

PM Browne: ABLP Ahead by Double Digits in Election Race

Story on page 2



MP for All Saint's West Anthony Smith Jr. and his branch members received a warm welcome at last Friday's ABLP executive meeting at the People's Place headquarters on Nugent Avenue

Local News



Gaston Browne Is The Preferred Leader...By Far, Poll Shows

Two recent polls conducted among the Antigua and Barbuda electorate by two reputable regional pollsters, Peter Wickham of CADRES and Don Anderson of the Anderson Group, have showed that Prime Minister Gaston Browne is the preferred leader by a significant margin.

The polls sought to gage the views of the electorate with general elections now expected before the end of April.

In reporting on the results of the poll, PM Browne explained that the pollsters posed two important questions to the electorate; firstly, which is their party of choice – ABLP or UPP – with elections looming. The other question was who is the preferred leader to run the country as prime minister – Gaston Browne or Jamale Pringle?

The prime minister revealed that both polls reflected similar findings when they found that the ABLP with the UPP getting the support of 26 percent of the



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

electorate compared with the ABLP's 49 percent support. This showed a difference of 23 percent.

In the head-to-head contest between the leaders of the two main political parties UPP's Jamale Pringle secured 15 percent of the support with ABLP's Gaston Browne having the support of

59 percent of the electorate, a difference of 44 percent.

“This means that the ABLP and its leader have a large leadership advantage over Jamale Pringle and the opposition UPP. If that is the situation, then the (UPP's) narrative regarding our policies is not gaining traction and we must emphasize the issue of leadership in our electoral campaign,” PM Browne urged.

“It's the area of leadership where we enjoy a significant advance and this we must highlight in the coming election campaign.”

PM Browne has already signaled that the election could be held between April 22 and 30.

The ABLP Political Leader is buoyed by the polls' findings which have indicated that there has been a double-digit swing towards the ABLP at the national level which portends good news for the ruling party.

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Sir Molwyn Joseph Warns of National Health Crisis in Farewell Address to Parliament

Outgoing Minister of Health, Molwyn Joseph, has issued a stark warning about a growing public health crisis in Antigua and Barbuda, calling on citizens and leaders alike to urgently change course as he delivered his farewell address after nearly four decades in politics.

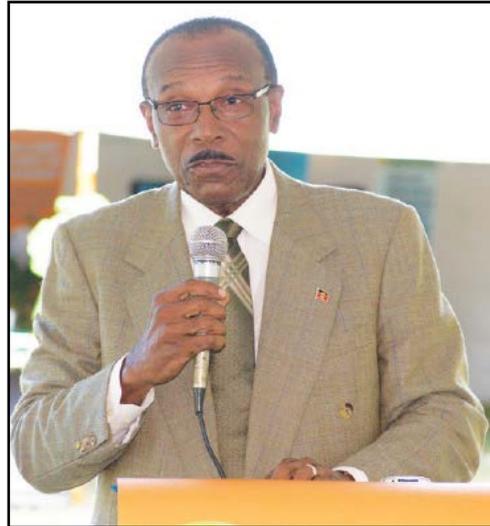
Addressing Parliament last Friday, the veteran politician and MP for Saint Mary's North said the country is facing an alarming rise in non-communicable diseases, including cancer, diabetes and hypertension, describing the situation as unprecedented in recent years.

"We have a crisis on our hands in terms of the physical health of our nation," he declared, noting that he has never witnessed such high levels of chronic illness during his time in public service.

Sir Molwyn urged citizens to reflect on their lifestyles and dietary habits, pointing to the increasing consumption of processed foods as a major contributor to declining health.

"You're consuming things that are poisoning your body," he said, warning that unhealthy eating habits are becoming normalised, even as the nation continues to grapple with rising mortality rates.

He also expressed concern about the growing number of young people being affected by serious health con-



**Minister for Health and Wellness,
Sir Molwyn Joseph**

ditions traditionally associated with older adults. Highlighting a recent case involving a 13-year-old who required overseas medical treatment, Sir Molwyn described the trend as deeply troubling.

"These are diseases we would normally expect to see later in life, and now they are affecting children in our schools," he said.

Calling for collective responsibility, Sir Molwyn Joseph urged parliamentarians and community leaders to use their influence to promote healthier living and spark a national conversation around wellness and prevention.

"We must now be our brother's keep-

er," he added, noting that addressing the crisis will require a united, society-wide effort.

Reflecting on his tenure, the Minister of Health highlighted the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, describing it as the most difficult period of his career. He lamented the lack of broader political unity during the crisis, questioning why greater collaboration could not have been achieved in the face of a national emergency.

Despite this, he praised the government's handling of the pandemic, and reminded that Antigua and Barbuda was among the first countries in the Caribbean to safely reopen its tourism sector.

Looking ahead, Sir Molwyn Joseph cautioned that the current global environment—marked by economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions—demands strong and experienced leadership to safeguard the country's future.

"The world is going through one of its most difficult periods in the last 100 years," he said, declaring that stability and tested governance are critical at this time.

He impressed upon leaders to keep in mind that health must become a national priority, adding meaningful change will require both individual responsibility and collective action.



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Government Pensioners To Get An Increase, Social Security To Follow

Pensioners who receive a weekly/monthly payment from the government following many years in the public sector are in line for a five percent increase in those payments effective the end of April.

The announcement was contained in the Cabinet Notes following last week's Cabinet meeting and was later confirmed by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Gaston Browne who said the government approved the 5 percent increase in payments to pensioners, extending the Government's ongoing efforts to provide financial relief and improve the standard of living for all citizens.

"This decision follows last week's announcement of a 5 percent salary increase for public servants. In a further demonstration of its commitment to equity and inclusiveness, Cabinet has agreed to broaden the scope of this increase right across the public service to include individuals participating in the Government's Work Experience Programme and contract workers," The Notes first reported.

Cabinet recognized that pensioners, many of whom rely on fixed incomes, are particularly vulnerable to rising living costs. The approved increase, effective the end of April, is intended to provide meaningful support and ensure that they are not left behind as the Government implements wider economic adjustments.

The prime minister said the government agreed on the increase without consultation with the Antigua and Barbuda Pensioners Association and he has made a commitment to ensure that the association is consulted prior to any further increases.

"I apologize for not meeting with the pensioners prior to this announcement but I believe that it was important to signal our commit and that's why we went ahead with the increase," he ex-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

plained.

The Government of Antigua and Bar-

buda remains committed to improving the welfare of its people through prudent economic management and people-centered policies. These measures form part of a broader strategy to strengthen social protection systems and promote inclusive growth across the nation.

Meanwhile, PM Browne also revealed that he has had discussions with the Director of Social Security, David Matthias, urging him to increase the pension paid out by the Scheme in light of the increases coming from the government.

According to the prime minister, the SS Director indicated that the Scheme had been giving the matter some thought and it is awaiting an actuarial report to determine the size of increase to be granted.




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PM Browne Commits to Settling All Outstanding Back Pay

Officials of the Government Treasury have been directed to pay all outstanding back pay owed to current and retired public servants.

Speaking on his weekly radio programme, The Browne and Browne Show, Prime Minister Browne acknowledged that for several weeks, individuals have been calling in to report that they have yet to receive payments owed to them—some dating as far back as 2018.

“Money is not the problem,” the Prime Minister stated, emphasising that the Government has the financial resources to meet its obligations. He explained, however, that administrative inefficiencies within the system have resulted in delays, particularly affecting individuals who have since left the public service.

According to Browne, the issue largely stems from a lack of proper follow-up, with some eligible individuals not being identified during the payment process. To address this, the Government has established a hotline through the Treasury to allow persons to directly inquire about their outstanding payments. Additional personnel are also being engaged to assist with research and expedite processing.

The Prime Minister also disclosed that a number of pensioners have either not received their payments or have only been partially paid. He said clear in-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show

structions have been issued to the Treasury to ensure that most, if not all, outstanding pensions are settled by the end of this month or early next month.

Describing the situation as unacceptable, Browne noted that some individuals who missed earlier payments were effectively left behind, while others received multiple increases over time. “You can’t treat people like that,” he said, acknowledging that the Government must ultimately bear responsibility for the delays.

He stressed that many of the outstanding sums are significant and urgently

needed, adding that greater urgency is required in addressing the backlog.

In a further directive, the Minister of Finance called for smaller outstanding payments—particularly those under \$20,000—to be prioritised, criticising what he described as a pattern of focusing on larger payments while smaller creditors, including vendors and suppliers, continue to wait.

“We have people owed \$10,000 or \$15,000—bread suppliers and small contractors—who are still waiting. Pay them their money,” he urged, insisting that fairness must guide the process.

Browne also pointed to improvements in payments to contractors, noting that many have expressed satisfaction with recent changes implemented under the leadership of Maria Browne. Contractors are now reportedly receiving full payments promptly, without the delays and complications that previously existed.

“They are getting paid like clockwork,” the Prime Minister said, adding that the Government intends to maintain this improved system.

He is assuring the public that all outstanding payments will be addressed in the coming weeks, pledging that every individual owed will receive what is due, even beyond the upcoming election period.



ABEC To Acquire More Printers To Speed-up Issuance of Voter ID Cards



The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission will be acquiring additional equipment to keep up with the anticipated rush by voters to renew expired Voter ID Cards.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne made the announcement on his Saturday multi-media programme during which he urged voters to renew their Voter ID cards with haste as the elections will be held sometime before the end of April.

“I want to encourage all electors to have their cards renewed especially over the coming weeks,” he urged.

Accordingly, noting that the current machine can only print several hundred cards per day, the prime minister revealed that ABEC will soon acquire two additional printers that will increase its capacity to keep up with the expected rush to update Voter ID cards.

“The new printers will bring the capacity from the current

several hundred per day to between 1500 and 2000 cards per day,” he indicated.

More than two thousand people have renewed their voter ID Cards since the start of the month of March.

The ABLP leader is urging the party’s supporters ‘not to wait’

until the last day to renew the cards as they may inadvertently disenfranchise themselves. He warned that the party should not become complacent believing that the elections is already won...that only by voting will they ensure the party’s victory at the polls.



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Consumers Protection Officers Complete Training



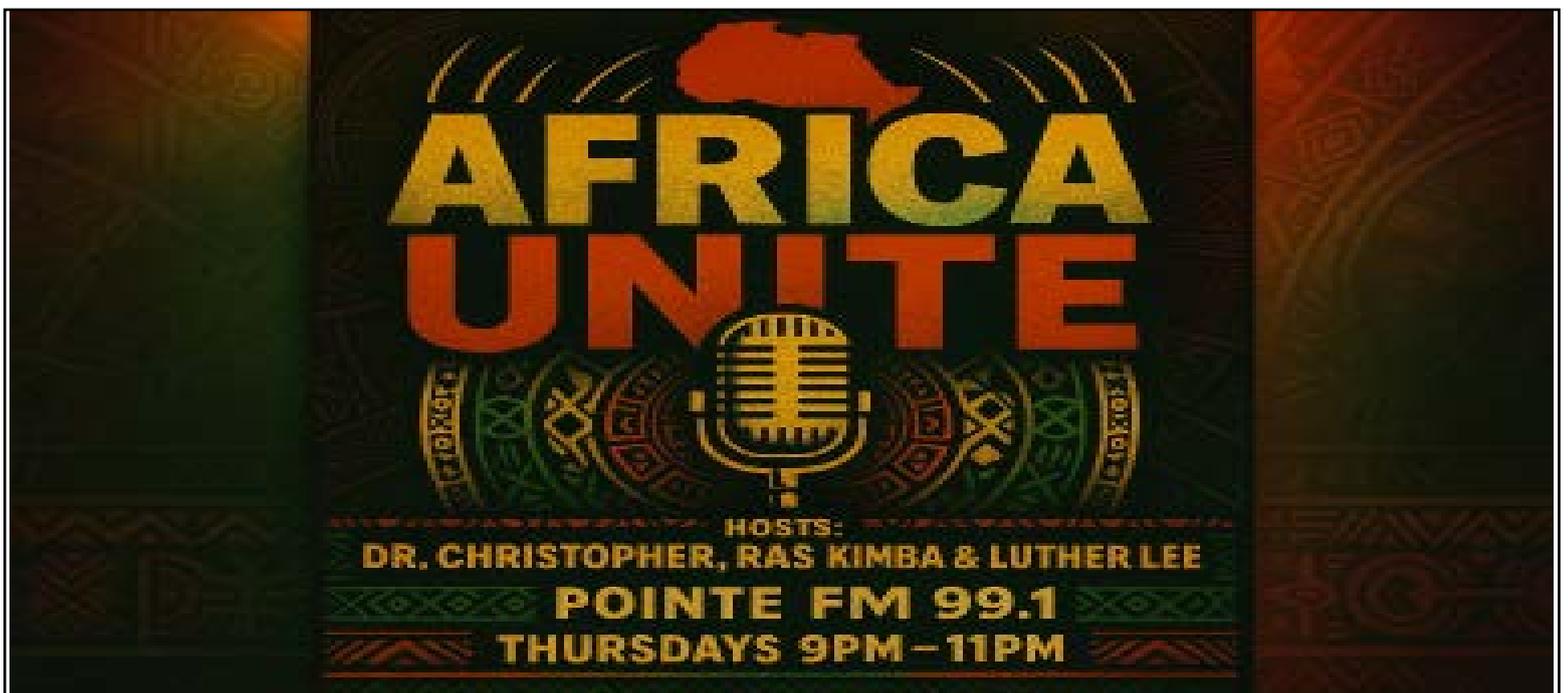
Five consumer protection officers have completed a one-week workshop focusing on interpreting and operationalizing the Consumers Protection Act, 2025.

The workshop was held at the Sir George Wright Police Training Academy with senior police officers serving as resource persons.

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Desmond Dinard told the participants that while the mandate of the police is to ensure the safety and protection of nationals, residents and visitors, the police force cannot do this by itself. Therefore, it has partnered with other entities in the societies to assist it with this task.



“It is always a good thing, in fact it’s very important, when the police force can join with other entities to participate and to assist in whatever way that it can. As you are aware, the legislation has been amended to suit the areas in which you work. So it was a ‘no-brainer’ when you asked us to assist you in ensuring that you are in a better position to fulfill your mandate. With that said, I trust that



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Local News



the information that was given to you from our facilitators was appropriate, timely and important. I trust that this information would be a new tool in realizing your mandate,” he stated.

Director of the Consumers Protection Division, Orrin Steele, explained that consumer protection is not the remit of the consumer protection officers alone, it’s a collective effort of its staff members, stakeholders and also the general public.

“This week’s workshop it’s been very informative; it has been eye-opening not only for the consumer protection officers, but also the police officers who now understand that we don’t just deal with prices alone. Most of the police officers who presented on the various topics initially spoke about prices issues. However, while we deal with pricing issues, the particular legislation we are dealing with now does not have anything to do with prices,” he explained.

Steel wants the collaboration between the division and the police to go behind the current training exercise, since the legislation calls for the involvement of the police specifically as it relates to summons, warrants and other similar matters which the law states should go before a magistrate.

The Consumers Affairs Director expressed the expectation that there will be follow-up training sessions between the police and his division in the months ahead.

Some of the topics covered include; report writing, summons and war-

rants, effective and media communications, basic investigative procedures and a code of ethics.

The participants are the workshop were; Ronette Roberts, Cemone Williams, Jacian Goodwin, Jo-Ann Peters, and Orrin Steele.





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- ✔ Proof of address
- ✔ Marital status documents (if applicable)

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Luxury Cruise Liner Makes Inaugural Call To Antigua and Barbuda



A luxury cruise vessel – *The Star Seeker* – of the Win Jammer Lines paid its inaugural call to the St. John’s Harbour on Sunday with 224 passengers aboard.

The vessel, its passengers and crew were warmly welcomed to Antigua and Barbuda by representatives of the ministry of tourism, the department of immigration, the Antigua Cruise Port and members of the media.

The man in charge of the vessel, Captain Vedran explained that with a crew of 133 persons, the ratio of crew members to guests is such that this guarantees that the passengers will enjoy the

very best in service and luxury.

“This is a new vessel, and we kept it small to ensure that the service is at a premium as we create a family atmosphere onboard. This means that it takes roughly five minutes for passengers to leave the ship for tours etc. On some larger ships, this process would take a much longer time,” he further explained.

Captain Vedran revealed that there are plans to introduce a second vessel the same size as the *Star Seeker* later this year. He noted too that immediately across from the *Star Seeker* on the Nevis Street Pier, was the *Wind Surf*,

another ship in the Wind Star Cruises family of ships. While the *Wind Surf* is a bigger vessel, it only carries 350 passengers as the focus is on a smaller number of passengers but with an emphasis on luxury.

“With these small ships, we also have the advantage of going into smaller ports where the bigger cruise vessels cannot go. The average age of our passengers is 65 years, and of course, they pay a higher price for the comforts that this vessel offers,” he stated.

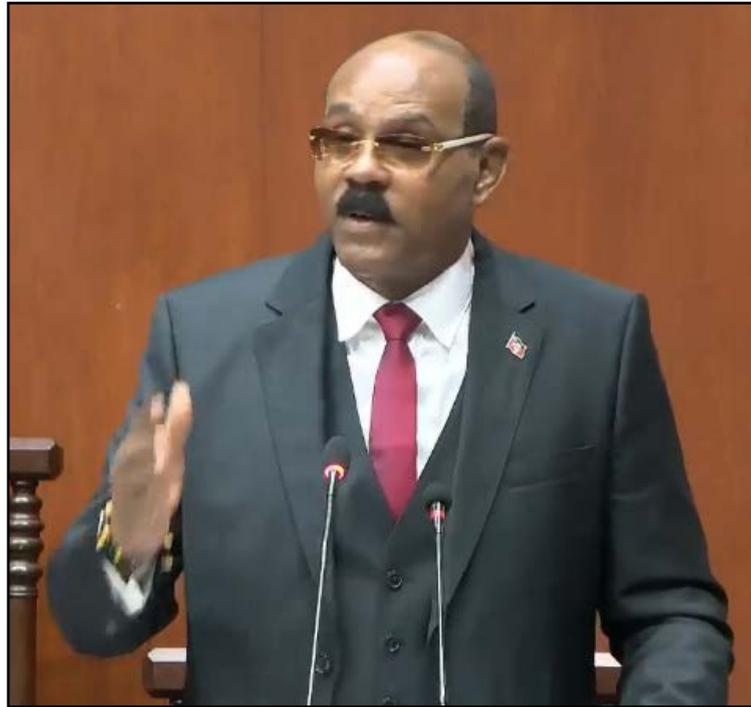
The *Star Seeker* made its maiden voyage in December of last year. Carl King is the local agent for the vessel.

Government To Dissolve Parliament On Wednesday

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has indicated that he will advise Governor General Sir Rodney Williams to dissolve parliament on Wednesday, April 1, paving the way for general elections before the end of the month.

Speaking in the House of Representatives on Friday, PM Browne explained that he would have asked for the issuance of the Writ of Elections immediately upon the dissolution of parliament. However, he reported that he has been persuaded by his Cabinet colleagues to delay the issuance of the Writ of Elections ‘for a few days’ to give the opposition United Progressive Party additional time ‘to get their house in order’.

“The UPP is unprepared for general elections. Even now



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

they have not been able to name a full slate to contest the general elections. We are leading the party based on all the polls, but while we know that we have an

advantage over them as we are fully prepared, we want to give them some time to get their house in order. But, please note, this will not be more than an extra week, so

please use this time wisely,” PM Browne urged.

The prime minister explained that the law provides for a minimum of 21 days for general elections after the issuance of the Writ of Elections. “Even if we delay the issuance of the Writ of Elections by a week, please note that the elections date will be no later than the end of April; it will be sometime between April 22 and 29,” PM Browne disclosed.

Based on the results of two polls, prime minister is confident that the ABLP stands a very good chance to win the elections whenever it is called. He blamed the current infighting within the UPP particularly over the issue of its leader as one of the reasons why the party is losing support among the electorate.

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Eustace 'Teco' Lake To Be Laid To Rest Today



The nation of Antigua and Barbuda will pay respect to former parliamentarian, Eustace Teco Lake who died a few weeks ago and who will be laid to rest following an official funeral service today.

Lake, who lived for some time in the United States, was first elected to the House of Representatives in the 2009 general elections. He was re-elected in 2014. However, Lake was dogged by kidney disease and was the first patient to have had a kidney transplant at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

He gave up elective politics and was appointed to the Upper House following the 2018 general elections.

But Lake never fully recovered and he finally succumbed to the disease in February.

On Friday, members of the House of Representatives paid tribute to Lake who was appointed to the Ministry of Work following the 2014 general elections. He was remembered as someone with a permanent smile on his face and who truly loved people.

Governor General Honours Doctors on International Doctors' Day



St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda
His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams on Sunday paid tribute to doctors across Antigua and Barbuda and the diaspora during a Church Service at the Holy Family Cathedral to mark International Doctors' Day.

The Governor General praised the dedication, compassion, and service of medical professionals, noting their

vital role in caring for individuals and families at critical moments of life.

"A healthy nation is a productive nation," His Excellency stated, reaffirming the importance of continued investment in healthcare, wellness, and prevention.

He encouraged citizens to express gratitude to doctors and all who sup-

port the health sector, and commended the Antigua and Barbuda Medical Association for organising the commemorative activities.

Quoting Winston Churchill, he reminded the nation that "healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have," and offered prayers for continued strength and guidance for all who serve in the medical profession.

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ABLP executive meeting at the People's Place headquarters on Nugent Avenue



Local News



Antigua and Barbuda Chairs Selection Process for Prestigious United Nations Award



da to select the United Nations Population Award at both the institutional and individual levels.

Antigua and Barbuda was a member of the 10-member Committee for the United Nations Population Award last year but was selected to

ognizing the role that individuals and institutions play, the award brings crucial population issues to the fore.

The announcement of the laureates will be made later this year by the Committee, as the UNFPA makes use of this opportunity to reinforce the need for continued focus on population challenges.

“It was a profound honor to chair the selection process and important for Antigua and Barbuda to be a part of an exercise that advances the human dignity and sustainable development of populations across the globe,” Duberry stated.

The late family physician, Sir Prince Ramsey, won the award in 2018, earning him recognition for his pioneering work in HIV/AIDS advocacy, care, and prevention in Antigua and Barbuda and throughout the Caribbean for many years.

Antigua and Barbuda is playing an important role in the process of selecting one of the most prestigious awards at the United Nations.

First Secretary at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Claxton Duberry, on Thursday chaired a meeting on behalf of Antigua and Barbu-

chair this year.

The award, which was first established in 1981, brings recognition to those who are making an outstanding contribution to improving matters related to global health, gender equality and sustainable development. By rec-




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HON. ANTHONY SMITH
All Saints West

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Weekend Tragedies On The Roads

Police Investigate Sudden Death in Freetown

The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the sudden death of 48-year-old Karen Pigott of Wireless Road.

At approximately 6:20 p.m. on Friday, March 27, police received a report that a motor vehicle had driven into a hedge along a by-road in Freetown, and the driver was found unresponsive inside.

Officers responded to the scene and observed a grey Toyota Ractis motor car, which had come to a stop in a hedge on the eastern side of the road, with a lone female occupant slouched in the driver's seat and ap-



Karen Pigott

peared to be unresponsive.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were summoned and conducted examinations; however, no signs of life were detected. A medical doctor later visited the scene and officially pronounced the woman dead at approximately 8:05 p.m. Foul play is not suspected.

The Police Administration extends sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the deceased during this difficult time.

The investigation remains ongoing.

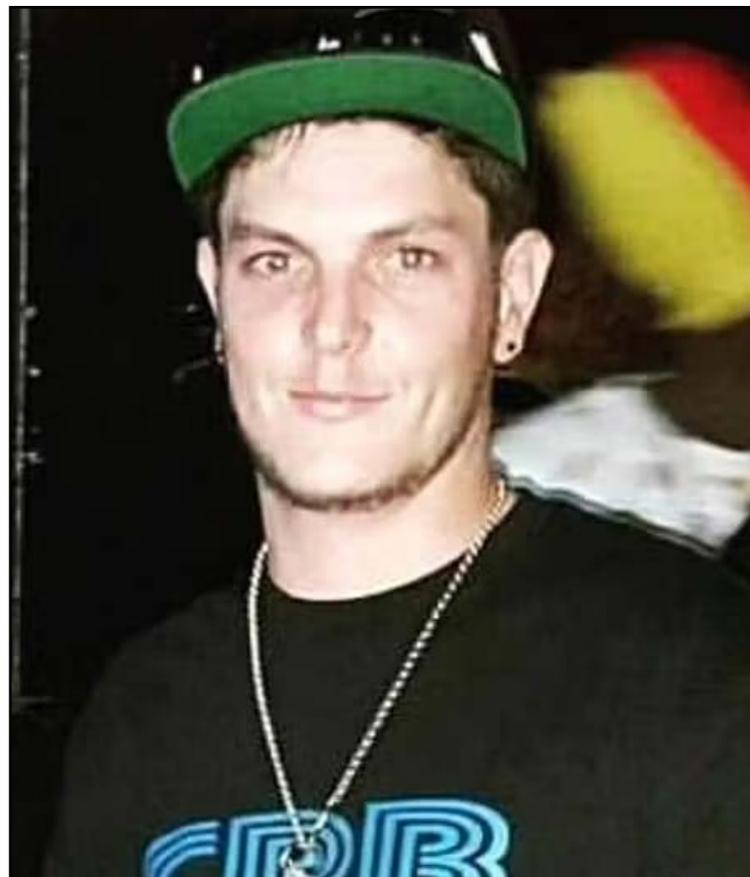
Police Investigate Fatal Traffic Collision at Crabbs

The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal traffic collision that occurred on Crabbs Main Road on Friday evening.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on March 27, police responded to a report of a motor vehicle accident in the vicinity of the Crabbs Economic Zone. Upon arrival, officers observed a silver Honda CR-V motor jeep that had collided with a tree off the southern side of the roadway.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the vehicle was travelling from north to south at a high rate of speed when the driver reportedly lost control and veered off the road, resulting in the collision. The vehicle reportedly overturned several times before coming to a stop.

Firefighters from the All



Charles Paul Rippon

Saints Fire Department and used hydraulic rescue equipment to extricate the

driver, who was found unconscious.

Emergency Medical Services personnel transported him to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he was later pronounced dead at approximately 8:30 p.m.

The deceased has been identified as 35-year-old Charles Paul Rippon of Fitches Creek.

The Police Administration extends sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the deceased during this difficult time.

Motorists are once again reminded to exercise caution while using the nation's roads and to adhere to all traffic laws, particularly with respect to speed limits.

The investigation remains ongoing.

SKN PM Drew announces US\$500,000 in humanitarian aid for Cuba



By Everton Obi Powell

With a pledge of US\$500,000 in support of the CARICOM humanitarian assistance for Cuba, Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Terrance M. Drew is forwarding an initial US\$100,000, representing the first instalment.

Prime Minister Drew said the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis stands in solidarity with the people of Cuba at this difficult time.

“Cuba has never turned its back on the Caribbean. When our people needed doctors, Cuba sent them. When our students needed education, Cuba opened its classrooms. When disaster struck, Cuba was among the first to offer assistance. Today, we return that kindness not as charity, but as family. This is what CARICOM is about—standing together, sharing burdens, and ensuring that no member of our Caribbean family faces hardship alone. St. Kitts and Nevis is proud to contribute, and we stand ready to offer

whatever further assistance we can in the days ahead,” said Prime Minister Drew.

The humanitarian effort, coordinated by the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana, will facilitate the procurement and shipment of essential supplies. Items to be delivered include powdered milk and baby formula; non-perishable food items such as beans, wheat flour, rice and canned goods; basic medical supplies; and critical infrastructure support including solar panels, batteries and water tanks.

The initiative has also received the support of the Government of Mexico, which has identified suppliers in Mexico capable of delivering the requested items to the port of departure and will provide free shipment from Mexico to Cuba.

The CARICOM humanitarian initiative reflects the very essence of the Community’s founding principles: co-

operation, collective action and care for one another. As member states come together to ease the hardships facing the Cuban people, the gesture also signals the region’s commitment to dialogue, mutual respect, and the peaceful resolution of challenges.

Prime Minister Drew has reaffirmed that St. Kitts and Nevis remains committed to supporting Cuba and the wider CARICOM region in any future efforts to advance humanitarian cooperation and regional solidarity.

The contribution was formalized during the historic 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, hosted in St. Kitts and Nevis from February 24-27, 2026.

It was at this gathering that Prime Minister and CARICOM Chairman, Dr. announced that CARICOM member states would mobilize together to dispatch urgently needed humanitarian aid to the Cuban people.



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China's Two Sessions: New Blueprint, New Opportunities



Authored by H.E. Jiang Wei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda

In March, 2026, China successfully held the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress and the fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

A series of important documents like the Government Work Report have been reviewed and approved, which set clear development goals for 2026 and key directions of the China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), drawing a new blueprint for China's development, bringing new opportunities to the global economy.

Through the annual Two Sessions, the world can see how a major country with over 1.4 billion people aggregates diverse social demands into national policies and transforms broad public opinions into political consensus and effective governance actions. At this year's Two Sessions, some 5,000 deputies and members brought with them insights from field research in rural areas, public opinions from communities and neighborhoods, and thoughts from frontline work. They pooled their wisdom to discuss plans for advancing Chinese modernization, demonstrating the vivid practice of whole-process people's democracy.

China's economy exhibits strong and vibrant dynamism. In the past year, gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5 percent, reaching 140.19 trillion yuan. 12.67 million urban jobs were created, and the average surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 5.2 percent. The number of employed people among those lifted out of poverty remained at over 30 million. Foreign trade registered rapid growth, significant advances were made in export diversification, and a basic equilibrium was maintained in the balance of payments.

New quality productive forces grew steadily, and numerous new advances were made in science and technology. China led the way in the research, development, and application of artificial intelligence (AI), biomedicine, robotics, and quantum technology. China's R&D spending reached 2.8 percent of GDP, and the value of technology contract transactions rose by 10.8 percent. And the value added of core dig-



DAILY PROGRAMMING




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BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
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WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

ital economy industries exceeded 10.5 percent of GDP. Over the past five years, Chinese economy has grown at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent, accounting for around 30 percent of global growth.

High-standard opening up has advanced steadily with solid stride. As this year's Government Work Report sets out major tasks for 2026, calling for expanding high-standard opening up—continue to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation, steadily expand opening up at the institutional level, and promote broader international economic flows, so as to advance reform and development through opening up. China's 15th Five-Year Plan explicitly puts forward that China will build new institutions for a more open economy, promote the high-quality joint development of the Belt and Road Initiative, promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization to share opportunities with the rest of the world and promote common development.

China will firmly advance the building of a China-LAC community with a shared future. In 2025, trade between China and Latin America and the Caribbean reached US\$565.28 billion, a year-on-year increase of 6.5%, marking the second consecutive year that trade has exceeded US\$500 billion, with a growth rate higher than that of China's overall foreign trade.

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Forum of China and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States last May, and announced the launch of five programs which are Solidarity Program, Development Program, Civilization Program, Peace Program and People-to-People Program, pointing the direction for the building of a China-LAC community with a shared future.

Focusing on five programs, China's Policy Paper on Latin America and the

Caribbean was released last December, providing a comprehensive explanation of the new ideas, proposals and initiatives in China's Latin America and Caribbean policy for the new era. During this year's Two Sessions, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that China-LAC cooperation is about the mutual help and support between Global South countries. China-LAC relations grew significantly in the past 50-plus years.

The key lies in the fact that China always respects Latin American people and commits to equal treatment and mutual benefit with LAC countries. China never engages in geopolitical schemes, nor interferes in other countries' internal affairs, nor asks others to pick sides. Cooperation between China and LAC countries does not target

any third party and should not be subject to interference by any third party. China has great confidence in the future of China-LAC relations.

As the China's Government Work Report points out, Chinese modernization is characterized by common prosperity for all its people. The 2026 Budget Statement of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda also puts forward the people-centered growth and development. Standing at a new starting point, China is ready to work with Antigua and Barbuda to deepen experience sharing on governance, better align development strategies, move forward with both major signature projects and "small and beautiful" public wellbeing projects, and expand practical cooperation in all fields to deliver more benefits to our peoples.

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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)

Version	Date
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

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

I. Consulting Firm Information

Name of Firm ¹ :	
Country of Registration: ²	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]:**

¹ 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.

² 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 Venture³ 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 entity⁴ 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)

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

⁴ 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.⁵
- 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 affiliates⁶.
- We understand that the Recipient/Client⁷ has the right to reject a Proposal if the Consultant removes or changes a JV member without the Client's prior consent.

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

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

⁷ "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.⁸

Please provide relevant project information in the Sections below.

A. Project References

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

ii. Project Details

PN 1	
Project Title	
Country/Region	

⁸ Sub-consultants' qualifications and experience are not considered.

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

¹⁰ 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 ¹¹	Name: Contact Number: E-mail address:

PN 2	
Project Title	

¹¹ 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 audited¹² 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 statements¹³ 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 ¹⁴ equivalent in 000s)	Historic information for previous 5 years				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Statement of Financial Position (Information from Balance Sheet)					
Total Assets (TA)					
Total Liabilities (TL)					
Total Equity/Net Worth					

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

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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)					
Information from Income Statement					
Total Revenue (TR)					
Profits Before Taxes (PBT)					
Cash Flow Information					
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 ¹⁵	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.		

¹⁵ 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 Eligibility¹⁶ 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.

¹⁶ 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 autonomous¹⁷ and operate under commercial law¹⁸.

Signature:

Authorised Representative

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

¹⁷ "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.

¹⁸ 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.

Regional News



Government to convene a national consultation to address growing concerns of CNCDs

The Government of Dominica will soon convene a national consultation to bring greater focus and clarity to the growing concerns of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs) on the island.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit made the disclosure during a press conference held this week.

It has been reported that during the past decade and a half, Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs)—including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, chronic lung disease, and high blood pressure—have been the leading cause of death in Dominica.

CNCDs are also seen as the biggest threat to Dominica’s economic survival and productivity.

“I think that we need to ramp up our efforts towards prevention. As they always say, prevention is better than cure. And there’s no cure for this disease, unfortunately. And I see too many people are succumbing to this,” he stated. “Sometimes when they get to the health facility, it is really too late because we do not engage those persons and families who are engaged in proper management of that.”

He continued, “So I am sorry if I sound like a broken record, from my experience and my interaction with the citizens of this country, understand that this is a national emergency. It’s a national concern and so very soon I will convene a consultation on this matter to ensure that we bring greater clarity and greater focus on this very concerning issue.”



Furthermore, he believes that as a country and society more should be done to provide public education and sensitization on this, “and that recognizing that this is a soci-

etal challenge and it requires the education and the knowledge of all concerned—from our children to ourselves, our grandparents, and our parents—to understand how we can prevent ourselves from contracting those and also how we can treat these diseases.”

Skerit revealed that the Ministry of Health and the government system have spent about 75 percent of the hospital bill on treating CNCDD’s. (Dominica News Online)



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Dominica plays a pivotal role in scientific study documenting rare sperm whale birth



The Dominica and New York-based organization Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative) has released two groundbreaking scientific papers that together offer the most comprehensive documentation of a sperm whale birth ever recorded—captured in the waters off Dominica, one of the world’s most important habitats for these deep-diving marine mammals.

The study draws on years of ongoing research and centers on a rare event witnessed on July 8, 2023: the birth of a sperm whale calf within a well-studied family unit. Fewer than 10 percent of the world’s 93 known cetacean species have ever been observed giving birth, making the documentation exceptionally rare.

Several Dominican members of the Project CETI team were present on the research vessel during the birth, including Zethra Baron, Officer; Kevin George, Skipper; and Dean Gibbons, IT Specialist and Software

Engineer Project CETI.

The paper, Description of a collaborative sperm whale birth and shifts in coda vocal styles during key events, presents a detailed, moment-by-moment account of the birth, contextualized through more than five hours of underwater audio, aerial drone footage, shipboard photography, and behavioral observations recorded before, during, and after the event. The study represents the most extensive natural record of any cetacean birth to date.

Researchers documented a coordinated response by eleven sperm whales—ten adult females and one sub-adult male—who worked together to lift and stabilize the newborn during its first hours of life. The footage reveals a level of cooperation that has rarely been observed in marine mammals and highlights how essential collective care is for species that give birth in deep water.

The Chief Fisheries Offi-

cer (Ag), Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, Wynnona Joseph, shared, “This rare moment, captured in Dominica waters, reflects both the global significance of our marine environment and our national commitment to protecting it for economic sustainability, species survival and the benefit of future generations.”

“This cetacean research brings us significantly closer to understanding sperm whales. It strengthens Dominica’s commitment to ocean conservation and sustainable livelihoods, while highlighting the growing role of women and small island states in shaping marine science and ocean stewardship,” shared Zethra Baron, Project CETI Fisheries Liaison and co-author of the paper.

Audio recordings collected during the event revealed distinct shifts in the whales’ vocal behavior at key moments. These changes, including the presence of

vowel-like features in their codas, add a new layer to Project CETI’s broader efforts to understand the structure and meaning of sperm whale communication.

The study also includes a new evolutionary analysis suggesting that cooperative behaviors such as lifting newborns may date back more than 36 million years—predating the most recent common ancestor of toothed and baleen whales. This finding underscores how deeply rooted cooperation is in the evolutionary history of marine mammals.

“This family group is unusually well understood because of decades of ongoing research in Dominica,” said Shane Gero, Biology Lead for Project CETI and founder of the Dominica Sperm Whale Project. The mother, known to researchers as “Rounder” was observed alongside both her mother and her daughter, marking the presence of three generations of females participating in the birth.

The paper represents a significant milestone not only for marine biology, but for Dominica’s role in advancing global understanding of whale behavior, communication, and social life. As Project CETI continues its work, the July 2023 birth stands as a powerful reminder of how much remains to be learned, and how much can be discovered through sustained collaboration between science, technology, and place. (Dominica News Online)

Regional News



17-year-old held in beating death of dad

A 17-year-old boy remains in police custody in connection with the killing of a Golconda father, while a 40-year-old relative who was also detained has since been released.

Homicide investigators are continuing enquiries into the death of 45-year-old father of two, Rajkumar Pope, who died hours after being beaten during an altercation at a shop in his community on Thursday evening.

Police said the suspects are relatives of a teenage girl who was found dead in South Trinidad last year, a development now forming part of the broader investigation.

According to reports, Pope and his family had spent the day together, having earlier picked up their daughter after she wrote the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) examination. The family later collected their 17-year-old son and visited malls in San Fernando before heading home.

Around 6.25 p.m., they stopped at a shop in Friendship Village to purchase a loaf of bread when the incident occurred.

Security camera footage, which has since circulated on social media, shows a teenager and an adult male inside the shop, the latter holding an infant. The video captures the teenager pacing near the counter while the older



man completed purchases.

Moments later, Pope entered the establishment. As he walked past the teenager, he was suddenly attacked.

The footage shows both men engaged in a physical struggle, exchanging blows while the older relative, still holding the infant, attempted to separate them. After several seconds, the altercation ended and Pope exited the shop.

He later collapsed and was taken for

medical treatment but died hours afterward.

The video is expected to form part of the investigation being conducted by officers of the Ste Madeleine Criminal Investigations Department and the Homicide Bureau of Investigations, Region Three.

Investigators are also awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination to be conducted at the Forensic Science Centre in Federation Park. (Trinidad Express)

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Disney opens World of Frozen in Paris as new CEO showcases the empire that made him



A 118-foot mountain of ice rose over the suburban Paris countryside this weekend as Disney opened its Arendelle kingdom to the world — Elsa’s palace glowing at the summit, a “Frozen” Nordic fishing village below, and the company’s new CEO standing before a crowd of celebrities.

World of Frozen, an immersive land themed to the blockbuster animated franchise, opened Sunday as the centerpiece of a 2 billion euro (\$2.18 billion) transformation at Disneyland Paris.

The transformation renames one of the two theme parks at the Disneyland Paris complex from Walt Disney Studios Park to Disney Adventure World. The inauguration drew Penélope Cruz, Naomi Campbell and Teyana Taylor.

It is the largest expansion in the 34-year history of Disneyland Paris, and one node in a roughly \$60 billion global buildout of Disney’s parks, resorts and cruise lines.

It is also the first major international stage for Josh D’Amaro, who took over as Disney’s chief executive on March 18 — just 11 days before the French gates opened — after nearly three decades in the company’s theme

parks division.

The parks-and-experiences business generated about 57% of the company’s \$17.5 billion in segment operating income last year, the force that observers say propelled D’Amaro from parks chief to the corner office.

An Associated Press journalist accompanied D’Amaro on the “Frozen” ride Saturday night.

The carriage splashed through water to childlike cheers from riders and laughter from the new chief executive as they glided past singing Elsa in the dark. Some stepped off lightly wet.

“The Walt Disney Company was

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built on one man's dream, and for more than 100 years we've shared that dream with the world," D'Amaro told the inauguration crowd.

"Storytelling is fundamental to everything that we do, whether that's on screen or stage, in our theme parks, on our cruise ships, or even at home."

He called the opening "a transformational moment" and paid tribute to the creative team behind the land, including "Frozen" writer-director Jennifer Lee — all now at work on "Frozen 3."

On Friday, D'Amaro had stood alongside Emmanuel Macron at the resort.

The French president used the visit to claim the park as a national economic asset, calling Disneyland Paris "the leading tourist destination in Europe" and describing it as "a genuine ecosystem of success."

Macron said the latest expansion would create 1,000 additional direct jobs.

"Since the beginning, that's 13 billion euros invested on this territory," Macron said.

Disneyland Paris says the resort now employs more than 20,000 people, supports 70,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs, and has recorded more than 445 million visits since 1992 — accounting for 6.1% of France's national tourism revenue.

Macron's presence underscored a remarkable reversal.

When the park opened as Euro Dis-

ney in 1992, French intellectuals derided it as a "cultural Chernobyl." Now a French president was standing in front of cameras calling it an engine of national prosperity.

It is no coincidence that "Frozen" and "Tangled" — the two stories anchoring Disney's new lineup at its sole European resort — both trace their roots to European folklore.

"Frozen" draws loosely from "The Snow Queen"; the new Tangled family ride recalls the Brothers Grimm's Rapunzel.

"Frozen, of course, has its roots in European storytelling," said Michel den Dulk of Walt Disney Imagineering.

"It's very loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen. So to have a northern European, charming wooden little village here in Disneyland Paris, where you can see your favorite Frozen characters — it just made sense."

The land recreates Arendelle around a lagoon, its timber buildings painted in muted Scandinavian pastels, facades adorned with rosemaling, a traditional Norwegian decorative art.

At the center is Frozen Ever After, a boat ride featuring state-of-the-art animatronics and immersive projection effects.

Guests can meet Anna and Elsa inside Arendelle Castle, have a conversation with a responsive baby troll named Mossy who talks back, and watch a

lagoon celebration called the Snow Flower Festival — featuring an original song.

A next-generation robotic Olaf roams the land.

Beyond World of Frozen, the rebranded park brings a vast new lake called Adventure Bay, a Tangled family ride, 15 new dining locations — including the posh Regal View Restaurant — and a nighttime spectacular called Disney Cascade of Lights featuring more than 380 drones.

A Lion King land, already under construction, will follow.

More than 90% of the second park's offerings will have been redesigned since it opened in 2002, and Disney says the footprint will roughly double once the full transformation is complete.

Disney's streaming has swung from deep losses to profitability, but the parks remain the company's most dependable earnings engine — and D'Amaro is the man who ran them.

"We continue to dream bigger and bring stories to life in brand new ways," D'Amaro told the crowd.

Pyrotechnics lit up Arendelle Village.

The ice palace on the mountain turned blue.

And 34 years after Euro Disney became a punchline, a brand-new kingdom opened in the fields east of Paris — for the first time in forever. (AP)



Iranian attacks across Gulf continue as major industrial sites hit



Gulf nations reported a series of attacks as the US-Israel war against Iran entered its fifth week, including strikes on major industrial infrastructure.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said a number of people had been injured in an Iranian strike on a key aluminium plant in Abu Dhabi, with significant damage reported by operator Emirates Global Aluminium.

Meanwhile, state-controlled Aluminium Bahrain said two employees were wounded by an Iranian attack on one of the world's largest aluminium smelting facilities.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it had targeted the sites with drones and missiles on Saturday in response to US and Israeli attacks on its own industrial plants.

In a statement carried by Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency, the IRGC claimed the aluminium facilities were linked to the American military.

It came after Tehran had accused Israel of targeting two steel production sites crucial to its economy.

Elsewhere in the region, Oman said it was investigating "cowardly attacks" for which no one had yet claimed responsibility after a foreign worker was reportedly injured in a drone strike on its southern port of Salalah.

Kuwait's defence ministry meanwhile said the radar system at its international airport had been significantly damaged after being attacked by 15 drones.

With their economies and way of life on the line, countries in the Gulf insist they must have a say in any future peace talks. But they are split on the way forward - and on what the region's relationship with Iran or the US should look like.

The attacks came as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis entered the conflict on Saturday, raising fears of further economic disruption should they target

shipping in the Red Sea.

The group said it had launched a barrage of missiles against Israel targeting "sensitive" military sites, and vowed to continue such attacks. Israel said it had shot down two missiles coming from Yemen.

Oil and gas prices have already spiked as Iran has effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for global energy supplies between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

If the Houthis decided to attack shipping - as it did in support of Hamas after war erupted in Gaza, following the Hamas-led attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023 - it would risk sending energy prices higher.

Meanwhile, Israel continued its strikes against Lebanon - where three journalists were killed in a targeted Israeli strike on Saturday, according to their employers.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed it had killed Ali Shoeib, who worked for the Hezbollah-affiliated Al Manar TV, describing him as a "terrorist" from Iranian-backed Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force who had "operated for years under the guise of a journalist".

It provided no evidence to support its claim that he had a military role, and did not comment on the deaths of Fatima or Mohamed Ftouni.

The same day, the World Health Organization reported nine paramedics had been killed in southern Lebanon within 24 hours - reaching a total of 51 health personnel killed in March so far. (BBC)



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Israeli police block Catholic cardinal from Holy Sepulchre on Palm Sunday

Israeli police have prevented Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to mark Palm Sunday Mass.

The Catholic Church said on Sunday that Pizzaballa and Francesco Ielpo, the official Guardian of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, were both prevented from entering the church.

“As a result, and for the first time in centuries, the Heads of the Church were prevented from celebrating the Palm Sunday Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre,” the statement said.

“This incident is a grave precedent and disregards the sensibilities of billions of people around the world, who, during this week, look to Jerusalem,” it added.

Israeli police said all holy sites in Jerusalem were closed due to safety concerns amid the United States and Israel’s war on Iran. During the Muslim month of Ramadan, which also coincided with the war, Al-Aqsa Mosque was also closed to worshippers.

Palestinian Christian who is popular for being the Santa Claus of the city, holds a cross and a palm frond while standing at the doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre after finding them locked

Issa Kassissieh, a Palestinian Christian who is popular for being the Santa Claus of the city, holds a cross and a palm frond while standing at the doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre after finding them locked, following the cancellation of the traditional Palm Sunday procession from the Mount



of Olives, amid restrictions on group gatherings and the US-Israeli war on Iran, in Jerusalem’s Old City on March 29, 2026 [Ammar Awad/Reuters]

In a statement to the AFP news agency, Israeli police said Pizzaballa’s request to deliver the Catholic mass to mark Palm Sunday, the beginning of the Christian Holy Week that ends with Easter, could not be approved.

“The Old City and the holy sites constitute a complex area that does not allow access for large emergency and rescue vehicles, which significantly challenges response capabilities and poses a real risk to human life in the event of a mass casualty incident,” the force said.

While the Catholic Church had already announced it had cancelled the traditional Palm Sunday procession, in a statement, it said Israel’s actions to ban Pizzaballa and Ielpo were a “man-

ifestly unreasonable and grossly disproportionate measure”.

“This hasty and fundamentally flawed decision, tainted by improper considerations, represents an extreme departure from basic principles of reasonableness, freedom of worship, and respect for the status quo,” it said.

But the prevention also caused condemnation from other countries.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said the incident was “an offence not only to the faithful, but to any community that respects religious freedom”.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani also said in a post on X that he had summoned Israel’s ambassador over the incident.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned the decision and said worship “for all religions” must be guaranteed in Jerusalem. (Al Jazeera English)



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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.¹ Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria de-

¹ *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”² 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 Email: finance.pmu@ab.gov.ag</p>	<p>(2) Caribbean Development Bank Tel: +1 (246) 539-1600 Email: procurement@caribank.org</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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Swetes Vipers strengthened third-place position in First Division



The Swetes Vipers FC consolidated their third-place position in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League with victory in their latest outing.

The Swetes Vipers FC claimed their 11th win in 20 matches with a 4-0 victory against Bolans FC at the Freemans Village playing field.

Kimoi Alexander converted twice with goals in the 20th and 32nd minutes. The other goals were scored by Johndale Jno-Lewis in the 17th minute and Lyndon Goodwin in the 50th minute.

The result allows the Swetes Vipers to advance to 38 points, one adrift of second-placed Five Islands FC. The Greenbay Hoppers currently lead the First Division with 40 points from 18 matches.

Bolans FC remains in 11th place with 16 points after suffering their ninth defeat in 19 matches.

SAP FC leapfrogged the Freemans Village Scorpions into fifth-place on

goal difference by claiming their ninth win in 19 matches with a 6-2 drubbing of FC Master Ballers at the ABFA Technical Center.

Tyrique Tonge scored four times for SAP FC with strikes in the fifth, 27th, and 73rd minutes as well as converting a penalty kick in the 67th minute.

The other goals for SAP FC were scored by Emerson Henry in the 11th minute and Dennison Stevens in the 37th minute.

FC Master Ballers benefited from an own goal by Collin Grigg in the 48th minute, and Shumba Thomas got their second by converting a penalty kick in the 53rd minute.

The result allows SAP FC to advance to 35 points, the same as fourth-placed Parham FC and the Freemans Village Scorpions, who have played 18 matches.

FC Master Ballers remain in the cellar of the 14-team standings with nine points after losing for the 14th time in 19 matches.

Willikies FC also leapfrogged Golden Grove into eighth place on goal difference by recording their eighth win in 19 matches with a 2-1 victory against the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at Cedar Grove.

John Maynard put Cedar Grove Blue Jays ahead with a 27th-minute conversion, and Novelle Francis snatched the equalizer for Willikies FC with a strike in the 30th minute as both teams reached halftime level at 1-1.

Willikies FC secured victory by scoring twice in the second half via goals from Randy Thomas in the 60th minute and Nevontae Francis in the 63rd minute.

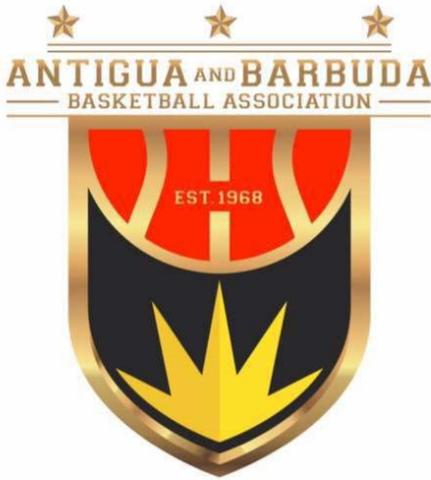
The result allows the Willikies FC to advance to 27 points, the same as Golden Grove FC, who slipped to ninth place.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain second from the bottom of the standings with 11 points after slumping to their 15th defeat in 20 matches.

Sports News



Wins for Da Project and Red Hawks in ABBA's Division 1 League



Da Project and JSC Red Hawks recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League on Saturday evening.

Da Project claimed their sixth win in 10 encounters with an 80-67 victory over Daryll Matthew Ottos in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Com-

plex.

T-Shawn Lewis shot a game-high 20 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; Terry Dawkins sank 19 points and claimed six rebounds; Cornell Greenwood provided 11 points and eight rebounds; and Malik Moore chipped in with 11 points and six assists for Da Project.

Danny Perez produced 18 points and eight assists; Pindo Drammeh sank 15 points and claimed nine rebounds; Christian Walker converted 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; and Nick Strawter scored 12 points for Ottos, who lost for the fourth time in 11 games.

The Red Hawks claimed their sixth win in 11 matches by pulling off a 95-88 victory over Cuties Ovals Ojays in Saturday's opening

encounter.

Cohen Desouza provided a game-high 28 points along with 17 rebounds and five assists, and Andre Burnett produced 17 points, eight assists, six rebounds, and five blocks to lead the Red Hawks.

In support, Kymani Powell converted 15 points; Bryce Smith sank 11 points and snatched 13 rebounds; and Mario Davis chipped in with 11 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists for the Red Hawks.

Jabari Smith sank 24 points and claimed eight rebounds; Kareem Edwards converted 21 points and snatched seven rebounds; and point guard Sam Taylor produced 19 points, nine rebounds, eight assists, and seven steals for the Ovals Ojays, who lost for the fifth time in 11 games.





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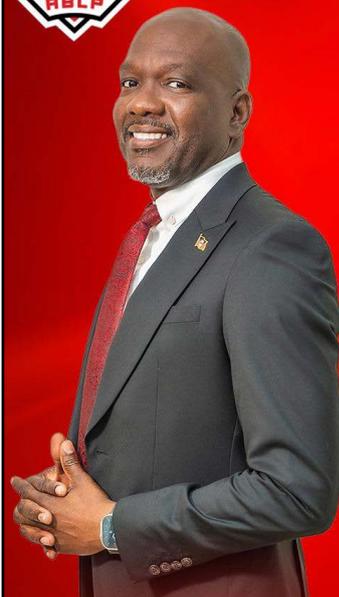
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2026 CWI Under-15 tournament bowls off under new format



Players of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica under-15 teams (CWI Media)

The region's most promising junior men's cricketers took to the field on Sunday, March 29, as the 2026 CWI Rising Stars Under-15 Men's Tournament gets underway under a revised bilateral series format.

The start of the tournament marks a key milestone in CWI's ongoing review of the structure and delivery of regional cricket competitions for the 2026–2027 period, with a focus on strengthening player pathways, enhancing performance assessment, and ensuring the sustainable management of resources during a challenging financial period.

As the foundational stage of the regional development pathway, the Under-15 Tournament is primarily focused on talent identification. In shaping this year's format, priority was placed on maintaining playing opportunities, broadening scouting reach, and creating meaningful development experiences for players across the Caribbean.

In keeping with this approach, no overall winner will be declared at the end of the series, with the emphasis placed squarely on assessing and identifying talent rather than team standings or championship outcomes.

The 2026 edition of the 50-Over competition will feature three concurrent, five-match bilateral series played across three host territories (Guyana, Antigua, and Jamaica).

This structure maintains a strong volume of competitive matches while enabling greater visibility for players in different conditions and environments. It also supports valuable touring experience for visiting teams and provides host territories with opportunities to showcase their programmes and talent on home soil.

Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe spoke to the factors that we considered during the review process and the areas prioritised in the identification of alternative

formats.

“The start of this tournament represents an important step in how we continue to support youth development across the region, while carefully managing financial resources. At the Under-15 level, our priority is clear – identifying talent and giving young players the best possible platform to showcase their skills.

“In designing this year's structure, we focused on expanding opportunities for participation, strengthening the quality of player assessment, and ensuring that our identification processes are as thorough and far-reaching as possible.

“Importantly, this format keeps the emphasis on player growth, evaluation and long-term potential. This is about building a strong foundation for West Indies cricket and ensuring that our young players are well prepared for each stage of the pathway, ultimately leading to the international level.”

The developmental focus of the tournament is also being supported by the presence of former international players and experienced coaches within several team management units.

Former international and regional first-class players, including Stuart Williams (Leeward Islands), Robert Samuels and Sheldon Cottrell (Jamaica); along with veteran regional and international coaches Roderick Estwick (Barbados) and Dalton Polius (Windward Islands), will provide invaluable guidance to the young talent throughout the tournament.

CWI confirms new format for 2026 West Indies Championship

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has confirmed the format for the 2026 edition of the West Indies Championship, as the organisation continues its comprehensive review of the structure and delivery of regional cricket tournaments for the 2026–2027 cycle.

The revised format forms part of CWI's broader strategy to strengthen player pathways, improve performance outcomes, and ensure the sustainable management of resources across regional cricket.

The review involved extensive consultations with the Cricket Strategy and Officiating Committee, Cricket Department, Finance Department, and Executive Leadership Team.

Guided by a purpose-first approach, the review assessed what each tournament must achieve – whether talent identification, selection finalisation, tour preparation, or pathway progression – and redesigned formats to preserve relevance and competitive impact while managing operational costs.

Under the new structure, the 4-day first-class tournament will feature three concurrent, three-match bilateral series played across the region, with the traditional West Indies Championship points system being utilised.

The six regional franchises will be seeded 1–6 based on their final standings at the end of the 2025 edition of the tournament.

The winners of each bilateral contest will be ranked 1st through 3rd based on total points accumulated,



Players of the Guyana Harpy Eagles

with the top-ranked team advancing directly to the grand final.

During the playoff round, the 1st placed team will take on the West Indies Academy to maintain match readiness and ensure fairness of preparation ahead of the final. The 2nd and 3rd-ranked teams will meet in a Playoff match to determine the second finalist.

CWI has intentionally scheduled this year's tournament closer to the start of the international home series, which commences against Sri Lanka in June, allowing players to achieve optimal match readiness just ahead of a packed summer.

While the revised structure represents a shift from previous format, participating territories have embraced the change with focused preparation for what is anticipated to be a highly competitive tournament, maintaining the intensity and standards expected of the region's

premier first-class tournament. Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, said that the new format will still deliver on performance objectives.

“Despite the reduction in matches, we anticipate keen contests. The change in dates has allowed for an extended preparation period, with most franchises holding multiple trial matches, setting up intense internal competition for places.

“The West Indies Championship will form a key part of talent identification and preparation for the home series, and the bilateral series format will add an interesting dimension, closer to mirroring the Test cricket format.”

As part of its continued modernisation of regional cricket, CWI is also exploring the use of ball-tracking technology during the Championship to support the talent identification process and strengthen performance analysis.

Real Blizzard claims number two spot in Second Division League



Players of the Real Blizzard football team

Kelton Dalso Real Blizzard has moved to second place after their latest match in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division.

Amos Christian achieved a hat trick as Real Blizzard notched up their 12th win in 17 matches with a 4-1 victory over Fort Road FC at Fort Road on Friday.

Christian had conversions in the 62nd, 72nd, and 79th minutes. Taharie James scored the other goal for Real Blizzard with a strike in the 41st minute.

Jean-Pierre Williams scored a consolation goal for Fort Road FC with an 80th-minute conversion.

The result allowed Real Blizzard to remain unbeaten and jump from third to second place with 41 points, three adrift of unbeaten leaders Guydadli Jets FC, who have played 16 matches.

Fort Road FC remains in eighth place

with 31 points after suffering their sixth defeat in 17 matches.

But the Young Lions slipped from second to third place after dropping crucial points in a goalless draw with North Coast Academy Juniors at Old Road.

The result allows the Young Lions to advance to 39 points after securing the third draw in 16 matches.

The North Coast Academy Juniors leapfrogged Blackburn Palace into fifth-place on goal difference after salvaging their third draw in 18 matches.

The North Coast Academy Juniors advanced to 33 points, the same as sixth-placed Blackburn Palace, who have played 17 matches.

Joshua Jacobs scored both goals as the CPTSA Wings moved from 10th to ninth place by recording their sixth win in 17 matches with a 2-0 victory over the JSC Progressors at the St.

Johnstone's Village Stadium.

Jacobs scored on either side of half-time with conversions in the 39th and 70th minutes.

The result allows the CPTSA Wings to leapfrog Bethesda by advancing to 24 points, while the JSC Progressors remain in 17th place with seven points after crashing to their 13th defeat in 16 matches.

Glanvilles FC consolidated their 13th-place position by claiming their sixth win in 15 matches with a 3-0 victory via default against Herberts United FC, which failed to show up for their encounter at Glanvilles.

The result allows Glanvilles to advance to 16 points, while Herberts United FC remains second from the bottom of the 20-team standings with four points after succumbing to their 13th defeat in 15 matches.

United extends lead atop of Premier Division League



A starting XI of the All Saints United football team

Defending back-to-back champions All Saints United have increased their lead at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League.

All Saints United moved 11 points clear of Aston Villa Lions at the top of the Premier League by recording their 16th win in 19 matches after being awarded a 3-0 victory against Old Road FC, which failed to show up for their encounter in the second game of a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

The result allows All Saints United to remain at the top of the 12-team standings by advancing to 50 points.

It means the Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades, who have four games in hand, have slipped from sec-

ond to third place on goal difference with 38 points from 15 matches.

It left Old Road FC in fourth place with 32 points after slumping to their fifth defeat in 19 matches.

The Villa Lions leapfrogged the Jennings Grenades from third to second place by recording their 13th win in 18 matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against the Attacking Saint FC in Saturday's opening game.

Eroy Gonsalves snatched the winner for the Villa Lions with a strike in the 79th minute. Obafami Poyotte, who scored both goals for the Attacking Saints, gave his team a one-nil lead with a fifth-minute conversion.

Jahlanie Barzer drew the Villa Lions level with a strike in the 28th minute before Poyotte scored his second in

the 42nd minute to give the Attacking Saints a 2-1 lead.

The Villa Lions equalized for the second time in the match via a conversion by Kerron McKenzie in the first minute of added time as both teams reached halftime level at 2-2.

The Villa Lions finished the match with 10 players after Dajari Barthley picked up a second caution (yellow card) and was expelled in the 86th minute.

The result allows the Villa Lions to advance to 39 points, while it also left the Attacking Saints in their eighth-place position on goal difference with 22 points after suffering their 11th defeat in 19 matches.