

March 16 Is By-Election In St. Phillip's North



Sir Robin Yearwood Snr. flanked by his Daughter Katrina Yearwood (left) and his Son Robin Yearwood Jr. (right)

March 16 Is By-Election In St. Phillip's North



Sir Robin Resigns After 50 Years As An MP...

Just hours after being honoured in a special sitting of the House of Representatives for five decades of service, veteran parliamentarian Sir Robin Yearwood formally resigned his seat Wednesday with immediate effect, bringing an extraordinary political era to a close and triggering a by-election in the constituency of St. Phillip's North.

In his letter, Sir Robin reflected on what he described as "exactly 50 years" in the Lower House and eleven successful electoral victories at the polls.

"As you are aware, I have served in the Lower House of Parliament since 18 February 1976," he wrote. "I have been successfully returned to Parliament by the people of St. Phillip's North on eleven separate occasions."

Sir Robin signalled that stepping down now represented a natural and dignified transition.

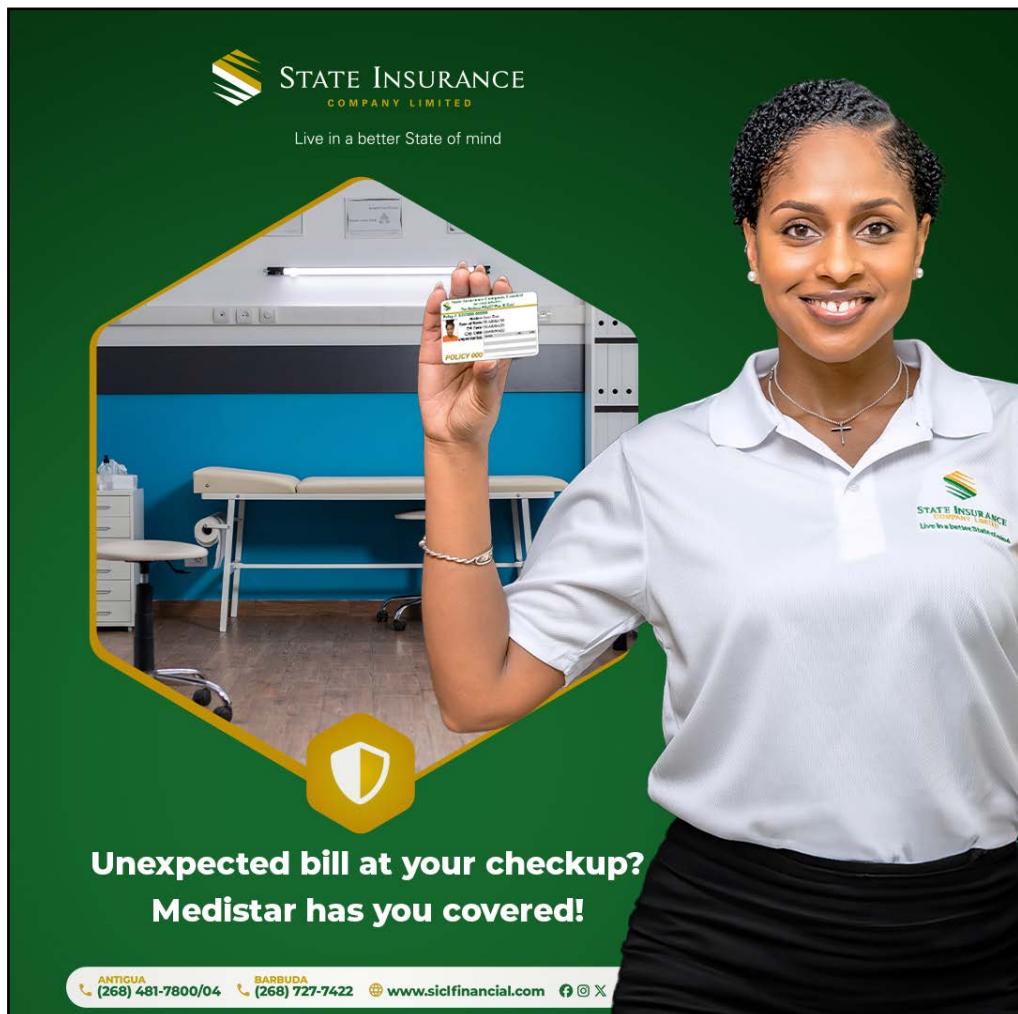
"I believe that the time has come for me to pass the baton to a younger and

more vigorous representative," he wrote. "No time could be better than the moment when a 50-year milestone is achieved."

Over half a century, Sir Robin Yearwood became one of the most recognisable and enduring figures in Antiguan and Barbudan politics, serving across multiple administrations and holding several senior Cabinet portfolios.

Throughout those years, he remained a stalwart of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, which he described as a movement he joined more than 50 years ago and served "faithfully at all times."

"The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is a movement which I joined more than fifty years ago," he wrote, "Its creed, its vision and mission em-


 An advertisement for State Insurance Company Limited. The background is green with a white medical office interior featuring a bed and a computer screen. A woman in a white polo shirt is smiling and holding up a white medical card with a photo and the text "POLICY 600". The State Insurance logo is in the top left. The tagline "Live in a better State of mind" is below the logo. At the bottom, it says "Unexpected bill at your checkup? Medistar has you covered!" with a shield icon.

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bodied and characterized the new personality which the Antigua and Barbuda person would become".

Even during periods when the party lost its parliamentary majority and moved into opposition, Sir Robin maintained his seat.

In his letter, he struck a reflective tone, thanking the electors of St. Phillip's North, his family, friends and colleagues for sustaining him through the demands of public life.

"It is impossible for any successful seeker of public office to operate with equanimity without the backing of a coterie of confidants," he wrote,

expressing appreciation to relatives, church members and supporters who stood by him over the decades.

He also expressed pride in what he believes the country has achieved during his years in office.

"It pleases me to think that my own contribution has resulted in an Antigua and Barbuda that is sovereign, wealthier, prideful, accomplished and leading in human development in the entire Caribbean," he stated.

Sir Robin's connection to St. Phillip's North has long been described as personal rather than political. Known for operating without a formal constitu-

ency office, he instead made himself available from his home in Willikies, where residents regularly sought assistance and advice.

With his resignation taking immediate effect, the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission is moving towards organising a by-election to fill the vacancy that was created in parliament. The Constitutional process to fill the seat has started with the issuance of the Writ of Election today (Thursday 19) and the by-election set for Monday March 16.

The by-election will be between two candidates — Randy Baltimore, who received the nod as Sir Robin Yearwood's successor from ABLP supporters in a primary held in July, 2024, and Alex Browne, who was appointed a United Progressive Party Senator in 2023.

Both men are entering the race with clear missions. Baltimore, to retain the seat held by his successor for half a century, while Browne will be seeking to break the trend and secure victory for the UPP.

Already, leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, is reiterating his support for Randy Baltimore, writing on his social media page, "We look forward to formally receiving Mr. Randy Baltimore - ABLP's candidate in the upcoming St Phillip's North by election, as the newest member of Parliament shortly".

Both political parties are expected to roll out their campaigns in the upcoming weeks as they seek to convince eligible voters within Saint Phillip's North why theirs is the ideal candidate.

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Local News

PM Browne Leads Tributes as Parliament Honours Sir Robin Yearwood's 50 Years of Service

The chamber of the House of Representatives was steeped in gratitude and reflection Wednesday morning when Prime Minister Gaston Browne opened a special sitting to honour the remarkable 50-year parliamentary career of Sir Robin Yearwood.

With his record of half a century, Sir Robin Yearwood is listed as the longest-serving MP in Antigua and Barbuda's history, a record that also includes the wider Caribbean and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Wednesday's special parliamentary sitting was not crafted for debate or division. Instead, it was one for tributes, commemorating a career Prime Minister Browne described as "rooted not in spectacle, but in substance; not in rhetoric, but in results."

For five decades, Sir Robin has represented the people of St. Philip's North, earning an extraordinary 11 consecutive electoral victories since first entering Parliament in 1976. His longevity, Prime Minister Browne said, reflects more than political skill — it speaks to "character, discipline, resilience, humility and an unshakable sense of responsibility."

According to the Prime Minister Gaston Browne, unlike many modern politicians, Sir Robin Yearwood never maintained a formal constituency branch office. Instead, his modest home in Willikies served as the centre of his public life.

Constituents knew they could find him there — not behind layers of protocol, but accessible and pres-



ent.

"He was tactile, always in close touch with his people," Browne said. "His door has never been closed to those in need, and his voice has never been absent when justice or fairness required it."

Residents often regarded him not simply as their MP, but as a neighbour, counsellor and advocate — a familiar figure who lived among them and understood their everyday struggles.

Sir Robin's parliamentary service spanned multiple administrations and critical national portfolios, including agriculture, aviation, public utilities and finance. He also held senior leadership roles as Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and chairman of several statutory corporations and private companies.

Throughout his career, he worked

alongside and under three generations of national leadership, including the late Vere Cornwall Bird, Lester Bird and now Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

"You have stood at the centre of defining chapters in our political history," Browne told him directly during the sitting. "You fought unrelentingly to protect and advance the living standards of our people."

While parliamentary records document the length of his service, the Antiguan and Barbudan leader stressed that Sir Robin's true legacy is etched into communities and institutions across Antigua and Barbuda.

"Our nation is stronger because of Sir Robin's service," he said. "Generations have benefited from his contribution. Our democracy has been enriched by his steadfast presence."



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18 February 2026

H.E. Sir Rodney Williams K.C.M.G.
Governor General
Government House
Independence Avenue
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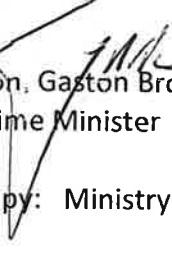
Excellency:

I present my compliments and wish to inform that the Honourable Sir Robin Yearwood has submitted his resignation from the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda, effective this date. Hence, under Section 41(3) of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution Order 1981, "where the seat of an elected member of the House is vacant ... there shall be a by-election to fill the seat in the House."

The Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda further requires the by-election to be held anytime within 120 days of the date on which the vacancy arose. I therefore inform, based on the power vested in the Prime Minister under the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, that the vacancy of the Constituency of St. Phillip's North be filled. I direct that the following take place on the dates indicated:

**Thursday 19 February 2026 – Issuance of the Writ of Election
Wednesday 25 February 2026 – Day of Nomination of Candidates
Monday 16 March 2026 – Day of by-Election in the St. Phillip Constituency**

I thank you, Excellency, for acting with the usual alacrity, and I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest regard and esteem.


Hon. Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister

Copy: Ministry of Legal Affairs



GG, Cabinet Colleagues and others pay tribute to Sir Robin

Wednesday February 18, 2026, will go down in the history books as a momentous day for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, but especially for Sir Robin Yearwood and his family for this was the day that he created history by being the longest serving member of parliament with 50 years of unbroken serving to the people of St. Philip's North constituency.

It was a historic day in several respects; firstly, it was a rare occasion when the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, is invited to address the House of Representatives. This was not an occasion when the Governor General is decked out in his ceremonial wear; this was an occasion for regular business suit. Nonetheless, the presence of the Governor General at a sitting of the House of Representatives, though rare, still comes with its own set of protocol requirements. These relate to where he sits and who sits on either side of him.

When he did speak, the Governor General's remarks took a deeply personal tone. He recalled that for twenty of Sir Robin's 50 years in the House of Representatives, that he also sat in the House as the representative for St. Paul.

"That shared parliamentary experience affords me a unique appreciation of the demands and responsibilities that accompany this office. We have debated across this floor, collaborated on national matters, and witnessed together the maturing of our democracy. "Indeed, our association within this Chamber predates my own tenure. Sir Robin served alongside my late father, Sir Ernest Emmanuel Williams, for several years. Their generation bore significant responsibility during critical years of national development. The professional respect between them grew into a friendship between families, a bond that has endured for decades and remains strong to this day," Sir Rodney recalled.

Sir Rodney took time to mention the



many occasions that his family had been gifted with one of Sir Robin's cherished goats and the significance of this generosity. "I would be remiss if I did not recall, with warmth and gratitude, the many occasions on which you gifted our family one of your well-known goats, gestures of generosity that invariably transformed into sumptuous fare and cherished family gatherings. Those moments remind us that leadership is expressed not only in debate, but also in generosity and goodwill."

The nation's Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin also added his voice to expressions of admiration and gratitude to Sir Robin. He told the gathering that the special session of the House of Representatives was more than an acknowledgement of the passage of time; but the celebration of a legacy.

"Fifty years, Mr. Speaker, is more than a milestone. It is a lifetime of dedication. It is half a century of answering the call to serve. It is countless debates, decisions, consultations, and commitments — all undertaken in the interest of strengthening our democracy and advancing our nation.

"From his early days in public life to his seasoned leadership in Parliament, Sir Robin has exemplified the core values upon which parliamentary democracy stands: respect for the rule of law, belief in the power of representation, and an unshakeable commitment

to the voice of the people."

Sir Steadroy added that everyone is aware that parliamentary democracy is not sustained by institutions alone. "It is sustained by individuals - by men and women who understand that leadership is a responsibility, not a privilege. Sir Robin Yearwood has embodied that principle," he declared.

For Foreign Minister E. P Chet Greene, Sir Robin has left an imprint on virtually every facet of national life, having served with distinction as Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, nurturing the very soil of the nation; as Minister of Aviation, Public Information and Public Utilities, where he modernized the connectivity and infrastructure; and ultimately as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, helping to steward the economy through turbulent waters.

Minister Greene also described Sir Robin as the link between the past generations, such as the Thirty-Niners and the Seventy-Sixers to the generations of today.

"His career reflects the ABLP's resilience, notwithstanding the defeat of 1971, the internal shifts of the 1980s and 1990s, the devastating loss of 2004 and the triumphant return to government in 2014. To survive and thrive in the rough and tumble of Antiguan politics for five decades requires not just political skill but a genuine connection to the people that transcends political cycles," Greene observed.

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Opposition Leader Pringle says 'Thank You' to Sir Robin



Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Sir Robin Yearwood, in whose honour a special session of the House of Representatives was held on Wednesday to commemorate his 50 years of unbroken service as the representative for St Phillip's North.

Opposition Leader Pringle recalled that when he was first elected to the House back in 2018, he stood alone as the only member of his party to be elected to parliament. It was Sir Robin who went out of his way to 'coach' the new politician on the ways of parliament.

"Young and 'green' to the politics, it was Sir Robin's advice, from time to time when we meet outside in the hallway, that helped to guide me as the only member of the UPP sitting on the opposition bench with no experience in parliament. I want to say to you Sir Robin, thank you; not only for your service to Antigua and Barbuda, thank you for your advice, thank you for your tutelage as from time to time you would have said to me; "Old Road man, you have to do this or do that, but, you have to bring the mangoes," he added.



As the House up roared in laughter, the opposition leader noted facetiously that he was not sure if the mangoes represented payments for the advice, which led to more laughter.

Light moment aside, Pringle's expression of appreciation and gratitude were clearly a genuine recognition of the outstanding moment that was being witnessed and how this moment will be remembered for years to come.

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, who spoke after the opposition leader, noted that it would be a service to Sir Robin's memory if the expressions of goodwill at the special session on Wednesday could carry over into how the affairs of the House of Representatives are conducted in the months and years ahead.

"I am happy to hear the comments from the other side ad I am now asking, is this a new beginning for Antigua and Barbuda? All the commendations, all the pleasing expressions, can we use this moment in honouring Sir Robin to have a new outlook on the way that we prosecute our politics in Antigua and Barbuda. We have got to make a way to get the benefits of this moment. Notwithstanding what has transpired

in the past, you have to agree that Sir Robin made his contribution, and an enormous contribution," he remarked.

Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez revealed that he first cast a vote in an election the same year that Sir Robin was first elected to the House of Representative, adding that there was a time when he lived in St. Philip's North and cast a vote in favour of Sir Robin.

But it was Sir Robin's unique ability to communicate with ordinary men and women that has stood out as a key reason for the retiring politician's success for five decades, Fernandez suggested.

"I remember sharing many political platforms with Sir Robin over these many years and I was always impressed by how he has been able to communicate with people. Sir Robin has a way for making even the most complex issue understandable to the common people. No matter the subject, he was able to break it down in the simplest of ways for everyone to understand, and that was his special gift," Minister Fernandez observed.

ABEC Strengthens Electoral Operations Ahead Of By-Election

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) says it is carrying out a significant expansion of its human resource capacity with the employment of eighteen (18) additional staff members across several key departments.

This strategic increase in personnel forms part of the Commission's ongoing commitment to enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening institutional capacity, and delivering the highest standards of electoral administration to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

The newly appointed staff members have been assigned to various departments including Voter Registration and Administrative Support. Their recruitment reflects the Commission's proactive approach to meeting the growing demands of electoral management, improving service delivery, and ensuring readiness for future electoral activities.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian S Hughes, noted that the expansion represents a forward-looking investment in the integrity and a step towards further modernization of the electoral system.

"The strengthening of our human resources is a critical step in ensuring that the Commission continues to operate with transparency, efficiency, and professionalism. As the electoral landscape evolves, it is imperative that we build a resilient and capable team to support our mandate."

ABEC's Chairman, Ambassador Arthur Thomas, in welcoming the new staff, emphasized the importance of professionalism, integrity, and strict confidentiality in the discharge of their duties. He encouraged them to pursue continuous career development, maintain proper deportment, and demonstrate respect for the public and for the authority of the Commission. He urged them to remain guided by the



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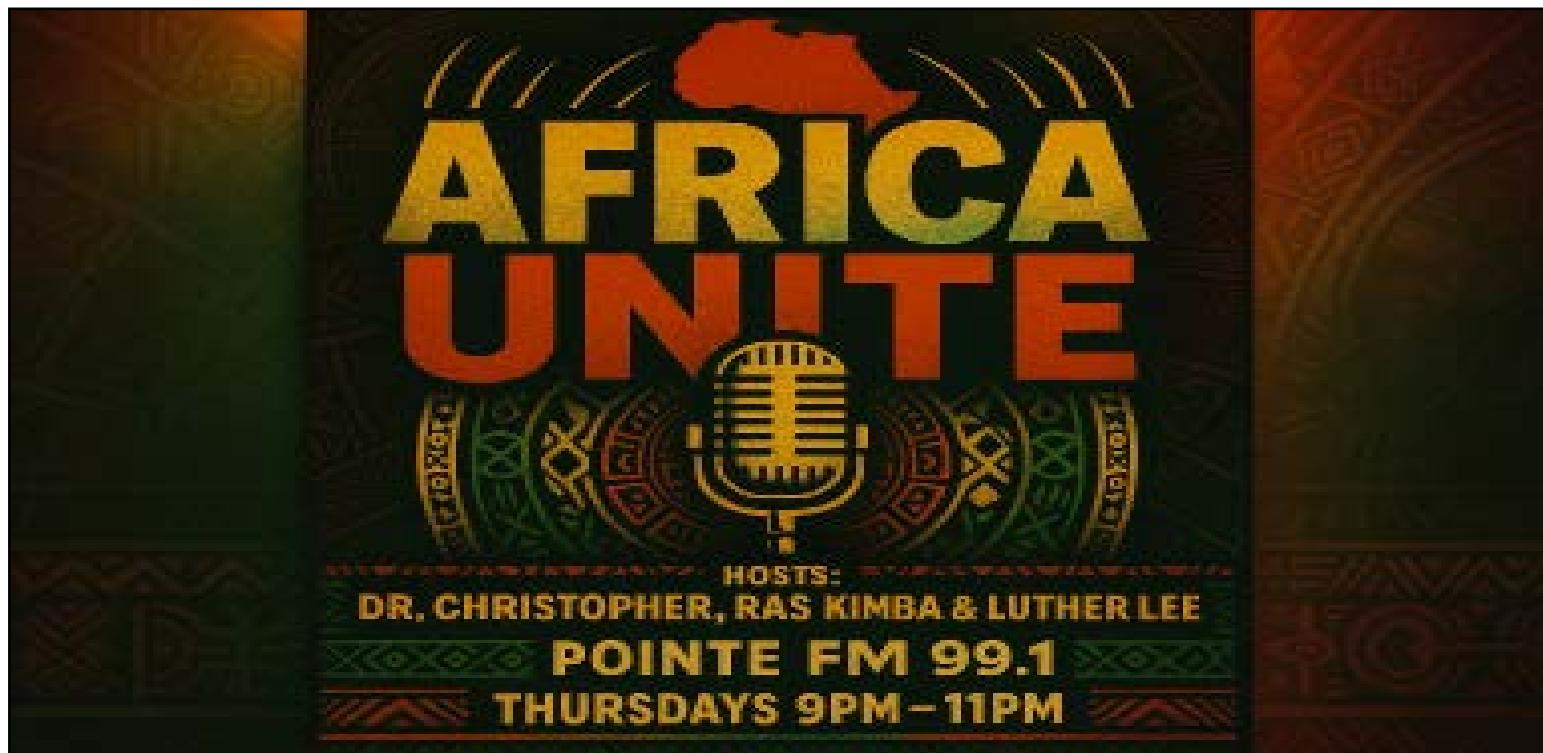


knowledge gained during their internships and to uphold the Commission's vision and mission in all aspects of their work.

The Commission remains steadfast in its mission to uphold democratic

principles and to administer free, fair, and credible elections. By reinforcing its internal capacity, ABEC positions itself to better serve citizens and stakeholders throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

The announcement comes as By-Election has been announced in the St. Phillip's South constituency following the resignation of Sir Robin Yearwood on Wednesday.



Minister Maria Browne Praises Veteran MP's Legacy of Dedication and Sacrifice



Saint John's Rural East MP, Maria Browne has expressed gratitude to retired politician Sir Robin Yearwood, summing up his political life as a model of sacrifice, loyalty and nation-building — one which younger parliamentarians like herself strive to emulate.

The youngest among her parliamentary colleagues, MP Browne recalled first learning about Sir Robin as a child, long before she entered politics herself.

She painted a nostalgic picture of primary school classrooms where students were required to memorise the names, faces and portfolios of government ministers.

Their photographs, she said, hung prominently on the walls.

"I recall three very prominent faces that are still in here today," she said,

referring to what she affectionately called "the Three Knights" — senior statesmen who shaped the country's political landscape for decades.

Years later, she found herself not just recognising those faces, but serving alongside them.

"I could not believe in 2018 that I would be on a slate next to these three knights," Browne said. "What an honour it was — and still is — to be serving alongside such great men. True patriots of Antigua and Barbuda."

In her glowing tribute to Sir Robin Yearwood on the attainment of 50 years as a member of parliament, Minister Maria Browne addressed the issue of ageism in public life, noting that younger leaders are often told they lack experience while older leaders are sometimes dismissed as past their prime.

She credited the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party for fostering an environment where every generation is valued.

"We know to get to where we want to go, we have to know where we are coming from," she said. "And we must respect all and their contributions."

She added that serving alongside seasoned figures like Sir Robin has given younger MPs invaluable guidance and institutional memory.

"In a position that many individuals can find themselves gravitating away from their true selves and become very aloof, Sir Robin always stayed grounded," she said. "And I think that is something we can all emulate."

the last 50 years," she said. "And we hope that you do enjoy your retirement."

Antigua and Barbuda, Spain Hold Bilateral Discussions



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and Ambassador At-Large For The Caribbean, Carlos de la Morena Casado

Antigua and Barbuda and the Kingdom of Spain used the opportunity of this week's EU-Caribbean Parliamentary Assembly meeting in St. John's to hold important bilateral discussions.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, met briefly on Wednesday with the Spanish Ambassador At-Large For The Caribbean, Carlos de la Morena Casado and an assistant in discussions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Joining Minister Greene were Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim and Director General for Foreign Affairs, Ann Marie Layne.

It was noted that Antigua and Barbuda and the Kingdom of Spain formally established diplomatic relations in 1988, seven years after Antigua and Barbuda gained independence. Since then, both countries have engaged in various forms of cooperation, including:



Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim (left), Ambassador Carlos de la Morena Casado, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and the assistant to the Spanish Ambassador

- **Bilateral Summits:** notably, summits were held in Madrid in 2006 and 2008, which helped to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties
- **Development and technical assistance:** Spain has supported development initiatives in the Caribbean, including Antigua and Barbuda, often through regional programs and partnerships with the European Union
- **Cultural and Educational Exchange:** There have been efforts to promote Spanish language and culture in the Caribbean, as well as opportunities for educational exchange and scholarships. A shining example of this is the "Ibero-American Cultural Week," launched in April 2011, which has provided Antigua and Barbuda citizens with the opportunity to experience and appreciate

the rich cultural heritage of the Hispanic and Spanish-speaking communities.

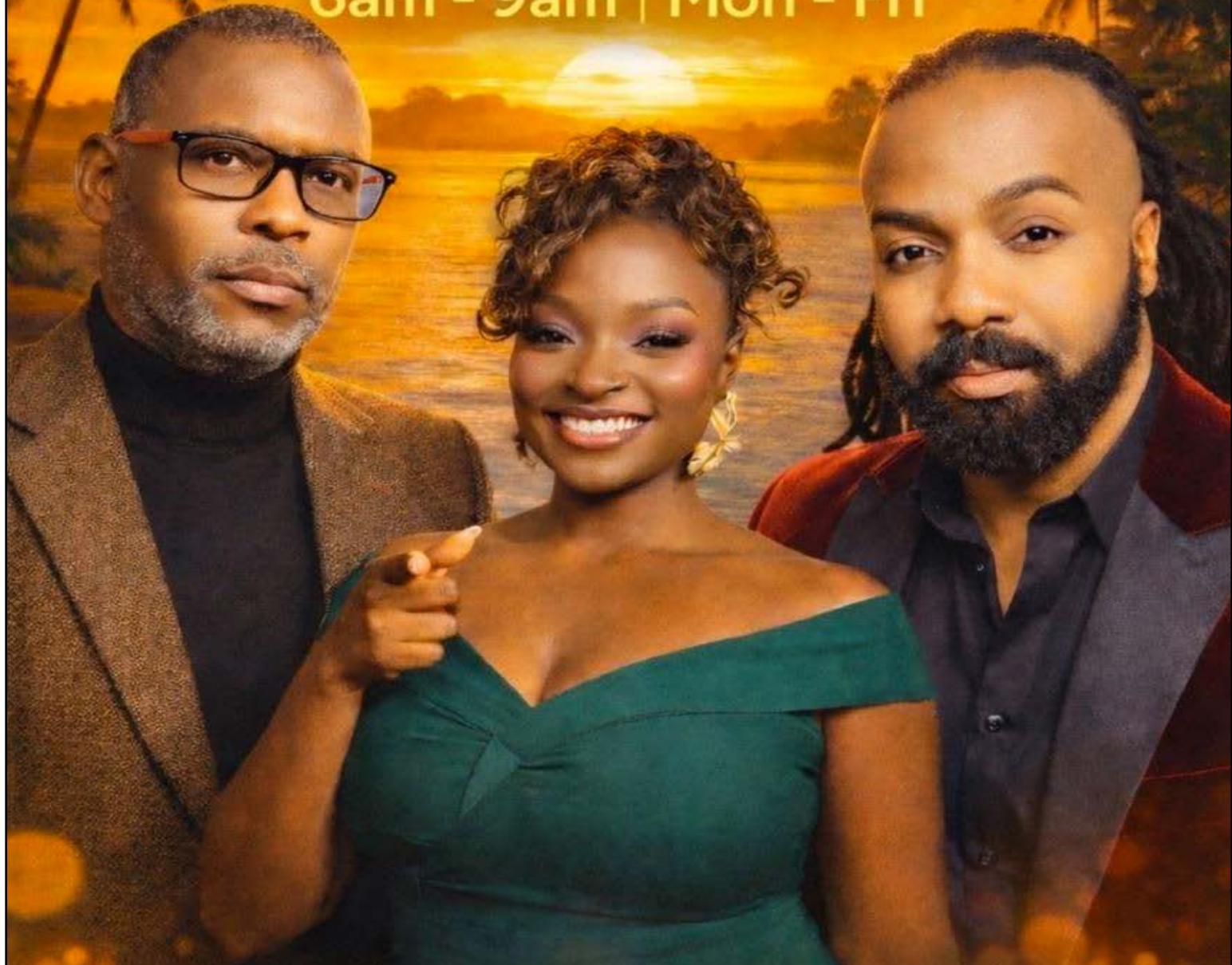
At the meeting, Minister Greene called for a reset of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states, noting that small countries in the OECS face structural challenges that limit their ability to fully capitalize on the EPA's provisions. Unlike larger Caribbean economies, OECS states have limited export capacity, which restricts their participation in and benefits from expanded trade opportunities under the agreement.

One suggestion to address these disparities, is a proposal that grant funding under the EPA's development cooperation pillar could be more strategically aligned with the unique needs of small island states.

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Work under way to upgrade arrivals, retail spaces at NMIA



PAC Kingston Airport Limited (PACKAL) has begun two major renovation projects at the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) as part of the next phase of the operator's \$25.8-billion (US\$161-million) transformation programme first unveiled in 2024.

A \$1.2-billion overhaul of the customs and arrivals hall – expected to take roughly 24 months – will introduce improved lighting, upgraded flooring, expanded seating, enhanced aesthetics, a covered kerbside pickup zone, and a revamped bar and restaurant.

Meanwhile, \$320-million upgrade to the link corridor aims to modernise both arrivals and departures, while improving overall passenger flow. The

16-month project is described by the operator as one that will “transform the shopping experience with four new retail locations, including two food and beverage outlets, one duty-free shop, and one retail store, alongside improvements to lighting, flooring, and seating areas”.

PACKAL's transformation programme spans five years. With operational infrastructure upgrades progressing, the operator is now accelerating its passenger-facing projects, including works in the departures area, scheduled to begin later this month.

“These projects will transform the first and last impression passengers have at our gateway. As we modernise the passenger experience throughout

the airport, we are curating a passenger experience that starts as soon as you land and continues through to your departure,” said Sitara English-Byfield, chief executive officer of PACKAL.

The works follow several passenger-centred upgrades, including restroom modernisation, retiling of the check-in hall, and improvements to the baggage-handling system. These enhancements complement ongoing safety-related projects, such as the \$11.5-billion Runway End Safety Area implementation, apron-slab rehabilitation, and taxiway improvements, PACKAL said.

“We embarked on this programme in 2023 and are focused on completing all major projects by 2029. While we are transforming and the best is yet to come, each milestone enhances the experiences of our passengers and users,” English-Byfield said.

The CEO also said PACKAL would do its best to minimise disruption throughout this process.

“We're building facilities that will inspire pride in every traveller and airport user passing through NMIA. The journey is well under way, and significantly better days are ahead,” English-Byfield added. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Man arrested for sexual assault during Jouvert in Port of Spain

Police have arrested a man for the sexual assault of a woman participating in a Jouvert band on Monday morning, warning the public that “any form of sexual assault is a serious criminal offence.”

Authorities reported that around 9:08 a.m., the 34-year-old victim was playing mas along Tragarete Road, Port of Spain, near

a Ministry of Agriculture building, when the suspect approached her from behind.

Police said the man began dancing behind the woman before attempting what was described as “a non-consensual sexual act.” Realising what was happening, the woman quickly pushed the man away. He then attempted to flee from the band.

Private security personnel working with the band intervened immediately upon witnessing the incident, apprehending the suspect and handing him over to patrolling police officers who were nearby.

The suspect was taken to the St. Clair Police Station, where he is expected to be questioned and may face charges later this week.

In a statement issued yesterday afternoon, police reminded the public that “any form of sexual assault is a serious criminal offence and will be treated with the utmost urgency.” They also urged individuals attending Carnival events to remain vigilant, respect personal boundaries, and report any incidents immediately to the nearest police officer. (Trinidad Express)

Regional News

Govt remains silent days after US military boat strike in SVG waters



Kingstown remains silent some six days following a lethal U.S. military strike which, according to all reports, occurred inside St Vincent's territorial waters.

Remnants of the alleged drug boat hit by the strike were found off Canouan on Saturday.

St Vincent Times efforts to obtain official confirmation have been futile, even as St Lucia's Prime Minister, Philip J Peirre, on Monday confirmed that lives were lost.

Peirre was referring to reports of a second strike which, according to reports, occurred off Owia in which it is understood that three St Lucian nationals were killed.

"I can confirm that people lost their lives. As to the circumstances, I have no official notification on the circumstances surrounding their deaths".

St Vincent's Opposition Leader, Ralph Gonsalves, on Monday described U.S. actions in the Caribbean as "wholly unjustified in law" and warned that they threaten regional stability and sovereignty.

The Opposition Leader criticized the current administration in St. Vincent for failing to speak out, suggesting they are afraid of US retaliation, particularly regarding their Citizenship

by Investment (CBI) programs or diplomatic ties. He advocates a "mature engagement" with the US that avoids both "subservience" and "infantile opposition" to ensure the survival of free and independent Caribbean peoples.

Gonsalves stated that the unilateral action of the US in destroying vessels within or near Caribbean waters challenges the independence of regional nations. He suggests that if Caribbean governments remain silent out of fear, they risk being seen as "slaves of the United States" or mere "local government bodies" rather than sovereign states with national rights.

He emphasized that even if individuals are involved in drug trafficking,

they are entitled to a trial and are "innocent until proven guilty." By destroying boats at sea, the US acts as "judge, jury, and executioner," which Gonsalves terms a "species of barbarism."

Meanwhile, this publication understands that police in St Vincent conducted a major drug haul on Monday. It remains unconfirmed if it was related to the U.S. strike on Friday.

Reports to the St Vincent Times indicate that some 9kilos of cocaine were seized. The exact location of the haul has not been made public yet by local authorities.

The St Vincent Times understands that there have been several reports of cocaine washing ashore in other Southern Caribbean islands since Saturday evening.

The Trump administration has adamantly defended the strikes as necessary to stop illegal drugs from entering the U.S. Since the strikes began in September, at least 37 strikes have killed 120 people, excluding Friday's strike, according to the Department of Defense.

The U.S. resumed boat strikes in late January after largely backing off from attacking boats in the region following the U.S. military's Jan. 3 kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. (St Vincent Times)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 32 of the Constitution, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association will be held at the Office of the Governor General and Chief Scout located at the Government House in St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 26th February 2026 at 5:00 p.m. The election of officers for the period March 2026 – February 2029 will also be conducted.

All Members are invited to attend punctually and to note that subscriptions for 2026 are now due and payable.

CARICOM leaders to tackle CSME, reparations, Haiti in Basseterre



Leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are headed to Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis for the bloc's 50th regular summit, where they will engage high-profile international guests and address pressing regional challenges including its single market, the crisis in Haiti, border disputes and reparations.

According to a provisional agenda released by the Georgetown-based CARICOM Secretariat, the leaders will discuss adding aviation personnel for the list of skilled nationals who may live and work in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

They will also discuss proposed amendments to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Schedule 1 on rules of origin, which determine whether a product is eligible for duty-free treatment as a CARICOM product.

Topping the list of international VIPs to meet with the leaders are Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Faisal

bin Farhan Al Saud, and Dr George Elombi, president and chairman of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), which opened a CARICOM office in Barbados last year. The topic of reparations for the transatlantic slave trade is also expected to be a talking point at the summit.

The heads are expected to go behind closed doors to tackle crime and security issues facing the 15-nation region. It includes an update from the High-Level Representative on Law and Criminal Justice, the situation in Haiti, and geopolitical developments with the recent about-face in international relations by the United States under President Donald Trump.

Border issues include member state Belize's borders with Guatemala and Honduras, and Guyana's ongoing territorial dispute with Venezuela. The heads will also meet on the application by British overseas territory Bermuda to join the bloc as an associate member.

ber.

The community's budget and governance, alongside a progress report on the process to indigenise the University of the West Indies, round out the core discussions, according to the provisional agenda.

The leaders will also continue to receive updates on the implementation of full freedom of movement between Barbados and three other member states, the state of CARICOM's industrial policy, regional transport, foreign trade issues ahead of the next meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), climate change and finance, and agri-food systems for food security.

CARICOM will also consider its participation in a range of upcoming joint summits with Cuba, the Tenth Summit of the Americas, and the 28th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, set for Antigua and Barbuda in November. (Barbados Today)



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

SENIOR HOGGS
TEQUILA BAR

Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

Breakfast served from 7:30am

Games Night - COMING SOON!

US to expand passport revocations for parents who owe child support, AP sources say



Parents who owe a significant amount of child support soon could lose their ability to travel internationally as the Trump administration expands and steps up enforcement of a 30-year-old law that allows the federal government to revoke American passports until payments are made, three US officials told The Associated Press.

While passport revocations for unpaid child support of more than \$2,500 have been permitted under 1996 federal legislation, the State Department had in the past acted only when someone applied to renew their travel document or sought other consular services.

In other words, enforcement depended on the person approaching the department for assistance.

Starting soon, however, the department will begin to revoke passports on its own initiative based on

data shared with it by the Health and Human Services Department, according to the US officials familiar with the plan.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because the change has not yet been publicly announced.

The number of people who could be affected was not immediately clear, but it is believed to be in the thousands. Because of the potentially large universe of those owing child support who currently hold passports, the State Department will make the change in tiers, the officials said.

The first group to be affected will be passport holders who owe more than \$100,000 in past-due child support, the officials said.

One of the officials said fewer than 500 people meet that threshold and could avoid having their passport revoked if they enter into a payment plan with HHS

after being notified of the pending revocation.

The official acknowledged, though, that if and when the threshold is lowered to a smaller past-due amount, the number of those affected will rise significantly.

The official could not say when any further changes would take effect or estimate how many people might then lose their passports.

In an emailed response to the AP's queries about the change, the State Department said it "is reviewing options to enforce long-standing law to prevent those owing substantial amounts of child support from neglecting their legal and moral obligations to their children."

It added: "It is simple: deadbeat parents need to pay their child support arrears." (AP)

NOTICE

TO: The Chief Magistrate
District "A"
High Street
St.John's
Antigua

The Licensing Magistrate
St.John's Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
St.John's Antigua

TO: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

I, Sunnil Vivian Earl Braithwaite, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street in the city of Saint John Antigua and Barbuda on the 7th day of April, 2026 for a Real license for my premises known as Sly's Water Sports And Boat Charters situated on Deep Bay in the city of Saint John. Antigua & Barbuda, Pursuant to section 11 (a) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 18th day of February. 2025
Tel :1268-772-5503

.....
Sunnil V. E. Braithwaite

Climber on trial for leaving girlfriend to die on Austria's highest mountain



More than a year after a 33-year-old woman froze to death on Austria's highest mountain, her boyfriend goes on trial on Thursday accused of gross negligent manslaughter.

Kerstin G died of hypothermia on a mountain climbing trip to the Grossglockner that went horribly wrong. Her boyfriend is accused of leaving her unprotected and exhausted close to the summit in stormy conditions in the early hours of 19 January 2025, while he went to get help.

The trial has sparked interest and debate, not just in Austria but in mountain climbing communities far beyond its borders.

Prosecutors say that, as the more experienced climber, the man on trial was "the responsible guide for the tour" and failed to turn back or call for support in time to help his girlfriend.

Identified by Austrian media as Thomas P, he denies the charges and his lawyer, Kurt Jelinek, has described the woman's death as "a tragic accident."

The tragedy unfolded after the couple began their climb of the 3,798m (12,460ft) Grossglockner.

Prosecutors accuse Thomas P of making mistakes from the outset and have published a list of nine errors.

At stake is the question of when per-

sonal judgement and risk-taking become a matter of criminal liability. If the climber is found guilty it could mean "a paradigm shift for mountain sports", says Austria's Der Standard newspaper.

Key to the case is the charge by state prosecutors in Innsbruck that he was to be considered the "responsible guide for the tour", as "unlike his girlfriend [he was] already very experienced in high-altitude Alpine tours and had planned the tour".

They said he attempted the trip even though his girlfriend had "never undertaken an Alpine tour of this length, difficulty, and altitude, and despite the challenging winter conditions".

They also allege he started out two hours too late and had failed to take "enough emergency bivouac equipment".

He also "allowed his girlfriend to use... snowboard soft boots, equipment that is not suitable for a high-altitude tour in mixed terrain", say prosecutors.

The defendant disputes this. In a statement, his lawyer Kurt Jelinek, said the couple had planned the tour together.

"Both considered themselves... to be sufficiently experienced, adequately prepared, and well equipped," he said. Both had "relevant Alpine experience"

Thursday 19th February 2026, 01:30
ICC Men's T20 World Cup, 2026 - Match 37
Eden Gardens, Kolkata

 **WEST INDIES**

 **ITALY**



ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP
INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026

and were “in very good physical condition”.

Once on the mountain, prosecutors say the man should have turned back, when it was still possible, because of strong winds of up to 74km/h (45mph), and the winter cold. It was -8C, with a windchill temperature of -20, they said.

The couple did not turn back.

Accounts of what happened next differ.

According to the defendant’s lawyer, they reached a place called Frühstück-splatz at 13:30 on 18 January, the point of the tour after which there was no turning back before the summit.

As neither of them was “exhausted or overwhelmed, they continued on”, Kurt Jelinek said.

Prosecutors say the couple got stuck at about 20:50 and that the man failed to call the police and did not send any distress signals when a police helicopter flew overhead at around 22:50.

The boyfriend’s lawyer said at that point his client and girlfriend still felt fine and did not call for help as they were close to the summit.

But shortly afterwards, Mr Jelinek said the situation changed dramatically. To the man’s “complete surprise”, the woman “suddenly showed increased signs of exhaustion”, although by then turning back was too late.

At 00:35 on 19 January, he called mountain police. The content of the conversation is unclear but the lawyer says he asked for help and denies telling police that everything was fine. Police allege he then put his phone on silent and did not take any more calls.

Kurt Jelinek says the couple managed to reach an area about 40m (130ft) below the cross marking the summit of the Grossglockner.

As the defendant’s girlfriend was too exhausted to move, he left her to find help, scaling the summit and descending on the other side, he says. Prosecutors say he left her at 02:00am.

His torchlit figure is captured on web-cam images as he descended from the summit.

Prosecutors say he did not use aluminium rescue blankets or other gear to protect her from the cold and waited until 03:30 before notifying emergency services.

By that point it was most probably too late. The strong winds meant that no helicopter rescue could take place during the night.

Kerstin G died alone in the snow on the frozen mountainside.

Her social media feed suggests she

was a keen mountaineer and her mother has told German media that she loved mountain hiking at night.

Thomas P’s lawyer says he is “deeply sorry” for her death. “Above all, he would like to express his sincere condolences to the family of the deceased,” Mr Jelinek said.

If found guilty, Thomas P faces up to three years in prison.

And a guilty verdict could also have implications for other mountain climbers, and how much they could be liable for their companions in the future. (BBC)

NOTICE

**TO: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. Johns
Antigua.**

**TO: Your Worship
St. John's Magistrate Court
High Street
St. Johns
Antigua.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I, Antonio Sattouf, Radio Range St. John's, Antigua, with registered business situated at All Saint Road in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next special sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Tuesday 7th April 2026 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Hey Pizza" situated on All Saint Road in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 17th February 2026.

.....
770-5807

Rescuers search for nine missing skiers after California avalanche

Nine backcountry skiers are missing following an avalanche in California's Lake Tahoe region on Tuesday, authorities say.

Six others have been rescued after they became stranded, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office said.

The avalanche was reported about 11:30 PST (19:30 GMT) in the Castle Peak area near the town of Truckee, according to officials. Weather conditions remain dangerous, with a high chance of further avalanches.

"Highly skilled rescue ski teams" have deployed from two nearby ski resorts, the sheriff said. The six known survivors have been "directed to shelter in place as best they can in the conditions," the sheriff added.

Officials initially reported that a group of 16 people in total - four guides and 12 clients - were involved, though that number was later lowered to 15.

"The six initially reported skiers who survived the avalanche have been successfully rescued this evening," the sheriff's office wrote on Facebook late on Tuesday night. Two of the six rescued skiers were taken to hospital, it said.

Experts from the nearby Boreal Mountain Ski Resort and the Alder Creek Adventure Center are also attempting to reach the site.

An earlier statement posted by the sheriff's office said 46 emergency responders had joined the rescue efforts.

The Sierra Avalanche Center wrote in a forecast: "Large avalanches are expected to occur [on] Tuesday, Tuesday night, and into at least early Wednesday morning across backcountry terrain."



The avalanche centre listed the danger rating as "high" - a four out of five on the rating scale.

"Travel in, near, or below avalanche terrain is not recommended today. A widespread natural avalanche cycle is expected over the next 24 hours," the centre said. "Large avalanches may run through treed areas."

The avalanche that trapped the skiers was rated as a D2.5 on a scale of D1 to D5, Sierra Avalanche Center Forecaster Steve Reynaud told local outlet ABC News 10. D2 avalanches can injure, bury or kill people, according to avalanche.org.

Reynaud told ABC that the skiers were on the last day of a three-day backcountry skiing trip.

He said the skiers spent two nights at huts on a trip that involved navigating "rugged mountainous terrain" for 4 miles (6.4km) while carrying food and supplies.

A spokesman for the sheriff's office, Capt Russell Greene, told local news station KCRA-TV that it would be a "slow, tedious process" to find the missing skiers because of the high avalanche danger posing a risk to

rescuers.

As of around 17:15 PST (01:15 GMT), he said first responders, including some on skis, were still trying to reach the avalanche zone and that those alive were sheltering under tarpaulin sheets "doing the best they can to survive".

He said it was not uncommon for ski tour companies to take paying customers out in such conditions, adding: "I don't think it was a wise choice but we don't know all the details yet."

California Governor Gavin Newsom's office said in a post on X that state authorities were "co-ordinating an all-hands search-and-rescue effort" with local emergency teams.

The Boreal Mountain Ski Resort, which is near where the accident occurred, has reported 30 inches (76cm) of snowfall in the past 24 hours.

The resort decided to close on Tuesday because of high winds and low visibility.

The storm has also closed several highways, including Interstate 80 and Highway 50. (BBC)

Vatican says it will not participate in Trump's 'Board of Peace'

The Vatican will not participate in President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" initiative, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's top diplomatic official, said on Tuesday while adding that efforts to handle crisis situations should be managed by the United Nations.

Pope Leo, the first U.S. pope and a critic of some of Trump's policies, was invited to join the board in January.

Under Trump's Gaza plan that led to a fragile ceasefire in October, the board was meant to supervise Gaza's temporary governance. Trump thereafter said the board, with him as chair, would be expanded to tackle global conflicts. The board will hold its first meeting in Washington on Thursday to discuss Gaza's reconstruction.

Italy and the European Union have said their representatives plan to at-

tend as observers as they have not joined the board.

The Holy See "will not participate in the Board of Peace because of its particular nature, which is evidently not that of other States," Parolin said.

"One concern," he said, "is that at the international level it should above all be the UN that manages these crisis situations. This is one of the points on which we have insisted."

Many rights experts say that Trump overseeing a board to supervise a foreign territory's affairs resembled a colonial structure. The board launched last month has also faced criticism for not including a Palestinian.

Countries have reacted cautiously to Trump's invitation, with experts concerned that the board could undermine the U.N. Some of Washington's Middle Eastern allies have joined but its

Western allies have stayed away so far.

The Gaza truce has been repeatedly violated with hundreds of Palestinians and four Israeli soldiers reported killed since it began in October.

Israel's assault on Gaza has killed over 72,000, caused a hunger crisis and internally displaced Gaza's entire population.

Multiple rights experts, scholars and a U.N. inquiry say it amounts to genocide. Israel calls its actions self-defense after Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people and took over 250 hostages in a late 2023 attack.

Leo has repeatedly decried conditions in Gaza. The pope, leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, rarely joins international boards. The Vatican has an extensive diplomatic service and is a permanent observer at the United Nations. (NBC)



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

Guydadli Jets remain on top of Second Division League



The Guydadli Jets football team

The Guydadli Jets dropped points for the second time but maintained their unbeaten run to remain at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Tuesday.

The Guydadli Jets claimed their second draw in 12 matches with a 1-1 stalemate against Kelton Dalso Real

Blizzard at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Tian Samuel failed to convert a penalty kick in the fourth minute for Read Blizzard as both teams reached half-time deadlocked at nil-nil.

Jamaul Warner broke the deadlock with a 78th-minute conversion to put Real Blizzard ahead, and Ezekiel

Clarke scored in the 80th minute to snatch the equalizer and a draw for the Guydadli Jets.

Real Blizzard kept their unbeaten run intact to remain in fourth place, securing their fourth draw in 12 matches to advance to 28 points.

The result allows the Guydadli Jets to consolidate their position at the top of the Second Division by advancing to 32 points, three ahead of the Young Lions of Old Road and Sea View Farm FC.

The Young Lions, who have played 11 matches, are occupying second place on goal difference ahead of Sea View Farm FC. Sea View Farm are in third place and have played 12 matches.

The Second Division will continue with three matches on Friday at 4:15 pm.

The CPTSA Wings will meet Belmont FC at St. Johnstone's Village Stadium, Herberts United will face the Liberta Blackhawks at Pigotts, and North Coast Academy Juniors will tackle Bethesda at Mount Pleasant.



Sports News

Rain disrupts matches in Secondary Schools Cricket

Rain disrupted the latest matches in the Under-19 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Cricket Championship, forcing all three third-round encounters to end in draws.

Pares Secondary School claimed first-innings honours against Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) in their drawn affair at the Factory Grounds.

Pares Secondary made 63 all out in 16.1 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Kadeem George struck 25, and there was a contribution of 14 extras.

Clayton Joseph captured four for 10 in 5.1 overs, and Sherwin Martin picked up two for 10.

In reply, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy was dismissed for 29 in 14.3 overs. There was a contribution of 15 extras.

William Pitman grabbed five wickets for five runs in 4.3 overs, Keno Goodwin took three wickets for eight runs, and Tayari Tonge captured two wickets for five runs.

Only one innings was completed in the drawn affair between Princess Margaret School and Jennings Secondary School at the Rising Sun play-



JQuan Athanaze hits another half century for PMS

ing field.

Jennings Secondary made 110 all out in 18 overs. Giovani Thomas hit 37 off 35 balls, and there was a contribution of 34 extras. Ondre Peters claimed four wickets for nine runs, and captain JQuan Athanaze captured three for 35.

In reply, Princess Margaret School reached 73 for two in eight overs when rain brought a premature end to the encounter.

JQuan Athanaze followed up his 207 against All Saints Secondary and 131 not out against Antigua Grammar School by smashing an unbeaten 60 off 26 balls, including eight fours and three sixes.

Tiquan Tonge captured both wickets to fall without conceding a run in his one over.

Antigua Grammar School was the only team that got a chance to bat against Clare Hall Secondary in another rain-marred match at Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

Antigua Grammar School made 187. Isaiah Harris hit 39, Donte Odlum struck 38, Shane Walsh scored 20, and Tiandre Charles got 13. Jayden Joseph took three for 45, and Jayden Charles picked up two for 27.



Phoenix and Ovals Ojays record wins in ABBA's Second Division



Michael Joseph Phoenix and Cuties Ovals Ojays recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Second Division on Tuesday night.

The Phoenix claimed their third win in four matches by surging to an 88-

40 victory over EZ Fit Flyers 2 in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Gary Harrison shot a game-high 26 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Adrian Carnegie converted 19 points; Shalom Bloodman converted 15 points and snatched 16 rebounds; and Dayshier Samuel chipped in with 10 points and six assists for the Phoenix.

Delroy Christopher sank 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Royal Samuel scored eight points and snatched 14 rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers 2, who lost for the second time in as many games.

Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 claimed their second win in three matches by soaring to a 113-48 victory against Square One Construction Cristos United in Tuesday's opening game.

Tahjaron Davis produced a game-high 31 points, six assists, and six steals, and Jaleyle Joseph converted 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Ovals Ojays.

In support, Yohann Nicholas sank 17 points and snatched eight rebounds; Jovan Gordan scored 13 points and claimed five steals; Theo Blair produced 12 points, six assists, and five rebounds; and Najee Simon converted 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Tyndale Telemaque sank 18 points and claimed seven rebounds; Pernell Phillip contributed 16 points, six rebounds, and five steals; and Dwayne Samuel scored nine points and claimed five rebounds for Cristos United, who lost for the second time in as many games.

Multiple wins for SASS in School Basketball League

The St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) recorded multiple wins in the latest round of matches in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Tuesday.

The St. Anthony's Secondary School snatched a narrow 61-59 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School in the Senior Boys Division at the JSC Sports Complex.

Kamal Mason produced 14 points, Joden Martin sank 12 points, and Khalil Roberts scored 10 points for St. Anthony's Secondary School.

Yohan Nicholas shot a game-high 33 points, and Sheldon George converted 22 points for St. Mary's Secondary School.



Players of Princess Margaret School and St. Anthony's Secondary School (yellow uniform) compete in the Mini Boys Secondary Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the Inter-School Basketball League)

Kazamel Greene converted eight points as St. Anthony's Secondary also pulled off a narrow 21-19 victory over Princess Margaret School in the Mini Boys Secondary

Division.

Kevani Whyte sank eight points, and Emeka Daniel scored seven points for Princess Margaret School.

The Antigua Grammar School romped to a commanding 46-25 victory over St. Joseph's Academy in another Mini Boys Secondary Division affair.

Derick Perez shot a game-high 29 points, and Khai Charles scored seven points for Antigua Grammar School, while Juele Bailey converted 13 points for St. Joseph's Academy.

There was success as well for Princess Margaret School, which coasted to a 22-10 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School in the Senior Girls Division.

Lena Mills sank 22 points for Princess Margaret School, while Japera Raleigh scored four points for Ottos Comprehensive School.

RORC Caribbean 600 2026: Antigua's Offshore Season Ignites

Zoë Carlton

Antigua's offshore racing season shifts into top gear this week as the island hosts the twin pillars of its February sailing calendar — the RORC Nelson's Cup Series from February 17, followed by the 17th edition of the RORC Caribbean 600 starting February 23.

Nelson's Cup: The Proving Ground

Before the 600-mile offshore marathon begins, the Nelson's Cup has become a crucial proving ground in English Harbour. The series features two days of intense coastal racing, culminating in the Antigua 360 — a full circumnavigation of the island that demands precise navigation and disciplined boat handling. For crews preparing for the Caribbean 600, it offers competitive racing in the very waters they will soon face offshore.

Importantly, the Nelson's Cup is also open to boats not contesting the 600, allowing maxis, IRC contenders and strong regional programmes to compete. The result is a deeper, more inclusive fleet and a full week of racing that keeps Antigua's waterfront firmly in the spotlight.

The 600: Strategy Meets Stamina

When the RORC Caribbean 600 proper begins on February 23, the focus shifts offshore. The 600-nautical-mile course threads past 11 Caribbean islands, combining powerful trade winds with tactical wind shadows and demanding night watches. Strategy and stamina carry equal weight.

The 2026 fleet once again reflects the race's global draw. The MOD70



trimaran ARGO (USA) is expected to challenge for multihull line honours, while the Maxi 72 BALTHASAR brings serious offshore pedigree to the monohull battle. In the fiercely contested IRC divisions, boats such as the J/121 WHISTLER and Swan 58 WAVEWALKER are among those targeting corrected-time honours.

Among returning competitors is Galateia, a familiar campaigner in Antigua waters. This year marks a first Caribbean 600 for one of her helmsmen, racing alongside her father. "The start will be fascinating," she said. "You line up beneath the cliffs, and the breeze can either roll down beautifully or vanish completely. It's a bit of a gamble." Af-



Sports News



ter scouting the course from Shirley Heights as well as at sea, she added: "It's stunning here. I'm excited to experience it properly.

She did! Day One of the Nelson's Cup delivered a proper slice of Antigua sailing — morning squalls that kept crews guessing, followed by gentler trade winds that rewarded patience and clean boat handling. Across both races, starts and smart decisions in shifty pressure made the difference. Leopard 3 found her rhythm in Race Two, surging back to take the win from Galateia, setting up a compelling contest as the series unfolds. With conditions refusing to settle, consistency — not just speed — is already proving decisive.

Inspiring the Next Generation

The week is not only about established campaigns but about inspiring the next generation. On Sunday evening, crew from V, Deep Blue and Leopard joined Antigua Yacht Club's youth sailors to share what it truly takes to reach the top: hard work, pacing docks, relentless networking — and above all, sailing, sailing, sailing.

Among them was Giles de Jager,



who learned his craft at AYC and is now mate aboard the high-performance racing yacht Leopard.

"For me it was simple," Giles told the youngsters. "I was in Spain, saw Leopard going in the water, walked down the dock and asked if they needed someone to clean. I got the job — and worked my way up." His message was direct: make yourself valuable. "You don't just get on these boats for being a good sailor. Learn a trade — engineering, sailmaking, splicing, organising. Find

what you're good at and own it."

Coach Karl James reminded the sailors that Giles's journey began years earlier while watching the Volvo Ocean Race in Martinique and declaring, "I want to do that." From Optimist racing at AYC to cleaning decks and now serving as second-in-command — with captaincy in sight — his path stands as tangible proof that even from a small island, ambition paired with persistence can carry you onto the world stage.

An Island Effort

Beyond the racecourse, the economic and community impact is

tangible. English Harbour fills with international crews, marine services operate at capacity, hospitality businesses see a seasonal lift, and safety teams including ABSAR remain on alert throughout the week.

The Nelson's Cup sharpens the fleet.

The Caribbean 600 tests it.

And once again, Antigua and Barbuda stands at the centre of the offshore sailing world.

THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2026

Five Islands open up eight-point lead atop First Division League

The Five Islands FC won their latest match to open up an eight-point lead at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

Five Islands FC notched up their ninth win in 15 matches by coasting to a 4-1 victory against the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at Five Islands on Tuesday.

Jamal Joseph scored twice in the second half with goals in the 51st and 62nd minutes to seal the win. Demario Roberts scored in the second minute, and Shane Cochrane had a 23rd-minute conversion to give Five Islands a two-nil lead.

Khalid Adams scored a consolation goal for his team in the 35th minute as Cedar Grove trailed Five Islands 1-2

at halftime.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain at the bottom of the standings with eight points after crashing to their 10th defeat in 14 matches.

The result allows Five Islands FC to remain at the top of the First Division by advancing to 31 points, eight points ahead of their closest rivals, the Freemans Village Scorpions, Golden Grove FC, and SAP FC.

All three teams have 23 points, but the Freemans Village Scorpions are in second place on goal difference with 23 points from 10 matches. Golden Grove FC is in third place with 23 points from 13 matches.

SAP FC secured their sixth win in

13 matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against Empire FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Kevon Samuel converted twice for SAP FC with conversions in the 33rd and 66th minutes. Dow Southwell scored the other goal for SAP FC in the 80th minute.

Kamali Looby scored in the 53rd minute, and Nickado Lindsay had a 90th-minute conversion for Empire FC.

The result allows SAP FC to move into fourth place on goal difference with 23 points, while Empire FC slipped from fifth to sixth place with 21 points after suffering their fifth defeat in 14 matches.



Players of the Five Islands FC