

Activation of CCTV Surveillance Network Three Months Away



Rollout of CCTV Surveillance Network Imminent

Plans are moving apace to strengthen national security across the country through the installation of an island-wide CCTV surveillance network.

Government has announced that equipment crucial to the activation of the surveillance network is expected to arrive in the country within the next month.

Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant, said the initiative forms part of the Gaston Browne-led administration's ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and support law enforcement operations.

He told reporters on Thursday that the surveillance programme, which was first announced several months ago, is now entering the implementation phase after Cabinet was advised that the necessary equipment has already been shipped to Antigua and Barbuda.

"The government wants to increase surveillance across the island, particularly for security reasons," Merchant said. "The necessary equipment has already been shipped and is expected to arrive within the next 30 days, and installation is scheduled to commence immediately thereafter."

He added that the full deployment of the system is expected within approximately two months following the arrival of the equipment.



Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

A total of 43 strategic locations across Antigua and Barbuda have been identified where high-definition surveillance cameras will be installed.

These areas include major public spaces, busy commercial districts, and critical tourist corridors where both residents and visitors regularly congregate. Among the locations mentioned are Fort James and Bay Street, Villa, key routes used by tourists, who choose to walk from their cruise ships to the beach.

"The targeted placement of cameras is intended to enhance crime detection and deterrence, improve public order management and support law enforcement initiatives," Merchant pointed out.

The CCTV network is expected to significantly strengthen the operational capacity of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, allowing officers to monitor activities in real time and respond faster to incidents.

Merchant said the system will be particularly useful in addressing crimes that occur in busy areas.

"The system will enable real-time monitoring and most particularly more rapid response to incidents," he said. "It will serve as an important tool in combating muggings, theft and a number of other petty crimes, especially in areas frequented by residents and visitors."

Meanwhile, Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas revealed to Cabinet on Wednesday that preparations are also underway to install additional street lights across several communities as part of broader infrastructure improvements.

The street lighting programme will run parallel with the CCTV installation project, as proper lighting is essential for the effective operation of surveillance cameras.

The CCTV and street lighting initiatives are viewed as a significant step toward improving public safety, strengthening crime prevention efforts, and protecting both residents and the thousands of visitors who travel to Antigua and Barbuda each year.



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15

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Cabinet Approves Land Exchange Plan to Expand Affordable Housing

Cabinet has approved a new initiative aimed at significantly expanding the availability of affordable housing across the country through a strategic land exchange and redevelopment programme.

Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant, speaking at yesterday's Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, announced that at its weekly meeting on Wednesday, Cabinet endorsed a proposal tabled by Housing and Works Minister Maria Browne for the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) to implement the Land Exchange and Redevelopment Programme (LERP).

According to Merchant, the programme is designed to address the limited availability of Crown lands for residential development.

"The presentation outlined a comprehensive framework that will enable CHAPA to acquire privately owned lands through voluntary exchange arrangements and redevelop them into affordable homes and serviced residential lots," he said.

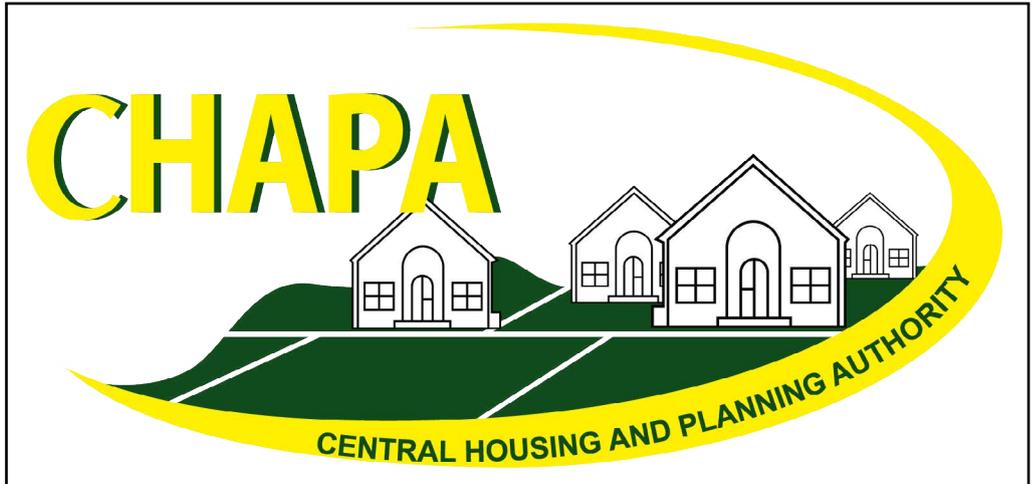
Under the initiative, CHAPA will identify privately owned lots and derelict properties across Antigua and Barbuda that are suitable for redevelopment. Cabinet will maintain a list of such properties and approach owners to explore voluntary arrangements.

The arrangements could take several forms, including land-for-land exchanges or the outright purchase of properties at fair market value based on independent appraisals.

Once acquired, the properties will be transformed by CHAPA into housing units or prepared residential lots to be sold to Antiguan and Barbudans seeking affordable housing options.

Merchant explained that the programme is intended to unlock underutilized land resources while simultaneously revitalizing neglected areas.

In addition to land-for-land exchanges or the outright purchase of properties, there are tax incentives, including



potential reductions or waivers of land transfer taxes and priority access to affordable housing allocations and financing support.

"This initiative provides multiple options for property owners while creating new opportunities for homeownership," Merchant explained.

The redevelopment programme will also incorporate community planning elements. Between 10 and 15 percent of lands will be reserved for public infrastructure such as parks, green spaces, and designated vending areas. Officials say this will ensure that new housing developments are accompanied by amenities that enhance quality of life and community interaction.

The programme will be rolled out in three phases, with the first serving as a pilot project. CHAPA, it was noted, will acquire approximately 25 parcels of land across selected constituencies to begin exchanges and initiate housing construction.

Phase two will involve expanding the programme based on participation levels and the readiness of supporting infrastructure, while in the final phase, officials will focus on institutionalizing the programme within CHAPA, making it a permanent mechanism for land acquisition and housing development.

The Director General of Communications disclosed that Cabinet moved quickly to support the initiative finan-

cially.

"Even before the Honourable Maria Browne concluded her presentation, Cabinet agreed to inject funding to kick-start the programme," he said.

An initial allocation of \$500,000 has been approved to begin the process, and the minister has been given the green light to commence implementation immediately.

Authorities are expected to begin the programme by targeting properties already identified as being abandoned or in a state of disrepair.

Merchant pointed out that the Ministry of Social Transformation and Urban Development recently conducted a survey in the St. John's area that identified more than 500 derelict properties. Representatives of the ministry will begin contacting the owners of those properties to determine whether they are willing to participate in the land exchange programme.

"If they agree, CHAPA will be able to purchase or exchange these properties and redevelop them to provide land and housing opportunities for the people of Antigua and Barbuda," Merchant stated.

Government officials believe the programme could significantly transform the housing landscape while revitalizing underutilized areas, particularly in urban communities.

Young Women Leaders to Debate Cannabis Law Reform in All-Female Parliamentary Sitting



Parliament will host the Young Women in Leadership (YWIL) All-Female Parliamentary Debate on Monday, March 9, 2026, marking the culmination of the eight-week leadership programme and a celebration of International Women's Day.

The House of Representatives will

convene at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Senate at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend or tune in via ABS Television and its digital platforms.

Senator The Hon. Alincia Williams Grant, President of the Senate and Interim Chair of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of Antigua and

Barbuda, expressed confidence in the young participants and the impact of the programme:

“Parliament is delighted to support the Young Women in Leadership initiative and the remarkable young women who have dedicated the past eight weeks to this programme. This partnership with CIWiL and ParlAmericas demonstrates the power of collaboration in building networks and leadership capacity for young women across our region. We wish them every success as they take the floor on Monday.”

Thursday, March 5, the programme featured a Fireside Chat with Women in Leadership, bringing together three distinguished professionals who shared candid insights into their personal and professional journeys. The panel included Charmaine Quinlan-Donovan, Chief Executive Officer of the Citizenship by Investment Unit; Ladesa James-Williams, Direc-



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tor, Retail Sales OECS and Country Head Antigua at CIBC; and Kathy David, Chartered Accountant and Partner and Territory Leader in the Antigua firm of Grant Thornton. Moderated by Senator Jamilla Kirwan, Interim Public Relations Officer for the Network of Women Parliamentarians, the discussion explored the panelists' early beginnings, the challenges they navigated, and the inspirations that helped them chart their respective career paths.

Reflecting on the session, Senator Kirwan noted:

“Hearing the authentic stories behind these remarkable women’s success reminds our young leaders that every career path begins with courage, perseverance, and the willingness to keep going despite obstacles. These conversations help demystify leadership and show that their aspirations are entirely within reach.”

During Monday’s special parliamentary sitting, participants will debate a motion proposing the establishment of a Joint Select Committee to review cannabis legislation in Antigua and Barbuda.

The motion calls for a comprehensive parliamentary review of the country’s evolving cannabis framework, including amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act (2014, 2018, 2019, and 2024) and the Cannabis (Amendment) Act 2022. The proposed review would

assess the social, legal, economic, and public health impacts of these reforms and examine how their implementation affects different groups within society.

Central to the debate is the application of a human rights, gender-responsive, and evidence-based approach, with

particular attention to how cannabis legislation may affect women, youth, caregivers, and vulnerable populations. The proposed committee would consult widely with experts, government agencies, community organizations, religious and cultural groups, educators, producers, and the general public.

Participants will also explore whether current laws are achieving their intended goals, identify potential implementation gaps or unintended consequences, and consider whether additional policy reforms, support programmes, or regulatory adjustments may be required.

The debate forms part of the broader YWiL initiative, which aims to empower young women to engage meaningfully in public policy discussions and parliamentary processes, while examining national issues through inclusive, forward-looking leadership perspectives.



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ABAA's Geneva George Gains Global Airport Management Accreditation

Geneva George, Commercial Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, has successfully completed the prestigious Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme (AMPAP), earning the globally recognized designation of International Airport Professional (IAP).

With this accomplishment, George becomes the first woman in Antigua and Barbuda to achieve the distinguished credential, marking an historic milestone not only for the Airport Authority but also for aviation development in the sub-region, a statement from the ABAA outlined.

The AMPAP programme, developed by the Airports Council International in partnership with leading aviation institutions worldwide, is designed to equip airport professionals with comprehensive knowledge of modern airport management and operations.

Through the programme, participants gain expertise in key areas including strategic airport planning, airside and landside operations, safety management systems, aviation security, and commercial development.

As a newly accredited International Airport Professional, George now brings to the Authority an expanded global perspective and advanced ex-



Geneva George

pertise aimed at strengthening operations at the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Geneva George, who has served the aviation sector for more than 15 years and is now a senior member of the executive management team at ABAA, said the achievement represents the culmination of years of dedication and sacrifice.

"I am truly honored to bring these

globally recognized skills to the ABAA and the V.C. Bird International Airport," she said. "The skills and knowledge I would have gained will be put to good use in ensuring that we continue to meet international standards and provide a world-class experience for every passenger."

Her accomplishment has been widely praised by government officials and the leadership of the Airport Authority.

Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment Minister Charles Fernandez met with George to personally commend her on the achievement.

"I am happy to join the Board of Directors of ABAA and the Executive Management in congratulating Ms. George on this accomplishment," Fernandez said. "Ms. George's ambition and hard work are an inspiration to all, and I look forward to her continuing to drive excellence and elevate the standards of our airport."

Armed with her accreditation, George is helping to position Antigua and Barbuda as a leader in aviation professionalism and operational excellence within the Caribbean region, further strengthening the reputation of the nation's airport sector on the global stage.



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Social Transformation Minister to Seek More Prize Monies for Winners of Beautification Festival

The Social Transformation Minister, Rawdon Turner, wants to see greater participation in the annual Community Gardens and Beautification Festival by offering more prize monies to participants.

Speaking at the launch of the 2026 Festival at Luna Park on Thursday, Minister Rawdon said he will ask the Cabinet for an additional \$10,000.00 in prize monies to be spread across all categories in the competitions held as part of the Festival.

“There are a number of categories within the Festival and my feelings are that if you want to really encourage more participation then you need to offer more incentives for that to happen. There are community groups and communities which participate in the Festival and that money could go towards further enhancement of their projects,” the minister indicated.

He explained that in many cases, it is the individuals in those groups and communities who use their own funds to finance their group’s involvement. Bigger prize monies could help offset those individual contributions towards their group’s involvement in the Festival.

Director of the Community Development and Citizens Engagement Division, Dale O’Brien noted that the Festival started back in 2009 under the names Homes, Families and Gardens Competition but in 2022 it was rebranded to become the Community Gardens and Beautification Festival, a name, she said, better captures the spirit of community involvement, creativity, and environmental consciousness that the programme now represents.

“This year marks the 15th year, and we proudly continue under the theme “Think Beautification for the Nation’s Health and Wealth.” This theme reminds us that beautification is not merely about aesthetics. It is about creating environments that nurture healthier lifestyles, strengthen community bonds, and contribute to the social and eco-



nomie well-being of our nation.

“Over the years, the Festival has made a meaningful and lasting impact on communities and individuals throughout Antigua and Barbuda. Many participants have discovered their passion for

gardening through this initiative. What may have started as a small backyard project has often grown into a fulfilling hobby, a therapeutic activity, and for some, even an opportunity for small-scale agricultural enterprise,” she remarked.

In her welcome address, Coordinator of the Festival, Dwannia Lake, noted that the Festival is no longer seen as just an event on the Calendar, rather it has since morphed into a movement. “It is a call to action and a reminder that sustainable development begins at the community level—right in our backyards, public spaces, schools, and villages. Each flower planted, each vegetable cultivated, and each space transformed speaks to a deeper truth: that civic pride and national progress grow from the ground up,” Lake explained.

Thursday’s launch took place at the home of Rhyves and Nia Knowles of Luna Park and the event culminated with a tour of their garden which won the top prize in last year’s festival.

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Alex Joseph Sentenced for Gun Magazine Possession

Alex Joseph of Nut Grove who was caught in a police dragnet with a magazine from a powerful handgun, has been sentenced to seven months in prison following a guilty plea for the offence.

Last Friday, the police accompanied by the K-9 and other units, carried out a stop and search operation on the St. Johnson's Village main road when Joseph was stopped, his vehicle was searched and the magazine was discovered.

He appeared before the magistrate last Tuesday and plead guilty to the charge of possession of ammunition without being the holder of a license to do so.



During sentencing on Thursday, the magistrate followed the sentencing guidelines in administering the judg-

ment of the court as established by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.



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Parham, Seatons, and Glanvilles Residents Invited to Shape Local Conservation Actions

The IHO Nature Rangers are calling on residents and youth across Antigua and Barbuda, particularly those in Parham, Seatons, Glanvilles and around the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA), to participate in a short national survey aimed at strengthening biodiversity conservation and community-led environmental action.

The survey, titled, “Community Voices for Conservation”, seeks to better understand community concerns, awareness levels, and interest in biodiversity conservation. Target communities include residents of Parham, Seatons, Willikies, Glanvilles, and surrounding areas such as Wilikies and Pares whose livelihoods, culture, and wellbeing are closely connected to coastal and marine ecosystems.

Completion of the survey ensures that project activities are community-informed and responsive to real needs. The data collected will directly guide youth engagement initiatives, environmental education programmes, wetland monitoring, community consultations, and advocacy efforts under the Strengthening Conservation Actions in the North East Marine Management Area, Antigua and Barbuda Project.

This initiative is led by IHO Nature Rangers with additional outreach support provided by the Eco-Shores Sustainable Futures Network (ESFN). The project aims to empower youth and communities to actively participate in protecting critical ecosystems within NEMMA.

The IHO Nature Rangers has been actively supporting the Seatons and Glanvilles Community with their community clean-up of the Glan-



villes football field, and preparing to discuss sign installations. “This survey continues our work to support existing and new community actions. Community voices are essential to effective conservation,” noted Britney McDonald, Project Manager of the CEPF-funded Conservation project. “When residents share their perspectives, they help shape practical solutions that protect biodiversity while supporting livelihoods and resilience.”

The survey takes just three (3) minutes to complete and is open to all residents of Antigua and Barbuda. Community members are encouraged to participate by visiting: [https://forms.gle/xDqM7imXEy-](https://forms.gle/xDqM7imXEy-mTh9zU9)

[mTh9zU9](https://forms.gle/xDqM7imXEy-mTh9zU9)

By contributing, residents play a direct role in shaping conservation actions that will impact present and future generations.

This activity is part of the “Strengthening Conservation Actions in the North East Management Area, Antigua and Barbuda” project, which is led by the IHO-Nature Rangers and is funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and the World Bank with the implementing support of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and partner Integrated Health Outreach.

Celebrating The Honourable Maria Browne on International Women's Day

By Aneka Lee

Today we conclude our International Women's Day series highlighting the achievements of women in leadership in Antigua and Barbuda. It is fitting that the final spotlight falls on the Honourable Maria Browne, a powerful example of dedication, humility, purposeful leadership and an unwavering commitment to national development.

In a political landscape where women remain underrepresented, the Honourable Maria Browne stands as the sole female member of the Lower House of Parliament in Antigua and Barbuda. Her presence, while symbolic, carries a weight of responsibility in a time when the call for greater female representation in leadership continues to grow. She has answered that call and reminded us of the undeniable truth that women belong in every space where decisions about the future of our nation are made.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has made the inclusion of women a keystone component of its modern identity. It was within this environment of opportunity that Maria Browne enthusiastically answered the call to serve.

The Honourable Maria Browne's journey in politics has been historic. She holds the distinct honour of being the youngest person ever elected to the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda at the age of 26. A remarkable feat that signaled that she was destined for greatness from the very beginning. Her meteoric rise to national leadership is as a result of her personal determination and desire to break barriers and uplift the underserved communities.

Minister Browne first demonstrated her leadership capacity when she was elected Head Girl at Christ the King High School about a decade before her victory in the 2018 polls. It was in that role that she demonstrated early signs of



Honourable Maria Browne

discipline and advocacy that would define her public life. Her leadership style has been shaped by those early lessons in leading by example with grace and integrity. It is a style that continues to guide her work today.

Today, as Minister with responsibility for the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Browne carries one of the government's most demanding portfolios. From national infrastructure to housing development, the ministry touches the everyday lives of citizens across our twin-island nation. The work is technical, complex, and often conducted away from the spotlight, but Browne's approach reflects a clear philosophy: get the job done and let the results speak.

Under her watch, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works continues the critical work of maintaining and improving the nation's infrastructure, to include roads, public buildings, and housing initiatives that support the wellbeing of communities throughout Antigua and Barbuda. These projects are the backbone of national development and will shape the quality of life for generations to come.

Beyond the halls of government,

Browne has distinguished herself as a passionate advocate for empowerment, particularly for women and young people. She understands that true leadership is not only about holding office but about creating opportunities.

Demonstrating this commitment, Minister Maria Browne recently offered scholarships to twenty constituents to pursue certificate courses with The University of the West Indies Global Campus. This initiative opened doors for individuals seeking to upgrade their skills and improve their economic prospects. For many, the scholarship was a chance at elevation.

Her generosity and compassion are also felt directly within her constituency. Each year, Minister Browne sponsors a Summer Camp and provides back-to-school essentials for families, ensuring that students begin the academic year equipped and confident. These acts of kindness reflect her belief that community care and leadership go hand in hand.

For women in particular, Minister Maria Browne's presence in leadership is both empowering and uplifting. She embodies the message that women can lead, build, and shape the future of their country. She consistently encourages women to pursue their ambitions boldly and to recognize their value in spaces of power and influence, through her work and her example.

On this International Women's Day, celebrating The Honourable Maria Browne is about recognizing a leader whose character, generosity, and dedication continue to uplift communities and inspire the next generation of women leaders.

In the Honourable Maria Browne, Antigua and Barbuda has a dedicated minister and a proud champion for women, community, and the future of the nation.

Ghana Is Free Forever – And So Are We!

A Reflection on Independence, Identity, and the African Spirit That Binds Us All

By Barbara Hesse-Merchant

On March 6, 1957, the world changed. Ghana became the first African nation south of the Sahara to achieve independence from British colonial rule and in doing so, sent a thunderclap of hope across every Black community on earth.

Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah's words that night, "Ghana is free forever," were more than a declaration for one nation. They were a statement of hope for the entire African continent. The crowd that gathered was not just Ghanaian. Ghana's liberation served as a testament to the strength and unity of the African diaspora, proven by the sheer number of attendees from across the entire global Black community, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King returned home and preached that Ghana proved liberation is fought for, not given.

The Caribbean Thread that makes this story even more powerful for Caribbean people is that the seeds of Ghana's independence were, in part, planted in our region. Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah himself acknowledged that of all the literature



that shaped him, nothing fired his enthusiasm more than the philosophy of Marcus Garvey, the Jamaican son of the Caribbean whose vision of Black dignity and African solidarity crossed every ocean. Nkrumah named Ghana's shipping line the Black Star Line after Garvey's dream, placed a black star in the Ghanaian flag, and named

the national football team the Black Stars, enduring tributes to a Caribbean man's vision.

With Ghana's independence, the concept of federation and political union across the Caribbean islands began to be looked upon as a realizable possibility, a freedom movement in one



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corner of the Black world igniting constitutional reform and changing attitudes in another.

The Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement was among the Pan-Africanist organisations that emerged in the broader wave of consciousness that Ghana's independence helped inspire. The spirit of March 6th touched these shores too. The Blood That runs through us now in 2026, as the world grows more complex and the pressures on Black communities, economic, political, social, feel relentless, we would do well to remember what we are made of. We are not a fragile people. We are a forged people. Our forefathers did not survive the Middle Passage by accident. They did not build nations out of colonial rubble by luck. They did not march, organise, litigate, legislate, and lead by chance. They did it through a strength so deep it has been written into our very DNA.

Every hardship they endured, every chain they broke, every border they crossed and every ballot they cast, that energy did not disappear. It was transferred. It lives in us.

When Nkrumah stood before a free Ghana 69 years ago, he was standing on the shoulders of millions of ancestors who had refused, in Africa, in the Caribbean, in the Americas, to accept that they were anything less than fully human and fully capable. Their refusal became our inheritance. So when life bears down, when systems resist us, when progress feels slow, when the road seems longer than it should, we draw from that same well.

The same ancestral fire that liberated a continent is available to us today. We do not start from nothing. We start from everything they gave us. The strength of our forefathers is not history, it is armour. It is the reason we are still here, still rising, still leading, through every adversity this world has placed before us.

For us, today, Ghana's Independence Day, remains a reminder of resilience

and unity across the diaspora, a sense of hope carried forward into the future.

For Black people everywhere, in Accra, in Antigua and Barbuda, in Atlanta, the message is the same: Our freedom was not an accident. It was the result of vision, sacrifice, and an unshakeable belief that Black People deserve to govern themselves, lead themselves, and define themselves.

In 2026, that belief is still radical. And it is still necessary. Nkrumah once said, "I prefer self-government with danger to servitude with tranquil-

ity."

Our forefathers chose danger, again and again, so that we could walk in places they were never permitted to enter. The least we can do is walk boldly. Ghana proved it first. The rest of us have been proving it ever since.

We are not just the descendants of the enslaved. We are the descendants of those who refused to stay enslaved. That is the difference. That is our power.

Happy Independence, Ghana!

EARLY CLOSURE NOTICE

APUA wishes to advise the general public that all Bill Payment Centres, Customer Service offices, and inet Retail Stores will close to the public on **Friday 6 March 2026 at 1:00 pm** to accommodate staff attending a Union meeting.

Customers may still make payments and complete top ups using APUA's online payment and top up platforms, which will remain available during this time.

This early closure applies to Friday only. Regular operating hours will resume thereafter.



Who Gains, Who Loses: The Global Cost of the Iran War, and the Caribbean Fallout



By Sir Ronald Sanders

It is a mistake to believe that the war in Iran and the retaliatory actions in the Gulf are too far away to matter to the Caribbean. The fallout is already reaching the region, pushing up the costs of fuel, freight, and everyday goods across the region. For import-dependent economies, this instability brings higher prices, greater fiscal strain, and added vulnerability for those least able to absorb shocks.

The Strait of Hormuz, the corridor through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes, has become a pressure point for the global economy. "War risk" premiums for vessels have jumped to as much as 1 per cent of a ship's value from about 0.2 per cent the week before; in some cases, underwriters are declining cover for Hormuz transits altogether.

The result is higher prices for everything that depends on predictable maritime trade. Energy prices respond quickly. On March 3, the global oil benchmark was up about 8 per cent to around US\$84 a barrel. Some analysts expect Brent crude, the main international benchmark price for oil, to reach or exceed US\$100 if the conflict continues.

Higher fuel costs feed into electricity generation, public transport, aviation, and the movement of food and consumer goods. When energy rises, the cost of living rises, most sharply for those with the least spare income. That is why the Caribbean is particularly exposed. The region's dependence on imported energy and imported food turns external conflict into domestic inflation.

The Caribbean imports approximately US\$8.5 billion in food annually, so higher freight and fuel costs, coupled with disruption to global fertiliser supplies, quickly become higher prices at the till. Oil prices explain roughly 60 per cent of regional energy inflation, so households can see electricity and transport costs climb quickly.

Tourism, the main source of foreign exchange and employment for many states, is also at risk. If jet fuel rises and traveller sentiment weakens, the Caribbean's 2026 tourism outlook becomes harder to sustain. The war has led to mass flight cancellations and closures: at least 11,000 flights to and from Middle Eastern countries were cancelled, affecting more than one million travellers.

Even airlines far from the conflict are vulnerable because fuel typically accounts for 15 to 25 per cent of a flight's costs, and sustained oil spikes work their way into ticket prices and demand.

It is not difficult to see how this reaches the Caribbean: fewer travellers, higher fares, and tighter margins for hotels, restaurants, taxi operators, and the small businesses that rely on visitor spending.



Regret for war does not require silence about the Iranian regime. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's rule has long been associated with harsh repression in Iran: the denial of rights, arbitrary arrests and imprisonment, and the crushing of dissent. Women have been particular victims of enforced control and state violence. To acknowledge these truths is important, because many people will feel an understandable ambivalence: condemning a regime's cruelty while fearing the wider consequences of escalation. One can hold both positions at once.

The United Nations also shows the constraints that arise when the Security Council cannot reach consensus. The Secretary-General, António Guterres, condemned the military escalation, called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and de-escalation, and urged all parties back to diplomacy. Yet the Security Council has remained divided and unable to agree a unified response.

So, who wins and who loses? Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, plainly presents the war as a strategic gain. For him, the Iranian regime has been a mortal enemy of Israel and a principal sponsor of regional hostility towards it. Whether this war reduces anti-Israeli sentiment, or fuels it further, remains to be seen. The United States administration has also cast the conflict as a success, particularly because of its concern about Iran's capacity to develop nuclear weapons. At the same time, even where governments believe strategic objectives have been advanced, the imperative is to prevent

further escalation, protect civilian life, and return to diplomacy that can bring the confrontation to an end.

The losers are the global public, particularly in import-dependent and debt-constrained states. Stock markets have stumbled, reflecting fears of inflation, disrupted trade, and recession risk. The losers are also those who are killed on all sides, especially innocent children. Consumers lose through higher prices for food, shipping and essentials, as higher oil costs bleed into nearly every sector. Governments lose fiscal space, pressured to cushion households through subsidies or tax relief at the very moment that import bills and interest costs threaten to widen deficits.

The winners are narrower. Energy producers and commodity traders often benefit from volatility and price spikes, at least in the short term. Defence contractors and munitions suppliers rarely suffer in wartime markets. Shipping and insurance can extract higher premiums from higher risk. Meanwhile, ordinary economies pay the price.

Even within the Caribbean, the distribution is uneven. Guyana is a notable outlier: higher oil and LNG prices can lift export earnings and the revenues of the licensed producers operating there. This is a market effect of the war, not an outcome that Guyana sought.

Amid all this, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has not yet spoken with a single voice, although the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have each made separate statements. The

absence of a clear, joint CARICOM position projects hesitation when the region's interests are directly implicated through energy prices, shipping risk and inflation. Antigua and Barbuda, for its part, has urged maximum restraint, an immediate de-escalation, and renewed diplomatic engagement under the rule of law, reflecting the kind of principled, measured stance the Community as a whole should now adopt.

Consensus is difficult when member states weigh different exposures and bilateral relationships. Some will fear offending major partners and provoking retaliation. But war anywhere undermines peace everywhere, and it punishes most severely those economies that rely on stable prices, open sea lanes, tourism confidence, and investment flows.

For the Caribbean, the proper response should be a clear-eyed defence of de-escalation, the rule of law, and protection of civilian life. CARICOM should, therefore, speak with one voice, not to assign blame or to posture, but to urge restraint, a return to diplomacy, and respect for the norms that protect small states as much as large ones. This would not be an attack on any state; it would simply be a call for good sense in the interest of all humanity, even as the war travels steadily to Caribbean shores.

(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Chancellor of the University of Guyana. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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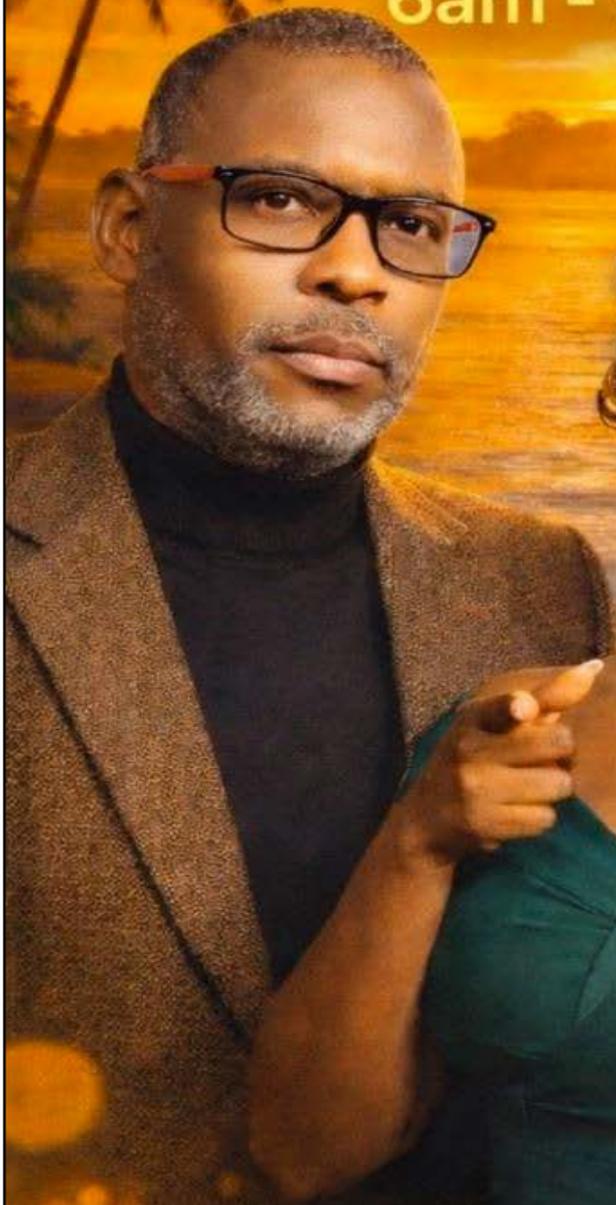
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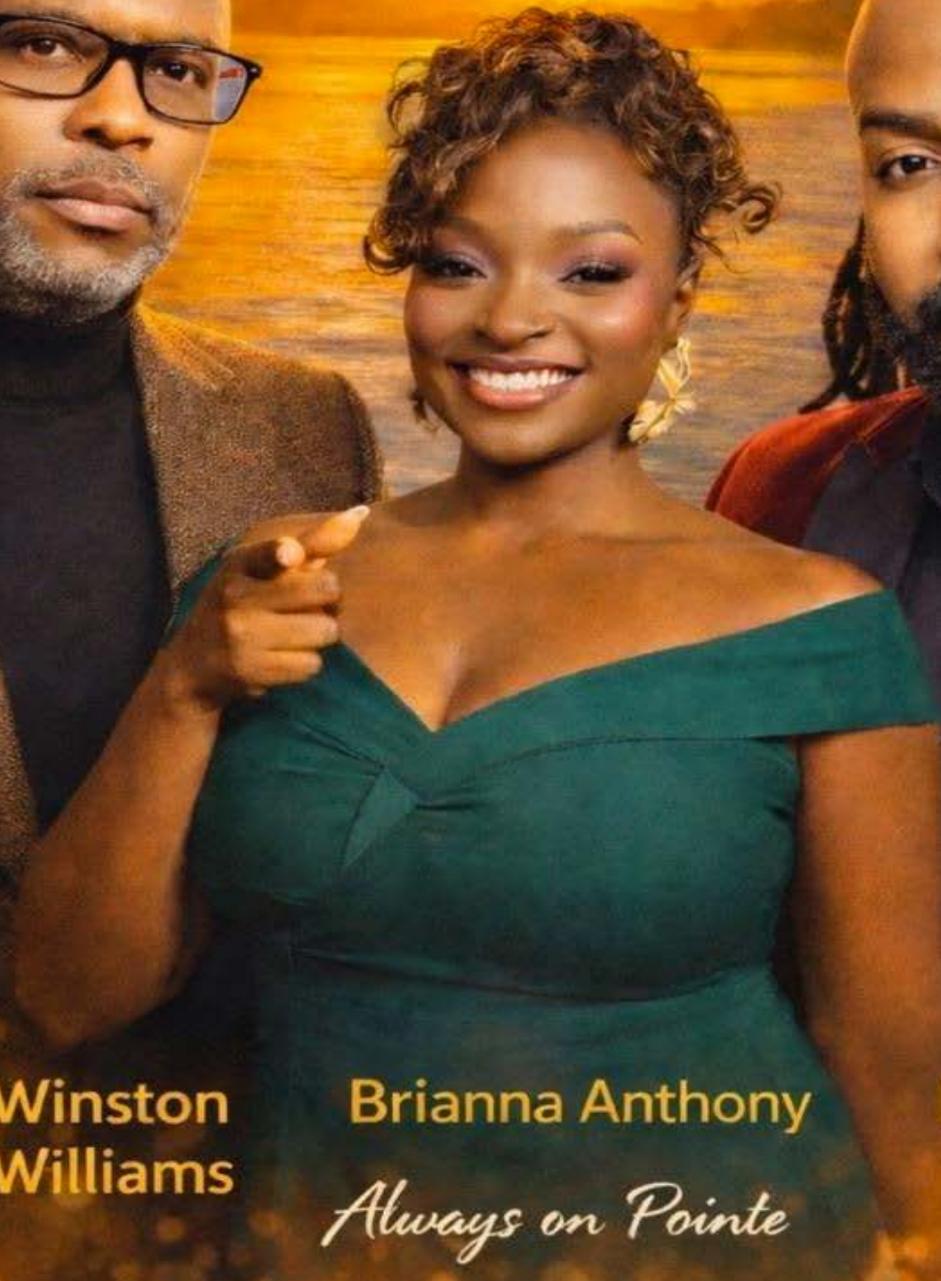
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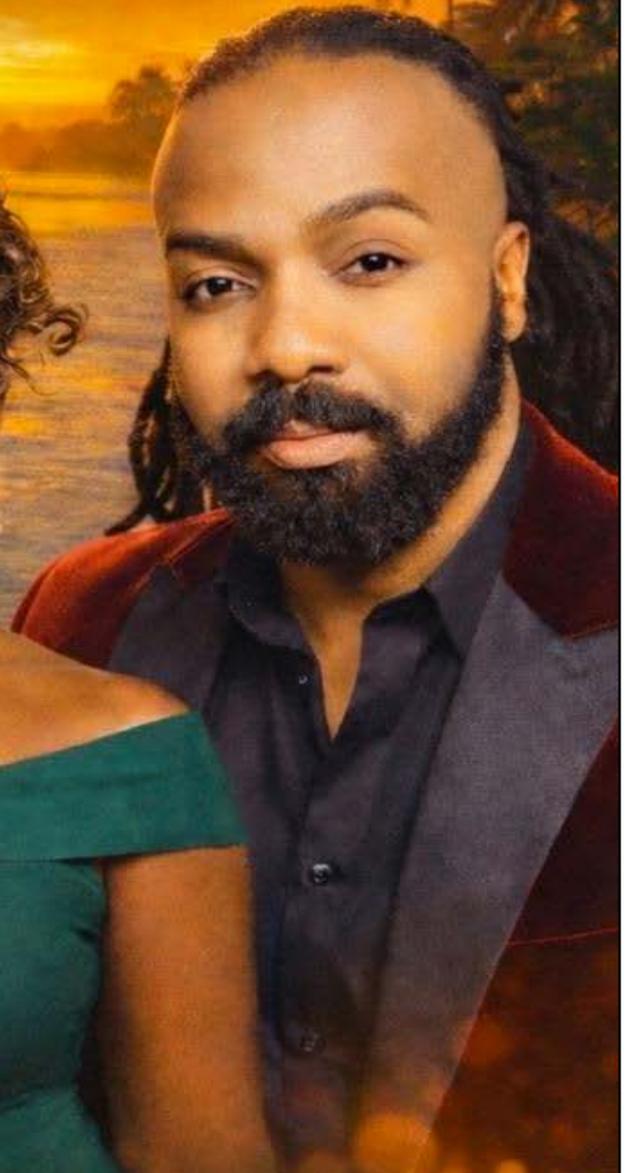


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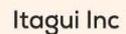
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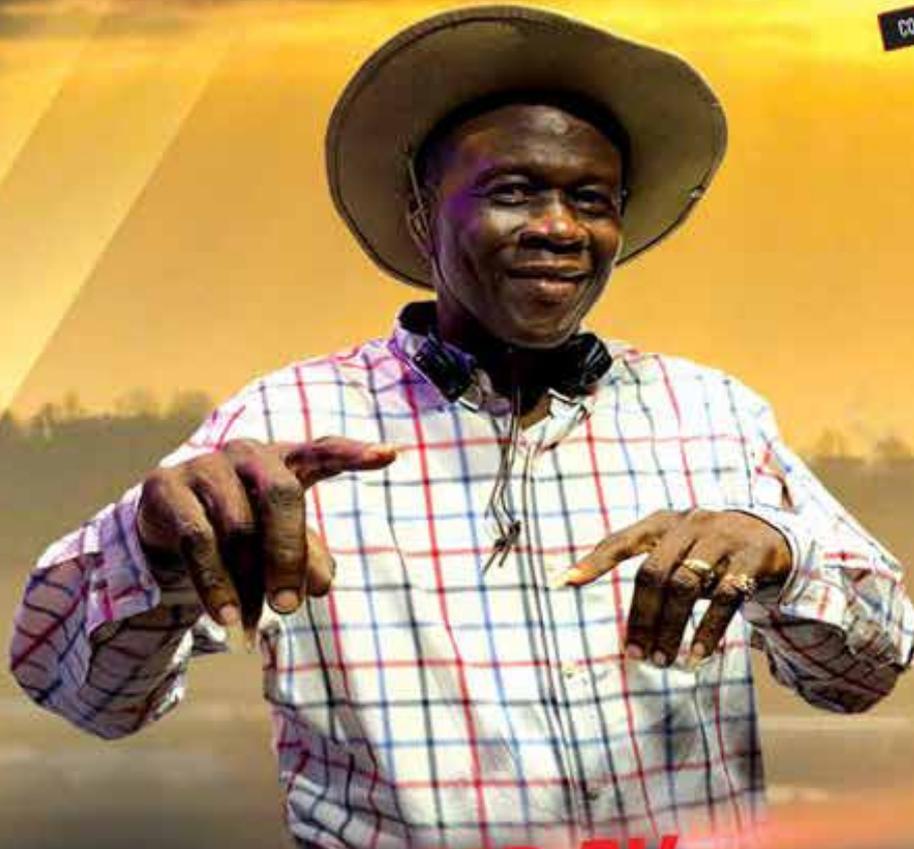
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UK imposes visa requirement on St Lucia

The St Lucia government on Thursday confirmed that it has formally received communication from the United Kingdom government advising that a visa requirement will be introduced for its nationals travelling to the UK.

London said that St Lucian travellers would require a transit visa for transiting through the United Kingdom to another destination.

The new measures go into effect immediately.

According to the March 4, 2026 correspondence from the UK Home Office, the decision was taken as part of the United Kingdom's broader efforts to strengthen border management and respond to pressures within its immigration and asylum systems.

London said that there has been a "notable increase in St Lucian nationals entering the UK as visitors and subsequently claiming asylum, which it says has placed pressure on its border and asylum processes".

The UK authorities have advised that the new visa requirement goes into effect as of Thursday and that a six-week transition period will be in place until April 16, 2026, during which St Lucian nationals who already possess an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) and have booked travel prior to the policy change may continue to enter the United Kingdom visa-free if they arrive before the end of the transition window.

The St Lucia government said that it "acknowledges that this development will be of concern to many of its nationals, "including those who travel to the United Kingdom for family visits, business, education, and tourism.

"The Government wishes to reassure citizens that active diplomatic engagement with the United Kingdom is ongoing, and that St Lucia will continue discussions with UK authorities to better understand the decision and to explore pathways for maintaining strong



mobility arrangements between both countries".

The Phillip J Pierre administration said that it "will provide further guidance to the public on visa application procedures and travel requirements as

additional information becomes available".

The United Kingdom has also implemented a similar visa restriction for Dominica. (Jamaica Gleaner)

NOTICE

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

TO: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice - Application for Tavern Licence

I, Sanjay .M. Adagale of Upper Gamble St. John's Antigua, with registered business situate at St. Mary Street in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next special sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's Antigua on Monday the 7th April 2026 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "**Bombay Breeze**" situated on St. Mary Street in the parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 25th day of February. 2026
 Sanjay .M. Adagale

Third-country refugee agreement with the US in final stages, says PM Skerrit

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has announced that his government is finalizing the agreement with the United States to accept third-country refugees to Dominica.

This decision forms part of ongoing discussions with the United States, following the December 16, 2025, proclamation introducing partial visa restrictions.

During a press conference this week, the PM gave an update on the process.

“The draft agreement that we have is that the United States has proposed to send to Dominica seven people per quarter,” he said. “We have four quarters in the year, so in the year will be twenty-eight, no more than twenty-eight persons. So, that is the understanding.”

He continued, “It is not the hundreds people are saying or the thousands. And the truth is Dominica needs thousands of people more insofar as the agreement, and we are hoping to finalize the agreement this week.”

According to the Prime Minister, his government is engaging the services of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to manage this agreement from an operational standpoint on behalf of the Government of Dominica.

“There are some logistical issues we have to put in place, and we are working with IOM and the United States on this,” Skerrit stated. “We have to determine whether they are going to be renting individual locations or they rent one building...because some of the people may want to move on, because they may not stay in Dominica permanently, they may want to move on back to their country of origin and of course the financial aspect of it is something that we are in discussions with so that we are not out of pocket.” (Dominica News Online)



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Regional News

Dominica's geothermal plant on track to be commissioned by end of month, says PM Skerrit

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has announced that the Geothermal Energy Plant located in Laudat is expected to be commissioned by the end of this month.

He made the announcement during a press conference this week.

“The plant is operational, and we have been going through the testing phases for the last several weeks,” he said. “I believe we will be in a position to commission the plant by the end of March, hopefully, but all is in place.”

He continued, “From all reports, it has been successfully tested and that we look forward to the Dominican people benefiting from this investment.”

Skerrit said everything is in place, the plant is operational in all aspects and more details will be provided later down.

The 10-megawatt geothermal power plant, amounting to US\$34.8 million will become the second in the OECS and the first in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

By harnessing the Nature Isle's volcanic potential, the facility, located at Laudat in the lush Roseau Valley, promises to significantly reduce fossil fuel dependency while providing stable, clean energy to some 23,000 Dominican homes, according to the Dominica Geothermal Development Company (DGDC), the public-private partnership driving the power project.

The commissioning of the Laudat plant is expected to be an early milestone in the OECS Decade of Action for Sustainable Energy Development, launched in February with the Basserre Declaration by the Council of Ministers: Energy, at its third meeting in St Kitts and Nevis. The goal is to ensure that at least 30 per cent of the region's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2035, though several Member States have pledged to ramp up to full green power by then.



Dominica is one of five Member States in the OECS GEOBUILD Programme, which is advancing geothermal energy in the Eastern Caribbean. Supported by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the OECS Commission is also working to build capacity in Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines to explore and develop the region's vast geothermal potential. (Dominica News Online)

Volunteers Needed

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

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

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

Interested? Complete the volunteer application form at the following link for a fulfilling and worthwhile experience:



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h7bf39zPzT>

Please note that the QR code is attached.



ST Kitts & Nevis PM signs political consultation agreement with Ghana



During his official State Visit to the Republic of Ghana, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, recently formalized a new diplomatic framework by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of a Political Consultation Mechanism with the African country.

According to the St Kitts & Nevis Information Service, the signing ceremony took place on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, and involved Prime Minister Drew and Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Honourable Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa.

This agreement establishes a structured platform for ongoing dialogue between the two governments, facilitating regular consultations and broadening avenues for

cooperation.

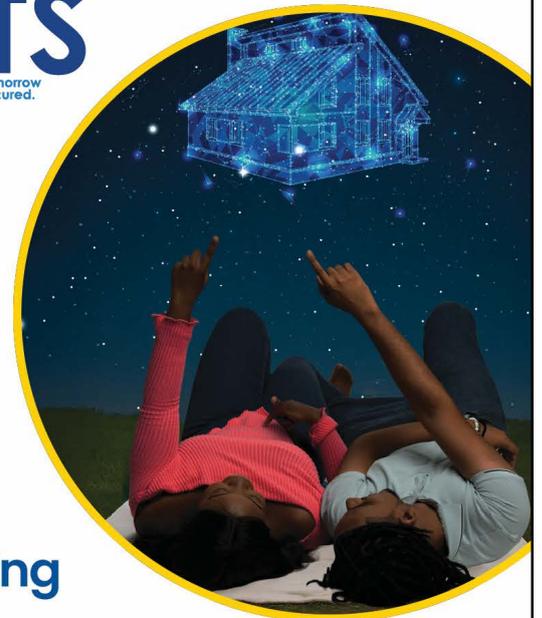
The SKNIS says that the newly formed mechanism aims to foster collaboration across a variety of sectors, including politics, trade, science, technology, and cultural exchanges. Its purpose is to promote policy alignment, strengthen diplomatic ties, and create continuous opportunities for both nations to work together at both the governmental and technical levels.

Expressing the importance of the accord, Prime Minister Drew noted, "This mechanism ensures that our engagement with Ghana is structured, strategic, and sustained," said Prime Minister Drew. "It creates the platform for meaningful cooperation across multiple sectors that matter to our people." (Dominica News Online)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Sri Lanka recovers 87 bodies from Iranian warship sunk off its coast by a US submarine

A torpedo fired by a U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship off the coast of Sri Lanka, whose navy said Wednesday it recovered 87 bodies and rescued 32 people.

The Iranian vessel sunk in the Indian Ocean was the Islamic Republic's "prize ship," U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said. It was one of the few instances of a submarine sinking a ship since World War II.

The sinking of the IRIS Dena illustrates a U.S.-Israeli military operation against Iran that is stretching beyond its borders. U.S. President Donald Trump has said one of the key objectives of the war is to wipe out Iran's navy.

"An American submarine sunk an Iranian warship that thought it was safe in international waters," Hegseth said at a Pentagon news briefing. "Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo."

After Sri Lanka's navy received a distress signal from the IRIS Dena, which had 180 people on board, it sent ships and planes on a rescue mission, the country's foreign minister, Vijitha Herath, told Parliament.

But by the time Sri Lanka's navy reached the location, there was no sign of the ship, "only some oil patches and life rafts," navy spokesman Commander Buddhika Sampath said. "We found people floating on the water."

A video released by the U.S. Depart-



ment of Defense on X showed the moment of the torpedo attack. The Iranian ship appears to be hit by an underwater explosion that causes it to break apart, as a large plume of water rises up in the air.

The 32 people rescued were admitted to a hospital in Galle, a town on Sri Lanka's southern coast, Sampath said. The bodies recovered were also being brought to land, he said.

At the National Hospital in Galle, Iranian sailors' bodies were arriving in trucks and being stored in a makeshift mortuary. The hospital was guarded by Sri Lankan police and naval personnel, as workers unloaded bodies away from view.

Dr. Anil Jasinghe, a top health ministry official, said one of those rescued is

in critical condition, seven are receiving emergency treatment and others are being treated for minor injuries.

The IRIS Dena — one of Iran's newest warships — patrolled in deep water, and was armed with heavy guns, surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles and torpedoes. It carried one helicopter.

The ship had been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department in February 2023, along with eight executives of an Iranian drone manufacturer that supplied weapons to Russia for use against civilian targets in Ukraine.

At least 17 Iranian naval vessels have been sunk during the ongoing war, said U.S. Adm. Brad Cooper, who leads the American military's Central Command. (AP)

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Nepalis vote in first election since Gen Z uprising for change



Millions of Nepalis have voted in the country's first general election since violent youth-led protests toppled the government last September.

Corruption, economic stagnation and inequality were the main issues in the vote. They sparked the uprising in which 77 people died, many of them protesters shot by police.

The election represents a crossroads for Nepal, pitting the establishment against a new generation of politicians advocating for angry, young Gen Z voters hungry for change.

Counting the votes cast for the Nepalese parliament's 275 seats is expected to take several days, and results are not expected before next week.

Nepal's mountainous terrain makes it slow and difficult to transport ballots, which are tallied by hand.

Nearly 19 million people, including almost a million first-time voters, were registered to take part in the 5 March ballot for the House of Representatives. The Election Commission, speaking shortly after polls closed, said it expected voter turnout to be around 60%.

Voting was largely peaceful, and there was a huge security presence across the country.

Leading candidates include KP Shar-

ma Oli, the prime minister toppled in the protests, and Balen Shah, a former rapper who resigned as Kathmandu's mayor in January to take him on in his constituency, the Jhapa 5 seat, one of the key election races.

For Oli, the election will be a major test. He and his party, the Communist Party of Nepal UML, have insisted the protests were not a referendum on his leadership and that he is still beloved by the public. He told the BBC he's confident he will win this election.

The leader of the Nepali Congress, Gagan Thapa, believes younger voters are tired of "unholy alliances" and "poor governance" in previous coali-

NOTICE

TO:Your Worship
St.Johns Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
St. John's
Antigua

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

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice - Application for Tavern Licence

I, Keno .D. Harris of Joseph Lane St.John's Antigua, with registered business situate at Joseph's Lane St.John's Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St.John's Antigua on Monday the 7th April 2026 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Coconut Palm Chil Spot" situated on St.Mary Street in the parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 25th day of February. 2026
 Keno .D. Harris

International

AROUND THE WORLD



tions, and that the party is listening to Gen Z voters.

Balen Shah, who is representing the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), refused to speak directly to the press on Thursday, staying true to form by turning up in his signature black sunglasses and storming through a crowd of journalists.

It is a trend Nepal's media worry would continue if he took office. Yet, many of the young voters we've spoken to believe his youth and energy are exactly what the country needs, and that he represents a new chapter in Nepal's future.

Both Oli and Thapa's parties, which have been in government numerous times, have been clear in their messaging, in suggesting they have heard the calls for change. Whether voters agree remains to be seen.

Rakshya Bam - one of Nepal's Gen Z leaders - was largely unimpressed.

"I think none of the parties have incorporated the pact that was signed between the government and the Gen Z in their election manifestos," she told the BBC ahead of the vote.

"They want to sell the name of Gen Z and come into power so they are using the term Gen Z movement... I don't have much expectations from the elections."

Ispa Sapkota, who spoke to the BBC as she cast her ballot in Kathmandu, said she protested in September to "end corruption" and restore "political stability" in Nepal.

"We want a better nation," she says. "When I and others search for jobs, we're not able to get any here. Brain drain is becoming the most important problem in our country."

If Balen Shah wins, it would represent a seismic shift from the governance that has paralysed Nepal. For more than three decades, the country has seen a revolving door of coalition governments, largely dominated by three parties, two of them communist.

This election will test whether Gen Z voters have succeeded in convincing the rest of the country that it is time for a new, untested generation to shape their future, or whether veteran heavy-

weights who have dominated for decades will keep hold of power.

Of the 275 seats in the lower house, 165 will be elected through first-past-the-post voting, meaning the candidate with the most votes wins the seat. The other 110 MPs will be selected via proportional representation, which takes into account the proportion of votes cast for a political party nationally.

The election commission has promised to finish counting by 9 March and to release the results of the 165 directly elected seats within 24 hours of counting beginning. But the process of collecting ballot boxes from across the mountainous country and delivering them to counting centres typically takes at least a day.

It could take another two to three days to tally the results of the proportional

representation vote, officials said.

A new government, formed on the basis of the seats won by political parties, will have the responsibility of leading the reforms and addressing issues like corruption and good governance.

Samikshya KC, who voted in Kathmandu, chose not to participate in the protests, but says she supported the Gen Z movement.

"Nepal is becoming very corrupt," she told the BBC. "I'm hoping for a big change."

She wants the next government to develop all of Nepal, and not just the capital.

"There are so many remote places in our country - let there be some progress there too. Whatever happens, let it be good." (BBC)

NOTICE

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

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

Dear Sir/Madame,

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR
BUSINESS REGISTERED AS**

"CHEF JAVID"

I, Javid Charles, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St John's Antigua on Tuesday 7th April, 2026 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Chef Javid" situated at Parliament Drive, in the Parish of St. John's Antigua pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 26th day of January. 2026
1268-773-6585
Javid Charles

Trump threatens to cut off trade with Spain after it disallowed US use of joint bases in Iran war

President Donald Trump on Tuesday threatened to end trade with Spain, citing a lack of support over the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran and the European nation's resistance to increasing its NATO spending.

"We're going to cut off all trade with Spain," Trump told reporters during an Oval Office meeting with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. "We don't want anything to do with Spain."

The U.S. president's comments came a day after Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said his country would not allow the U.S. to use jointly operated bases in southern Spain in any strikes not covered by the United Nations' charter. Albares noted that the military bases in Spain were not used in the weekend attack on Iran.

Trump said despite Spain's refusal "we could use their base if we want. We could just fly in and use it. Nobody's going to tell us not to use it, but we don't have to."

It is unclear how Trump would cut off trade with Spain, given that Spain is under the umbrella of the European Union. The EU negotiates trade deals on behalf of all 27 member countries.

"If the U.S. administration wishes to review the trade agreement, it must do so respecting the autonomy of private companies, international law, and bilateral



agreements between the European Union and the United States," a spokesperson from Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's office said Tuesday.

The EU said it expects the Trump administration to honor a trade deal struck with the 27-nation bloc in Scotland last year after months of economic uncertainty over Trump's tariff blitzkrieg.

"The Commission will always ensure that the interests of the European Union are fully protected," said European Commission spokesperson Olof Gill.

It was just the latest instance of the president wielding the threat of tariffs or trade embargoes as a punishment and came on the heels of a Supreme Court decision that struck down Trump's far-reaching global tariffs. While the court said that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act does not authorize the president to unilaterally impose sweeping tariffs, Trump now maintains that the court allows him to instead impose full-scale

embargoes on other nations of his choosing.

Trump also complained anew Tuesday about Spain's decision last year to back out of NATO's 5% defense spending target. At the time, Spain said it could reach its military capabilities by spending 2.1% of its GDP, a move that Trump roundly criticized and responded to with tariff threats as well.

Spain, Trump said, is "the only country that in NATO would not agree to go up to 5%" in NATO spending. "I don't think they agreed to go up to anything. They wanted to keep it at 2% and they don't pay the 2%."

Merz noted that Trump was correct and said, "We are trying to convince them that this is a part of our common security, that we all have to comply with this."

Spain defended its position Tuesday, saying it is "a key member of NATO, fulfilling its commitments and making a significant contribution to the defense of European territory," the spokesperson in Sánchez's

office said.

During the Oval Office meeting, Trump turned to U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent for his opinion on the president's embargo authority.

Bessent said, "I agree that the Supreme Court reaffirmed your ability to implement an embargo." Bessent added that the U.S. Trade Representative and Commerce Department would "begin investigations and we'll move forward with those."

A representative from the U.S. Treasury Department did not respond to a request from The Associated Press for additional comment.

Sánchez has been critical of the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran, calling it an "unjustifiable" and "dangerous" military intervention. His government has demanded an immediate de-escalation and dialogue and also condemned Iran's strikes across the region.

Trump said, "Spain has absolutely nothing that we need other than great people. They have great people, but they don't have great leadership."

Spain's position on the use of U.S. bases in its territory marks the latest flare-up in its relationship with the Trump administration. Under Sánchez, Europe's last major progressive leader, Spain was also an outspoken critic of Israel's war in Gaza. (AP)

Gunners extend unbeaten run in Division 2 basketball league



The Cedar Grove Gunners maintained their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

The Gunners shot their way to their fifth win in as many matches with a commanding 67-52 victory over Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew at the JSC Sports Complex.

Keaddy Martin sank 16 points, and Iornie Joseph scored 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Cedar

Grove Gunners.

Takeem Martin converted 16 points and snatched 13 rebounds, and Emeka Emujuru-Oupe scored 10 points and claimed seven rebounds for the Fearless Crew, who slumped to their third loss in seven games.

Michael Joseph Phoenix notched up their fourth win in nine games with an 83-53 drubbing of Square One Construction United.

Shamar Joseph sank 20 points; Garry Harrison produced 15 points and 10 rebounds; Shalom Bloodman converted 12 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Adrian Carnegie also scored 12 points; and Roshane Hewlette chipped in with 11 points and 15 rebounds for the Phoenix.

Tyndale Telemaque shot a game-high 33 points and claimed six rebounds for United, who lost for the fifth time in as many games.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Michael Joseph Phoenix also soared to an emphatic 77-39 victory over the Navigators 2.

Nicholas Simpson shot a game-high 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Shalom Bloodman sank 16 points and snatched 13 rebounds; Garry Harrison had 10 points and 10 rebounds; and Adrian Carnegie scored 10 points for the Phoenix.

Henry Dorsette scored nine points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Navigators 2, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

The Cuties Ovals Ojays claimed their fifth win in six games with a commanding 81-38 victory over Da Project 2.

Dajon George sank 15 points; Theo Blair converted 13 points and claimed nine rebounds; Tajahron Davis scored 12 points; Jayleyle Joseph had 11 points and 10 rebounds; and Najee Simon scored 10 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Ovals Ojays 2.

Nathan Matthew sank 14 points and snatched seven rebounds, and Donalde Hunte scored eight points and claimed seven rebounds for Da Project 2, who suffered their third defeat in six games.

Perez leads AGS past SASS in School Basketball League

Derick Perez produced a fine shooting display to lead the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) to a 10-point victory over St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) in their latest outing in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex.

Perez shot his way to a game-high 29 points and almost single-handedly propelled Antigua Grammar School to a 31-21 victory over St. Anthony's Secondary School in their Mini Boys Secondary Division encounter.



Derick Perez of AGS

There were wins as well for Five Islands and Greenbay in the Mini Girls Primary Division.

Stevia Carr produced 17 points to lead Five Islands Primary to a 19-3 victory over Mary E. Pigott Primary. Keira Hope scored two points for Mary E. Pigott Primary.

Greenbay Primary pulled off an 8-2 victory against JT Ambrose Primary. Anelle Joseph converted four points for Greenbay Primary, while Alison Lewis scored two points for JT Ambrose Primary.

Kazende George scored seven points for St. Anthony's Secondary School.

Win for All Saints in Secondary Schools Cricket

The All Saints Secondary School recorded victory in the latest round of matches in the Under-19 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Cricket Championship.

All Saints Secondary School pulled off a 39-run victory over Jennings Secondary School at the Factory Grounds.

All Saints Secondary School made 98 all out in their first innings. Malique Lee struck 24, and Nasari Brooks scored 17. Estan Hill grabbed six for 29.

In reply, Jennings Secondary School crashed to 40 all out. Keion Knight made 13. Nasari Brooks snapped up five wickets for two runs, and Demique Allen took two wickets for five runs.

All Saints Secondary School declared their second innings at 42 for six. Set 101 to win, Jennings Secondary School

tumbled to 61 all out. Estan Hill made 14, while Nasari Brooks captured six for 20.

Pares Secondary and Antigua Grammar School played to a draw at Antigua Grammar School.

Pares made 93 all out in 16.4 overs. Tayari Tonge slammed 62 off 54 balls, including 11 fours and a six. There was a contribution of 19 extras, including 16 leg byes. Isaiah Harris grabbed five wickets for two runs, and Dejaute Spencer claimed two for 15.

In reply, Antigua Grammar School tumbled to 73 all out in 19.4 overs. Isaiah Harris struck 19, Shane Walsh struck 14, and Leonardo Ducreay scored 11. Kyeno Goodwin snapped up six for 30, and William Pitman took three for 13.

Pares made 131 all out in 23.5 overs

in their second innings. Tayari Tonge hit 26; there was a contribution of 27 extras, including 26 leg byes. Kadiem George cracked 21, William Pitman made 16, Malachi Tonge struck 14, and Daitaro Mcleod scored 13.

Isaiah Harris captured three for 17, Dejaute Spencer claimed two for 23, Irvin Smith took two for 25, and Dante Odlum picked up two for 27.

Set 152 to win, Antigua Grammar School reached 84 for five in 14 overs in their second innings when the match ended. Leonardo Ducreay hit 26, Isaiah Harris struck 19, Hosea Roberts made 12, and Shane Walsh scored 11. JerVaughn Freeland claimed three for 13, and William Pitman took two for 25.

Action continues in Inter-Schools' Netball League



The Ministry of Sports Inter-Schools' Netball League continued with matches in the under-16 and under-18 secondary divisions at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

In the Under-16 Secondary Division, Irene B. Williams Secondary romped to a 31-4 victory over Ottos Comprehensive School.

Goal attack Serenity Colbourne sank 17 of her 33 shots, goal shooter Remi Williams converted nine of her 12 tries, and goal shooter Anielia Watson scored five of her eight attempts for Irene B. Williams Secondary. Lavia Lee sank three of her six shots for Ottos Comprehensive School.

All Saints Secondary snatched a narrow 12-11 victory over Pares Secondary

School. Goal shooter Aleccandra James converted seven of her 17 attempts, and goal attack Jahmyra Thomas scored five of her 15 tries for All Saints Secondary School.

Ashanti Duncan scored six of her 17 attempts, and Tanisha Michael converted five of her 15 shots for Pares Secondary School.

Clare Hall Secondary School prevailed 20-12 against Princess Margaret School. Goal shooter Sa Sheel Lewin converted 17 of her 27 shots, and goal attack Lashante Cochrane scored three of their six attempts for Clare Hall Secondary School.

Goal shooter Jenair Pascal sank eight of her 12 shots, and goal attack Makayla Scott scored four of her 14 tries for

Princess Margaret School.

The second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-2) pulled off a 13-7 victory over the first team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-1). Goal attack Summer Buckley sank eight of her 16 attempts, and goal shooter Akira Dupigney scored five of her eight shots for AGHS-2. Goal attack Trinecia Greenaway scored five of her 14 tries for AGHS-1.

In the Under-18 Division, Clare Hall Secondary School snatched a 15-12 victory over the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS).

Goal attack Shakora Prince sank 11 of her 16 shots for Clare Hall Secondary School, while goal shooter Jessica Masicot converted 12 of her 17 attempts for ABCAS.

The fourth team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-4) claimed a 14-7 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School. Goal attack Summer Buckley sank eight of her 16 shots, and goal shooter Trinecia Greenaway scored six of her 12 shots for AGHS-4.

Goal attack Judith Waldrene converted six of her 10 tries for Ottos Comprehensive School.

Sports

FRIDAY 06TH MARCH 2026

POINT EXPRESS
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Five Islands stay atop First Division League



Players of the Five Islands football team

The Five Islands FC remains sole leaders of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League after the latest round of matches.

Jamal Joseph scored twice as Five Islands FC secured their 10th win in 17 matches with a 4-0 drubbing of Bendals FC at Cashew Hill.

The result allows Five Islands FC to stay at the top of the First Division by advancing to 35 points, while Bendals FC remains in 11th place on goal difference with 15 points after losing the 10th time in 17 matches.

Hoppers moved within four points of Five Islands after recording their 10th win in 15 matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Willikies FC at Willikies. Ammiel Greenaway scored the winner in the 62nd minute.

The result allows the Greenbay Hoppers, who have two games in hand, to remain in second place by advancing to 31 points. Willikies FC remains in

ninth place with 20 points after losing for the eighth time in 16 matches.

Parham FC consolidated their position in third place by salvaging a 1-1 draw with SAP FC at Parham. Parham FC advanced to 28 points after securing their fourth draw in 16 matches.

SAP FC remains in fourth place with 27 points after securing their sixth draw in 15 matches.

The Swetes Vipers jumped from sixth to fifth place by recording their seventh win in 16 matches with a 4-3 victory over the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the Freemans Village playing field.

The result allows the Swetes Vipers FC to advance to 26 points, while the Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain second from the bottom of the standings with 11 points after crashing to their 11th defeat in 16 matches.

Bolans FC consolidated their position in 12th place by securing their

third win in 16 matches with a 1-0 victory over FC Master Ballers at Radio Range in Ottos.

Following a goalless first half, Shamar Alfred broke the deadlock with a strike in the 56th minute to snatch victory for Bolans FC, which advanced to 15 points.

FC Master Ballers remain at the bottom of the 14-team standings with nine points after succumbing to their 11th defeat in 16 matches.

The Freemans Village Scorpions and Golden Grove fought to a 1-1 draw at Golden Grove.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to remain in sixth place on goal difference with 24 points after salvaging their third draw in 13 matches.

Golden Grove FC remains in eighth place on goal difference with 24 points after securing their third draw in 16 matches.

Meanwhile in the ABFA Second Division, Bethesda snatched a one-nil win over Glanvilles FC at Glanvilles.

Bethesda remains in ninth place with 20 points after securing their sixth win in 12 matches. Glanvilles FC remains in 15th place on 10 points after suffering their eighth defeat in 12 matches.

The Liberta Blackhawks notched up their second win in 13 matches by pulling off a 3-2 victory against Belmont FC at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

The Liberta Blackhawks remain third from the bottom of the 20-team standings with seven points, while Belmont FC remains in 13th place with 11 points after crashing to their seventh defeat in 12 matches.