

# Another Resignation Rocks UPP

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Nurses show their support for the campaign to educate women about the need for HPV screening

## Another Resignation Rocks UPP

The opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) has been rocked by another high-profile resignation.

This time the resignation is that of long-standing party stalwart, organizer and campaigner, Desmond Charles, who submitted his letter of resignation to the General Secretary, Shawn Nicholas, since March 17, but which has been made public this week. In the letter, Charles cited dissatisfaction with the leadership of current Political Leader, Jamale Pringle and Chairman, D. Gisele Isaac.

Charles, a supporter since 1990 and official member since 1992, has declared that the UPP, a political party for which he has dedicated over three decades, has “lost its way completely”.

In his resignation letter, Charles pointed to what he described as a deep deterioration within the party — citing “self-centeredness, gross disrespect,” and a lack of strategic direction.

He did not hold back in his criticism of the party’s leadership.

Charles singled out Chairperson Gisele Isaac for what he called “divisive and destructive conduct,” but stressed that the issues go beyond any one individual, accusing the wider leadership of presiding over the party’s decline.

More pointedly, he placed ultimate responsibility on Political Leader Jamale Pringle, stating that Pringle has shown “no interest in maturing into his role” and has failed to guide the party in a positive direction.

“It is shocking,” Charles wrote, “that a party which once championed ‘Leadership Matters’ is now comfortable with ineffective leadership and unable to present a credible alternative to the government.”

He further referenced recent polling, claiming Prime Minister Gaston Browne outperformed Pringle by more than four to one in public trust to lead the country.



**Desmond Charles**

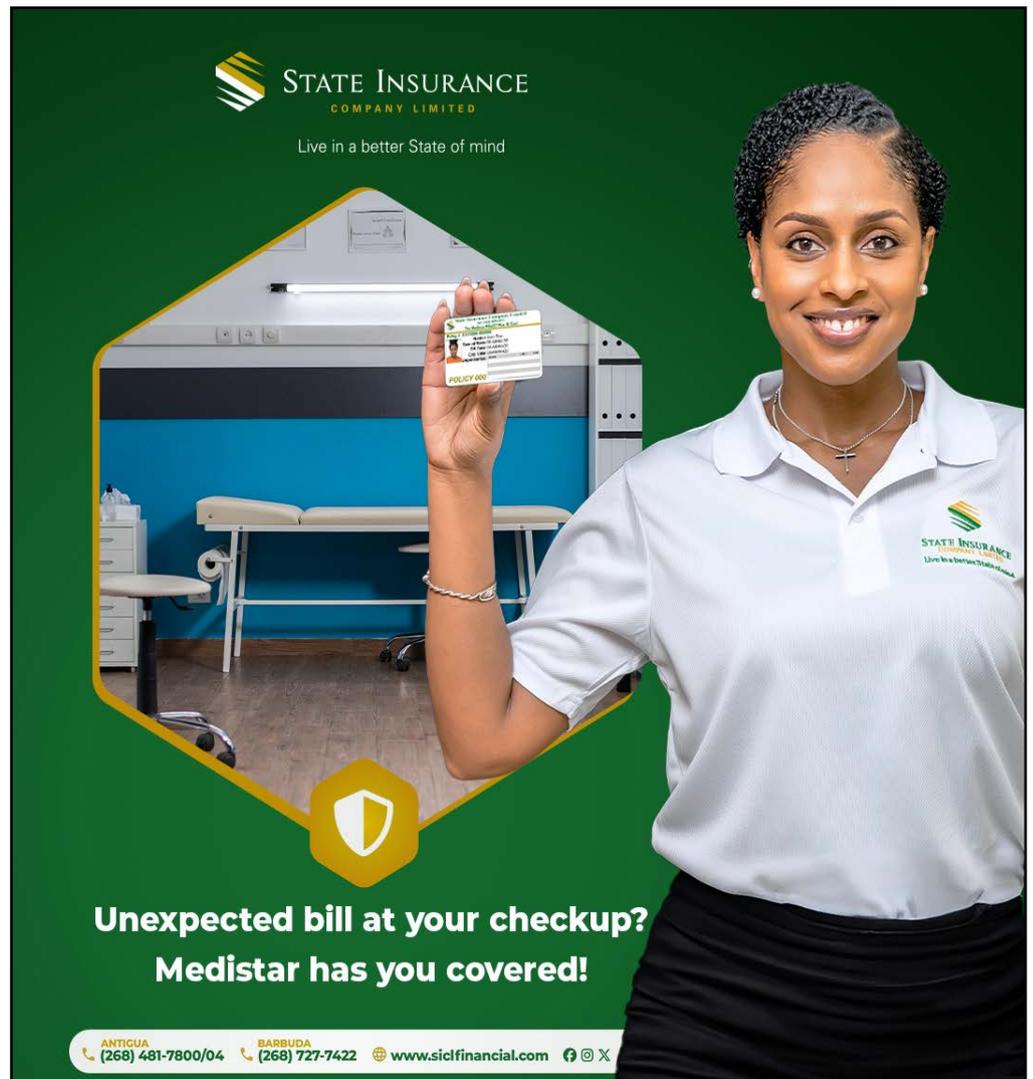
Charles’ departure carries added weight given his long history with the party and his personal sacrifices, in-

cluding stepping aside as a potential candidate in St. George to allow Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro to become the constituency’s first female Member of Parliament.

Framing his resignation as a matter of principle, Charles declared: “I will never put party over country.”

He said his decision reflects a belief that the UPP’s current direction no longer serves the best interests of Antigua and Barbuda.

While expressing gratitude for the relationships and experiences gained over decades, Charles made it clear his break with the party is final — marking yet another blow to the opposition as it prepares for upcoming general elections.



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# Local News

March 17, 2026

Ms. Shawn Nicholas  
General Secretary  
United Progressive Party  
Belmont, St. John's  
Antigua

Dear Madam General Secretary,

I am writing to formally tender my resignation as a member of the United Progressive Party, effective immediately.

This is a decision born of painful clarity. I became a supporter of the UPP in 1990 and joined as a member in 1992. I joined the party of Baldwin Spencer, Wilmoth Daniel, and Harold Lovell at a time when sacrifice, tolerance, love, respect, and team play were the order of the day. I believed in those values to the extent that I gave up my own candidacy in St. George to help pave the way for Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro to become our first female MP.

However, the UPP of today bears little resemblance to the party I joined back then. The current organization is plagued by self-centeredness, gross disrespect for long-standing members, a lack of strategic focus, and a profound inability to engage with people of differing views. These shortcomings are fully on display in the divisive, destructive conduct of UPP Chairperson Gisele Isaac. Yet, to be fair to Ms. Isaac, she is only one of many in the UPP leadership who have presided over the party's decline.

The Political Leader, Jamale Pringle, remains ultimately responsible for the continued leadership failures plaguing the party. He has shown no interest in maturing into his role or guiding the UPP on a positive path. His conduct is a disservice to both the party and the nation. It is shocking to see a party which once cried, "Leadership Matters!" become comfortable with both the absence of effective leadership and total failure to present a credible alternative to the current government. It therefore comes as no surprise that in recent polling on whom the country trusted more to lead, Prime Minister Gaston Browne outperformed Mr. Pringle by a margin of over 4 to 1.

I will never put party over country. I have always believed in that principle, and I remain guided by it today. My decision to resign from the United Progressive Party reflects my conviction that I cannot continue to support an organization whose current direction and leadership no longer serve the best interests of Antigua and Barbuda.

I remain grateful for the many friendships and experiences gained during my years in the UPP. However, I can no longer associate myself with an organization that has lost its way so completely.

Sincerely,

.....  
Desmond Charles

## Over 900 Persons Renew Voter ID Cards In Two Days

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission has reported a spike in the number of persons seeking to replace their expired Voter ID Cards with general elections now in the air.

Statistics released by ABEC show that on Monday and Tuesday, the first two working days after the prime minister's weekend announcement of early elections, saw a total of 929 persons had applied to have their expired cards replaced.

For the month of March up to Tuesday 24, there were 1450 persons who applied to replace expired cards. That was almost triple the 508 who applied in February and more than three times

the 355 for January. So far, just over 20,600 persons have replaced their expired cards.

Three constituencies – St. Peter, St Philip North and Barbuda – have over seventy percent of eligible voters who have applied to replace their cards.

The replacement of voter ID cards has been very slow since it was instituted in August of last year, however, that is likely to change over the next days and weeks as the country gears up for general elections, expected in the first half of May this year.

Over the weekend, Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced that elec-

tions will take place 'within 90 days'.

The ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has launched a drive to encourage its members to replace their cards noting that this is critical with the elections just weeks away.

Meanwhile, ABEC said it is 'ready' for general elections as it has always maintained a state of 'readiness' for any such eventuality. It said those Returning Officers who served in the 2023 elections are likely to be rehired for the upcoming poll. Those persons who worked in the polling booths will also be returned as much as possible but they will still require to undergo refresher training.



### Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission

#### OFFICIAL REPORT



#	COUNSTITUENCY	Balance from 2025 SUB-TOTAL	JAN		FEB		MARCH 2026					GRAND TOTAL	% Complete
			TOTAL	TOTAL	2nd-6th	9th-13th	16th-20th	23rd-28th	30th-31st	TOTAL			
1	ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST	758	12	14	5	3	7	64	0	79	863	37%	
2	ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST	486	9	13	4	2	5	37	0	48	556	35%	
3	ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH	475	7	10	3	4	10	47	0	64	556	38%	
4	ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST	1451	46	25	5	5	13	89	0	112	1634	36%	
5	ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH	961	24	27	5	1	9	69	0	84	1096	37%	
6	ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST	1333	41	35	12	8	12	82	0	114	1523	37%	
7	ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH	1158	24	12	3	4	30	95	0	132	1326	39%	
8	ST. MARY'S NORTH	1271	38	26	6	4	9	69	0	88	1423	34%	
9	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	845	14	12	6	1	7	39	0	53	924	43%	
10	ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE	1195	31	16	14	11	11	68	0	104	1346	40%	
11	ALL SAINTS WEST	1493	35	34	14	9	18	85	0	126	1688	43%	
12	ST. GEORGE	1755	22	30	10	9	22	68	0	109	1916	42%	
13	ST. PETER	2219	7	6	3	2	4	14	0	23	2255	79%	
14	ST. PHILIP NORTH	695	22	218	108	63	14	2	0	187	1122	71%	
15	ST. PHILIP SOUTH	417	9	13	4	2	1	43	0	50	489	46%	
16	ST. PAUL	1088	13	15	10	1	8	57	0	76	1192	44%	
17	BARBUDA	720	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	724	71%	
<b>Total Weekly Application Count</b>					212	129	180	929	0				
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>			<b>18320</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>508</b>					<b>1450</b>	<b>20633</b>		

## APUA to Introduce Smart Technology as it Tackles Water Supply Issues

The introduction of advanced technology is set to revolutionize water distribution across Antigua and Barbuda, as Public Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas outlines new measures to improve efficiency and reliability within the system.

Central to the transformation is the planned implementation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system by the Antigua Public Utilities Authority, which will allow for real-time monitoring and automated control of water distribution.

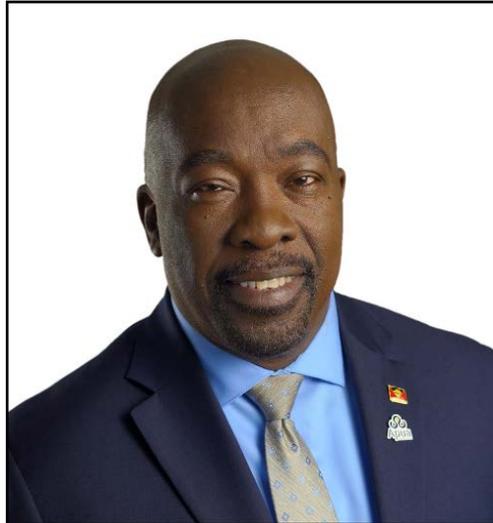
Currently, much of the network relies on manual operations, with technicians traveling into communities to physically open and close valves.

“Residents would know they’ve seen APUA technicians going out into communities with T-wrenches and turning valves. That type of response is far too slow,” Nicholas said.

The SCADA system will enable operators to manage water flows remotely from a central command center, including the ability to redirect supply instantly. For example, water produced in areas such as Barnacle Point can be quickly rerouted to communities like Pares without the delays associated with manual intervention, the minister with responsibility for public utilities explained.

“This gives us the kind of dexterity we need to move water around efficiently,” he said, adding that automation will also improve predictive capabilities and system responsiveness.

Despite the proposed technological



*Utilities Minister, Melford Nicholas*

advancements, Minister Melford Nicholas acknowledged that longstanding infrastructure issues continue to impact water delivery.

“It is not just a question of scheduling when we send the water,” he said, pointing to aging pipelines and system vulnerabilities.

In eastern communities such as Freetown, water is supplied through old pipelines running from St. Philip’s across privately owned lands, including Montpellier Estate. These lines are prone to breaking under increased pressure, he pointed out.

Efforts are underway to reinforce those systems, including expanding reservoir capacity and improving the ability to draw water from multiple sources.

Water loss remains a critical issue, with APUA managing approximately 600 leaks each month. Limited repair teams must prioritize the most severe cases, particularly those escalated to senior officials.

“It is not an acceptable position,” Nicholas admitted, noting the high cost of producing water that is then lost through leaks.

Compounding the issue are occasional human errors and mechanical failures, such as valves not being reopened or malfunctioning after adjustments.

To address these concerns, APUA is also rolling out a new fault management system equipped with geolocation capabilities. This will streamline how leaks and service disruptions are reported, tracked, and resolved.

The minister said the system is expected to improve response times significantly, though it will not fully eliminate issues tied to aging infrastructure.

He stressed that sustainable improvement will require extensive pipeline replacement across the island. Work is already progressing in some areas, with newer, more durable materials helping to reduce leakage.

Additional investments in storage capacity and distribution networks are also planned, particularly in growing communities.

While the government continues to work toward a consistent, around-the-clock water supply, the utilities minister said achieving that target will depend on increasing production, enhancing storage, and reducing losses.

He indicated that reaching production levels of approximately 14 million gallons daily would move the country significantly closer to that goal, though no firm timeline has been set.

Until such time, the combination of new technology and ongoing infrastructure upgrades is expected to bring gradual improvements.

## Antigua and Barbuda Pushes Climate Priorities at Global Talks

Antigua and Barbuda is being represented at the 64th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-64) in Bangkok from March 24–27 by Orvin Paige from the Meteorological Department and Arry Simon from the Department of Environment.

The meeting comes at a critical time following unresolved debates at IPCC-63 in Lima, where countries failed to agree on timelines for key climate reports. For small island states, this delay is more than procedural—it directly affects their ability to plan, adapt, and survive.

Nations like Antigua and Barbuda are on the frontline of climate change. Rising sea levels threaten coastal communities and tourism infrastructure, while stronger hurricanes and unpredictable rainfall strain already limited resources. Despite contributing little to global emissions, these countries face some of the highest risks.

A major concern is access to climate finance. Small island developing states often struggle to secure funding due to complex application processes, limited technical capacity, and restrictive criteria. Even when funds are approved, implementation can be slow, delaying urgent adaptation projects such as coastal protection, water security systems, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

At IPCC-64, discussions on funding constraints within the IPCC itself also highlight a broader issue—without adequate financial support, both global climate science and local action in vulnerable countries could stall.

The outcomes of this meeting will help shape preparations for COP31, where stronger commitments and improved financing mechanisms will be key. For Antigua and Barbuda, ensuring that global decisions translate into real, accessible support on the ground remains the ultimate priority.



# Midweek Deals

**TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS**



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- Leg and Thigh
- Biscuit
- Medium Drink



**\$19.99**

- Burger
- Medium Drink

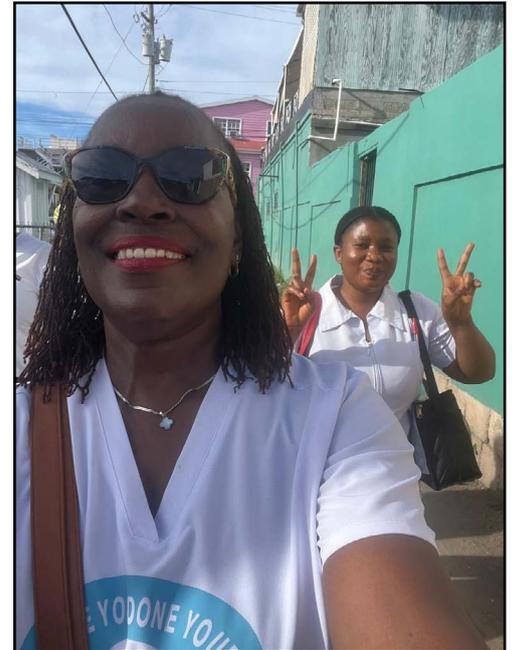


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## Clare Hall Clinic's Nurses Raise Awareness About Cervical Cancer



Nurses attached to the Clare Hall Clinic have launched an awareness campaign to educate women on the need to screen for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) as part of efforts to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030.

Public Health Nurse Supervisor for the Clare Hall Clinic and Villa Polyclinic, Gretcene Quallis said the nurses staged a 'walk of awareness' Tuesday afternoon in St. John's that culminated at the Public Market where they distributed flyers to members of the public as well as engaged in discussions with women in the area.

"Our campaign is specifically targeting women ages 30 to 65 who we are encouraged to have the screening done for the HPV virus which is blamed for over ninety percent of all cervical cancers," she explained.

She added that it is important for women to know their HPV status.

"It is not enough to do the pap smear as this can show a result of 'normal', while the virus is present in the women's body. The HPV test is the same procedure as the pap smear but the medical personnel would be looking for different things," she further ex-



plained.

The ministry of health is employing a three step strategy to end cervical cancer by 2030. First, it is vaccinating boys and girls from age 9 to 26 years. Women from age 21 to 26 have the pap smear procedure done while women 30 to 65 screen for HPV.

"We start the HPV screening by age thirty because by that time the body

should naturally get rid of whatever HPV were there up to that point. If at that time, the virus is still present, it means the woman is having persistent infections and therefore, screening is strongly recommended," she stated.

Should the test result show 'negative' then the patient is asked to return for a follow-up test in five years.

## The UWI FIC, T.A. Marryshow Community College Strengthen Regional Educational



**Prof Robinson and Principal Abraham**

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (The UWI FIC) met with officials from the T.A. Marryshow Community College (TAMCC) in Grenada earlier this month to advance collaborative initiatives aimed at expanding educational opportunities for students in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

The delegation from The UWI FIC included Campus Principal Professor Justin Robinson, Assistant Registrar of Admissions and Graduate Studies, Jenifer Hughes, Co-ordinator of BSc Criminology and Criminal Justice programme, Dr. Kamecia Blake, Co-ordinator in the School of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Samantha Marshall, and Manager of Marketing, Communication and Commercialisation Shavar Maloney.

The TAMCC team was led by Principal Andrew Abraham and included Dr. Philomena Cato and Moricia Japal-Ledlow, Coordinator, Access/Professional Studies.

The discussions centred on strengthening institutional collaboration and streamlining academic pathways for TAMCC students transitioning into The UWI FIC programmes. Several key areas examined included exemp-



tions and 2+2 articulation agreements that would enable students to complete associate degrees at TAMCC before transferring to complete bachelor's degrees at The UWI FIC.

Following the meetings, both institutions agreed to negotiate a formal Memorandum of Understanding to codify their partnership.

Principal of The UWI FIC, Professor Justin Robinson, emphasized the importance of this collaboration. "Our partnership with TAMCC represents our commitment to working with important partners to create pathways for students in the OECS to access higher education," Robinson said. "By building these bridges between institutions, we are ensuring that more students can pursue advanced degrees without unnecessary barriers, ultimately strengthening the human capital of our countries and the sub-region."

Meanwhile, Principal of the T.A. Marryshow Community College, Andrew Abraham highlighted the local impact such pathways would create for Grenadian students. "We are committed to ensuring access for students of TAMCC into programmes that will equip them to help take Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique forward," Abraham said. "This partnership will open doors for our young people to gain the qualifications and skills needed to drive development across our nation as well as position themselves in this globally competitive environment."

The proposed collaboration aligns with The UWI FIC's broader mission to expand access to quality tertiary education throughout the Eastern Caribbean while supporting the development goals of OECS member states.

## Herberts Man Charged for Smoking Cannabis in Public

The police have arrested and charged Jamie Darroux of Herbert's for smoking cannabis in a public place and possession of cannabis. The offences occurred at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 23, at Potters.

Reports indicate that police officers attached to the Narcotics Department were on mobile patrol in the vicinity of the Potters Primary School when they observed the defendant allegedly smoking cannabis in a public area. He was subsequently apprehended and taken into custody.

He has since been formally charged and is expected to appear before the court.

The Police Administration is reminding the public that, in accordance with the Tobacco Control Act, 2018, and the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2024, smoking tobacco or cannabis is strictly prohibited in enclosed public places, workplaces, and on public conveyances.

These include, but are not limited to:

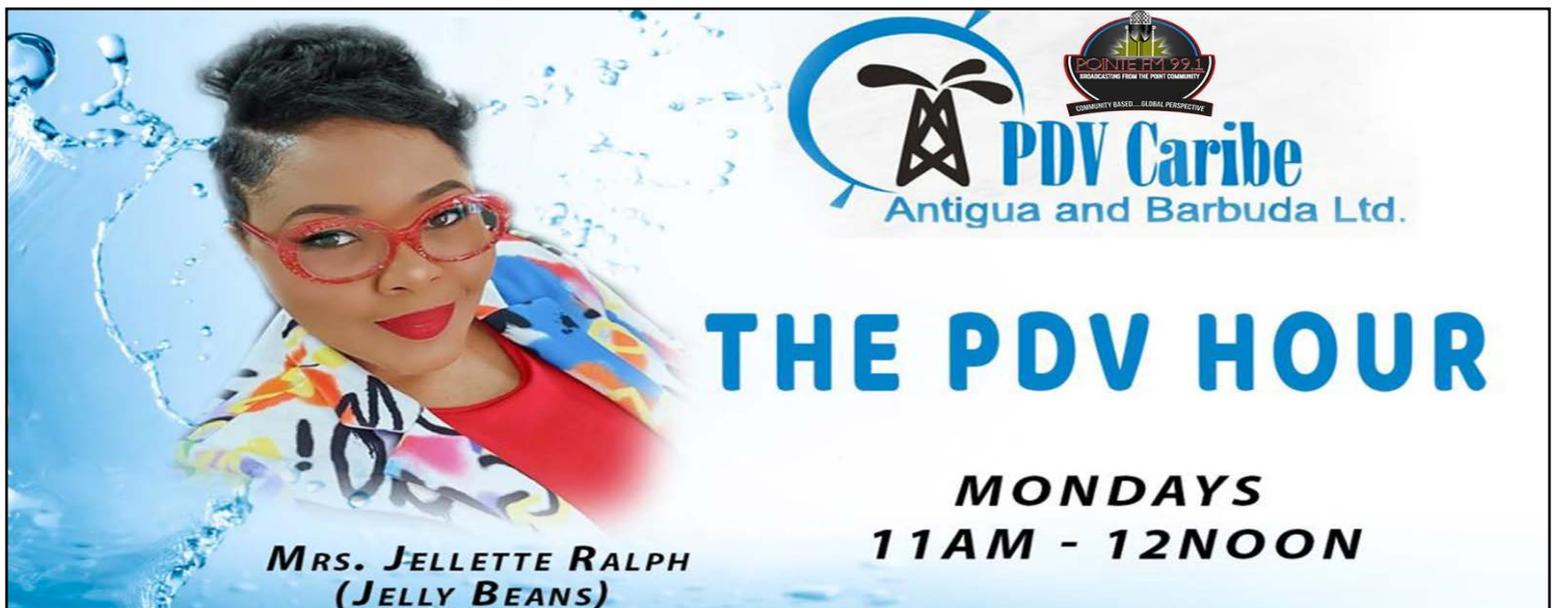
- Public transportation terminals,
- Offices, factories, and other workplaces
- Restaurants, bars, clubs, shopping malls, cafés casinos,



- Educational institutions and places designated for children,
- Health care facilities
- Government-owned or occupied buildings
- Public gatherings and recreational facilities
- Taxis, buses, aircraft, and other public transport,
- Any other place or facilities that are accessible to the public

Additionally, any person who smokes cannabis in a public place, or permits the use, sale, or supply of cannabis on premises classified as a public place, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding EC\$2,000.00.

The Police Administration continues to urge members of the public to comply with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and to refrain from engaging in unlawful activities.



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**(JELLY BEANS)**

## Cedar Grove Primary Benefits Again from Donation Facilitated by Minister Fernandez



Students and teachers of Cedar Grove Primary School are once again benefiting from a timely donation of essential school supplies, facilitated by Member of Parliament for St. John's Rural North, Hon. Charles "Max" Fernandez, following continued engagement with U.S.-based travel company Got Stamps? Travel.

The latest contribution included a range of educational materials, most notably an industrial-size printer, which is expected to significantly enhance the school's capacity to prepare teaching materials and support students during the ongoing academic term.

Minister Fernandez explained that the relationship with the travel group began last year after an unfortunate break-in at the school. Moved by the circumstances, the group made an initial donation, demonstrating their commitment to giving back while visiting Antigua and Barbuda. In recognition of that gesture, Fernandez presented the group's CEO with a culturally symbolic gift, expressing gratitude for their generosity and engagement with the community.

"When we were contacted about a

follow-up donation, I readily agreed to facilitate the process," Fernandez said. "Arrangements were made in consultation with the school to ensure that the items provided would directly address their most pressing needs. The industrial-size printer, in particular, will make a meaningful difference in their daily operations."

The Minister also highlighted the broader significance of the gesture, noting that the country's people remain central to the visitor experience.

"The warmth, culture and authenticity of our people, the embodiment of our tourism product, directly correlates to the lasting impressions of visitors and businesspersons alike. When people experience Antigua and Barbuda, they don't just enjoy the destination; they build connections. This donation is a clear example of those lasting relationships translating into meaningful support for our communities," he said.

CEO of Got Stamps? Travel, Brian Emmanuel Sims, first visited Antigua last year and remarked that he felt immediately at home. The experience left such a positive impression that he has already begun planning another trip to the destination, further strengthening

ties with the island.

Today's donation also comes on the heels of another major education initiative led by Minister Fernandez, his annual laptop distribution to graduates of Cedar Grove Primary School. For nearly a decade, every student completing Grade 6 and transitioning to secondary school has received a fully loaded laptop, ensuring access to digital learning tools at a critical stage of their academic journey.

Fernandez noted that the initiative, which he has nurtured and expanded over the years, will continue.

"Education remains one of the most powerful investments we can make in our young people. Whether through partnerships such as this donation or through our annual laptop initiative, the goal remains the same, ensuring our children have every opportunity to succeed," he said.

The continued collaboration between the travel group and the community underscores the impact of meaningful visitor engagement and reinforces the value of people-to-people connections in strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's tourism and social development efforts.

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# Commentary

## A Seasoning of Reasonableness

How Legitimate Concerns Become Permission Structures for Extreme Action



*By Professor C. Justin Robinson  
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,  
The UWI Five Islands Campus*

There is a rhetorical technique as old as power itself. You begin with something no reasonable person can deny, then use that reasonableness as a bridge to something no reasonable person should accept. The current moment in global politics, and in the domestic and foreign policy of the United States in particular, is saturated with this manoeuvre. It deserves a name, let us call it *the seasoning of reasonableness*. A sprinkling of legitimate concern designed not to solve a problem but to make the disproportionate, the coercive, and the authoritarian palatable.

The pattern is remarkably consistent where a genuine issue is identified, one that resonates with ordinary people because it touches their real anxieties. The range of issues is broad, border security, drug trafficking, the cost of higher education, the risks of artificial intelligence, trade imbalances, democracy in Cuba, Iran and Venezuela, the rights of Cuban doctors working overseas and so on. These are not invented problems, they exist, they matter, and they deserve serious policy attention but in the hands of the current American administration, the legitimate concern is never the destination, it is the on ramp.

### The Architecture of the Manoeuvre

The technique follows a three-beat rhythm. First, articulate a concern that most people share. Second, escalate the response far beyond what the concern warrants. Third, when challenged on the escalation, retreat to the original concern and accuse critics of dismissing it. The reasonable premise becomes both the launching pad and the shield.

Consider the case of border security. Sovereign nations have every right, indeed, a responsibility, to manage their borders, to know who is entering, and to enforce immigration law with consistency and fairness. That is the reasonable kernel, however, the response has been militarized ICE raids in churches and courthouses, the deportation of legal residents and veterans, the separation of families as deliberate policy, and the erosion of due process protections that took decades to build. When civil liberties organizations object, the response is swift and predictable, “*So you’re for open borders?*” The seasoning of reasonableness does its work; the critic is forced to relitigate the premise rather than challenge the excess.

Or consider trade! No serious economist would argue that trade relationships should never be revisited, that supply chain vulnerabilities do not matter, or that trade deficits are irrelevant to domestic industry. These are legitimate subjects of policy debate, but random unilateral tariffs, tariffs of 145 percent on Chinese goods are not trade policy, they are economic bludgeoning, designed not to rebalance trade but to assert dominance, punish, and restructure global commerce by fiat. The reasonable concern about manufacturing resilience is the seasoning, the unreasonable reality is a tariff regime that functions as a tax on American consumers while destabilizing the very trading system that underwrites global prosperity.

The pattern recurs with almost algorithmic precision. Diversity, equity, and inclusion programmes deserve thoughtful evaluation, but the administration’s response has been to gut civil rights infrastructure, freeze federal hiring, and mandate the removal of DEI language from government agencies as though the words themselves were contagions. Concerns about government spending are legitimate, but they do not justify an unelected technology entrepreneur being granted authority to dismantle agencies, fire career civil servants by the thousand, and restructure the machinery of government with the subtlety of a wrecking ball. The reasonable concern is the ticket but the destination was always somewhere else.

### The Caribbean Feels the Pattern

For those of us in the Caribbean, this technique is not merely an American domestic curiosity as it arrives on our shores with material consequences. Drug trafficking and organized crime are genuine scourges in our region. They corrode institutions, claim lives, and undermine the governance capacity of states that are already stretched thin. No Caribbean leader, no Caribbean citizen, disputes this, but when the United States invokes drug trafficking as the justification for behaviour that looks less like partnership and more like coercion, the seasoning of reasonableness is doing its work. The crime is real, the question is whether the response serves the stated purpose or some other, less acknowledged one.

We have watched as the administration has used the language of security to exert pressure on Caribbean governments, pressure that extends well beyond any plausible counter-narcotics objective. The recent deportation flights, the characterization of entire populations as vectors of criminality, the implicit and sometimes explicit threats to sovereignty, these are not the actions of a partner combating a

shared threat. They are the actions of a power using a legitimate concern as cover for something else, the reassertion of a hemispheric dominance that treats small states as instruments of American domestic politics.

The trap is exquisitely constructed. Caribbean leaders who push back against overreach risk being painted as soft on crime, as enablers of the very trafficking networks that torment their own people. The reasonable premise, *drugs are a problem*, becomes the cage. One cannot challenge the disproportionate response without appearing to deny the underlying reality. I am sure you can see the pattern in Cuba, Venezuela and in the new visa applications requirements.

## An Old Playbook

Those of us from formerly colonized societies recognize this technique in our bones. The civilizing mission was the original seasoning of reasonableness. Colonial powers did not announce that they were extracting wealth and subjugating peoples, they announced that they were bringing order, education, Christianity, and the rule of law to societies that lacked these things. The premise contained just enough truth, there *were* societies without formal legal systems as Europeans understood them, to make the entire enterprise appear not merely defensible but noble. The unreasonable superstructure of exploitation was built on a foundation of selectively reasonable observation.

The structural logic has not changed. What has changed is the vocabulary, “Civilization” has become “security,” “Order” has become “compliance,” “The white man’s burden” has become

“the rules-based international order,” invoked selectively, applied asymmetrically, and abandoned the moment it constrains the powerful. The seasoning changes with the era but the dish remains the same.

## The Deeper Problem

The most corrosive effect of this technique is not the immediate harm of any single policy, though that harm is real and often devastating. The deeper damage is epistemological, when reasonable concerns are systematically instrumentalized, reasonableness itself becomes suspect. Citizens learn to distrust legitimate policy arguments because they have seen too many of them function as Trojan horses. The boy cries wolf, and eventually the village stops listening even when there are actual wolves.

This is profoundly dangerous for democratic governance. Democracy depends on the possibility of good-faith disagreement, on the assumption that when someone raises a concern, they are actually concerned about the thing they claim to be concerned about. When that assumption collapses, politics ceases to be a contest of ideas and becomes purely a contest of power. We are further along that road than many wish to acknowledge.

For small states, for the Caribbean, for Small Island Developing States, for all those nations that navigate global politics with limited leverage, the stakes are particularly acute. We cannot match power with power. Our instrument has always been argument, the moral force of principled positions, the insistence that rules apply equally, the appeal to shared norms. When the

seasoning of reasonableness poisons the well of genuine argument, it is our instrument that is most damaged.

## What Is to Be Done

Naming the technique is itself a form of resistance. When we can see the pattern, the reasonable premise, the disproportionate response, the retreat to the premise when challenged, we are better equipped to engage with it. We can say, *Yes, border security matters, and no, that does not justify what you are doing. Yes, drug trafficking is a plague, and no, that does not give you the right to treat sovereign nations as subordinates. Yes, there are legitimate concerns about human rights in Cuba and the success of the economic model, and no, it is wrong to starve a population to force regime change.*

The task is to refuse the false binary. The technique works precisely because it presents only two positions, accept the entire package, reasonable premise and unreasonable action together, or be cast as someone who denies the problem exists. The intellectually honest position, the position that serves both truth and justice, is the one that holds both ideas simultaneously, the problem is real *and* what you are doing about it is wrong.

That is not a comfortable position, it satisfies neither the wielders of power nor their most absolute opponents but it is the position of reason, actual reason, not the decorative, instrumental kind. In a political moment defined by the abuse of reasonableness, the most radical act may be to insist on the genuine article.



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## Building Zones of Peace: A Practical Path Forward for the International Community – Part III



*By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim*

In the first two articles of this series, I examined both the immediate dangers of escalating hostilities in the Middle East and the wider global consequences of armed conflict. These developments demonstrate how quickly war can disrupt global commerce, threaten environmental sustainability, reverse development gains, and endanger millions of lives. They also underscore the urgent need for the international community to move beyond reactive diplomacy and begin building durable zones of peace.

A zone of peace is not simply the absence of war. It represents a deliberate commitment by nations to resolve disputes through dialogue, respect international law, reduce military confrontation, and cooperate in advancing economic development, environmental protection, and human progress. Such zones create the conditions under which societies can flourish and economies can grow with confidence.

In a world increasingly connected through trade, transportation networks, financial systems, and digital communication, peace has become a strategic necessity rather than a moral luxury. Stability is now the foundation upon which modern prosperity rests, and the

preservation of peace is therefore central to economic security and global development.

Recent hostilities in the Middle East illustrate this reality. Conflict in a single region has disrupted aviation routes, unsettled global energy markets, and raised concerns about the security of vital maritime corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 percent of the world's oil supply flows each day. Instability in one region can therefore reverberate rapidly across the global economy, raising transportation costs, fueling inflation, and affecting households thousands of miles away from the battlefield.

Preventing such crises requires more than temporary ceasefires. It requires strengthening the architecture of global cooperation and building institutions capable of preventing disputes before they escalate into conflict.

One important avenue is the reform and strengthening of the United Nations.

The United Nations today consists of 193 member states, with the Holy See and the State of Palestine participating as observer states. It remains the most universal institution ever created for international cooperation. Yet its institutional structure still largely reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 rather than those of the twenty-first century.

For this reason, scholars, diplomats, and policy institutions increasingly argue that meaningful reform of the United Nations is necessary if it is to effectively address modern global challenges. Without reform, the organization risks becoming constrained in its inability to prevent conflicts and coordinate responses to emerging crises that threaten global stability.

The UN Charter itself provides a mechanism for transformation. Article 109 allows for the convening of a General Conference to review or revise the Charter. Research organizations such as the Earth Governance Alliance and

Democracy Without Borders have suggested that such a review could help modernize the international system for challenges such as climate change, collective security, and global economic stability.

Central to many proposals is reform of the United Nations Security Council. Critics argue that the current structure—particularly the veto power of the five permanent members—can lead to what analysts describe as “veto-induced paralysis.” Suggested reforms include broader representation, improved regional balance, and mechanisms that prevent a single nation from blocking collective action when global peace is at stake.

Some reform advocates have also proposed the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, allowing representatives of the world's citizens to participate alongside governments in shaping global policy. Such ideas reflect an evolving conversation about how international governance might adapt to the realities of an increasingly interconnected world.

While stronger global governance remains a subject of debate, the philosophical foundations supporting it are longstanding. Across centuries and civilizations, thinkers have recognized that peaceful coexistence provides the most stable environment for human creativity, prosperity, and cultural advancement.

Ancient traditions in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas often placed harmony and balance at the center of social organization. From the teachings of early philosophers who emphasized harmony in society, to classical political thinkers who promoted diplomacy over conquest, many civilizations recognized that peace enables societies to invest in learning, science, trade, and cultural development. In this sense, the pursuit of peace has long been understood as the pathway toward the highest levels

of human progress.

In his essay *Perpetual Peace*, philosopher Immanuel Kant argued that lasting peace among nations could only be achieved through a federation of states governed by common laws capable of resolving disputes peacefully. More than a century later, Albert Einstein similarly suggested that durable peace would ultimately require forms of supranational cooperation capable of resolving conflicts through law rather than force.

Some thinkers have long argued that public policy should pursue the greatest good for the greatest number, a principle associated with utilitarianism. While this philosophy has influenced many public policies throughout modern history, I would respectfully suggest that humanity must aspire even further. Our collective ambition should be to strive for the greatest possible good for everyone, advancing conditions that allow every society and every individual the opportunity to flourish. The pursuit of peace must therefore be guided not only by efficiency, but by the higher objective of shared human development and universal human dignity.

History offers powerful examples of leaders who demonstrated that reconciliation and cooperation are stronger forces than conflict. Nelson Mandela showed how forgiveness and dialogue could transform a nation divided by injustice into one striving toward unity and progress. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded humanity that peace must be built upon justice and recognition of our shared humanity.

The philosophy of non-violence championed by Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated that moral courage and peaceful resistance could reshape political systems and inspire global movements for dignity and equality. Likewise, Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, dedicated his leadership to strengthening diplomacy and international cooperation. His observation that the United Nations was created not to bring humanity to heaven but “to save humanity from hell” remains a powerful

reminder of the importance of global institutions in safeguarding peace.

If the world is to move meaningfully toward zones of peace, economic cooperation must also deepen.

Modern global trade depends upon complex networks of transportation systems, supply chains, and financial institutions. Nations that depend on one another economically are less likely to resort to conflict.

As Chairman of the Special Committee on Transport of the Association of Caribbean States, I am particularly aware of how essential secure and efficient transportation networks are to economic development and regional integration. Maritime routes, aviation systems, and logistics corridors connect economies and create shared interests in stability.

Some scholars suggest that deeper economic integration could eventually lead to more coordinated international monetary arrangements, or even a shared global currency framework designed to reduce exchange volatility and simplify international trade. While such ideas remain subjects of debate, the principle behind them is clear: stronger economic cooperation reduces instability and encourages peaceful interdependence.

Peaceful cooperation would also unlock extraordinary opportunities for scientific progress.

Humanity has only begun to understand the potential of the Blue Economy—the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, renewable energy, food security, and scientific discovery. Oceans cover roughly 70 percent of the Earth’s surface, yet vast areas remain unexplored. Cooperative governance of marine resources is therefore essential to unlocking this enormous potential.

The benefits of cooperation extend beyond Earth itself. International collaboration through initiatives such as the International Space Station demonstrates how shared scientific effort can advance knowledge that benefits all humanity.

Regional institutions also play a critical role in building zones of peace. Organizations such as the African Union, the European Union, CARICOM, the Organization of American States, and the Association of Caribbean States demonstrate how regional cooperation can reduce tensions and build trust among neighboring countries.

At this level in particular, regional institutions must form committed partnerships dedicated to promoting peaceful solutions to disputes and strengthening diplomatic dialogue among member states. It is often at the regional level that conflicts first emerge, and it is equally at this level that preventive diplomacy can be most effective. In many respects, the success or failure of broader global peace initiatives will depend on the willingness of regional organizations to act collectively and responsibly in support of stability.

Ultimately, the creation of zones of peace will require political courage and sustained diplomatic engagement. Durable peace cannot be imposed through force; it must be built through cooperation, dialogue, and respect for shared rules.

Peace among nations fosters peace among peoples.

Peace among nations fosters peace with our environment.

Together, these principles form the foundation upon which sustainable development, scientific discovery, and human advancement can flourish.

Humanity now faces a defining choice: continue along a path marked by geopolitical rivalry and recurring crises, or choose cooperation, institutional reform, and shared responsibility for the future of our planet.

If the international community has the wisdom to pursue this path, the twenty-first century may yet become an era defined not by conflict but by cooperation, discovery, and the continued advancement of the human species.

In such a future, zones of peace would no longer be aspirational ideals, but the very architecture upon which global stability and human progress rest.

## A Ride That Challenges a Nation



The World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) Annual Family Fun Ride 2026, held on March 22 along LIAT Road in Coolidge, brought together families, cyclists, and advocates in a powerful display of unity and purpose. Hosted in partnership with the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation, and Good Humans 268 Inc., the event went far beyond a community ride. It became a platform to confront difficult truths and challenge the nation to rethink its approach to disability inclusion.

What does it truly mean to include individuals with disabilities in our society? Are we making meaningful progress, or are we simply participating in moments of awareness without long-term commitment?

At the heart of the event was a compelling and deeply personal message from Joshuanette Francis, President of Good Humans 268 Inc., who spoke candidly about her experiences nav-

igating life with a disability. “When you live with a disability, life changes for you... and if I am able to walk and look normal and I’m fighting, imagine those with more severe disabilities,” she shared. Her words highlighted a reality that many people do not see, but one that cannot be ignored.

Globally, persons with disabilities are twice as likely to be unemployed, with some estimates suggesting that up to 80% are excluded from the workforce in certain regions. These figures reflect a systemic issue—one that goes beyond awareness and speaks directly to opportunity, access, and inclusion.

Francis used the moment to directly challenge the culture of symbolic participation that often surrounds World Down Syndrome Day. “We’re calling on companies to do more than just show up for the socks... actually hire people with disabilities, create policies, support organizations, and ensure systems are in place,” she stated.



Her words bring us back to the critical questions that must be asked. How many companies that proudly wear their socks have clear disability policies? How many of them are employing individuals with disabilities in meaningful roles? How many are contributing financially or otherwise to organizations that are doing the work on the ground? And how many are prepared to support their own employees if they were to acquire a disability? These questions are not meant to criticize—they are meant to push us toward accountability.

The United Nations has made it clear that “equal opportunity in employment is fundamental to inclusive and sustainable development.” Yet, for many individuals with disabilities, equal opportunity remains out of reach. This is not because of a lack of ability, but because of barriers that continue to exist in our systems, our workplaces, and our attitudes.

The Ride for a Cause initiative seeks to break down those barriers by taking the conversation directly into communities across Antigua and Barbuda. With a vision of reaching 300 locations,

# Feature



the initiative ensures that disability awareness is not confined to events, but becomes part of everyday dialogue.

Another powerful moment from the speech emphasized the importance of community and support. “We need a community because fighting is hard,” Francis expressed. Advocacy is not easy. It requires strength, resilience, and the willingness to stand up, even when it is uncomfortable. But it should not have to be done alone.

The event demonstrated what unity can look like. Families showed up, children participated with joy, and organizations worked

together to create a meaningful experience. However, the true measure of success lies in what happens next. Will we continue the conversation? Will we challenge our workplaces and institutions to do better? Will we move from awareness to action?

Good Humans 268 Inc. continues to lead by example, not just by raising awareness, but by actively creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Their work reminds us that inclusion is not about charity—it is about justice, dignity, and equal rights.

As the bicycles moved



along LIAT Road, they carried a powerful message across the community. A message that challenges us to reflect, to question, and to act. Because inclusion cannot be seasonal. It cannot be

symbolic. It must be intentional, consistent, and real.

The ride may have ended, but the conversation must continue.

**AFRICA UNITE**

HOSTS:  
**DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE**

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**Caribbean Development Bank**

# **Expression of Interest Submission for**

## **Consulting Services from Firms**

**using Selection Methods: QCBS, QBS, FBS, LCS and CQS**

**(FE-S)**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>
Original Publication	June 26, 2023
Revision 1	March 18, 2024

## Expression of Interest (EOI) Consulting Firms

*[Note to Firm: Insert signed Cover letter in a format of your choosing]*

### General Information

<b>Project Country</b>	Antigua and Barbuda
<b>Project Number</b> (if applicable)	Not Applicable (N/A)
<b>Project Name</b>	Integrated Solid Waste Management Preparation Project
<b>Specific Assignment Name</b>	Consultancy Services for a Feasibility Study, Detailed Design and Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy for Antigua and Barbuda
<b>EOI Identification Number</b> (if applicable)	N/A

### I. Consulting Firm Information

Name of Firm <sup>1</sup> :	
Country of Registration: <sup>2</sup>	Registered Postal Address:
Contact Telephone Number:	E-mail Address:
Name of Authorised Representative EOI Submitted by:	Position of Authorised Representative:

#### A. Brief Background of Consulting Firm

Present a brief background of the firm and list the services provided by the firm. A company profile/brochure can also be attached but not copied and pasted below. **[500 words]:**

<sup>1</sup> The Name of Firm shall be the full legal name of the firm which would be used under any subsequent contract for this assignment. In case of JVs established or to be established for this assignment, identify the legal name of the Lead consulting firm. A Firm is defined in "Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB" (Procedures), January 2021.

<sup>2</sup> In case of JVs, specify the country of registration of the Lead consultant. The lead consultancy firm must submit a copy of the Certificate of Registration / Incorporation of itself and of each JV member and SC through section VI. EOI Attachments.

**B. Associations (Joint Venture<sup>3</sup> partner(s) or Sub-consultancy firm(s) in association with the Lead Firm)**

Name of Firm	Country of Registration	Joint Venture (JV) or Sub-consultant (SC)	Name of Authorised Representative EOI Submitted by	Position of Authorised Representative
		Choose an item.		
		Choose an item.		
		Choose an item.		
		Choose an item.		

**C. Brief Background of JV partner(s) or SC firm(s)**

Present a brief background of each of the JV partner(s) or SC firm(s) and list the services provided by the firm(s) relevant to the assignment by each entity. Include the date of establishment of the JV and major relevant highlights similar to this assignment. A company profile/brochure of each entity<sup>4</sup> can be attached (Section VI. EOI Attachments.) ***(Maximum 1,000 words for each entity)***

*(Note to Firm: Please insert additional text boxes as necessary for each entity)*

<sup>3</sup> A Joint Venture (JV) is defined in “Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB” (Procedures), January 2021 paragraph 6.22.

<sup>4</sup> Entity refers to the consulting firm and/or the affiliated parties under the partnership arrangement.



#### D. Summary of Rationale for the Structure of the Consultants Expressing Interest

Present the rationale for and benefits of working in association (JV or SC) with others rather than undertaking the assignment independently (as appropriate). Describe the proposed management and coordination approach between the firms and the anticipated role of each. **(Maximum [500 words]: 500 words for each entity):**

We confirm that: (please check)

- Documentation regarding our corporate structure including beneficial ownership has been attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments.
- Documentation regarding our Board of Directors or equivalent has been attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments.
- A written agreement to associate for the purpose of this Expression of Interest or a letter of intent to enter into such agreement to perform the assignment if successful has been signed between the JV partners and has been attached (if applicable).
- The lead consulting firm and JV partners, if any, are not sole proprietorships.<sup>5</sup>
- If our team is shortlisted and invited to submit a Proposal, we understand it is not permissible to transfer the invitation to any other Firm, such as a parent company, subsidiaries, and affiliates<sup>6</sup>.
- We understand that the Recipient/Client<sup>7</sup> has the right to reject a Proposal if the Consultant removes or changes a JV member without the Client's prior consent.

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<sup>5</sup> Refer to footnote 21 of the Procedures, January 2021, i.e., "Sole proprietorships shall be deemed as equivalent to an individual Consultant."

<sup>6</sup> Refer to permissible arrangements of the parties as described in the Procedures, January 2021 under paragraph 6.21.

<sup>7</sup> "Recipient" refers here to the entity which signed the Financing Agreement with CDB who may be represented by an implementing or executing agency, and which may also be called the "Client".

**II. Assignment Specific Qualifications and Experience of Lead Firm or JV Partners.<sup>8</sup>**

Please provide relevant project information in the Sections below.

**A. Project References**

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Please select the most recent and relevant projects to demonstrate the entity’s technical qualifications, technical experience, and geographical experience [**minimum two (2) projects within the last ten (10) years**].

**i. Project Summary**

PN <sup>9</sup>	Project Title	Country	Duration (no. of months)	Contracting Party	Entity <sup>10</sup>
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

**ii. Project Details**

PN 1	
Project Title	
Country/Region	

<sup>8</sup> Sub-consultants' qualifications and experience are not considered.

<sup>9</sup> PN refers to each Project Number listed and as referenced in the preceding project summaries.

<sup>10</sup> List name of each entity as it applies to the details of experience such as the name of the Lead Consulting Firm, JV partner, etc.

Start Date	
Completion Date	
Continuous/Intermittent	
Contracting Party	
Lead Firm	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate name of the Lead Consulting Firm/JV partner)</i>
Firm (if not Lead Firm and JV Partner)	
Role within contract (if not Lead Firm)	
Funding Source	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate, for example, whether from MDB, Private Sector, Public Sector, etc.)</i>
Value of Contract in USD	
Value of Services provided in USD	
Description	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate your role, for example, whether Consulting Firm, JV partner or sub-contractor and inputs in person-months and describe the types of activities undertaken)</i>
Point of Contact of Contracting Party <sup>11</sup>	Name: Contact Number: E-mail address:

PN 2	
Project Title	

<sup>11</sup> Procuring Entity reserves the right to contact the Contracting Party to ascertain information included in the EOI.

Country/Region	
Start Date	
Completion Date	
Continuous/Intermittent	
Contracting Party	
Entity	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate name of the Lead Consulting Firm/JV partner)</i>
Funding Source	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate, for example, whether from MDB, Private Sector, Public Sector, etc.)</i>
Value of Contract in USD	
Value of Services provided by the entity in USD	
Description	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate your key position role, for example, whether Consulting Firm, JV partner or sub-contractor and inputs in person-months and describe the types of activities undertaken)</i>
Point of Contact of Contracting Party	Name: Contact Number: E-mail address:

*(Note to Firm: Please insert additional Project Details tables as necessary with their corresponding PN reference numbers against the Project Summary table.)*

**B. Financial Capability**

**i. Financial Documents**

The (lead) firm and its parties shall provide copies of financial statements of the (lead) firm and JV partners, where applicable, within the last 5 years during the period **years 2021 to 2025** (including turnover from consulting services and other activities, profit & loss, current asset & liability, and fixed asset & liability) to demonstrate that they have the necessary financial capacity to undertake the assignment. The financial statements shall:

- (a) reflect the financial situation of the (lead) firm or in case of JV member, and not an affiliated entity (such as parent company or group member).
- (b) be independently audited<sup>12</sup> or certified in accordance with local legislation.
- (c) be complete, including all notes to the financial statements.
- (d) correspond to accounting periods already completed and audited.

(Please check)

Attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments are copies of financial statements<sup>13</sup> 5 years required above; and complying with the requirements.

**ii. Financial data**

Table 1 below should be completed to reflect the data provided in the financial statements.

Table 1

Financial information in (USD <sup>14</sup> equivalent in 000s)	Historic information for previous 5 years				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>Statement of Financial Position (Information from Balance Sheet)</b>					
Total Assets (TA)					
Total Liabilities (TL)					
Total Equity/Net Worth					

<sup>12</sup> Unless financial statements are not required to be audited under the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction of the firm.

<sup>13</sup> If the most recent set of financial statements is for a period earlier than 12 months from the date of Application, the reason for this should be justified.

<sup>14</sup> If the currency is not in USD, use the prevailing exchange rate at the time of this EOI submission.

(NW)					
Current Assets (CA)					
Current Liabilities (CL)					
Working Capital (WC)					
<b>Information from Income Statement</b>					
Total Revenue (TR)					
Profits Before Taxes (PBT)					
<b>Cash Flow Information</b>					
Cash Flow from Operating Activities					

**III. Brief Comments on Terms of Reference (maximum of 500 words)**

**IV. Organisational Structure and Staffing of entity with experience related directly to the type of assignment.**

Provide details in the table below of the human resources available (key and non-key experts) to execute the type of assignment in question (if required). An organogram / organisational chart can be attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments.

1	2		3	4	5	6
No.	Category of Specialisation of Expertise and Skillset <sup>15</sup>	General number of this resource available	Minimum required degree level	Minimum years of experience	Total number of resources who meet the requirements	Comments/ Further information , if any
N.B.		<i>Note to Firm: complete this section, e.g., total number of Civil Engineers available.</i>			<i>Note to Firm: complete this section, e.g., total number of Civil Engineers available with at least 10 years of experience</i>	<i>Note to Firm: complete this section, if any</i>
1	Solid + Liquid Waste Management Specialist	<i>[5 persons]</i>	Post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Environmental Engineering, Civil Engineering, or Waste Management.	A minimum of 15 years' experience in solid waste management projects, including integrated system assessments, feasibility studies, and strategy development.	<i>[3 persons]</i>	
2	Social Safeguards Specialist		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Social Development.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in social impact assessments for infrastructure projects, including experience in at least one solid waste infrastructure project.		

<sup>15</sup> Listed individual experts will not be evaluated at this EOI stage but rather the human resources available collectively within the entity.

3	Environmental and Climate Change Specialist		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Environmental Science, Climate Science, Environmental Management, Engineering.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in conducting environmental assessments for infrastructure projects, including experience in at least one solid waste infrastructure project.		
4	Financial and Economic Analyst		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Economics, Finance, or Business Administration.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in financial and economic analysis of infrastructure or environmental projects.		
5	Civil / Environmental Engineer		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in engineering design, including the design of solid waste facilities such as sanitary landfills, transfer stations, recycling centres, and composting plants.		
6	Policy and Institutional Specialist		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Public Policy, Environmental Law, or Institutional Development	A minimum of 10 years' experience in reviewing and reforming policies, legislation, and institutional frameworks related to environmental management.		
7	Non-key Experts:					

Procurement and Contract Specialist					
Capacity Development and Training Specialist					
Community Engagement Specialist					
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist					
Mechanical Engineer (Plant and Equipment Advisory)					
Disaster Management Specialist					
		Post-graduate degree in any relevant discipline related to the assigned role		Minimum 5-10 years of relevant professional experience in infrastructure, environmental, or public sector projects. Experience relevant to the specific functional area.	

*(Note to Firm: Please insert and modify rows and columns as necessary)*

**V. List of existing commitments**

Provide a list of existing active commitments of projects being undertaken, if any.

Commitment Contract Title	Value of Contract (USD)	Value of Work remaining to be completed by Entity (USD)	Start Date	End Date (Estimated)

*(Note to Firm: Please insert additional rows as necessary)*

**VI. EOI Attachments**

No.	Description
1	Certificate of Registration or Incorporation of the Lead Member
2	Certificate of Registration or Incorporation of the JV member (for each member)
3	Documentation regarding Corporate Structure including beneficial ownership for each member of the Association
4	JV Agreement Letter of Intent to enter a JV Agreement (where relevant)
5	Documentation regarding the firm's (JV partners, as applicable,) Board of Directors
6	Financial Statements
7	Signed Governance and Eligibility Declaration on letterhead of consultant
8	Litigation & Arbitration Disclosure Statement

*(Note to Firm: Please insert additional rows as necessary)*

*[Note to Firm: Insert Letterhead of (lead) Entity]*

## **VII. Governance and Eligibility<sup>16</sup> Declaration**

We [insert name of the consulting firm or joint partners], represented by the undersigned, certify to the best of our knowledge and belief that: *(please check all boxes that apply)*

Understanding: We have read the Request for Expressions of Interest, including the draft terms of reference (TOR), for this assignment.

### **1. Governance:**

No Conflicts of Interest: Neither the consulting firm nor its JV member or SC or any of its experts prepared the TOR for this activity and have no conflict of interest in accordance with the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021) Section 5 specifically Paragraphs 5.17 Conflict of Interest.

No Conflicts of Interest: None of the members of our entity are subsidiaries of and/or dependent on the Client, Executing Agency or the Implementing Agency or individuals related to them and do not have an unfair competitive advantage in accordance with the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021) Section 5 specifically Paragraphs 5.18 – 5.20 Unfair Competition.

Suspension and Debarment: We, the lead entity and JV member or SC along with any of our subcontractors, suppliers, consultants, manufacturers, or service providers for any part of the proposed services, are not subject to, and not controlled by any entity or individual that is subject to a temporary suspension or a debarment imposed by CDB or subject to a public debarment by an MDB which is a signatory to the Agreement on Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions. Further, we are not ineligible under the Employer's country laws or official regulations or pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council. Neither the consulting firm nor the JV member or SC has ever been convicted of an integrity-related offense or crime related to corruption, fraud, collusion, coercion, or obstruction.

Suspension and Debarment: We understand that it is our obligation to notify CDB should any member of the entity become ineligible to work with CDB or other MDBs, in the context described in the above point, or be convicted of an integrity-related offense or crime as described above and in accordance with the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021) Section 5 specifically Paragraphs 5.25-5.27 Prohibited Practices.

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<sup>16</sup> Eligibility refers to the details as set out in Section 4 of CDB's Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021) or former versions of the CDB's Procurement Procedures and any such waivers by CDB, as relevant.

- No Misrepresentations: We understand that any misrepresentations that knowingly or recklessly mislead or attempt to mislead, may result in the automatic rejection of the proposal or cancellation of the contract, if awarded, and further remedial action, in accordance with CDB's Prohibited Practices and Other Integrity Related Matters Framework, may be pursued.

**2. Eligibility:**

- Eligibility: All consulting entities proposed in this EOI are eligible to participate in CDB-funded, -supported and -administered` activities in accordance with Section 4 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021).
- Experience Declaration: We confirm that the project references submitted as part of this EOI accurately reflect the experience and involvement of the specified entity.
- Agreement of Association: JV member(s) named in this EOI, authorised us in writing to represent them in expressing interest in this activity as detailed and attached in the Letter of Agreement / Intent to enter into a JV Agreement.
- Agreement of Association: Sub-consultant(s) named in this EOI, confirmed their interest in this activity in writing by way of signing a document indicating their willingness and availability to participate in the assignment.
- State-owned Enterprise or Institution: We are not a state-owned enterprise or institution.  
**OR**
- State-owned Enterprise or Institution: We are a state-owned enterprise or institution but are legally and financially autonomous<sup>17</sup> and operate under commercial law<sup>18</sup>.

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Authorised Representative**

**Date of Submission:** [*dd-mm-yyyy*]

<sup>17</sup> "Legally autonomous" means a legal entity separate from the eligible country's government. "Financially autonomous" means not receiving budget support from any public entity, and not being obliged to pass financial surplus to the same, except through dividends to shareholder.

<sup>18</sup> Being vested with legal rights and liabilities similar to any commercial enterprise, including, being incorporated or established by statutory charter under local law; having the right: (i) to enter into legally binding contracts; (ii) to sue; (iii) to be sued; and (iv) to borrow money, being liable for the repayment of debts and being able to be declared bankrupt.

## Kamla 'unbothered'

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar says she is “unbothered” by derogatory remarks made against her by former prime minister Keith Rowley and does not intend to pursue legal action against him or any media house for broadcasting or publishing it.

“It may seem on the surface that I am unbothered when Rowley and the PNM trolls say these nasty things about me. But the truth is that deep down inside, I am very, very, very unbothered,” Persad-Bissessar told TV6 News yesterday in response to questions.

At a news conference on March 17 at his Glencoe home, Rowley referred to Persad-Bissessar as a “jamette” as he accused her of failing to provide evidence to support her claim that drug money was used to construct Balisier House — the People’s National Movement (PNM) Port of Spain headquarters. Rowley used the term on three occasions during the news conference, prompting a backlash of sharp criticism from United National Congress (UNC) parliamentarians and several sectors of society.

The incident also drew the attention of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), which wrote to Guardian Media Ltd (CNC3) on March 20 stating that it



was reviewing the broadcast of the name calling on local television and warning that regulatory action could be taken where necessary.

TATT reminded broadcast concessionaires of their legal obligations under the terms of their licences, specifically citing Section D9, which governs acceptable content.

“The concessionaire shall not: (a) transmit any programme, information or other material which degrades

or portrays in a negative manner or discriminates against or encourages discrimination against any person or group by reason of race, origin, class, religion or sex,” it said.

Rowley has since doubled down on his position and questioned TATT’s intervention, suggesting that the move could have implications for media freedom. He also indicated that he will continue to respond publicly if attacked in Parliament. (Trinidad Express)



## Woman offers \$10,000 reward for her missing cat

The owner of a pure white long-haired Persian cat is asking for the public's assistance in locating the feline and is offering a \$10,000 reward to anyone who can help find her.

The Express spoke to Amara Ramoo, the cat's owner who said that her name is Louis, she lives with her relatives at Hillview Drive, Five Rivers, Arouca and is a "very stush" cat.

She explained that on Sunday around 7.30 p.m. her father who did not realise that the cat was in heat (mating season) has mistakenly opened a back door following which the cat darted out.

She said that while Louis belongs to her, she had not been living with her as she (Ramoo) had recently moved out and initially took the cat with her but when Louis seemed to have difficulty adjusting to her new home she was returned her to her parent's home in Arouca.

She was last seen at 8 p.m. on Sunday night in the area but since then there has been no sight of her.

Ramoo however lamented that after releasing her cell-number to the public she had been on the receiving end of calls from people taking her concerns for a joke.

She said that some social media users messaged her saying that they found the cat but when prompted for a photo, there was no reply adding to Ramoo's anxiety.

She further requested that people take her concern seriously adding that while some Trinidadians may see it as a joke, there were others who love their pets just as much as family.

Anyone with information as to where this cat may be are asked to call; 472-0865 or 290-5887. (Trinidad Express)



## NOTICE

**TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE**  
 Magistrate's Court  
 High Street  
 St. John's  
 Antigua

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

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A RETAIL LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS "WRAP 'N' GO 2"**

I, Isaac Rabess, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court a, High Street, St John's Antigua on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 next ensuing for a Retail Licence in respect of premises known as "WRAP 'N' GO 2" situated at Golden Grove, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (1) (a) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026  
 Isaac Rabess  
 268-725-6750

## Gonsalves confronts US Diplomats over drone strike in SVG waters



Former St Vincent Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves recently welcomed the leadership of the American Embassy in Barbados for a diplomatic meeting, using the opportunity to address broad hemispheric issues and deliver a stern message regarding U.S. conduct in sovereign Caribbean waters.

The meeting took place on Friday, the 20th, at noon at Gonsalves residence in Gorse. The U.S. delegation was led by Karen Sullivan, the Chargé d’Affaires of the American Embassy who is currently leading the mission in the absence of an official ambassador, alongside two other staff members. Gonsalves, who noted that he knows Sullivan quite well, described their talks as a “very good discussion” that covered global, hemispheric, Caribbean, and domestic matters concerning

St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

However, the tone of the meeting was not purely cordial, as Gonsalves revealed he used the sit-down to confront the U.S. officials directly over the recent killing of St. Lucian fishermen within St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ Exclusive Economic Zone.

Using uncompromising language, Gonsalves informed the American delegation that such actions by foreign powers are completely “not acceptable”. He emphasized that individuals cannot simply be executed without a trial, forcefully telling the diplomats, “you can’t be just killing people like that”.

Rejecting the Monroe Doctrine Pushing back against what he perceives as imperialistic overreach, Gonsalves criticized the U.S. for conflating rou-

tine law enforcement with aggressive security policies based on the “Monroe Doctrine” and what he termed the “Trump corollary”.

He firmly rejected the ideology that the United States can act as the “lord and master” of the hemisphere, expecting smaller nations to simply “roll over and play dead” while major powers do whatever they please in sovereign Caribbean territories.

This direct encounter underscores Gonsalves’ broader diplomatic philosophy which he contrasts sharply with the current NDP administration’s submissive “strategic realism” demonstrating his continued willingness to stand face-to-face with major global powers to defend regional sovereignty and human rights. (St Vincent Times)

## FAO hosts workshop as part of multi-pronged support for Grenada's USD 2.6 million soursop industry

Grenada holds a distinctive position globally as the only country authorized to export fresh, non-irradiated soursop to the United States.

This unique market access underscores the importance of continuously improving the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) systems within the soursop value chain, says the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO SLC).

According to the FAO, the industry is more than just an export commodity; it serves as a vital lifeline for rural communities and significantly contributes to the nation's economic success. With an estimated annual value of USD 2.6 million, soursop exports support approximately 2,600 farmers, most of whom are smallholders whose livelihoods depend on its sustained growth. Its rare access to the U.S. market positions soursop as a high-value, strategic crop for Grenada.

To protect and improve this critical industry, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with Grenada's Ministry of Agriculture, Lands & Forestry, and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), recently launched an initiative titled "Enhancing sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity and market access for Grenadian soursop exports."

A key component of this effort was a three-day capacity-building workshop held from February 9 to 11, 2026, at the National Stadium in Grenada. The event was facilitated through collaborations between FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA).

The workshop brought together 31 participants, including 18 women and 13 men, primarily drawn from the Ministry of Agriculture's technical units—including extension, pest management, and forestry services—and representatives from the Caribbean



Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). This diverse group of technical officers, program staff, and institutional partners engaged in meaningful discussions on surveillance, early warning systems, and coordinated response planning.

Reportedly, the goal was to strengthen the protection of Grenada's soursop industry by enhancing participants' capacity to anticipate and manage plant health risks through improved surveillance, early pest detection, sample reporting, scenario planning, and coordinated response mechanisms.

The FAO also stated that the initiative forms part of a broader set of interventions designed to bolster SPS systems along the entire soursop value chain. These measures include developing a comprehensive surveillance program and emergency response system, enhancing institutional capacity for pest detection and certification, piloting traceability systems for export markets, and building farmers' and extension officers' expertise in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Additionally, during the workshop, FAO highlighted additional activities under the project, such as establishing two farmer-owned demonstration plots—one in Saint Andrew and

another in Saint Patrick. These plots are intended to support farmer training initiatives, promote GAP and IPM practices, and boost on-farm productivity and sustainability within Grenada's soursop sector, as per the release. Anne Desrochers, FAO's Production and Plant Protection Specialist, emphasized the importance of strengthening technical capacity and stakeholder coordination.

She noted that, "Grenada's exclusive access to the United States market for fresh soursop presents a significant and timely opportunity to strengthen the livelihoods of farmers and uplift rural communities".

Desrochers further shared that participants found the training highly valuable, appreciating the combination of theoretical sessions and practical exercises, which fostered knowledge sharing and collaborative learning.

The news release indicated that the workshop concluded with the identification of key actions to address common implementation barriers and establish collaboration mechanisms. These steps aim to improve preparedness and foster anticipatory responses across the soursop value chain, ensuring the industry's resilience and continued success. (Dominica News Online)

## ‘Like the plane got cut in half’: LaGuardia crash that killed two pilots now under investigation

Air Canada flight AC8646’s collision with a fire truck on a LaGuardia Airport runway late on Sunday killed the plane’s two pilots, injured dozens of others, and left passengers and witnesses stunned and stranded.

“We were literally like 100 metres away,” said 23-year-old Leo Medina, who was onboard another plane on the tarmac when the crash happened. “It was like the plane got cut in half.”

He told the BBC his plane then returned to the gate and that he had been waiting in the New York airport for more than 12 hours, sleeping on the floor on a bed of jackets.

In addition to killing the two pilots, the incident, which happened at 23:40 local time on Sunday (03:40 GMT on Monday), injured 41 people who were taken to hospital, some with serious injuries, and shut LaGuardia until Monday afternoon.

After visiting the crash site, US Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy said he was reminded of the importance of wearing seat belts - on an aircraft or in any other mode of transportation.

“As you see from last night, they do save lives,” Duffy said during a news conference.

Québec native Antoine Forest, 30, was identified as one of the Air Canada pilots who died in the collision, according to Canadian media reports. The other pilot has not yet been named.

“These were two young men at the start of their career, so it’s an absolute tragedy,” Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) administrator Bran Bedford said.

Passenger Rebecca Liquori, who was on the plane arriving from Montreal when it hit the truck, told News12 Long Island there was a loud “boom” just after it landed.

“As we were descending, we hit a lot of turbulence,” she said. “Then we



landed very roughly... Everyone felt it. It was like the plane jolted and you heard the pilot try to brake trying to prevent the collision.”

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“As you heard the brake, a couple seconds later it was just a very loud boom,” she added. “Everybody jolted out of their seats.”

Liquori described passengers helping each other slide down a wing to get out.

“I’m just happy to be alive,” she said. “I would have never pictured a one-hour flight that I’ve done countless times ... ending like this.”

In audio from the air traffic control tower at LaGuardia, a staff member can be heard saying: “Truck One, stop, stop, stop!” in the seconds before the crash.

The fire truck had been called out minutes earlier to another plane that “reported an issue with odour”, according to Port Authority executive director Kathryn Garcia.

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani described it as a “tragic collision” and said the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) - an independent federal agency - was investigating.

“I am grateful to our first responders, whose swift actions saved lives,” he said.

NTSB chairwoman Jennifer Homendy confirmed on Monday that it had begun an investigation, with its team arriving at the site at just after 03:00 local time.

While emphasising the NTSB probe is still in its preliminary stages, she said the team completed a walking inspection.

Homendy also said they were analysing the plane’s cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder, which were

not damaged in the crash.

There is “a tremendous amount of debris” in the area that they have to document, collect and process as evidence, and the runway will remain closed for the investigation, she said.

Jack Cabot, a passenger on the plane that hit the truck, described a chaotic scene.

“We went down for a regular landing,” he told CNN. “We immediately hit something and it was just chaos from there ... Everybody was hunkered down and everybody was screaming.”

CBS News, the BBC’s US partner, reported that a flight attendant was found alive strapped into her seat after falling through a hole in the aircraft’s floor during the crash. She’s said to have serious but non-life threatening injuries.

Katie Rojas, 26, whose flight to Chicago was on the runway ready to depart when the crash happened, said: “It’s scary. You never know if it could have been one of us.”

Many of the 40 taken to hospital have been released. Two people in the fire engine, which collided with the plane, were in hospital.

At the news conference, Mayor Mamdani commended “those who were thrust into a frightening accident and reacted not only with composure, but by extending a hand to the person next to them”.

Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney called the crash “deeply saddening” and US President Donald Trump said it was “terrible” and “a dangerous business”.

The crash caused travel chaos at LaGuardia - one of the busiest airports in the US - leaving hundreds of flights delayed or cancelled.

It has been more than 34 years since LaGuardia had an incident with a death at the airport, officials said on Monday.

The crash comes during a tumultuous time in air travel. For weeks, US airports have faced Transportation Security Administration (TSA) staffing shortages due to the ongoing shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees TSA, ICE and other agencies.

That has left airport security staff without pay for over a month, led to a spike in TSA agents calling out of work, and caused hours-long waits at security checkpoints.

Homendy said her team of investigators had not been spared those delays.

“We have one air traffic control specialist who was in line with TSA for three hours until we called in Houston to beg to see if we can get her through, so we can get her here,” Homendy said during her news conference in New York.

“So it’s been a really, really big challenge to get the entire team here, and they’re still arriving as I speak.”

One TSA agent at LaGuardia told the BBC that “it’s unfortunate” she still must work without pay.

Some of her colleagues have called out sick amid the ongoing shutdown, she said, and while it varies from agent to agent, “for the most part people are trying to show up to work”. (BBC)



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## Jury orders Cosby to pay \$19m to ex-waitress after finding he abused her in 1972



A jury in California has ordered Bill Cosby to pay \$19.25m (£14.3m) in damages to a former waitress after finding he drugged and sexually assaulted her while taking her to one of his shows more than five decades ago.

Donna Motsinger said the former star gave her wine and a pill that left her incapacitated after picking her up at her home in a limousine in 1972.

Cosby, 88, has denied Motsinger's allegations, along with similar claims in a string of civil and criminal cases filed by dozens of women.

He was freed from prison in Pennsylvania in 2021 nearly three years into a

sentence for sex assault after his conviction was thrown out on a technicality.

Cosby's lawyer Jennifer Bonjean told US media her client would appeal against Monday's verdict.

The jury in the Santa Monica case could award even more in punitive damages that they have yet to determine.

Motsinger, now 84, used to work as a waitress at a restaurant called the Trident in Sausalito, near San Francisco, that was a haunt for celebrities, including Cosby.

She alleged in her lawsuit that Cosby invited her to one of his stand-up comedy shows and after picking her up to drive her to the gig he gave her a pill that she thought was aspirin, according to the court papers.

"Next thing she knew, she was going in and out of consciousness," her legal action said, according to the Los Angeles Times. "The last thing Ms Motsinger recalls were flashes of light."

The filing said she woke up at home naked except for her underwear and "she knew she had been drugged and raped by Bill Cosby".

Cosby's lawyers rejected the allegation, arguing in court filings that Motsinger "freely admits that she has no idea what happened", reports AP news agency.

His spokesperson and lawyer did not respond to the BBC's requests for comment.

The comedian enjoyed huge fame in the 1980s and 90s with his sitcom *The Cosby Show*, but his reputation was shattered after dozens of women came forward with allegations of rape, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct from as early as the 1960s. He has maintained all of the encounters were consensual. (BBC)



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## Australia and EU agree sweeping trade deal in face of global uncertainty

Australia and the European Union have agreed a sweeping free trade deal after eight years of negotiations.

The deal signed in Canberra is worth about A\$10bn (\$7bn; £5.2bn) and was described as a mutual “win-win” by Australia’s prime minister and the visiting European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

She described the deal as having a focus on “collective resilience” in a world that is “deeply changing”.

As well as removing almost all tariffs on trade, the two sides agreed to increase co-operation on defence and critical minerals.

European carmakers welcomed the deal but farmers in both Europe and Australia were unhappy at export quotas agreed for Australian beef and lamb.

The amount of Australian beef allowed into the EU is set to increase more than tenfold in the next decade, but Australian farmers had wanted more, while European farmers were opposed to increases.

Tuesday’s accord in Canberra is the latest trade deal struck by Brussels as it tries to diversify its global trading relationships, given the fast changing geopolitical landscape and unpredictability of US President Donald Trump.

In January the EU and India announced a landmark trade deal after nearly two decades of on-off talks.

Another major trade deal the EU struck with the Mercosur bloc of South American countries was recently derailed in the European Parliament, amid criticism from the farming lobby.

“Today we are telling an important story to a world that is deeply changing. A world where great powers are using tariffs as leverage and supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited,” von der Leyen told a news conference in Canberra - a nod to Trump’s use of tariffs and China’s control of the critical minerals market.

She added that “trust matters more



than transactions”, noting Australia and the EU had a “unique relationship” that was “built for the long term”.

Under the deal, almost all EU tariffs will be lifted on Australian agricultural products such as wine, fruit and vegetables, olive oil, seafood, most dairy products and wheat and barley.

This will mean a saving of about A\$37m for local wine producers and exporters, the government said.

For Australian consumers, the deal will mean cheaper European wine, spirits, biscuits, chocolates and pasta.

The deal means Italian-style sparkling wine made in Australia can still be sold as prosecco domestically, though the name will be phased out over 10 years for exports.

Australian producers can also continue to use names including parmesan though feta will be subject to “grandfathering and lengthy phase-out periods”.

The issue of food naming rights is sensitive in both Europe and Australia and Australia is now the only country outside of Italy to have secured EU permission to use the name prosecco.

Referring to the matter, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese noted the country’s modern history was built on migrants.

“That’s why whether it’s Greeks coming here and creating feta, or Italians coming and doing parmesan or people

from Eastern Europe doing kransky sausages - it’s a connection with Europe.”

The trade agreement was a “perfect balance”, von der Leyen said, as it will be easier for Australians to export to the EU while more EU-made goods will be available in Australia.

But Andrew McDonald from Meat and Livestock Australia said the deal on meat exports was not a fair outcome for Australian farmers who had wanted an annual quota of at least 50,000 tonnes - the deal allows for about 30,000 tonnes, up from 3,389.

“This is unquestionably a missed opportunity for Australia’s red meat producers, processors and exporters,” he said.

European agriculture lobby group Copa-Cogeca criticised the deal for piling pressure on a sector it said was already hit by earlier trade accords.

“The cumulative impact of successive trade agreements makes these concessions unacceptable,” it said in a statement.

The new security and defence partnership will see greater co-operation in the defence industry, counter-terrorism, space and maritime security.

Von der Leyen also announced greater co-operation on several critical minerals projects between Australia and the EU, including lithium and tungsten. (BBC)

**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PREPARATION PROJECT**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY, DETAILED DESIGN, AND INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – FIRMS**

The **Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB)** has applied for financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of the **Integrated Solid Waste Management Preparation Project** and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of the GOAB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOAB shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is the Executing Agency of this Project and now wishes to procure consultancy services for a feasibility study, detailed design and integrated solid waste management strategy for Antigua and Barbuda.

The objective of the consultancy is to strengthen solid waste management in Antigua and Barbuda. Further details can be found in the attached Terms of Reference (TOR). The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of approximately fifty-two (52) weeks. The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) now invites interested eligible consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the provision of these consultancy services.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organised in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50 per cent beneficially owned by citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;
- (b) in the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- (c) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.<sup>1</sup> Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria de-

<sup>1</sup> *Occasionally contracts may be financed out of special programmes that would further expand the number of eligible countries or restrict eligibility to a particular group of member countries. When this is the case, it should be mentioned in this paragraph.*

tailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021), as applicable and as published on CDB’s website.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to technical competence, qualifications and experience, local and regional experience on similar assignments, financial capability, and existing commitments. Key Experts will **not** be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Interested consultant teams are required to submit their Expression of Interest using the “EOI Consulting Firms template”<sup>2</sup> attached to this REOI or downloaded from the Specific Procurement Notice on CDB’s website.

All information must be submitted in **English**. Further information may be obtained from the **first address** below between 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. AST hours Monday to Friday.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted electronically to the email address under **Address 1** below, no later than **06 April 2026 at 4:00 p.m. AST** and copied simultaneously to CDB at the email under **Address 2** below. The submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked “**Expression of Interest – Consultancy Services for a feasibility study, detailed design and integrated solid waste management strategy for Antigua and Barbuda**”.

Following the assessment of submissions, a short-list of not less than three and not more than six applicants will be provided with full terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals to undertake the assignment. GOAB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not selecting any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

<p>(1) National Solid Waste Management Authority Sir George Walter Hwy, Piggotts St. George’s, Antigua Tel: +1 (268) 562-1348 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:finance.pmu@ab.gov.ag">finance.pmu@ab.gov.ag</a></p>	<p>(2) Caribbean Development Bank Tel: +1 (246) 539-1600 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:procurement@caribank.org">procurement@caribank.org</a></p>
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2 *When drafting the REOI and the TOR, the Client should also prepare an Expression of Interest Submission Template. The latter should be tailored by the Recipient to the specifics of the assignment in question and can be downloaded from CDB’s website at: 20230626\_CDB EOI Consulting Firms-template v1.docx (live.com) It will be included as an attachment to this REOI. For REOIs advertised in newspapers locally or nationally, the EOI submission template may be requested by the interested consulting firms directly from the Recipient, and wording in this REOI shall be modified accordingly.*

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## Winning start for Jets in ABAVA Women's Division 1 League

Jets have made a successful start in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Women's Division 1 League.

The Jets launched their campaign with a 3-0 straight-set victory over the University of the West Indies Women at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex over the weekend.

Jets delivered a dominant performance from start to finish, controlling the match with strong serving and attacking to prevail 25-18, 25-16, and 25-8 over the UWI Women, who lost for the second time in as many games.

Stoneville also opened their campaign in the Women's Division 1 League with a 3-0 straight-set victory over the Royal Cruisers.

Stoneville delivered a commanding performance, maintaining pressure throughout the match. Despite a competitive first set, Stoneville pulled away with strong offense and defense to prevail 25-23, 25-21, and 25-10.

GWAVA & N18 Construction Invaders and Storming Lions also got off to successful starts in their bid for supremacy

in the Men's Division 1 League.

Invaders pulled off a 3-1 victory over Vernon G. Edwards Limited High Flyerz. Invaders started strong, taking the first two sets 25-21 and 25-21 before High Flyerz responded by winning the third set 25-11.

However, Invaders closed out the match in commanding fashion by capturing the fourth set 25-9 to secure the victory.

The Storming Lions also recorded a 3-1 victory against the Renegades in their opening encounter.

In a competitive match, the Storming Lions won the opening set 25-13. The Renegades took a tightly contested second set 28-26, which went down to the wire and featured intense rallies.

But the Storming Lions showed resilience after dropping the second set, bouncing back to close out the match strongly by winning the next two sets 25-20 and 25-15.

There was success as well for Hidow Caribbean Starz 2, who snatched a 2-1 victory against Dynasty in their opening game in the Women's Division 2 League. Dynasty took the opening set 25-17.



*The Invaders men's volleyball team*



*The Jets women's volleyball team*

After dropping the first set, Starz 2 showed resilience and determination, bouncing back strongly to take control by winning the next two sets and the match 25-13 and 25-11.

A winning start as well for Chargers Momentum in the Men's Division 2 League, with a 2-0 straight-set victory over Invaders 2.

Chargers Momentum came out sharp and in control, dominating both sets with consistent serv-

ing and attacking to secure victory, winning 25-14 and 25-14.

The ABAVA League will resume with a double-header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Defending Women's Division 1 champions Da Squad will face Chargers Eagles at 7 pm, while reigning Men's Division 1 champs Pytonz will meet Chargers Velocity at 9 pm.

## Clare Hall advance to school basketball Night of Champions



*Clare Hall Secondary School Senior Boys team*

The Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) advanced to the Senior Boys Division league decider in the Night of Champions finals in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships on Monday.

The Night of Champions, which will feature the finals in six divisions, will take place at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, March 29, starting at 3 pm.

The second-seeded Clare Hall Secondary School prevailed 72-61 against third-seed Antigua Grammar School in the playoff at the JSC

Sports Complex.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 47 points, and Richard Anthony scored 12 points for Clare Hall Secondary School.

Jovan Gordon sank 24 points, Derick Perez converted 12 points, and Jordan Andrew scored 11 points for Antigua Grammar School.

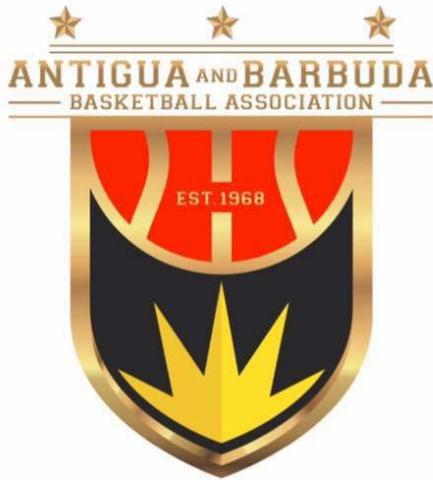
The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS), who have already booked their spot in the Senior Girls Division decider in the Night of Champions finals,

maintained their unbeaten run on Monday.

ABCAS secured a commanding 32-9 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School. Jodaliah Constant sank 14 points for ABCAS, while Aniela Queley scored four points for Ottos Comprehensive School.

There was success as well for the senior girls of the Princess Margaret School, who claimed a 34-6 victory over Clare Hall Secondary School. Lena Mills shot a game-high 30 points for Princess Margaret School.

## Cedar Grove Gunners continue domination of Division 2 basketball



The Cedar Grove Gunners extended their unbeaten run to remain leaders in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Monday evening.

The Gunners notched up their 10th win in as many matches by shooting their way to a command-

ing 92-59 victory against EZ Fit Flyers 2 in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

John Rolland Jr. shot a game-high 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Shawn Thomas provided 14 points, 21 rebounds, and five blocks to lead the Gunners.

In support, Tyras Grayman sank 12 points and grabbed 20 rebounds, Scotty Nelson also scored 12 points, and Iornie Joseph also converted 11 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Gunners.

Piper Hansel sank 17 points and claimed six steals, and David Mensah scored 16 points and snatched six steals for EZ Fit Flyers 2, who crashed to their ninth defeat in 11 games.

Da Project 2 claimed their fourth

win in 10 games by pulling off an 89-66 victory against Square One Construction Cristos United in Monday's opening game.

Erije Joseph shot a game-high 29 points and snatched seven rebounds; Nathan Matthew produced 22 points, nine rebounds, seven assists, and five steals; Kevin Pimentel provided 18 points, six assists, and six steals; and Israel Clarke scored 10 points and grabbed 25 rebounds for Da Project 2.

Tyndale Telemaque sank 27 points, Dwayne Samuel converted 17 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, and Manlight Simmons scored 12 points and claimed 15 rebounds for Cristos United, who remain winless, at the bottom of the nine-team standings after losing for the 10th time in as many games.

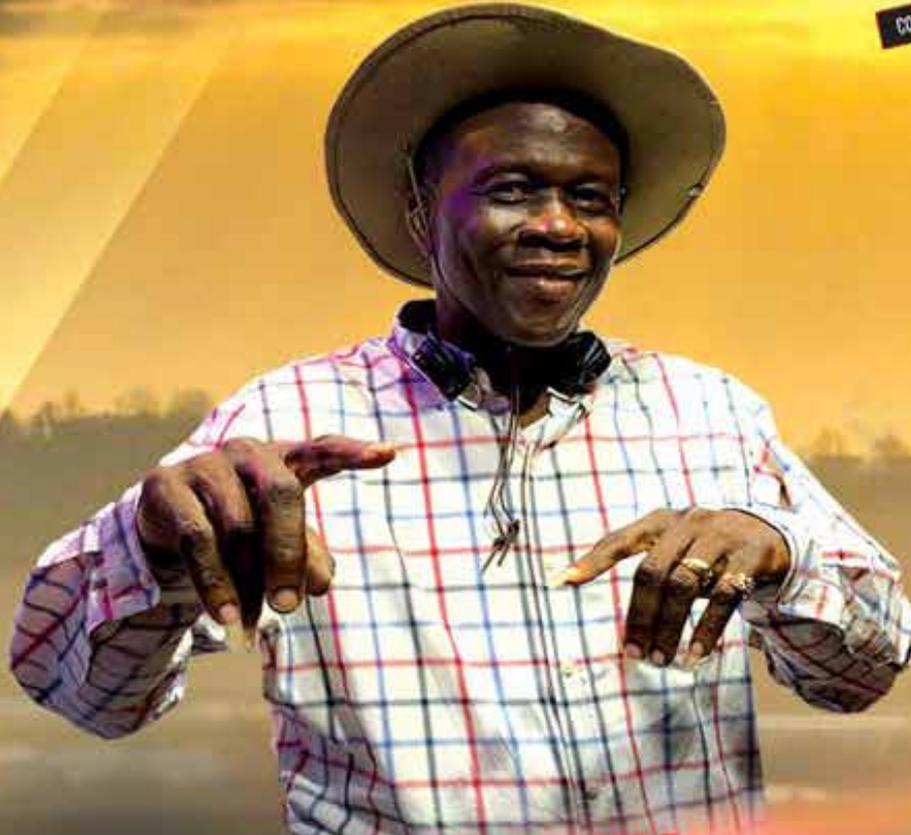


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## Voll powers Australia to series whitewash over the Windies

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent – In a performance that signalled a changing of the guard, young opener Georgia Voll announced herself as the next star of Australian cricket, plundering a maiden T20I century to lead her side to a 3-0 series whitewash over the West Indies at Arnos Vale on Monday.

Voll's spectacular 53-ball innings, featuring six towering sixes and nine fours, propelled Australia to a mammoth 211 for seven, their highest T20I total since 2023.

The hosts were 61 for three when the rain ended the contest just on the drinks break, handing the Aussies a 40-run win via the DLS method.

The 22-year-old joined an elite club of Australian centurions in the format, adding her name to a list that includes Meg Lanning, Beth Mooney, and Alyssa Healy.

Her 101 run knock was the undisputed highlight of a dominant display, with the next highest score being Sophie Molineux's blistering 25 off just 12 balls batting at number eight.

Voll had threatened a breakout performance earlier in the series, and after reaching her fifty from 28 deliveries, she required only 24 more balls to bring up the three-figure mark.

The innings was a masterclass in power hitting, particularly down the ground and through the leg side. Her first six came via a thumping lofted drive off Shawnisha Hector, and she later took a particular liking to leg-spinner Afy Fletcher, sending her down



*Georgia Voll, right, is congratulated by Nicola Carey after reaching her first T20I ton.*

the ground for two maximums.

The only blemish on her scorecard was a nervous moment on 32, when a fierce return drive off Fletcher was put down. The right-hander was eventually dismissed by captain Hayley Matthews, who ended with three wickets in the innings.

Before her dismissal, Voll and Nicola Carey added 62 runs for the fifth wicket, with Carey contributing 24 not out. Molineux also provided the late fireworks, as she tore into the bowling in the final overs.

The skipper smashed Aaliyah Alleyne for 14 runs in the penultimate over before clearing the ropes on a free hit in the final over to push the total beyond 200.

Jahzara Claxton took two wickets for the West Indies, who never gained traction in their chase. They stumbled early in the power play, losing three wickets, includ-

ing one to left-arm quick Lucy Hamilton, who got rid of Eboni Brathwaite for 18, for her maiden T20I scalp.

Before that, Qiana Joseph had swiped across the line against Megan Schutt and was bowled with the second ball of the innings for a duck.

Ellyse Perry, meanwhile, ended a long wait for a wicket in the format, claiming her first T20I scalp since 2024 when Jannillea Glasgow miscued a pull and was caught for one.

When rain arrived shortly after the drinks break, the West Indies were languishing well behind the required DLS rate, with captain Matthews not out on 30 and Deandra Dottin 11, confirming Australia's emphatic series sweep.

The tour now shifts focus to the 50-over format, with a three-match ODI series set to begin at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Friday.

## John Hughes beat Attacking Saints to get rare win in Premier League



*Players of the John Hughes FC starting XI*

John Hughes FC got a rare win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Monday.

John Hughes FC recorded their fourth win in 18 matches by snatching a one-nil victory against the Attacking Saints at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, Deno Bryan broke the deadlock when he snatched the winner for John Hughes FC by scoring the only goal of the match with a strike in the third minute of added time.

The result allows John Hughes FC to remain third from the bottom of the 12-team standings with 13 points. It also left the Attacking Saints in their eighth-place position on goal difference with 22 points after suffering their 10th defeat in 18 matches.

Seventh-placed Garden Stars FC and

ninth-placed Green City FC also have 22 points apiece from 18 matches.

Meanwhile, Sea View Farm FC continued to fade away from challenging for the title after dropping more crucial points in the ABFA's Second Division League on Monday.

Sea View Farm FC remains in fourth place after squandering a two-nil lead to record a 2-2 draw with Blackburn Palace at the Fort Road playing field.

Blackburn Palace made a poor start to the match when the team was reduced to 10 players with the expulsion of Stewart Buts, who received a red card for dangerous foul play in the 13th minute.

Goals by Nigel Graham in the 17th minute and Justin Hilaire in the 34th minute gave Sea View Farm FC a two-nil lead at halftime. But shortly after the interval, Blackburn Palace reduced the deficit with a conversion by Josh Thom-

as in the 46th minute.

Diondre Harrigan snatched the equalizer and salvaged the draw for Blackburn Palace by converting a penalty kick in the 77th minute.

The result allows Sea View Farm FC to advance to 36 points after salvaging their third draw in 16 matches. Blackburn Palace also remains in fifth place with 33 points after securing their third draw in 17 matches.

The Guydadli Jets currently enjoy a six-point lead at the top of the Second Division by advancing to 44 points from 16 matches.

Second-placed Young Lions of Old Road, who have played 15 matches, have 38 points, the same as third-placed Kelton Dalso Real Blizzard, who have played 16 matches.