The machine being used in the past was not the appropriate size; it did not deal with all the tyres such as steel and so on,” James-Henry explained.

Her comments come amid the Authority’s most recent media update. James-Henry described used tyres as one of the country’s most pressing waste-management challenges, estimating that approximately five million tyres are currently stockpiled at the landfill. The accumulation poses significant environmental, public health, and fire risks, particularly given the difficulty of processing steel-reinforced tyres with conventional equipment.

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Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

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**MONDAYS**  
**11AM - 12NOON**

**MRS. JELLETTE RALPH**  
**(JELLY BEANS)**

## Suspect in Custody Following Grays Farm Shooting

A male suspect is currently in police custody, assisting investigators probing a shooting incident that occurred in the Grays Farm community last Friday.

On Monday, a specialised team of officers from the **Antigua and Barbuda Police Force** carried out a targeted operation in the Grays Farm area. During the exercise, police discovered the suspect inside an abandoned building, along with two other individuals who are also wanted for questioning in connection with unrelated offences.

All three men were apprehended and taken into custody. During the operation, officers also seized a quantity of



cannabis and two propane gas bottles, which are believed to be stolen.

Investigations into the shooting and related matters are ongoing.

## Newfield Woman Detained in Factory Road Wallet Case

Police have taken a Newfield woman into custody as part of an investigation into the alleged theft of a wallet outside a supermarket on Factory Road.

Investigators said a man from Green Bay reported losing his brown leather wallet while shopping at Chase Supermarket on January 3. The wallet contained several forms of identification, bank cards, EC\$1,700, and US\$2.

According to the report, the complainant realised that the wallet had slipped from



his pocket after he returned to his vehicle. He initially left the area but returned later the same day, only to discover that the wallet was missing.

Police reviewed surveillance footage from the supermarket and conducted several follow-up interviews. Based on the information obtained, officers arrested a woman on suspicion of larceny and transported her to the St. John's Police Station.

That investigation is also continuing.

## Police Advisory

**The Antigua and Barbuda Police Force is reminding members of the public that anyone with information that can assist ongoing investigations is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, or call Crimestoppers anonymously at 800-TIPS (8477). All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

## Reckless Rhetoric, Reckless Diplomacy: Why the UPP Is Playing Fast and Loose with Antigua and Barbuda's Name

The latest statements from the United Progressive Party (UPP) and its leader Jamale Pringle reveal not vigilance, but a troubling ignorance of foreign policy protocol and a dangerous willingness to tarnish Antigua and Barbuda's international reputation in pursuit of domestic political gain.

At a moment when diplomacy requires precision, restraint, and credibility, the UPP has chosen sensationalism.

The Opposition Leader's claim that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has agreed to "import deportees and/or refugees" is demonstrably false. The Government has been clear: there is no binding agreement, quotas, automatic acceptance, or surrender of sovereignty. What exists is a non-binding understanding, similar to those considered by more than 100 countries worldwide, including within CARICOM, that allows Antigua and Barbuda to consider a very limited number of non-criminals, lawfully vetted refugees already present in the United States.

To deliberately conflate refugees with deportees, and humanitarian cooperation with coercion, is not advocacy; it is distortion.

By using inflammatory language such as "repository for persons not wanted even by their home countries," the UPP is not protecting the nation. It projects fear outward, invites misunderstanding abroad, and signals to international partners that Antigua and Barbuda's opposition is prepared to undermine state-to-state engagement for political theatre.

That is not how foreign policy works. And it is certainly not how sovereignty is defended.

Even more concerning is the contradiction at the heart of the UPP's position.



**United Progressive Party (UPP) and its leader Jamale Pringle**

On one hand, Mr. Pringle accuses Prime Minister Gaston Browne of "currying favour abroad." On the other hand, he openly states that a UPP government would, within 30 days, seek an audience with Washington, Ottawa, and Brussels to ask what Antigua and Barbuda should do to make them "comfortable" with the Citizenship by Investment Programme.

His own words are revealing: "It's for them to tell us what they think we should do." That is not diplomacy rooted in sovereignty. That is policy by permission.

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLPL) government has never ceded control of national policy to external actors. It has engaged, negotiated, defended, and adjusted as needed, without outsourcing decision-making or broadcasting uncertainty.

By contrast, the UPP is effectively telling the world that, should it take office, Antigua and Barbuda's policies are open to renegotiation and subject to external instruction. That posture weakens the country before a single meeting even begins.

Diplomacy is built on trust, consistency, and discretion. When an opposition party amplifies false claims about secret deals, coerced agreements, or compromised borders, those claims do not exist in a vacuum. Embassies read them. Foreign ministries note them. They linger in briefing notes long after press conferences end.

This is why responsible oppositions around the world exercise caution on matters of foreign policy and national security. Disagreement is legitimate; reckless mischaracterisation is not.

The irony is stark: while accusing the Government of risking tourism, security, and reputation, the UPP is actively doing precisely that by projecting instability and unreliability to international partners.

The Government has retained full control over borders, security vetting, and national interest. It has been stated clearly that no criminal records will be accepted, that every case will be assessed individually, and that Antigua and Barbuda retains the absolute right to say no. That is what sovereignty looks like in practice, not slogans.

By contrast, the UPP's approach is heavy on protest language and light on understanding. It treats foreign policy as a campaign platform rather than a discipline. It replaces facts with fear and strategy with soundbites.

At a time of global tension, migration pressures, and geopolitical recalibration, the country needs steady hands and measured voices, not an opposition willing to mislead its own people and misrepresent the country abroad in the hope of short-term political traction.

Foreign policy is not a rally. It is not a protest chant. It is the careful defence of the national interest. The UPP has shown it is unprepared, undisciplined, and dangerously out of its depth.



ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE

## HERE IS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

### VENUE ENTRY

#### GENERAL ADMISSION

- OLD PARHAM RD. (ROUNDAABOUT)
- INDEPENDENCE DRIVE (LONG ST.)

### ALL-INCLUSIVE ACCESS CORONATION RD

Night 1 - Reggae Kingdom  
Night 2 - Kingdom of Praise

#### PARKING - ARCHIVES

### TICKET AND AGE GUIDELINES

Night 1 - General \$100.00

Night 2 - General \$100.00

- Children under 16 *with valid ID* \$25 at the gate
- Children under 5 FREE (*only for night 2*)

### GATES OPEN

NIGHT 1 - 7 PM  
NIGHT 2 - 4 PM

### HEADLINER PERFORMANCES

NIGHT 1 - BEFORE 10 PM  
NIGHT 2 - BEFORE 7 PM

### ROAD CLOSURE

- CENOTAPH TO THE ROUNDAABOUT
- CORONATION ROAD
- OLD PARHAM RD. GRAMMAR SCHOOL WESTWARD TO THE ROUNDAABOUT

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SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - 10 AM UNTIL  
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AND INDEPENDENCE DRIVE



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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

## SVG gov announces sweeping diplomatic recalls

*Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Signals Strategic Reset with Diplomatic Recalls and Investment Leadership Changes*

In keeping with the West Indian Westminster tradition of recalibrating senior representation following a change in political direction, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has announced a sweeping reconfiguration of its foreign and investment-facing leadership.

The changes were revealed on January 4 by Dwight Fitzgerald Bramble, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs, and mark a deliberate policy pivot designed to align diplomacy more directly with foreign investment, trade expansion, diaspora engagement, and national development.

At the centre of the reset is the replacement of Invest SVG Executive Director Glen Beache, alongside the recall of several of the country's most senior diplomats. According to the Ministry, all recalls and appointments are expected to take effect by the end of February.

The recall list reflects the scale and seriousness of the restructuring. Those affected include:

- Andrea Bowman, Ambassador to the Republic of China (Taiwan), who managed bilateral relations with Taipei
- Cenio Lewis, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, responsible for Commonwealth engagement and diaspora support
- Ellsworth John, Ambassador to Cuba, overseeing cooperation in health, education, and technical assistance
- Inga Rhonda King, Permanent



**Some of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' key diplomats. From left: High Commissioner to the United Kingdom His Excellency Cenio Lewis, Consul General in New York – Mr. Rony McIntosh, SVG's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King, and Ambassador to the Republic of China (Taiwan) – Her Excellency Andrea Bowman.**

Representative to the United Nations, who advanced SVG's positions in multilateral negotiations

- Rony McIntosh, Consul General in New York, a key link to the Vincentian diaspora in the United States

The government has framed these recalls not as punitive, but as strategic realignment, intended to strengthen institutional capacity and ensure that leadership abroad reflects updated national priorities.

Minister Bramble said the restructuring is aimed at creating an enabling environment for foreign investment, improving investor confidence, expanding trade opportunities, and strengthening international partnerships. In this context, the leadership change at Invest SVG is particularly significant, signalling a tighter integration between diplomacy and economic performance.

A central pillar of the new policy direction is deepening engagement with the Vincentian diaspora, explicitly positioning overseas nationals as key contributors to national growth, rather than passive beneficiaries of consular services. The government says this

approach is designed to improve the lives of Vincentians both at home and abroad, while unlocking new flows of capital, skills, and networks.

As the government moves to implement the changes, public attention is now shifting to who will be appointed to fill these influential roles. Questions of competence, credibility, and trust are already circulating in national discourse.

While St. Clair Leacock, Minister of Public Service, has previously underscored during parliamentary debates the importance of confidence and capability in senior appointments, he has not yet commented specifically on this latest round of recalls.

Observers will be watching closely to see whether the incoming diplomats and executives reflect the government's stated objectives: stronger institutions, sharper economic diplomacy, enhanced investor confidence, and a more engaged diaspora.

What is clear is that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is signalling a decisive shift, using the levers of foreign policy and investment leadership not simply for representation, but for measurable national development outcome.

## Grandmother of baby who drowned in Diego Martin dies by suicide



The grandmother of the ten-month-old baby who drowned in a pool in Diego Martin has died by suicide.

Deera Seepersad, 55, of Penal, died on Monday morning.

On December 31, 2025, the child's father, Nicholas Ramjit, 27, reported to the police that around 3 p.m., he had gone upstairs in his two-storey home at Ali's Private Road to get skin moisturiser for his infant daughter.

He told the police that at the time, baby Alya was in the care of her grandmother, who was sitting at the bottom of

the stairs holding her.

The man's wife, 29-year-old Olga Ramjit of the Dominican Republic, had also gone upstairs shortly after him, police stated.

Later, the father returned downstairs and observed his mother sitting alone, with his mobile phone on the kitchen counter.

When he asked about the child's whereabouts, she was unable to account for her, police said.

Minutes later, the child was found unresponsive in the pool. (Trinidad Express)

### SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE

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Located on a hill in the city (St. John's), Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Centre, a teaching hospital serves a diverse group of patients — from residents to tourists.

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## Holness: \$75m for churches is for clean-up, not reconstruction



The Government's \$75-million allocation to churches damaged by Hurricane Melissa is not for reconstruction but to assist with debris removal and property clean-up, says Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness.

"This funding is not for reconstruction. It is to assist churches that have suffered damage, such as collapsed roofs and walls, and need support to clear debris before repairs can start," Holness said in a statement posted to his social media accounts on Monday.

Holness said reports suggesting the funds were intended to rebuild church structures were inaccurate and required clarification.

"Our churches are an essential part of our communities and indeed our nation and they too have been impacted by Hurricane Melissa," the prime minister added.

He explained that the funding forms part of a broader national clean-up

exercise, with special focus on the five parishes most affected by the storm.

Holness said churches may access the support after assessments are carried out by the relevant state agencies, and that congregations should contact their local offices for guidance.

"As in past disasters, the Government is also working with church groups to put arrangements in place for affordable financing to assist with reconstruction," the prime minister said.

Holness' comments follow public controversy over the allocation that he announced on December 23.

Everald Warmington, a member of Holness' party and the MP for St Catherine South Western, has criticised the decision.

"There's a separation of church and state. So, I don't see why the government would be stepping up to rebuilding these churches. It's not our

duty. I'm not against the church. I'm a part of the church. ...Taxpayer funds should not be going to religious institution, organisation in this fashion," said Warmington in an interview with Television Jamaica.

His comments were rejected by Bishop Dr Alvin Bailey, president of the Jamaica Evangelical Alliance, who accused the lawmaker of displaying "gross ignorance and insensitivity".

Bailey pointed to the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Melissa, which left hundreds of churches damaged or destroyed, particularly in western Jamaica. He also highlighted the role of faith-based organisations in disaster response, education, social services and community support.

"From his own admission, the Church is one of the two fundamental constructs of the Nation. The State being the other. The decision of his government to give money to the Church should be very instructive, temper his arrogance, and wisely advise him against insensitive utterances," Bailey said.

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Desmond McKenzie, has said the Social Development Commission will manage assessments and disbursement of the funds.

Hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica on October 28 as the strongest storm make landfall. It killed at least 45 persons and left over US\$8.8 billion in damage. More than two months later, dozens of communities remain without power. (Jamaica Gleaner)

## Jamaica Strong benefit concert raises US\$500,000

The Jamaica Strong Benefit Concert, held on December 12, 2025, at UBS Arena in Queens, raised over US\$500,000 (approximately J\$80 million) in net ticket proceeds, George Crooks, of Jammins Events said. Crooks said the funds raised was to support relief and recovery efforts following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, uniting the global Jamaican diaspora in a shared humanitarian response.

Bobby Clarke, co-founder of the Irie Jam Foundation, said, proceeds from the concert will be distributed to trusted organisations actively engaged in relief and recovery efforts, including: \$150,000 to Shaggy’s Make a Difference Foundation; \$150,000 to the Sean Paul Foundation; \$150,000 to the Government of Jamaica Hurricane Melissa Relief Fund and \$50,000 to the Irie Jam Foundation, designated to assist with the repair and rebuilding of primary schools in the county of Cornwall, among the areas hardest hit by the storm.

“By directing funds to both national and community-based organisations, we are ensuring that support reaches persons, families, and communities where the need is most immediate and the impact most meaningful,” Clarke noted.

“Caribbean artistes donated their time and talent, using music and culture



as vehicles for unity, healing, and advocacy during a moment of national crisis,” Kacy Rankine, CEO of Roadblock radio shared.

Nearly 10,000 passionate supporters filled the arena, reflecting extraordinary engagement from the Jamaican diaspora and friends of Jamaica who came together to demonstrate solidarity, compassion, and resolve.

The concert was organised by Irie Jam Radio, the Irie Jam Foundation, Jammins Events, and RoadBlock Radio,

New York-based cultural and media organisations that came together to transform collective concern into coordinated action through transparency, accountability, and community-driven leadership.

While the concert marked a significant milestone, organisers emphasised that recovery remains ongoing and sustained support is essential to restoring stability, dignity, and opportunity for those affected by Hurricane Melissa. The spirit of Jamaica Strong continues. (The Jamaica Gleaner)

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## Coalition of the Willing meets in Paris to discuss security guarantees for Ukraine



Leaders from around 35 countries are gathering in Paris on Tuesday to discuss security guarantees for Ukraine, a key element of any future peace deal aimed at ending Russia's full-scale invasion.

Kyiv is pressing for concrete commitments to ensure protection against further aggression.

Euronews reports French President Emmanuel Macron, in his New Year's address, as saying, "firm commitments" were expected from European states and allies. "On 6 January in Paris, many European states and allies will make concrete commitments to protect Ukraine and ensure a just and lasting peace on our European continent," Macron declared.

The summit follows a meeting of European national security advisors in Kyiv on 3 January, where discussions centered on a potential peace plan. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the country is preparing both for the possibility of a peace agreement and the need to continue

defending against Russian attacks.

Among those expected to attend in Paris are US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Donald Trump's adviser Jared Kushner. The talks will build on a joint statement released in Berlin last month, focusing on long-term commitments designed to prevent future Russian aggression.

One proposal under consideration is a pledge likened to NATO's Article 5 collective defense clause. Such a guarantee would require approval from national parliaments across Europe and potentially endorsement by the US Congress to ease concerns among some governments. Another priority is establishing mechanisms to verify ceasefire breaches, with advanced technology deployed along the contact line to trigger security provisions if violations occur.

Ukraine's accession to the European Union is also part of the 20-point peace plan, which currently envisions admission by January 2027. EU officials have described the timeline as

unrealistic, suggesting a phased entry to avoid disruptions in sectors such as agriculture. For Kyiv, however, securing an accession date remains a top priority to offset potential territorial concessions and bolster public support.

The US administration has repeatedly emphasized that Europe should assume greater responsibility for Ukraine's future security. Following a December meeting in Florida between President Trump and Zelenskyy, Trump said there would be a "strong" security agreement for Ukraine, adding that European nations were "very much involved."

One of the most contentious issues in Paris is the possible deployment of troops inside or near Ukraine, though away from frontlines. Russia has stated it will not accept NATO forces on Ukrainian soil.

Zelenskyy has described progress on the peace plan as significant, saying "the 20-point peace plan is 90% agreed and US-Ukraine security guarantees are 100% agreed." He added that after the Paris summit, documents are expected to be finalized "at the level of all leaders," paving the way for a subsequent meeting with Trump and European counterparts. If progress continues, Zelenskyy indicated talks with Russia could follow "in one format or another."

Meanwhile, the conflict continues. On 2 January, emergency services in Kharkiv battled fires after a Russian missile strike, and on 5 January, a Russian drone attack on a Kyiv hospital killed a patient. (Dominica News Online)

## US expands list of countries whose citizens must pay up to \$15,000 bonds to apply for visas

The Trump administration has added seven countries, including five in Africa, to the list of nations whose passport holders are required to post bonds of up to \$15,000 to apply to enter the United States.

Thirteen countries, all but two of them in Africa, are now on the list, which makes the process of obtaining a US visa unaffordable for many.

The State Department last week quietly added Bhutan, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia and Turkmenistan to the list.

Those designations took effect on Jan. 1, according to a notice posted on the travel.state.gov website.

It's the latest effort by the Trump administration to tighten requirements for entry to the US, including requiring citizens from all countries that require visas to sit for in-person interviews and disclose years of social media histories as well as detailed accounts of their and their families' previous travel and living arrangements.

US officials have defended the bonds, which can range from \$5,000 up to \$15,000, maintaining they are effective in ensuring that citizens of targeted countries do not overstay their visas.

Payment of the bond does not guarantee a visa will be granted, but the amount will be refunded if the visa is denied or when a visa holder demonstrates they have complied with the terms of visa.

The new countries covered by the re-



quirement join Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, Gambia, Malawi and Zambia, which were all placed on the list in August and October of last year. (AP)

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## Israeli foreign minister visits Somaliland, angering Somalia

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sara visited Somaliland on Tuesday on a trip that was denounced by Somalia, 10 days after Israel formally recognised the self-declared republic as an independent and sovereign state.

Israel is the only country that has formally recognised Somaliland's move to break away from Somalia, which described Israel's decision on recognition as an "unlawful step" and said Sara's visit as a "serious violation" of its sovereignty.

In a statement on X, Sara said that he had held talks "on the full range of relations" with Somaliland's president, Abdirahman Mohammed Abdullah, in the capital Hargeisa.

"We are determined to vigorously advance relations between Israel and Somaliland," Sara wrote on X, alongside images of him meeting the Somaliland leader at the presidential palace.

Somaliland's information ministry earlier said on X that Sara was leading a high-level delegation. It gave no further details but a senior Somaliland official told Reuters before the meeting with the president that the Israeli foreign minister was expected to discuss ways to enhance bilateral ties.

Sara said Abdullah had accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to make an official visit to Israel.

Somalia's foreign ministry said in a statement that Sara's visit amounted to "unacceptable interference" in its internal affairs.

Abdullahi said last month that Somaliland would join the Abraham Accords, a deal brokered by Washington in 2020 that saw Gulf states the United Arab Emirates — a close



partner of Somaliland — and Bahrain establish ties with Israel.

In a statement on Facebook, Somaliland's foreign ministry said: "Somaliland's president thanked Israel and its citizens for their decision to recognize Somaliland, this will have a big influence on the economy and development of Somaliland."

### STRATEGIC LOCATION

Somaliland, once a British protectorate, has long sought formal recognition as an independent state although it has signed bilateral agreements with various governments on investments and security coordination.

Israel's decision to recognise Somaliland follows two years of strained ties with many of its closest partners over the war in Gaza and policies in the West Bank.

Netanyahu has said Israel will pursue cooperation in agriculture, health, technology and the economy. Following his visit, Sara said "local professionals" from Somaliland's water sector would visit Israel in the

coming months for training.

Somaliland lies in northwestern Somalia, shares land borders with Ethiopia and Djibouti and sits across the Gulf of Aden from Yemen, from where Iran-backed Houthis have launched missile and drones at Israel since October 2023, when the Gaza war began.

Omar Mahmood, a Somalia analyst at the International Crisis Group think tank, said Israeli engagement was probably driven by Somaliland's strategic location but that security coordination was possible without Israeli military installations there.

Sara said on Tuesday that mutual recognition and the establishment of diplomatic ties was not directed at anyone.

Somaliland has denied recognition allows for Israel to establish military bases there or for the resettlement of Palestinians from Gaza. Israel has advocated for what Israeli officials describe as voluntary Palestinian migration from Gaza. (Reuters)



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## 2026 Sports-Tourism Calendar Sails Off with the RORC Transatlantic Race

by Petra Williams

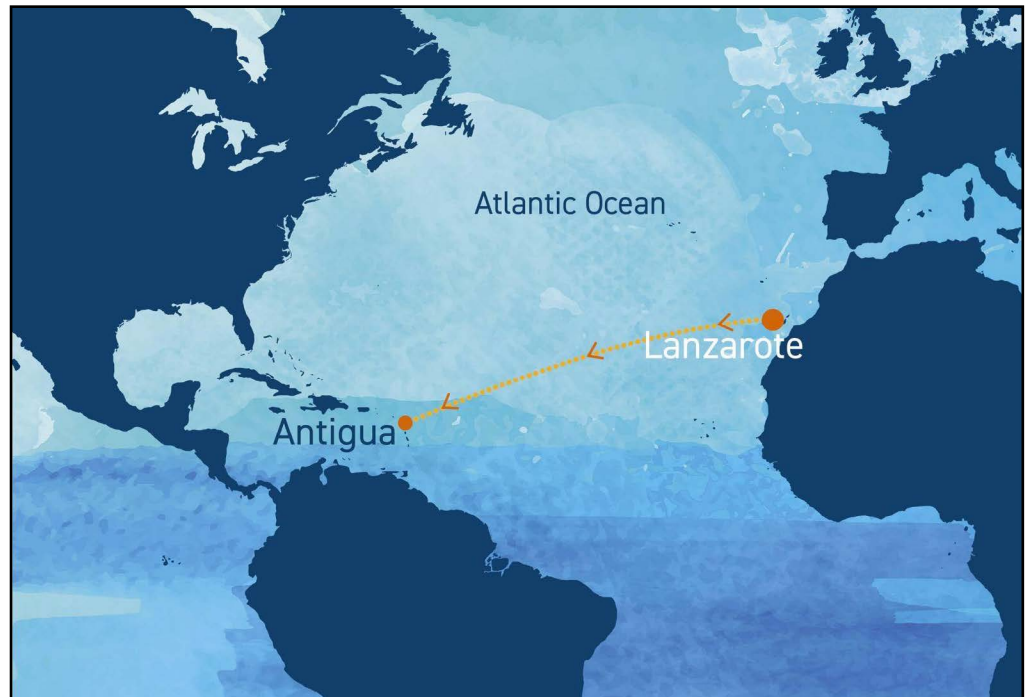
January 2026 will quietly but decisively mark one of the most valuable sports-tourism moments on Antigua and Barbuda's calendar, as the RORC Transatlantic Race makes its historic Caribbean finish in Antigua.

While the race *starts* in Lanzarote at Calero Marinas in the Canary Islands and unfolds across nearly 3,000 nautical miles of open Atlantic, its economic impact will be felt firmly on land. For Antigua, hosting the finish of a transatlantic offshore race is not simply a sporting honour. It is a high-value tourism intervention that blends elite sport, long-stay visitation, global media exposure, and heritage branding into a single event window.

At its core, the RORC Transatlantic Race delivers a category of visitor that Caribbean destinations actively compete for: high-spend travellers. Owners, technical teams, media partners, and support staff typically arrive well in advance and remain on the island well beyond the finish. Accommodation demand spans hotels, villas, marinas, and short-term rentals, while spending filters into provisioning, marine services, dining, transportation, and local labour.

Unlike fly-in, fly-out sports events, transatlantic racing embeds participants into the destination. Boats require berthing, refit work, security, logistics coordination, and regulatory compliance. Crews need time to rest, test equipment, and integrate with the marina economy before moving on. These are not transient spectators. They are operational visitors whose presence sustains multiple sectors simultaneously.

The Royal Ocean Racing Club's decision to move the race's finish to Antigua and Barbuda also strengthens calendar continuity. The January finish dovetails directly into the broader win-



**Start Date: 11 January 2026**

**Start Location: Marina Lanzarote, Arrecife, Canary Islands**

**Finish Location: Antigua, West Indies**

ter yachting season. From a tourism planning perspective, this sequencing matters. It lengthens the average stay, stabilises seasonal employment, and amplifies returns on infrastructure investment.

There is also a branding dividend. Transatlantic finishes generate international stories that no conventional advertising campaign can replicate. Images of exhausted crews entering English Harbour, coverage in specialised sailing media, and organic social media content from elite sailors reinforce Antigua's positioning as the Caribbean's premier yachting hub. The island is not merely a host venue; it becomes the emotional endpoint of an Atlantic crossing.

This matters in a competitive regional market where sports tourism is increasingly strategic rather than symbolic. Antigua's value proposition lies in its ability to host technically complex events, drawing on authenticity, maritime heritage, and operational

competence. Finishing a transatlantic race at Nelson's Dockyard does precisely that, linking modern endurance sport to a UNESCO-recognised historic setting.

The economic impact is therefore layered. Direct spending supports accommodations, food and beverage, transportation, and marine services. Indirect benefits flow through employment, supplier contracts, and exposure to destination marketing. Long-term gains accrue through strengthened partnerships with international sailing bodies and reinforced credibility as a serious sports-tourism destination.

As the January 11, 2026, start date approaches, the RORC Transatlantic Race should be viewed not only as a test of human endurance at sea but also as a strategic asset on Antigua and Barbuda's 2026 tourism ledger. It arrives quietly, delivers deeply, and leaves behind more than trophies. It leaves economic momentum.

## School football leagues draw closer to climax with staging of semi-finals

The 2025-26 Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup Secondary Schools' Football Competition will move closer to a conclusion with the staging of semi-finals in all five division leagues at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters this week.

All teams that finished at the top of the standings at the end of the round-robin preliminary stage earned automatic berths in the final of their respective divisions.

The second and third-place finishers in each division qualified for a one-off semi-final match to determine the other finalist.

The competitions will move towards a climax with the staging of five semi-final matches between the respective second and third place finishers at the ABFA Technical Center on Wednesday and Friday.

Second-place finishers Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) will take on third-place finishers Ottos Comprehensive School in the Under-16 Girls Division semi-final on Wednesday at 4 pm.

The winner will advance to the final to face defending champion Princess Margaret School, who qualified for the championship decider by virtue of finishing at the top of the standings at the end of the preliminary stage.

Second-place finishers Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) and third-place finishers Antigua Grammar School (AGS) will clash in the semi-final of the Under-16 Boys Division on Wednes-



*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. (File Photo)*

day at 6 pm.

The winner will advance to the final to face back-to-back defending champions Princess Margaret School, who will be seeking to capture their third consecutive title.

The other three semi-finals will take place at the same venue on Friday. Defending champions Antigua Grammar School, which finished second in the preliminary stage, and third-place finishers Jennings Secondary School will battle in the semi-final of the Under-14 Boys Division at 3 pm.

The winner will move on to face Princess Margaret School in the final for the title.

Defending champions Princess Margaret School, which finished second in the preliminary stage, will tackle third-place finishers

Clare Hall Secondary School in the semi-final of the Under-20 Girls Division at 4 pm.

The winners will advance to meet the Antigua Girls High School in the final for the championship.

Defending champions, Princess Margaret School, which finished second in the preliminary stage, will take on third-place finishers the Harrison Center Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE) in the semi-final of the Under-20 Boys Division at 6 pm.

The winners will move on to tackle the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) in the final for the title.

The finals are slated to be played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on Wednesday, January 14, and Friday, January 16.

## Chelsea appoint Rosenior as new head coach



**Liam Rosenior**

LONDON (Reuters) - Liam Rosenior was confirmed as Premier League club Chelsea's new head coach on Tuesday following the departure of Italian Enzo Maresca last week.

The 41-year-old Englishman has signed a deal until 2032, becoming the fourth full-time head coach appointed since a takeover of the club led by American Todd Boehly in 2022.

"I am extremely humbled and honoured to be appointed head coach of Chelsea Football Club," Rosenior, who leaves his post at French club Racing Strasbourg, said in a club statement.

"This is a club with a unique spirit and a proud history of winning trophies."

London-born Rosenior, whose play-

ing career included spells at Fulham, Hull City and Brighton and Hove Albion, took charge of Strasbourg in July 2024 after coaching spells at Derby County, where he was assistant to Wayne Rooney, and Hull in England's second tier.

Former England forward Rooney described Rosenior as "as good a coach as I've ever worked with."

While he is relatively inexperienced as a top-level coach, his reputation was enhanced after leading Strasbourg to European qualification following a seventh-placed finish in Ligue 1.

Part of that squad was Chelsea's young Brazilian midfielder Andrey Santos, who was on loan.

"He's a great coach. I love working

with him. All the players are excited by his commitment, his vision," Santos, who scored 10 league goals for Strasbourg last season, said in an interview about Rosenior.

Rosenior became the leading candidate to replace Maresca, thanks in large part to the fact that Strasbourg and Chelsea are part of the same multi-club ownership structure, with the French club taken over by Boehly's consortium BlueCo in 2023.

His immediate task will be to turn around Chelsea's form after a run of only one win in eight Premier League games although he will likely be watching from the stands at Craven Cottage on Wednesday as Chelsea visit London rivals Fulham with under-21s coach Calum McFarlane taking the team.

Rosenior's first game in charge will be Saturday's FA Cup trip away at Charlton Athletic.

Chelsea were third in the standings in November and being tipped as title contenders but have since slipped to fifth and are 17 points behind leaders Arsenal after 20 matches.

Rosenior will be tasked with steadying the ship and getting the most out of an expensively-assembled squad full of international household names, a contrast to his time at Strasbourg where he worked with an unsung squad.

"My job is to protect that identity and create a team that reflects these values in every game we play as we continue winning trophies," he said.

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## Australian Open prize fund reaches record US\$75 million

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - The prize fund for this year's Australian Open has been increased by 16 percent to A\$111.5 million (US\$74.88 million), making it the largest purse in the tournament's history, organisers announced on Tuesday.

The two singles champions will each pocket A\$4.15 million, up from the A\$3.5 million, which Jannik Sinner and Madison Keys took home last year.

"This 16 percent increase demonstrates our commitment to supporting tennis careers at every level," said Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley.

"From boosting qualifying prize money by 55 percent since 2023 to enhancing player benefits, we're ensuring professional tennis is sustainable for all competitors."

The US Open offered the largest prize fund of the Grand Slams last year with US\$90 million, while Wimbledon offered a total of 53.5 million pounds (US\$72.49 million) and the French Open 56.35 million euros (US\$66.12 million).

First-round losers at the Australian



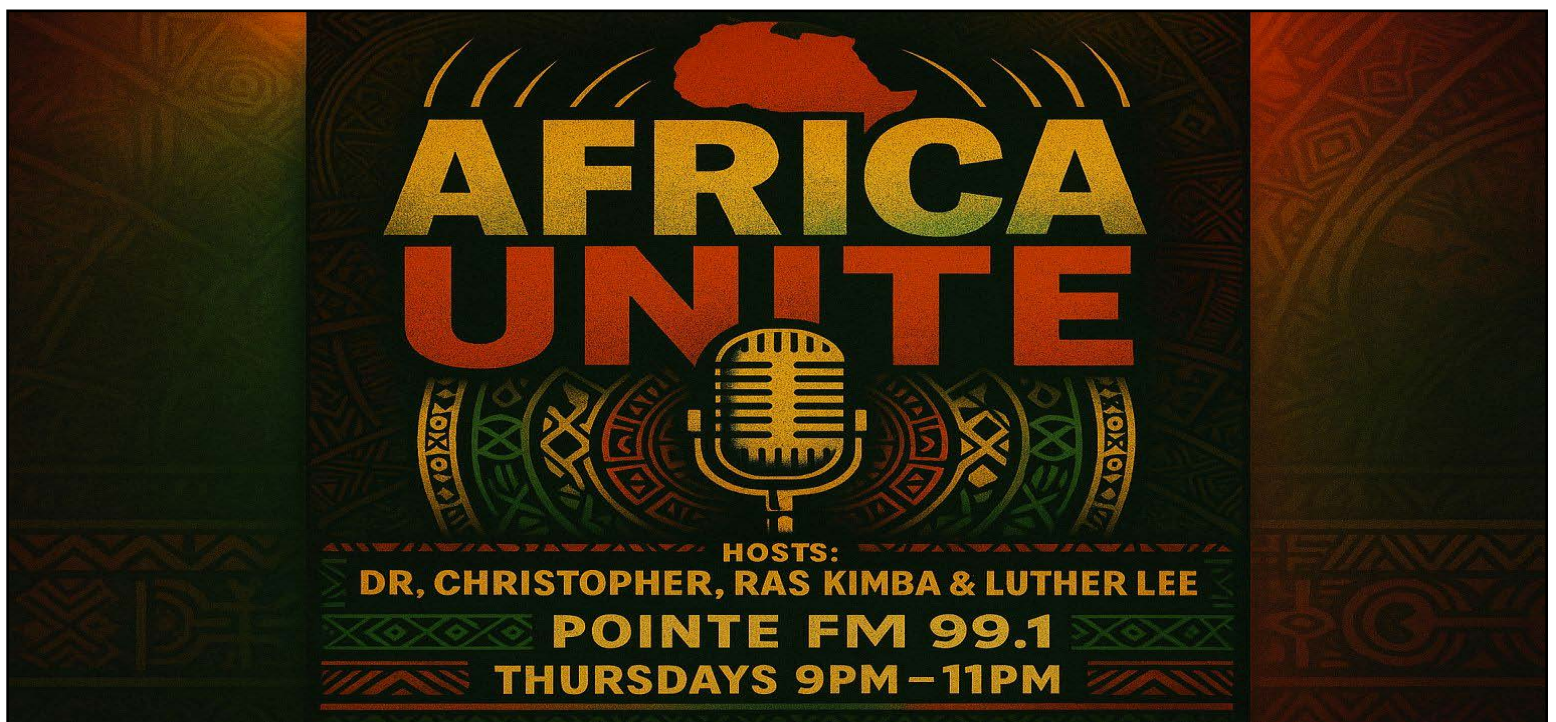
**Madison Keys, right, of the US reacts as she holds the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup after defeating Aryna Sabalenka, left, of Belarus in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 25, 2025. (AP)**

Open will walk away with A\$150,000, a hike of 14 percent from 2025, while the qualifying rounds will see the largest hike of 16 percent. Those falling in third round of qualifying will earn A\$83,500.

The prize money increase is part of Tennis Australia's US\$135 million

investment across the "Summer of Tennis", which Tiley said, "strengthens tennis's foundation, ensuring the sport's long-term health and commercial growth".

The Australian Open runs from January 18 to February 1 at Melbourne Park.



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**Media Houses:** To ensure a consistent vantage point, media houses are advised to obtain a link/copy of the Music Festival via our state media, ABS TV.

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Regards,

Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission  
Executive Producer  
One Nation Caribbean Music Festival

## Man United interim candidates include Solskjaer and Carrick



**Ole Gunnar Solskjaer**

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Manchester United has approached Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Michael Carrick in its search for an interim coach to take over until the end of the season, a person with knowledge of the situation confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the recruitment process has not been made public.

United is considering a short-term replacement for Ruben Amorim, who was fired on Monday, with a view to a long-term appointment in the summer.

Talks were being held with former players Solskjaer and Carrick. United youth coach Darren Fletcher has been installed as interim for Wednesday's game against Burnley and may also put himself in contention if he impresses.

But Solskjaer, who managed United between 2018 and 2021 and is a club icon after scoring the winning goal in the 1999 Champions League final, has the strongest managerial pedigree of that trio. He led United to a second-place finish in the league in 2021 and was also a losing finalist in the Eu-

ropa League that same season.

Carrick was on the coaching staff at United after retiring as a player and was briefly caretaker when Solskjaer was fired. He was in charge of second tier Middlesbrough from 2022-25 where he earned a reputation as an up-and-coming coach.

It is not known if other names are being seriously considered, but former striker and coach Ruud van Nistelrooy, who was interim before Amorim took charge in 2024, was reportedly another option.

Solskjaer would be a surprising appointment — even on a temporary basis — after leaving the club more than four years ago.

The Norwegian initially took over as interim when Jose Mourinho was fired, but inspired such an uplift in atmosphere that he was given the job full time.

He came closer than anyone to delivering a first Premier League title since club great Alex Ferguson's retirement when the team finished second five years ago, 12 points behind Manchester City.

Mourinho also steered United to second — but was 19 points behind champion City in 2018.

Under Ferguson, United dominated the Premier League since its inception in 1992 — winning 13 titles — but has not been champion since his final season in 2013.

Amorim was fired on Monday after only 14 months in the job and a slew of unwanted records such as United's worst season in the Premier League era last term.

But he departed with United still in a strong position to secure Champions League qualification for next season, with the club believing a change would enhance its chances of rising up the standings.

By waiting until the end of the season to make a long-term appointment, United would likely have more options when potential candidates are out of contract or rival clubs are more open to releasing coaches.

Names speculated so far include Crystal Palace's Oliver Glasner, Fulham's Marco Silva, and Marseille's Roberto De Zerbi.

## Sea View Farm maintains perfect run in Second Division



**The Sea View Farm football team**

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

Sea View Farm FC recorded their seventh win in as many games by snatching a 2-1 victory against Herberts United FC at the Pigotts playing field.

Jayden Browne struck the winner for Sea View Farm FC with a strike in the 75th minute. A 10th-minute conversion by Joseph Lyne gave Sea View Farm a one-nil lead at halftime. Herberts United FC equalized via an own goal by Kenya Hughes in the 61st minute.

The result allows Sea View Farm to

remain at the top of the Second Division standings by advancing to 21 points.

Fort Road notched up their fourth win in seven matches with a 2-0 victory against Earthquake FC at the Fort Road playing field.

Cafarie McCoy had a fifth-minute conversion, and Jean-Pierre Williams scored in the 11th minute. The result allows Fort Road FC to advance to 12 points.

North Coast Academy Juniors claimed their third win in seven matches by pulling off a 2-1 victory against CPTSA Wings at the Mount Pleasant playing field.

Ajabe Rae scored in the 20th minute

to give North Coast Academy Juniors a one-nil lead at half-time. Torres Francis made it two-nil with a strike in the 63rd minute.

Solomon Brown reduced the deficit for the CPTSA Wings by scoring a goal in the second minute of added time. The CPTSA Wings also finished the match with 10 men, as Ra-sheem Williamson received a second caution (yellow card) and was expelled in the second minute of added time.

Their latest win propelled the North Coast Academy Juniors to 10 points, while the CPTSA

Wings remain on eight points after suffering their first defeat in seven matches.

Substitute Kion Jackson scored twice as the Urlings Golden Stars recorded their second win in six matches by pulling off a 3-0 victory against Glanvilles FC at the Glanvilles playing field.

Jackson had conversions in the 26th and 90th minutes, while Derrick Pryce scored the other goal for the Urlings Golden Stars in the 59th minute.

The result allows the Urlings Golden Stars to move on to eight points, while Glanvilles FC remains on three points after slumping to their fourth loss in five matches.