

# Creative Minister Matthew calls out the hotels saying they should contribute more to Carnival

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Parliament chambers where the Ministry of Health officials convened stakeholder consultation on mental health

Story on page 4

## Creative Minister Matthew calls out the hotels... saying they should contribute more to Carnival



Creative Industries Minister, Daryll Matthew, says the time has come for a re-examination of how Carnival is funded noting that the current system is in urgent need of revamping as some sectors such as the hotels who benefit significantly from the festival need to give back in the form of sponsorship.

Minister Matthew noted that each year the Festivals Commission collaborates with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority to mount trade missions in several Caribbean territories and internationally. However, when the visitors arrive, the Commission does not benefit directly from the increased number of visitors; the hotels do.

“I believe that I would not be contradicted if I say that hotels receive the largest amount of support from the government in terms of concessions and from increased occupancy when tourism and Carnival marketing efforts are conducted as they are on the frontline. It is my view that the time has come when the hotels should start contributing to our Carnival,” Minister Matthew declared.

He added that practically every hotel benefits from the government directly or indirectly, yet few, if any, contribute



to the overall success of Carnival.

According to the minister the Festivals Commission has to rely on government for most of its funding with sponsorship contributing to a smaller portion of the overall operating budget. “These alone cannot pay our bills so we end up owing many of the artists and the vendors who help make Carnival what it has become. We need to have a real conversation on how we finance the festival, who benefits and how we can make Carnival more fi-

nancially secure,” he indicated.

There have been public grumblings from some groups of artists, most notably the steel-bands, over outstanding payments from last year. However, Commission chair, Ambassador Elizabeth Mahkoul disclosed that those outstanding payments to the steel-bands have been settled over the past week.

Still several service providers for sound, stage, lights are among a list of providers who are still owed by the Commission.

## General Post Office Announces Resumption of Regional and International Mail Services

The General Post Office has announced that it is resuming mail service to several international and regional destinations that it suspended due to airlift challenges.

Postmaster, Algernon Gomes said these services are being resumed after the GPO had been able to make alternative arrangements for letters to be delivered to the affected destinations.

“Post Offices across the region including the Antigua and Barbuda Post Office face air transportation challenges due to high operating costs, limited air connectivity, and infrastructure constraints. We are faced with reliance on expensive or infrequent flights, regulatory barriers, and vulnerability to natural disasters, which disrupt mail flow across the region. For some time now, the Antigua and Barbuda Post experienced such challenges in reaching countries in the region. However, the Post Office is pleased to announce that it found a solution in reactivating mail flows to destinations such as Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos, and Trinidad and Tobago,” Gomes revealed.

Meanwhile, he added that services also continue to the United States — letters only — as well as Great Britain, Canada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Germany, Switzerland, and other selected international destinations.

The Postmaster revealed that the GPO encountered problems with having mails (small packages) to a number of regional destinations because a number of regional carriers no longer deliver mails to these destinations.

“We now have an arrangement with British Airways, which has the extra space, to deliver these packages. It must be understood that when we talk about mail, we are not talking about letters specifically, we are referring to small packages. The number of actual



**Postmaster, Algernon Gomes**

letters that we are asked to deliver in today’s business environment is negligible,” he reported.

The GPO is reminding the public that the cut-off day for international mail dispatch remains on Wednesday.

It is also advising the public that for further information regarding mailing

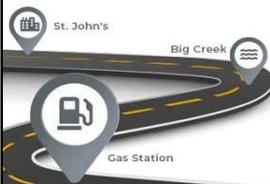
schedules and service guidelines, customers are encouraged to call or visit the. General Post Office Headquarters on Lady Nugent Avenue. Visit its Facebook page: General Post Office - Antigua and Barbuda to get updates and more.

The General Post Office says it remains committed to providing reliable and efficient postal services to the public.

The General Post Office, continues to advise the general public of its new location on Nugent Avenue, to the south of Peoples Place, and its weekend operations on Saturdays and Sundays between the hours of 9am to 2pm to facilitate the sale of stamps and the collection of mails to box holders who have boxes at the St. John’s location and who has been inconvenienced.

Customers are also encouraged to visit the new location at Nugent Avenue, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:15am and 3pm and Fridays 8:15am and 2pm to collect future mails.







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## Government Convenes Broad-based Stakeholder Consultation on New Mental Health Bill

The Ministry of Health continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to advancing mental health care and protecting the rights and dignity of all citizens.

In keeping with this commitment, the Ministry convened a high-level stakeholder consultation at the Parliament Building on February 20, 2026 to review the proposed Mental Health Bill, which is scheduled to be tabled in Parliament in March 2026.

The consultation formed part of the Government’s inclusive and participatory approach to legislative reform. It brought together senior technical officers within the Ministry of Health; representatives from the Medical Benefits Scheme; the AIDS Secretariat; the Directorate of Gender Affairs; Evangelical Services; the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS); nurses from community clinics; representatives



from the Clarendon Psychiatric Hospital; doctors; mental health professionals; as well as several non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

In his opening remarks, the Minister

of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph underscored the Government’s vision to integrate mental health services into community clinics across Antigua and Barbuda. This strategic move aims to

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ensure that mental health care is more accessible, community-based, and seamlessly incorporated into primary

health services.

The Minister also highlighted plans for the establishment of the Behavior-

al Health Institute at the former Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall which will operate under the umbrella of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, further strengthening coordination, oversight, and the delivery of specialized services within the national healthcare system.

A significant feature of the reform process has been the critical support provided by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which has played an instrumental role in assisting the Government of Antigua and Barbuda with the drafting of the Mental Health Bill. Through technical guidance and international best practice standards, PAHO has helped to shape legislation that places strong emphasis on human rights protections.

The proposed legislation is firmly grounded in the principle that individuals living with mental health conditions are entitled to the full protection of their human rights. It seeks to modernize existing laws, safeguard dignity, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and promote a rights-based, person-centered approach to mental health care.

The consultation provided stakeholders with the opportunity to review the draft Bill in detail and to offer additional recommendations, including refinements based on the guidance and technical input provided by PAHO. This collaborative process ensures that the final legislation reflects both international standards and the unique needs of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Ministry expressed sincere appreciation to all participants for their meaningful engagement and valuable contributions. The collective insights shared during the consultation will further strengthen the proposed Mental Health Bill as the Government prepares for its presentation to Parliament in March 2026.

The Ministry of Health remains steadfast in its mission to promote holistic health and national wellness, recognizing that mental health is fundamental to the social and economic development of Antigua and Barbuda.

## SJDC celebrates its 40th anniversary



The St. John's Development Corporation is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a week of activities designed to refocus the corporation on its core mission of overseeing the overall development and enhancement of the city of St. John's.

Established forty years ago this month, the SJDC has oversight responsibilities for a number of government-owned assets in the city. These include the Venders' Mall, the Heritage Hotel, the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre, and the Public Market.

Executive Director Craig Whyte said the corporation is pleased to be celebrating this milestone and that it remains committed to achieving its goal of overseeing the continued development of the city.

At a recent town-hall, there was a national consensus about the fact that

St. John's city is in dire need of major upgrade and enhancement and there was a commitment from government and many in attendance that they are willing to play a part in this endeavor.

"It's forty years since the SJDC came into being and we can all agree that there is a need to give the city a complete facelift. As Antiguan and Barbudans, we ought to be proud of our capital city and everyone now recognizes that there is much work to be done. This however, is an 'all-hands-on-deck' undertaking; it is not enough to say the work needs to be done; we must all contribute to the enhancement in whatever way that we can," he remarked.

The activities of the work started with when board members, senior management and staff participated in the service at Spring Gardens Moravian Church on Sunday morning followed



by breakfast at Heritage Hotel. It will conclude with a staff social event at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre on Saturday evening.



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

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## SLBMC Accelerates Digital Transformation with EC\$300,000 Infrastructure Upgrade



The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has officially commissioned a major digital infrastructure upgrade, realized through a strategic partnership with Flow Antigua and Barbuda and Liberty Caribbean. The EC\$300,000 investment marks a critical milestone in the hospital's journey toward a fully modernized, paperless healthcare environment.

The upgrade significantly bolsters the hospital's digital backbone, enabling faster internal communications and seamless data sharing across departments.

In addition to the infrastructure up-

grade, the Liberty Caribbean Foundation presented a donation of USD \$5,000 to the hospital. These funds are specifically earmarked to support SLBMC's strategic IT infrastructure goals, further bolstering the facility's technological capabilities.

Danley Philip, Director of Administration at SLBMC, highlighted the operational impact: "This support is more than a gift, it is a vital investment in our healthcare system. Reliable communication is essential in a hospital setting, it not only connects patients to their families and friends, it strengthens our emergency response and ensures that our staff can deliver

care efficiently. Your thoughtful support not only improves our daily operations; it reflects our shared dedication to the well-being of our community."

The initiative aligns with SLBMC's broader digital roadmap, which includes the recent launch of a new Hospital Information System (HIS) and the transition to paperless workflows within the Emergency Department.

Wayne Hull, Country Manager for Flow Antigua and Barbuda, underscored the life-saving potential of the project: "In healthcare, reliable connectivity isn't just a convenience—it's a necessity for emergency response and coordinated care. We are proud to support the medical teams who make split-second decisions every day."

Salma Crump, SLBMC Head of Marketing & Communications, added that the upgrade ensures safer, more coordinated treatment. "For our patients, this means faster access to information and fewer delays. It is a testament to what public-private collaborations can achieve for our national healthcare system."

The commissioning ceremony featured key addresses from Shelton Flash, Director of B2B (North Caribbean) at Liberty Caribbean, and Senator Michael Joseph, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health.

This partnership reinforces SLBMC's commitment to utilizing cutting-edge technology to improve patient outcomes and operational resilience across the twin-island nation.

## Restrictions remain in force on fishing and recreational activities at Hanson Bay

The restrictions placed on the harvesting and consuming of fish and other sea products as well as all recreational activities in the Hanson's Bay on Antigua's west coast are still in effect, according to an official of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS).

Deputy Director of NODS, Craig Cole, said these restrictions will remain in effect until the results of the extensive water sample testing has been completed by the Government Analytical Unit at Dunbars.

Nearly two weeks ago, an oily sheen was seen floating on the water at Hanson's Bay near Pearns Point and after a report was made to the authorities, the National Marine Pollution Committee was activated and several steps were implement to correct the problem at its source; a leak of pollutants from the nearby Cooks Dump into the bay.

"We were able to do a lot of work on the landside, including creating barriers so that a similar leak would not happen anytime soon. Additionally, a new area was created where the sewage waste will be discharged. So the problem has been dealt with from the landside, however, we still need the results of the tests before we can advise for the restrictions to be lifted," Cole stated.

He announced that the National Marine Pollution Committee has been asked to stand down, although some of the agencies continue to monitor developments at the bay. These include the ministry of health, National Solid Waste Management Authority, the Fisheries Division and the Environment.

The NODS official said when it is determined what was the cause of the oil sheen on the water's surface, there must be an assessment of what would be the long-term impact of the pollu-



tion on the environment in the area. These include the mangrove, other plant life, fish and other sea life.



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**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: St. John's Development Corporation**

**Theme: 40 Years: Honoring our Past: Shaping our Future**

**Week of Activities**

Friday February 20, 2026	6:30am	Media Day: Good Morning Antigua and Barbuda
Sunday February 22, 2026	8:00am	Church Service: Spring Gardens Moravian Church
	10:30am	Breakfast- Heritage Hotel
Monday February 23, 2026	7:45am	Media Day; Litter Awareness/ Prevention & Control
Thursday February 26, 2026	10:30am	Customer Appreciation Day
Friday February 27, 2026	1:00pm	Staff Dress Day/ Motivational Speaker -Heritage
		Hotel
Saturday February 28, 2026	6:00pm	Barbecue and Games Night -Multipurpose Center

# Local News

## Farewell service for Sir Robin Yearwood was held Sunday morning at the St. Stephen's Anglican Church



## *ABLP Chairman offers tribute to the Late Eustace 'Teco' Lake*

*Tribute to Comrade Eustace 'Teco' Lake on behalf of the Leadership and Membership of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP).*

*It is with profound sadness and a deep sense of loss that the leadership and membership of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party bid farewell to our beloved Comrade, Eustace 'Teco' Lake.*

*Comrade Lake's journey with the ABLP was one of immediate impact and dedicated service. He joined our ranks and on his very first attempt at elective politics in 2009, achieved a significant victory, winning the St. John's Rural South seat. At that time, he joined four other successful ABLP parliamentarians on the opposition benches, immediately establishing himself as a formidable voice for his constituents and for our party.*

*By 2014, the people's confidence in his stewardship earned him a second term, coinciding with the ABLP's return to government. In recognition of his capability and commitment, Prime Minister Browne appointed him as Minister of Public Works and Housing. His tenure in that ministry was impactful, marked by tangible contributions to the nation's infrastructure and the well-being of our people.*

*Life, however, presented a new challenge. Forced to exit elective politics after being diagnosed with a renal disease, Comrade Teco demonstrated*

*the same resilience he showed in politics. After a successful kidney transplant, he did not retreat from public life.*

*With a*

*Member of the House and as a Senator, Comrade Eustace 'Teco' Lake was universally loved and respected. His ability to read and relate to political developments was a rare and precious gift. None there is, not even those politically opposed to him, who would challenge my assertion that he was loved and respected by all who knew him.*

*Teco's passing brings us face to face with our own mortality and the true value of service. His track record of service, rendered with humility, compassion and unwavering integrity, is now his enduring legacy. He showed us that politics could be practiced with kindness and that service is ultimately about people.*

*On behalf of the leadership and membership of the nation's foremost political institution, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and indeed on behalf of all Antigua and Barbuda, I extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.*

*In this moment of grief, we also say thank you. Thank you for sharing him with us. Thank you for his life of service. May his soul rest in eternal peace.*

*E.P Chet Greene*

*Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party*



*schedule. Due to reduced political activity, he accepted an appointment to the Senate, where he continued to make his invaluable contributions to the development of Antigua and Barbuda.*

*True to his character, he knew when to pass the torch. Sometime in 2022, he advised the Party of his desire to withdraw from frontline politics and tendered his resignation from the Senate.*

*At both levels of parliament, as a*

# Local News

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2001

BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

### Notice of Appointment of Returning Officer

In exercise of the powers conferred upon the Electoral Commission by Section 10(1) of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2001, the Commission hereby appoints the persons named in the first column of the Schedule hereto to be the Returning Officer for the Constituency, as defined in the Constituencies Boundaries Commission Order, 1984 (S.I. No. 4 of 1984) and confirmed by S.I. No.2 of 1989 specified in the second column of the said Schedule opposite the name of such persons.

### SCHEDULE

#### RETURNING OFFICERS

**Avonella Benjamin**  
Civil Servant  
All Saints Village

#### CONSTITUENCIES

St. Philip North

Dated the 20th February, 2026

H.E. Arthur G. B. Thomas  
Chairman, Electoral Commission



**FORM No. 2**

**Form of notice of election**

**Representation of the People Act, CAP-379**

**Election Rules**

**Rule 8**

**BY-ELECTION FOR THE ST. PHILIP NORTH CONSTITUENCY**

1. A by-election is to be held of a Member to serve in the House of Representatives for the said Constituency.
2. Nomination papers may be delivered by the candidate or his proposer or seconder to the returning officer at the **WILLIKIES PRIMARY SCHOOL** between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** on the **25th day of February, 2026.**
3. Forms of nomination papers may be obtained at the times and place aforesaid. The returning officer will at the request of any elector prepare for signature a Nomination paper.
4. If the by-election is contested, the poll will take place on the **16th day of March, 2026.**

  
**Avonella Benjamin**  
**Returning Officer**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



WRIT OF BY-ELECTION

**CHARLES THE THIRD**, by the Grace of God, King of Antigua and Barbuda and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth,  
To the Returning Officer for the Constituency of **St. Philip's North**  
**GREETINGS:**

**WHEREAS** by section 41(3) of the Constitution, it is provided that where the seat of an elected member of the House becomes vacant *for any other reason except a dissolution of Parliament*, there shall be a by-election to fill the seat in the House vacated by that member and the by-election shall be held not later than one hundred and twenty days after the day on which the seat of the member in the House became vacant;

**AND WHEREAS** on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 the seat in the house for the constituency of St. Philip's North became vacant by reason of the resolution of the Honourable Sir. Robin Yearwood.

**AND WHEREAS** the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026 has been appointed as the date on which the by-election shall be held to fill the seat in the House vacated due to the resignation of the Honourable member.

**AND WHEREAS** the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 and **WILLIKIES PRIMARY SCHOOL** have been appointed as the day and place respectively for **NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES** to contest the by-election;

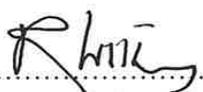
**AND WHEREAS** the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026 has been appointed as the day upon which if necessary, the poll shall be taken;

**AND WHEREAS** the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026 has been appointed as the day on which the Writ shall be returned to me.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, SIR RODNEY WILLIAMS GCMG, KGN, KStJ, DSc., PhD (h.c), MBBS, FCAMA**, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, command you that, due notice being first given, you do cause a by-election to be made according to law of a Member to serve in the House of Representatives for the said constituency, and that you do cause the name of such Member when so elected, whether he be present or absent, to be certified to me on date above mentioned.



**GIVEN** under my hand and the Public Seal  
This 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026  
And in the Fourth Year of His Majesty's Reign

  
Governor General

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **REGISTRATION DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING FOR QUEEN OF CARNIVAL 2026**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, February 23rd 2026 - St. John's, Antigua.....**

As excitement grows for Rhythm of Pageantry, the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission is reminding all aspiring contestants that the registration deadline for the esteemed Queen of Carnival 2026 competition is rapidly approaching.

The deadline for submission of registration forms is **Monday, March 16, 2026**.

Prospective hopefuls who have already collected registration forms are strongly encouraged to return their completed applications as soon as possible. Individuals wishing to register for the 2026 competition may collect and submit their forms at the National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street, St. John's, during the following hours:

- **Monday – Thursday:** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- **Friday:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Registration forms may also be requested via email at [info.nof@ab.gov.ag](mailto:info.nof@ab.gov.ag) or via WhatsApp at **(268) 727-9201**. For further inquiries, please call **(268) 462-4707**.

The Queen of Carnival competition remains one of the most distinguished and highly anticipated events of Antigua Carnival, celebrating intelligence, talent, poise, and cultural pride. The Commission encourages young women across Antigua and Barbuda to seize this opportunity to embark on an empowering and transformative journey.

Join the excitement, **Feel the Rhythm, Antigua Carnival 2026**, and prepare for an unforgettable experience.

– END –



**JULY 25  
TO  
AUG 04  
2026**

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN

## FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Business Floats</b>             | <b>Mas Band</b>                       |
| <b>Calypso Monarch</b>             | <b>Monday Wear</b>                    |
| <b>Cheerleaders</b>                | <b>Mr. &amp; Miss Teenage Pageant</b> |
| <b>Individual Mas</b>              | <b>Party Monarch</b>                  |
| <b>J'ouvert Tropes Band</b>        | <b>Prince &amp; Princess</b>          |
| <b>Junior Calypso Monarch</b>      | <b>Queen of Carnival</b>              |
| <b>Junior Carnival Private Mas</b> | <b>Road March</b>                     |
| <b>Junior Carnival School Mas</b>  | <b>T-Shirt Mas</b>                    |
| <b>Junior Party Monarch</b>        | <b>Vendors</b>                        |

### Where to Collect Forms:

National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street  
Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road (Upstairs KFC/INET Building)

### Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Request forms via email at [info.nof@ab.gov.ag](mailto:info.nof@ab.gov.ag) or WhatsApp at (268) 727-9201. For inquiries, call (268) 462-4707.



### Submission Details:

Completed registration forms must be returned to:  
**NATIONAL FESTIVALS OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, CECIL GEORGE-JOHN BUILDING, CORN ALLEY & REDCLIFFE STREET**

Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial



# CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans  
268 Inc

*One Sea. One Region. One Voice.*

We are the islands. We are the sea.  
From coral reefs to the roots of every tree.  
From sunrise shores to sunset skies,  
From Kingston winds to Nassau tides.

We are the rhythm of waves that roar,  
We are the footprints on sandy shore.  
We are the voices rising as one,  
Not waiting for change — we've already begun.

Plastic floats where fish should glide,  
Bottle caps drifting with every tide.  
Straws in mangroves, bags in reefs,  
Pollution written in silent grief.



But who said islands are too small to lead?  
Who said the Caribbean cannot succeed?  
Who said our size decides our power?  
Have they felt our strength in a

hurricane hour?  
We are the islands. We are the sea.  
And the ocean's future depends on we.  
Not tomorrow. Not someday.  
Right here. Right now. Today.

From village streets to capital lights,  
From fishing boats to schoolyard fights



Against the waste we used to ignore,  
We're rewriting what our oceans are for.

No more "somebody else will care."  
No more pointing fingers in the air.  
Government matters. Companies too.  
But change begins with me and you.

When we clean a beach, it's more than sand.  
It's reclaiming pride in our land.  
When we count each bottle, log each piece,  
We turn pollution into policy.

One million pieces? That's the goal.  
But every single cap counts whole.  
Every youth with gloves and grit  
Is proof this movement will not quit.

From Bridgetown waves to Castries shore,  
From Georgetown breeze to Montego roar,  
From St. John's coast to every bay —  
The Caribbean rises today.

This is bigger than one campaign,  
Bigger than flags or global fame.  
It's coral bleaching, rising seas,  
It's climate justice carried on breeze.

The Commonwealth calls — do we respond?  
Do we protect the blue beyond?  
Or do we scroll and shake our head  
While reefs turn ghostly white instead?

No. We choose action. We choose voice.  
 We choose planet over plastic choice.  
 We separate waste. We educate. We organize.  
 We advocate.

Because small islands know survival best —  
 We've weathered storms and passed the test.  
 If we can rebuild when hurricanes tear,  
 We can rebuild oceans with equal care.



We are the islands. We are the sea.  
 Our future is not a maybe.  
 It's not a speech. It's not a trend.  
 It's a movement we defend.

Imagine a Caribbean where waters shine,  
 Where turtles glide and reefs align,  
 Where children swim without fear,  
 And plastic waste disappears.

Imagine tourists who see our pride —  
 Not trash tangled in the tide.  
 Imagine policies shaped by youth,  
 Driven by science, powered by truth.

The UN reminds us, loud and clear:  
 Plastic pollution is a crisis here.  
 UNESCO speaks of ocean care —  
 Education must take us there.

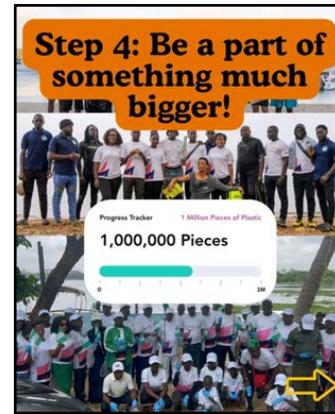
So what will history say of we?  
 That we watched?  
 Or that we led the sea?  
 That we waited for someone tall?

Or that united, we stood small —  
 But mighty.  
 And steady.  
 And bold.

The Caribbean story must be told:  
 Not as victims of rising tide,  
 But as leaders standing side by side.

From classroom desks to Parliament halls,  
 From fishing nets to festival calls,  
 This is the era we decide —  
 Do we protect? Or do we hide?  
 We are not hiding. We are rising.

With data tracked and voices loud,  
 with youth unafraid, unapologetically proud.



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# Is Cuba a threat to US national security?



*By Sergio Martínez González*

Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Antigua and Barbuda.

The decision adopted by the United States on January 29 to declare Cuba a threat to its national security and foreign policy, along with the imposition of a total oil embargo, constitutes a new and brutal attack against the island's sovereignty. This measure is part of a decades-long strategy, implemented through economic sanctions, political pressure, and the criminalization of the Cuban Revolution's political project of social justice and humanism.

The United States arrogates to its self the power to impose tariffs and sanctions on any country that sells or supplies oil to Cuba, directly or indirectly. This new onslaught against the largest

of the Antilles, has an immediate impact on the daily lives of the Cuban people: it affects transportation, electricity supply, food production, and the provision of basic services. The intensification of the economic warfare acts as a deliberate tool of pressure and social strangulation, aimed at generating internal discontent and providing a pretext for what US leaders have euphemistically termed a "humanitarian intervention," which, in the words of the US President himself, would mean "entering and destroying everything that exists".

Cynically, the order claims that its purpose is to protect the interests of the Cuban people and their right to live in a free and democratic society. However, the measures adopted have deepened the deterioration of living conditions and exacerbate the social and economic suffering of the millions of Cubans living on the island. With this measure, the US government attempts to impose a vertical model of international relations, in which the pinnacle of power is concentrated in Washington, which assumes the authority to unilaterally decide what constitutes a threat and what punishments should be applied to those who dare to defy its orders and directives.

The updated Monroe Doctrine, renamed by Trump himself as the "Donroe Doctrine," is a philosophy based on collective punishment and unilateral imposition, blackmail, threats, and coercion. It vio-

lates all norms of international law and civilized coexistence among nations, while marginalizing multilateral institutions such as the UN, the International Criminal Court, and the International Court of Justice.

The intensification to extreme limits of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba is a systematic form of structural violence that meets the characteristics of a crime against humanity, as it deliberately, prolonged and consciously, attacks an entire civilian population with the explicit objective of causing suffering, shortages and social despair.

It is based on the attempt to punish an entire people by restricting access to medicine, food, technology, financing, and normal relations with the rest of the world, even in contexts of health emergencies and natural disasters. Its logic is not legal, but punitive; not diplomatic, but exemplary: it seeks to make an example of Cuba so that no one imitates or dares to repeat this experience of sovereignty. The US policy of economic strangulation against Cuba attempts to legalize suffering as a political tool and to make cruelty the norm, violating fundamental principles of international law and human coexistence.

Cuba's response has been neither hatred nor surrender, but resistance and the deepening of its own project of social justice. The historic capacity of a people to up-



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hold its dignity and sovereignty for more than 66 years in the face of all types of aggression, questions the achievements of a policy based on economic punishment and aggression of every kind. It confirms that coercion cannot break the will of the people. The resistance of the Cuban people and their determination not to submit to the imperial designs of the United States, are seen by the White House as a real threat to the attempts by Washington's power circles to impose their will and absolute dominance on the rest of the world.

**Every doctor sent to places no one wants to go, every vaccine developed under adverse conditions, every school sustained against imposed defunding, is a stone thrown against Washington's imperial discourse.** Revolutionary humanism is not a slogan, but a practice that reorganizes priorities: saving lives before saving profits, educating before indebting, sharing before accumulating.

What is intolerable to the US government is not the existence of a small, rebellious country like Cuba, but the practical demonstration that another order of values is not only desirable, but possible. The current US administration, with its fascist rhetoric of walls, punishment, and supremacy, continues to embody the most cynical phase of a system that does not tolerate difference when it becomes an example. The aggression against Cuba is also an aggression against the very idea of popular sovereignty, against the possibility for people to decide without asking permission. This is why the US threatens, sanctions, attacks, and lies; because in the face of brute force, it only fears one thing: the power of ideas and the persistence of an example that demonstrates that even under siege, it is possible to live differently, think differently, and fight without renouncing dignity. Today, the Cuban resistance acquires an even deeper dimension; it not only survives a relentless and genocidal economic war, but also, by its very existence, de-

nounces the obscenity of a superpower that punishes dignity and criminalizes sovereignty.

Condemning this criminal policy, and especially the latest measures adopted by the Trump Administration, is not only a defense of Cuba and its people, defending Cuba in the current circumstances is also to defending life, humanity, international solidarity, and fraternity among peoples. In the current context, it means affirming sovereignty, the right of peoples to determine their own path, and respect for international law. Guaranteeing access to essential resources, protecting political autonomy, and rejecting unilateral sanctions, constitute an act of affirmation of global justice, equi-

ty and defending multilateralism. The US aggression reinforces the need for active international solidarity against unilateral domination, and for rejecting the use of economic pressure and the threat and use of force against independent nations as a central weapon of foreign policy.

Malcolm X, one of the Great fighters for civil rights in the US pointed out in a memorable speech, "If you want to change your condition, you must first change your courage; fearless people cannot be oppressed". He then add, "people who decided to stand together, cannot be push back one by one. Unity turns resistance into power."



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## Patterson agonising over Cuba crisis

Former Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has expressed his “indescribable” personal torment over the deepening political and humanitarian crisis in Cuba – a crisis he says is made worse by the absence of the bold political courage once shown in the era of Michael Manley.

Patterson was among 10 former Caribbean prime ministers who issued a joint statement as the situation in Cuba worsens, with the island reportedly starved of fuel.

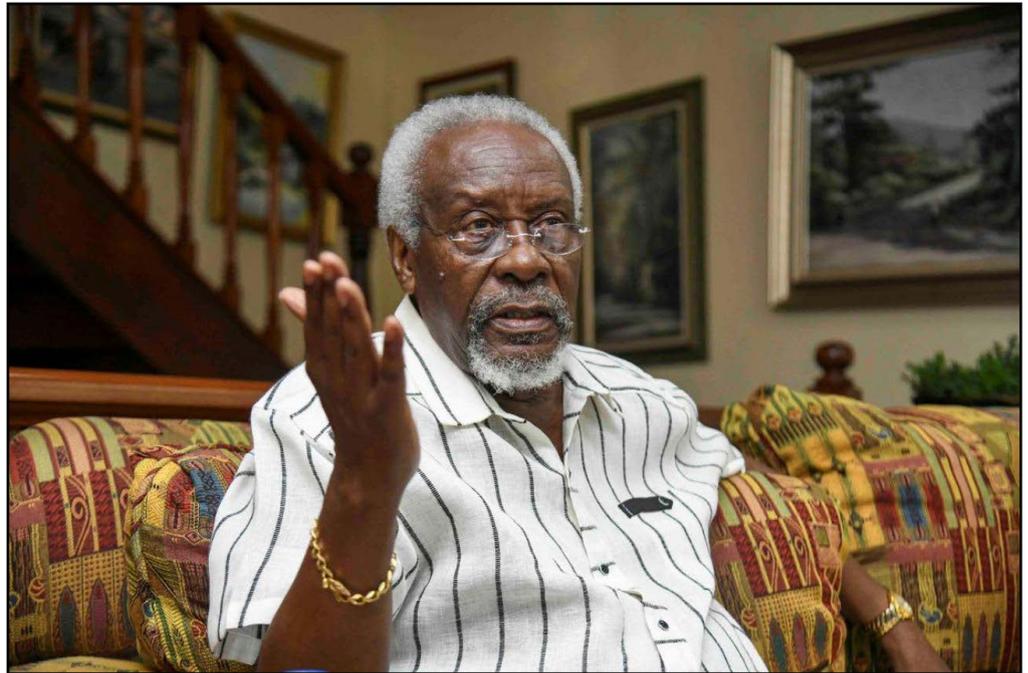
Speaking to ‘Beyond the Headlines’ host Dionne Jackson Miller on Radio Jamaica 94 FM on Friday, Patterson did not mince his words.

“I have been undergoing a level of personal torment which is indescribable because what I see is a total reverse of the courage, the boldness, the foresight, a willingness to fight formidable odds, which were all evident in the meeting of December 8, 1972, and the present time,” he said.

On December 8, 1972, the leaders of four independent Caribbean states met in Chaguaramas, Trinidad, and agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba, defying the United States’ economic embargo.

Known for his oft-repeated line that silence cannot be misquoted, Patterson explained why he felt compelled to break his own rule.

“I’m often quoted for saying silence



cannot be misquoted, but I’m also aware of that passage in Ecclesiastes, which says there’s a time to be silent and a time to refrain from silence. And in my mind, in my torment, in my agony, the time had come to refrain from silence.

“And so, I reached out to a number of former colleagues who have served at various times as heads of state and government in the Caribbean. We are not a formal organisation, and as we have all retired from active service, we are not in the kind of regular contact which previously obtained,” Patterson told the programme’s host.

The eight former leaders initially en-

dorsing the statement are Jamaica’s Bruce Golding and P.J. Patterson, St Lucia’s Kenny Anthony, Barbados’ Freundel Stuart, Guyana’s Donald Ramotar, Trinidad and Tobago’s Keith Rowley, Grenada’s Tillman Thomas, and Dominica’s Edison James. Antigua’s Baldwin Spencer and Belize’s Said Musa later added their names.

Patterson stressed that the group no longer holds political power and is mindful of the responsibilities borne by current leaders.

“We are aware that we no longer exercise political control, and we are acutely conscious of the challenges and responsibilities of those in whose hands



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that power presently resides. And our statement was intended and is designed to set out the very clear principles on which our relationships with Cuba has been based over many years of association. The repeated denouncement by the United Nations General Assembly of the embargo which has been in place but this has taken a sharp turn which is a fatal potential for Cuba. If you cut off the energy supplies, you're cutting off food supplies, medical supplies, [and] we've just heard sanitation problems arise which could result in an epidemic, a pandemic, as unjustified and horrible and indefensible in law as was the recent intervention in Venezuela," Patterson explained.

Just over a month ago, US troops entered Venezuela and removed its president amid tensions over fuel shipments to Cuba. With Nicolás Maduro out of office, Venezuela's fuel supplies to Havana have ceased.

"This one is of an unprecedented dimension because whatever one might think about the people in the government of Cuba, it is the 11 million civilians that are facing punishment. And we think that this is not only a clear breach of all the principles and norms which govern international law and diplomatic relationships, but it offends our common humanity. And therefore, our appeal is for the Caribbean heads, when they meet in Saint Kitts and Nevis next week for their inter-cessional meeting, to make very clear where the Caribbean region stands in solidarity with the people of Cuba in their repudiation of action which will result in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and use the contacts which we have with nations all over the world," Patterson urged.

He wants the Caribbean Community to call on the United States to "revoke this cruel executive order", while avoiding any slide into open conflict with Washington.

Jamaica, under Manley, faced severe political and economic destabilisation in the 1970s, particularly after he declared the island a democratic social-

ist state in 1976. A spiralling crime wave, deep ideological divisions and economic warfare with the US pushed the country into the arms of the International Monetary Fund, whose loans came with punishing conditions.

Patterson said today's leaders must be advised that the measures imposed by the US are reprehensible. He also acknowledged Washington's retaliatory steps, including the revocation of visas for key Caribbean officials.

Caribbean nations have already been told to end their participation in Cuba's medical brigade programme or renegotiate the terms under which Cuban doctors are hired. Jamaica is currently in talks to revise its own ar-

rangements.

Above all, Patterson said, the looming humanitarian disaster remains the gravest concern.

The United States has not alleged that Cuba is in breach of any rule or norm of international conduct. While acknowledging differences in political and economic systems, Patterson questioned whether Washington is prepared to starve the very people it is urging to rise up against their government.

The joint statement was also signed by former leaders of Guyana, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, alongside Spencer and Musa. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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## ‘Cuba not a threat to any country’



Cuba’s Ambassador to Jamaica, Tania López Larroque, had barely settled into Kingston when a new crisis erupted.

Just weeks after her arrival on December 8 last year, United States President Donald Trump signed a January 29 executive order imposing an international fuel blockade on Cuba, threatening heavy sanctions against any country that supplies the island with oil.

The consequences, she says, have been devastating.

Without fuel, Cuba cannot function. Hospitals struggle. Government services stall. Schools are disrupted. Transport falters. The blockade has rippled through every sector of national life, creating what she describes as a humanitarian emergency for the country’s 11 million people.

In her first media interview since taking up her post, López Larroque did not disguise her anguish – not for herself, but for ordinary Cubans who, she told *The Sunday Gleaner*, are suffering for their political choices.

“This is not an era of the emperor, where you can just invade and capture a country, place a flag there and say this country is now mine. That era is

dead, and one thing is clear: All Cubans know that the problems of the country are not political problems. They are a result of the criminal economic embargo of the United States, now in effect for 67 years,” she said.

She insists the dispute is not about resources. Cuba, she notes, has neither oil nor major mineral wealth. There is nothing to seize.

“Cuba is not a threat to any country in the world. Cuba is not a threat to its citizens. Eighty-seven per cent voted for the constitution. So Cuba does not have anything that the United States wants, unlike Iraq and Venezuela. Therefore, it’s about political control, and wanting to decide the future of Cubans, which – because of our education system – we are quite capable of doing ourselves and have been doing, despite the criminal economic embargo,” she said.

“Cuba has made principled decisions. There have been mistakes, and President Miguel Diaz-Canel and the government have acknowledged them. So we have recognised our own mistakes and we want to be the ones to fix those mistakes. We do not want any emperor to give an order to say this is how

it must be done. Nobody tells Cubans in Cuba how it must be done. Democratic decisions are made after consultations, and where adjustments have to be made, they are made, and have been made. The idea that Cubans are under a dictatorship is just not true,” she stated.

Cuba is, however, a one-party state, with limited tolerance for organised dissent. Western media have reported the imprisonment of thousands following swift crackdowns on protests against the administration.

López Larroque counters that Cubans are deeply conscious of their history and identity.

“Our history cannot be hidden, and it is not. Our education system has produced scholars, and has trained people in disciplines all over the world. The history of the country is taught; it is part of who we are,” she explained.

Modern Cuba cannot be understood without 1959.

The Cuban Revolution overthrew the US-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Among its leaders was a young lawyer, Fidel Castro, who, alongside his brother Raúl Castro and Argentine revolutionary Che Guevara, led a guerrilla campaign that culminated in Batista’s flight on New Year’s Eve 1958.

Castro would govern for decades, reshaping the island along socialist lines and aligning it with the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

When the USSR collapsed in 1991 – following reforms under Mikhail Gorbachev and amid geopolitical shifts influenced by leaders such as Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan – Cuba lost its principal benefactor. The economic shock was severe. Subsidised oil disappeared. Trade contracted. Ageing sugar mills and declining exports of cigars and rum could not generate enough revenue to sustain the economy.

Later, oil shipments from Venezuela offered temporary relief. Tourism slowly expanded, often via third countries. But isolation persisted, compounded by tightening sanctions and shifting global alliances.

For López Larroque, the story of Cuba is not only one of embargoes and geopolitics, but of resilience and solidarity.

“I would like the world to know what Cuba really is despite the embargo and what Cuba has managed to do during the last 67 years. The world should know that 86 per cent of the population voted for the constitution we now have which revolutionised our social systems. We deserve to construct the society we want, and that is what we have been doing. I would like the world to know about the Cuban solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Africa. Cuban blood flowed on the continent to free people from colonisation and oppression,” said the ambassador.

She points to Cuba’s military involvement in Angola during that country’s liberation struggle, when thousands of Cuban soldiers fought against forc-

es backed by apartheid South Africa. She also highlights medical missions – from combating Ebola in Liberia to assisting Italy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I want the world to know our people and to talk to them to realise and to feel these real sentiments, human people. Eighty-six per cent of our population voted for our constitution, decided for the social system we have. So I would like world to know the people, the real Cuba. And to imagine how much more we would be able to do if we haven’t such difficulties. To know about Cuba’s solidarity, which I don’t like to talk in first person because we do it humbly. Because it’s just sharing with humankind. We are just one species. That’s the way Fidel told us to do. That’s why we helped Africa. And so he said, it’s a debt we have with humankind. And we have a debt with Africa. And if you are not able to help others, you will never be able to help yourself. That’s the Cuba I would like people to know. Cuba has a debt to humankind. And that debt is to help, is to liberate from oppression.”

Over the decades, Cuba has trained thousands of professionals – doctors, teachers and engineers – including students from the United States. Cuban medical brigades have worked in remote communities across the Caribbean and beyond, often in areas underserved by local systems.

“This is not a criticism of other countries. This is a celebration of the Cuban people and what they have been able to do, and how they have survived. It is a credit to them, that there is still a country. And we still continue to survive, under great hardships. We are not sitting down and playing dead. Cubans will defend Cuba,” she said.

There have been moments of thaw. In 2016, US President Barack Obama visited Havana, meeting Raúl Castro in a historic gesture that eased remittances and visa processing. But those openings have narrowed once more.

Today, as fuel shortages bite and economic pressure intensifies, López Larroque’s message is one of unity.

Cuba, she insists, has endured worse. And Cubans, she believes, will endure again. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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## Some flights cancelled due to winter storm in US



Some flights to and from the United States at both the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston and the Sangster International Airport in St James have been cancelled due to a winter storm affecting sections of the country.

So far, the cancellations primarily affect JetBlue flights to and from New York.

At Sangster, a Delta Air Lines flight from New York was also cancelled. Outside of that airline, Sangster indicated that some flight operations have been delayed.

At both airports, the cancellations run from Sunday to Tuesday, affecting travel plans for hundreds of passengers.

Passengers have been urged to contact their airlines for updates and re-booking.

New York is among several US states for which authorities have issued a blizzard alert amid forecasts of heavy snow and damaging winds.

The National Weather Service warned that once the storm intensifies on Sun-

day, it could prove significantly more severe than projections made just a

few days ago.

The weather service said 1 to 2 feet (about 30 to 61 centimetres) of snow is possible in many areas as it issued blizzard warnings for New York City and Long Island, as well as Boston and coastal communities in New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Flooding is also possible in parts of New York and New Jersey, it said.

Airport authorities in Jamaica said they are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide updates as weather conditions evolve and airline schedules are adjusted.

Stakeholders in the tourism sector are also keeping a careful watch, particularly as the winter travel season remains one of the busiest periods for US arrivals into Jamaica. (Jamaica Gleaner)

### Volunteers Needed

#### There is still time to be a part of CHOGM 2026!

If you have been thinking about volunteering for the historic Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2026), to be hosted in St. John's, 1- 4 November 2026, now is your chance!

Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs continues to invite enthusiastic, motivated, and professional individuals aged 18 or older to volunteer for this world-class event. Do not miss your chance! It is a unique opportunity to contribute your time and skills to the event's success, gain experience, and expand your network.

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## Dominica signs \$2.1 million contract for smart retrofit of Wesley health centre



The Government of Dominica has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering safe, reliable, and modern healthcare across the country with the signing of a \$2.1 million contract for the smart retrofit of the Emelda James Health and Wellness Centre in Wesley.

The announcement was made during a contract signing ceremony where the Minister of Culture, Youth, Sports and Community Development, representing Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, underscored the government's pledge to strengthen healthcare infrastructure.

"What we are doing here this afternoon goes far beyond signing a contract. We are reinforcing a commitment. We are strengthening a promise," she said. "Every community in this country deserves and will have safe, reliable, modern healthcare, no matter the weather, no matter the circumstance."

The project, valued at \$2,114,095.78, is part of the Pan American Health

Organization (PAHO) Smart Hospitals Initiative and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Regional Health Project, supported through Dominica's partnership with the World Bank. Completion is scheduled for June this year.

Parliamentary Representative for Wesley Constituency, Fidel Grant, described the retrofit as a transformative upgrade for the community.

"This is not merely a construction project. It is an investment in the resilience, sustainability and quality of healthcare for the people of Wesley and the wider North East," he said.

Grant stated that the centre will feature modern backup systems to ensure uninterrupted services, improved layouts, accessibility features, and environmentally friendly upgrades. He noted that the facility will be more resilient against extreme weather, aligning with Dominica's vision of becoming a climate-resilient nation.

Health Minister Cassanni Laville highlighted the broader significance of the initiative, stating that it reflects the government's determination to modernize health facilities island-wide.

"It demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring that our health facilities across the country are modern, resilient and capable of meeting the needs of our people with growing demands," Laville said.

He explained that while the Wesley district already has multiple health-care facilities, the investment is aimed at enhancing the quality of care and creating better environments for both patients and staff.

The smart retrofit of the Emelda James Health and Wellness Centre marks another step in Dominica's ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery and build resilience against climate-related challenges. (Dominica News Online)



## Mexico's most wanted man 'El Mencho' killed in military operation



Mexico's most wanted man and the leader of the feared Jalisco New Generation (CJNG) drug cartel has been killed by the army in a security operation, according to local media.

Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, known as "El Mencho", was reportedly killed during a military operation carried out at dawn on Sunday in the central-western state of Jalisco.

Mexico's defence ministry said El

Mencho died from injuries while in air transfer following the military operation, according to the Reuters news agency.

CJNG has spread from its original power base in the state of Jalisco to have an almost nationwide presence across Mexico.

Throughout Sunday, there were unconfirmed reports of cars being set alight and sightings of gunmen on the

streets in Jalisco and elsewhere.

The US had previously offered a \$15m (£11.1 million) reward for information leading to El Mencho's capture.

The US State Department issued a shelter-in-place warning for US citizens in Jalisco State, Tamaulipas State, and areas of Michoacan State, Guerrero State, and Nuevo Leon State. (BBC)



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## Greenland says 'no thanks' to Trump US hospital boat



Greenland's prime minister has asked US President Donald Trump to talk to him instead of making "random outbursts on social media", after Trump said he was sending a US hospital boat to "take care" of people on the island.

Trump wrote on Truth Social that he was going to send a boat filled with medical supplies, alleging "many people" on the island are sick and "not being taken care of".

Jens-Frederik Nielsen responded "it's going to be a no thanks from us," and said that Greenland provides free healthcare for all citizens.

Trump has long coveted the vast arctic island - but conceded in January that he would not take it by force, after previously refusing to rule out doing so.

Soon after, he announced a "framework for a future deal" around the US and Greenland, after Denmark

and Nato allies made it clear that they would not give in to his calls to relinquish sovereignty.

In his post on social media, Trump said that he and his Greenland envoy Jeff Landry were "going to send a great hospital boat to Greenland to take care of the many people who are sick, and not being taken care of there. It's on the way!!!"

The post included what appeared to be an illustrated or AI image of the USNS Mercy, one of two hospital ships operated by the US navy. It is not clear when the ship would arrive or what prompted the decision.

Responding to the post, Nielsen said that Trump's idea "had been noted [...] but we have a public healthcare system where treatment is free for citizens."

"It's not like that in the United States, where it costs money to go to the doctor," he wrote on Facebook.

Nielsen added that Greenland remained open to cooperating with the US but underlined the importance of discussing issues directly.

"Talk to us instead of just making more or less random outbursts on social media," he said.

Trump's post came soon after Denmark's Joint Arctic Command said it had evacuated a crew member who required urgent medical treatment from a US submarine close to Nuuk. It is not clear if Trump's post was related to the incident.

A month on from Trump announcing a "framework for a future deal" over Greenland, details are still unclear, though earlier this month US vice president JD Vance alleged that European countries were "willing to make a lot of accommodations". (BBC)



## SUPER 8 ALL FIXTURES

Saturday, 21 February	NEW ZEALAND		V		PAKISTAN	Colombo
Sunday, 22 February	SRI LANKA		V		ENGLAND	Kandy
Sunday, 22 February	INDIA		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Ahmedabad
Monday, 23 February	ZIMBABWE		V		WEST INDIES	Mumbai
Tuesday, 24 February	ENGLAND		V		PAKISTAN	Kandy
Wednesday, 25 February	SRI LANKA		V		NEW ZEALAND	Colombo
Thursday, 26 February	WEST INDIES		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Ahmedabad
Thursday, 26 February	INDIA		V		ZIMBABWE	Chennai
Friday, 27 February	ENGLAND		V		NEW ZEALAND	Colombo
Saturday, 28 February	SRI LANKA		V		PAKISTAN	Kandy
Sunday, 1 March	ZIMBABWE		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Delhi
Sunday, 1 March	INDIA		V		WEST INDIES	Kolkata
Wednesday, 4 March	SEMI FINAL 1		Kolkata/Colombo			
Thursday, 5 March	SEMI FINAL 2		Mumbai			
Sunday, 8 March	FINAL		Ahmedabad/Colombo			

## Blackburn Palace among winners in ABFA's Second Division



Blackburn Palace football team

Blackburn Palace, North Coast Academy Juniors, and the CPTSA Wings all recorded wins in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Friday.

Amoy James scored twice as Blackburn Palace notched up their eighth win in 12 matches with a 5-0 drubbing of Herberts United at the Pigotts playing field.

James had conversions in the 33rd and 65th minutes, while the other goals were scored by Jahkim Benjamin in the 37th minute, Marlon Martin in the 79th minute, and Diondre Harrigan in the 90th minute.

The result allows Blackburn Palace to move into sixth place with 25 points, while Herberts United FC dropped to second from the bottom of the 19-team

standings with four points after tumbling to their ninth defeat in 11 matches.

North Coast Academy Juniors secured their fifth win in 11 matches with a 3-1 victory over Bethesda at Mount Pleasant.

Jervon Jervier scored in the seventh minute, and teammate Hakeem Musah had a 29th-minute conversion to give the North Coast Academy Juniors a two-nil lead.

Teori Edwards reduced the deficit by scoring for Bethesda in the 30th minute. Ajabe Rae sealed victory for the North Coast Academy Juniors with a 75th-minute conversion.

The result allows North Coast Academy Juniors to leapfrog Bethesda into eighth place with 17 points. Bethesda slipped from eighth to ninth place with

16 points after losing for the fourth time in 10 matches.

The CPTSA Wings consolidated their position in 11th place by recording their third win in 13 matches with a 2-1 victory against Belmont FC at St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Karanja Mack scored two late goals to snatch victory for CPTSA Wings after N'Jre Carbon-Buckley scored in the eighth minute to give Belmont FC a one-nil halftime advantage.

But Mack snatched the equalizer by converting a penalty kick in the 85th minute and struck the winner for the CPTSA Wings with a strike in the 86th minute.

The CPTSA Wings advanced to 15 points, while Belmont FC remains in 13th place with 11 points after crashing to their fifth defeat in 10 matches.

## Greenbay Hoppers go second in First Division League

The Greenbay Hoppers have moved into second place in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League after the latest round of matches.

Hoppers notched up their eighth win in 13 matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Bolans FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Khimani Cox converted a penalty kick in the 17th minute to give Hoppers a one-nil lead at halftime, while Tyler Anthony scored in the 70th minute to wrap up the victory.

The result allows the Greenbay Hoppers to advance to 25 points, six adrift of leaders Five Islands FC. Bolans FC remains in 11th place in the 14-team standings with 12 points after losing for the sixth time in 14 matches.

Parham FC recorded their seventh win in 14 matches with a 3-2 victory against FC Master Ballers at Radio Range.

Quanell Williams struck the winner with a conversion in the second minute of added time. The other goals for

Parham FC were scored by J'twan Brown in the 15th minute and Dale Gardner, who converted a penalty kick in the 61st minute.

Teejay Roberts had a 25th-minute conversion, and teammate Tishorn Davis scored in the 80th minute for FC Master Ballers.

The result allows Parham FC to move on to 24 points, while FC Master Ballers remain second from the bottom of the 14-team standings with nine points after succumbing to their ninth defeat in 14 matches.

SAP moved into third place on goal difference after salvaging a 2-2 draw with the Freemans Village Scorpions in Freemans Village on Saturday.

Their sixth draw in 14 matches allows SAP FC to advance to 24 points, the same as Parham FC and the Freemans Village Scorpions. It was the third draw in 12 matches for the Freemans Village Scorpions.

Willikies FC remains in ninth place after securing their sixth win in 14 matches with a 3-0 victory against

Bendals FC at Cashew Hill.

Randy Thomas scored twice for Willikies FC with conversions in the 37th minute and 69th minute, and Jawarn Locker scored the other goal in the 32nd minute.

The result allows Willikies FC to move on to 20 points, while Bendals FC remains third from the bottom of the standings with 12 points after slumping to their ninth defeat in 15 matches.

English Harbour FC remains in 10th place after claiming their fifth win in 15 matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Golden Grove FC at the English Harbour playing field.

Following a goalless first half, English Harbour FC secured victory with second-half goals by Shadaeki Fredericks in the 72nd minute and Clarence Marsh in the 78th minute.

English Harbour FC advanced to 16 points, while Golden Grove FC dropped from third to seventh place with 23 points after suffering their fifth defeat in 14 matches.



Players of the Greenbay Hoppers FC

# Sports News



## Clare Hall and PMS claim wins in School Basketball League

Clare Hall Secondary and Princess Margaret School (PMS) were among the winners in the latest round of matches in the Senior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 46 points as Clare Hall Secondary pulled off an 81-71 victory against St. Anthony's Secondary School at the JSC Sports Complex.

Luis Ozuna sank 11 points, and Jahaziel Santana and Donte Richards each converted 10 points for Clare Hall Secondary School.

Kamal Mason produced 21 points, Khalil Roberts sank 11 points, and Israel Clarke and Jaden Martin each scored 10 points for St. Anthony's



Tajahron Davis of Clare Hall Secondary

Secondary School.

Princess Margaret School cruised to a commanding 77-44 victory over Island Academy.

Gabriel De Suza produced a game-high 29 points, Noah Massiah sank 24 points, and Elijah Charles scored 17 points for Princess Margaret School. Lian Muna and Elijah Peters each converted 11 points for Island Academy.

St. Joseph's Academy also coasted to an emphatic 75-27 victory over Island Academy in the Junior Boys Division.

Nathan Matthew converted 27 points, Jayden Lewis sank 17 points, and Erije Joseph chipped in with 16 points for St. Joseph's Academy. Tristan Thibou scored 12 points for Island Academy.

**PDV Caribe**  
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

**THE PDV HOUR**

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

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

## CWI welcomes Livpure as official jersey sponsor of Windies men's team



*Windies players, from left to right, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, and captain Shai Hope in their Livpure jerseys. (CWI Media)*

Cricket West Indies (CWI) today announced a new sponsorship agreement with Livpure, a leading water purification and home appliances brand, which will serve as an official jersey sponsor of the West Indies Senior Men's Team for the current 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and the West Indies white ball tour of India later this year.

The partnership comes at an exciting time for the West Indies Men, who are currently on a strong winning streak in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 and have already secured qualification to the Super Eight stage.

The team will next face Zimbabwe in their Super Eight fixture on Monday, February 23, with the first ball scheduled for 9:30 am Caribbean Time, as they look to maintain momentum heading into the knockout phase of the tournament.

The agreement covers the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, scheduled for February and March, and the West Indies' white ball tour of India in September and October 2026, which includes three One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals.

CWI President, Dr. Kishore Shallow, welcomed the partnership as an

important step in strengthening the commercial foundation of West Indies cricket.

"On behalf of Cricket West Indies, I warmly welcome Livpure as a valued partner of our Senior Men's team. This collaboration reflects the enduring global appeal of West Indies cricket and our ability to attract respected international brands.

"Strategic partnerships such as this are critical to supporting the growth, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability of our game across the region. We look forward to building a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with Livpure as our team competes on the world stage."

CWI Chief Executive Officer Chris Dehring also highlighted the significance of the agreement, particularly in a key cricket market.

"Cricket West Indies is pleased to welcome Livpure into the West Indies cricket family. This partnership reflects the global appeal of our team and the strong commercial opportunities associated with West Indies cricket, particularly in key markets such as India. We look forward to working closely with Livpure to deliver value

both on and off the field during a pivotal year for our men's team."

Livpure's branding will appear on the leading arm of the team's shirt during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in accordance with tournament regulations, and on the front of the shirt during the India tour, subject to international playing conditions and approvals.

Rakesh Kaul, MD & CEO for Livpure expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration.

"We are proud to partner with Cricket West Indies and to be associated with one of the most iconic teams in world cricket. The passion, flair, and global fan base of West Indies cricket align strongly with our brand values, and we look forward to engaging millions of cricket fans through this partnership as the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka sets the stage for an atmosphere of unmatched scale and excitement that resonates deeply with audiences across the world."

The sponsorship underscores CWI's continued focus on building sustainable commercial partnerships that enhance the team's competitiveness while expanding the global footprint of West Indies cricket.

# Sports

MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2026



## Ottos continues their dominance of ABBA's Division 1 League



**Daryl Matthew Ottos' point guard Danny Perez attempts a lay-up in a previous game against the JSC Red Hawks. Perez shot his way to a game-high 38 points to lead Ottos to victory over All Saints Slam at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, February 21, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABBA)**

Daryl Matthew Ottos continues to dominate the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 League, extending their unbeaten run to four wins in as many games on Saturday.

Ottos maintained their lead in the first division by surging to another dominant 110-83 victory over the All Saints Slam at the JSC Sports Complex.

Danny Perez produced a game-high 38 points along with 11 rebounds, seven assists, and five steals, and Pindo Drammeh sank 26 points and grabbed 18 rebounds to lead Ottos to victory.

In support, Nick Strawter produced a triple-double with 18 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 assists, and Christian Walker had 13 points and eight assists

for Ottos.

Rolontae Knowles sank 27 points and snatched eight rebounds, Andrew Daigle scored 20 points and claimed eight rebounds, and Felix Hamilton chipped in with 11 points and six rebounds for All Saints Slams, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

The JSC Red Hawks recorded their first win in the ABBA Division 1 League in their latest outing.

After losing their previous three matches, the JSC Red Hawks claimed their first win by pulling off a hard-fought 110-101 victory against Da Project.

Bryce Smith sank 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Aubrey Feaster produced 20 points, 10 assists,

and six rebounds to lead the Red Hawks to their victory.

In support, Andre Burnette had 20 points and five assists, Cohen Desouza sank 18 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, and Humroy Wright scored 17 points for the JSC Red Hawks.

Malik Moore shot a game-high 31 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Cornell Greenwood produced 25 points, nine rebounds, and five assists, and T-Shawn Lewis sank 24 points and snatched 19 rebounds for Da Project, who lost for the third time in five

games.

Defending champions EZ Fit Flyers rebounded from their 90-96 loss to Daryll Matthew Ottos in their previous outing to secure their third win in four matches with a 128-42 drubbing of the Navigators.

TJ Williams shot a game-high 60 points and snatched nine rebounds; Daniel Perez produced 20 points, 10 rebounds, and five assists; Javonte Daley recorded a triple-double with 14 points, 13 assists, and 11 rebounds; and Russell Daley scored 10 points for the EZ Fit Flyers.

Ammiel Williams sank 10 points and claimed six rebounds for the Navigators, who suffered their fourth loss in as many games.