

PM Browne: This Is Not An Ordinary Convention

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ABLP's candidates for the 2026 general elections are assembled on stage at the party's national convention on Sunday

PM Browne: This Is Not An Ordinary Convention

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is telling supporters of his Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party that the party's national convention to finalise plans for general elections on April 30, is not 'just an ordinary convention'.

Delivering the feature address at the convention held at People's Place headquarters on Sunday, PM Browne described the convention as 'a defining moment' for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

The prime minister, who is seeking his fourth term as the head of government, sees the election as one where his party's experiences in steering Antigua and Barbuda through troubled times and to have the country emerge as a progressive state in the Caribbean provide strong reasons for it to be re-elected on Election Day.

"My dear people, this convention is not just an ordinary convention; this is a defining moment for the country and a defining moment for the executive members and delegates attending the convention to re-commit to the values of the organization," he urged.

The prime minister also gave credit to the work of the former leaders and executive members of the ABLP who toiled unrelentingly for an on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda. These include the Father of the Nation, Sir



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

V.C Bird and the 39'ers and Sir Lester Bird and the 76'ers. These earlier leaders laid a solid foundation and a deep commitment to advance the well-being of ordinary men and women in Antigua and Barbuda.

"It's not about status or individualism; the ABLP has always been about people. It's a movement of the masses created to protect and to promote the interest of the working class people and all the people of our nation in general. An institution led by competent, committed and courageous leaders. There's no doubt that Sir Vere and Sir Lester were courageous leaders and all who have led this institution and have served in the

various ministries of government have been and continue to be courageous leaders," PM Browne remarked.

That same courage, Browne noted, calls on the current leaders to be courageous to left ordinary people out of poverty to extraordinary possibility. "Today, that same courage calls on us to continue to fight for the working class people; to fight to protect the Renaissance that we have created," he stated.

The convention concluded after presentations were made to outstanding members of the ABLP and an announcement that the 2026 election manifesto will be launched at an event on Friday.


 A group photo of ABLP members, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne, in dark suits and red ties. The background is red with gold confetti.

ELECTION DAY

Thursday, 30 April

"In times like these, let us keep strong, steady leadership."





RENAISSANCE
 A New Era of Progress and Development

ABLP Chairman Makes The Case For His Party's Return To Office Following General Elections

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), E.P Chet Greene, who is the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has made a strong case for his party's return to office at the April 30 general elections.

Speaking at the ABLP national convention on Sunday, Greene said the state of unrest in the international sphere calls for steady and experienced leadership at the levels of power in the country.

"We stand here with clear eyes. Because the world is changing. And it is not changing for the better. It is becoming more uncertain. More unstable.

"More dangerous. Wars are driving up prices. Supply chains are under strain. Tourism is exposed. Small states are vulnerable," he observed.

Under these circumstances, Greene noted the electorate of Antigua and Barbuda must be intentional in their voting, explaining that in such a world, the future cannot be gambled away.

"It cannot be handed over to inexperience. It cannot be risked on those who have already shown us what their failure looks like. We have seen that path. We have lived that path. And we will not return to it! Instead, we choose progress. We choose stability. We choose advancement. We choose the Renais-



Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), E.P Chet Greene

sance!" Greene emphasized.

According to Greene the ABLP is not coming to the electorate empty-handed; it is contesting the elections on its record of achievements over the past eleven plus years.

He then listed some of the party's achievements; these include improvements in the standard of living of ordinary Antiguan and Barbudans, better

health care services; more than 2000 scholarships given to young people annually, and the steady hands of a government which is at all times working for and on behalf of the people.

He said the party will release its 2026 election manifesto on Friday which will provide further details of its plans and objectives for the next five years if it is returned to office.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99

-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
\$17.99



ABLP Convention Confirms Leadership Positions, Slate of Candidates For General Elections

Sunday's national convention of the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has confirmed the nominees for the senior executive positions within the organization as well as the slate of candidates who will contest the 2026 general elections on its behalf.

The convention by acclamation approved the following persons for the leadership of the party;

- ☐ Gaston Browne to retain the position of Political Leader,
- ☐ E.P. Chet Greene to retain the position of Chairman,
- ☐ Samantha Marshall to retain the position of First Vice Chair,
- ☐ Clement Antonio to retain the position of Second Vice Chair,
- ☐ Donna Chaia to serve in the position of Third Vice Chair,
- ☐ Abena St. Luce to serve in the position of Treasurer,
- ☐ Shenella Govia to serve in the position of General Secretary
- ☐ Mary Edwards to retain the position of Supervisor of Elections
- ☐ Angelica O'Donoghue to serve as Public Relations Officer

The convention also confirmed the nomination of Hilroy Humphreys, Alincia Grant and Sir Molwyn Joseph to serve as Trustees of the organization. Additionally, Sir Lionel Max Hurst (chairman), Samantha Marshall (deputy chairman), Bernard Percival, Hilroy Humphreys and Sir Molwyn Joseph were all elected to the National Policy Committee.

Concurrently, the party also appointed a Labour Advisory Committee; here, the ABLP Chairman and the President of the AT&LU will serve as chairman and deputy chairman respectively with Sir Steadroy Benjamin, Leslie Ann Yearwood and Peter Abraham as members.



The convention approved the appointment of former general secretary, Mary Clare Hurst to the ceremonial position of **General Secretary Emeritus** in recognition of her many years of yeoman's service to the organization.

Two individuals – Sir Molwyn Joseph and Knackcynta Nedd of Barbuda – were credited for their decision to step aside and not to contest the April 30 general elections. They both opted to allow other persons to contest the elections. In the case of Sir Molwyn, the executive gave full recognition of his 42 years of service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Most importantly, the convention confirmed the candidates who will contest the election on its ticket. The candidates are;

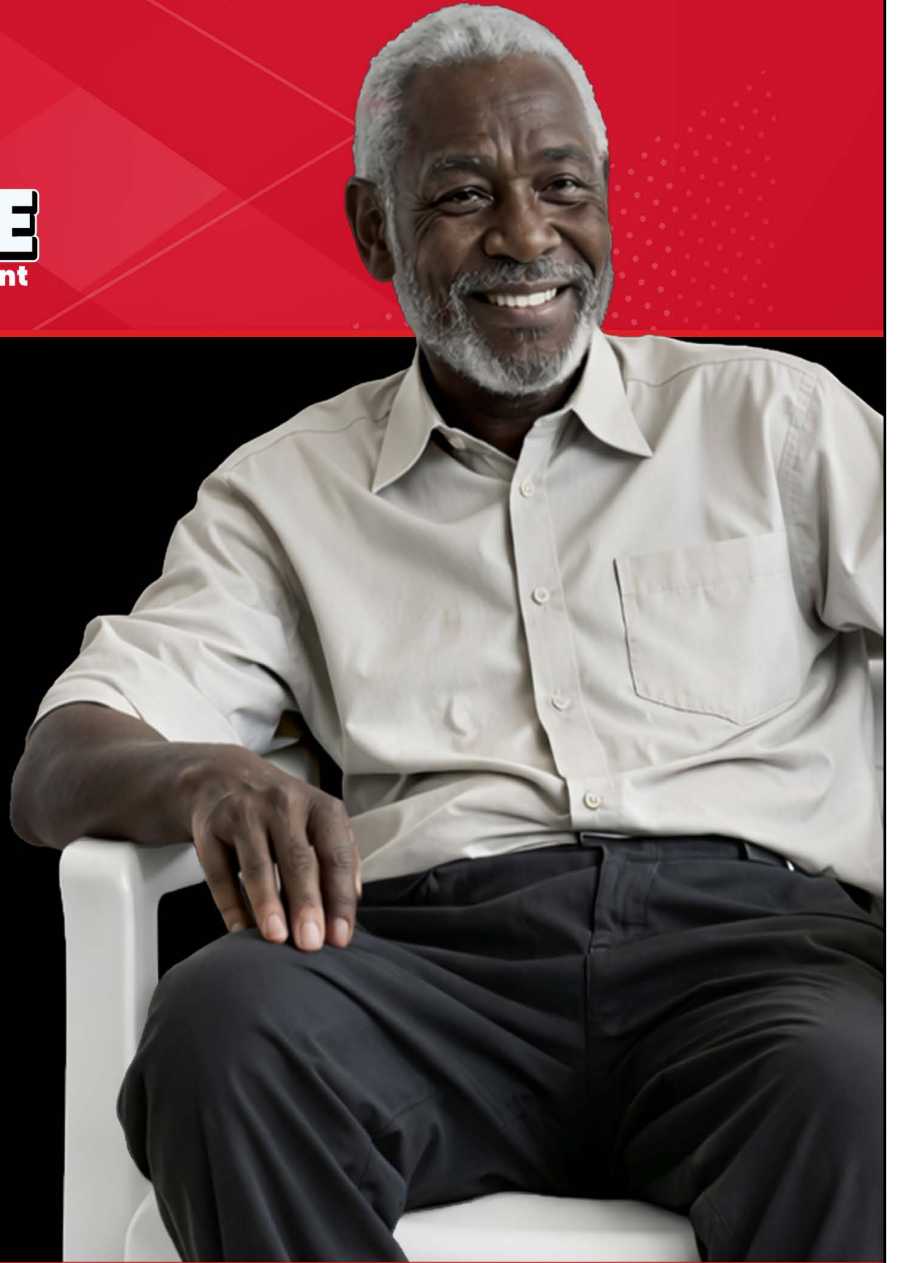
- ☐ Gaston Browne St. John's City West
- ☐ Sir Steadroy C.O. Benjamin St. John's City South
- ☐ E. P. Chet Greene St. Paul
- ☐ Charles Fernandez St. John's Ru-

ral North

- ☐ Melford Nicholas St. John's City East
- ☐ Daryll Matthew St. John Rural South
- ☐ Maria Browne St. John's Rural East
- ☐ Rawdon Turner St. Peter's
- ☐ Anthony Smith All Saints West
- ☐ Randy Baltimore St. Phillip North
- ☐ Kiz Johnson St. Phillip South
- ☐ Michael Joseph St. John's Rural West
- ☐ Lamin Newton All Saints East and St. Luke
- ☐ Dwayne George St. Mary's South
- ☐ Michael Freeland St. George
- ☐ Kendra Beazer Barbuda
- ☐ Philmore Benjamin St. Mary's North



RENAISSANCE
A New Era of Progress and Development



**“After a
lifetime
of work,
seniors
deserve
respect.**

That’s why we

INCREASED PENSIONS |

for our seniors.”



More Building Supplies to arrive in Antigua and Barbuda This Week

One of the most popular initiatives introduced by the government within the last few months has been the provision of building materials to needy families to assist with the construction of new homes or repairs to existing properties.

The popularity of the programme is evidenced by the quick manner in which the first shipment of \$1 million of materials were distributed to the most vulnerable in the society.

Now comes word from the Cabinet that a second shipment of materials is on the way.

“Acting on the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda approval a few months ago of important measures to strengthen its ongoing efforts to improve housing conditions for vulnerable and low-income households across the nation, Cabinet announced the imminent arrival of critical building supplies this week set to bolster the initiative,” a Cabinet statement reported.

Central to this effort is Cabinet’s approval for the importation of a new shipment of essential building materials, which will arrive in the country this week. The materials are expected to provide timely relief and directly support the Government’s housing assistance programme, ensuring that much-needed repairs and improvements can be accelerated nationwide.

This shipment will assist less fortunate households in addressing urgent structural needs, including roof repairs, reinforcement works, and the replacement of rotting boards and leaks—helping to ensure that residents live in homes free from deterioration and unsafe conditions.

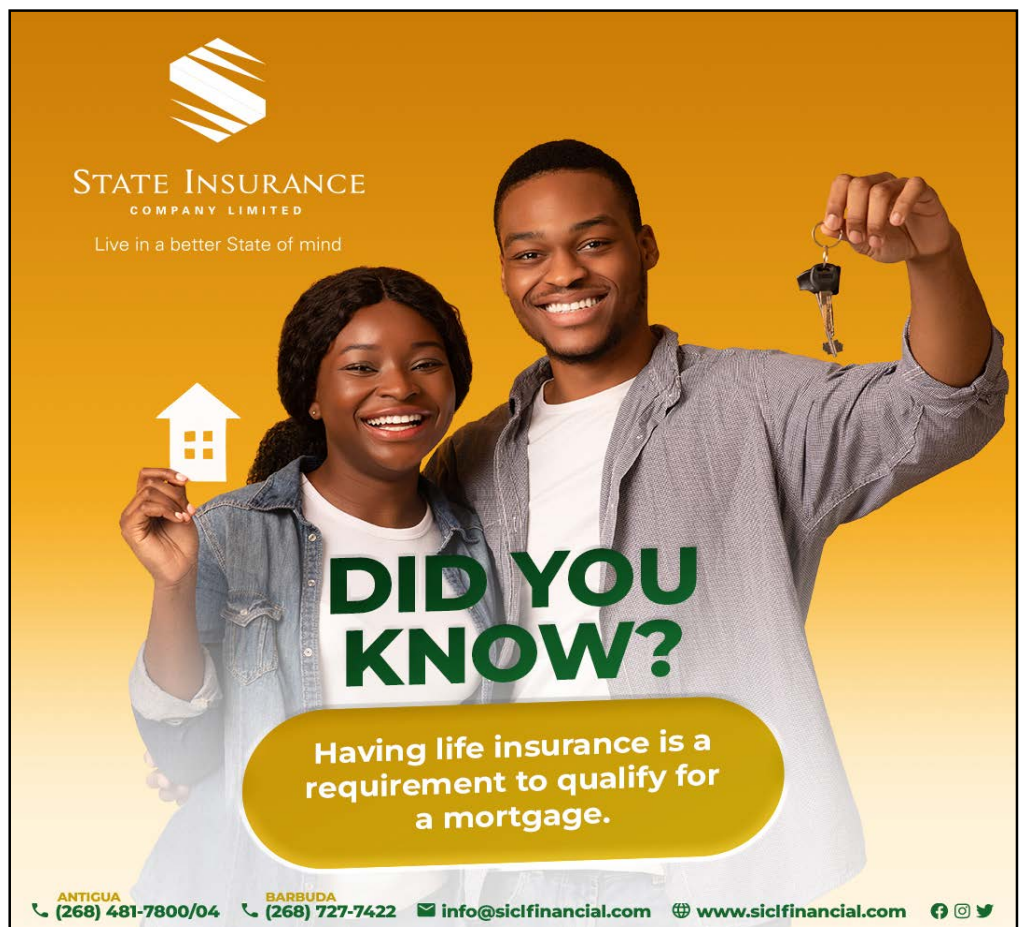
The programme has already begun island-wide distributions of lumber and other building supplies to eligible homeowners, including seniors, persons with disabilities, and families fac-



ing economic hardships. This initiative forms part of the Government’s broader social intervention aimed at upgrading the national housing stock and enhancing residential living standards.

The Government believes these actions are fully aligned with its policy objectives to ensure that every citi-

zen has access to safe, durable, and dignified housing. By facilitating the availability of quality materials, the Administration remains committed to lifting housing standards, fostering community resilience, and empowering citizens to maintain and build their homes to modern and sustainable standards.



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Sir Molwyn Joseph Speaks of ‘Inter-Generational Humanity’

As the Antigua and Barbuda economy continues to improve year after year and nationals and residents show signs of improvements in their standard of living, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph is making a call to the nation to focus on those things that improve their ‘humanity’.

Sir Molwyn made the call in what may likely be his final major address in his capacity of Minister of Health for Antigua and Barbuda for over a decade. He was speaking at the commissioning of the Kevorn Ettienne Centre at the former Holderton Hospital Compound on Thursday.

The Kevorn Ettienne Centre replaces the Care Project, which too had been located at Holberton, and which provides specialized care for those who are mentally and physically challenged or ‘differently-abled’.

In closing his address, Sir Molwyn offered a message that goes beyond the opening exercises, but was direct-



Sir Molwyn Joseph at the opening of the Kevorn Ettienne Centre on Thursday

ed to the wider Antigua and Barbuda community.

“Let me end by reminding all of us; we have come a long way considering our history. We worked hard to

achieve inter-generational material improvements; our standard of living has improved, but we must look at a holistic picture of what our culture can evolve to be and to mean; so we need to work on the inter-generational civility, inter-generational morality, inter-generational spirituality and I think if we do that, then we will succeed,” he admonished.

Sir Molwyn expressed the view that should the nation strive to achieve these goals, then all will witness the culture evolving to what he termed, ‘inter-generational humanity’.

With parliament dissolved and general elections set for April 30, Sir Molwyn is not a candidate for general elections in Antigua and Barbuda for the first time in over forty years. While Prime Minister Gaston Browne has indicated that he sees a role for Sir Molwyn should the ABLP retain office, however, it is unlikely that he would again serve at the Cabinet level.

BREATH TAKING VIEWS
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CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

Coco Point Fund Announces Completion of New Multi-Sport Court at Sir McChesney George Secondary School

The Coco Point Fund has financed a new multi-sport court at Sir McChesney George Secondary School in Codrington, Barbuda, which will be formally handed over to the Barbuda community at a ceremony planned for Tuesday April 14.

In a media release, the Coco Point Fund said the new court fulfills a long-standing goal for the school community. The effort started two years ago through The Future Project, when students were asked what they genuinely wanted for their school. Among their hopes was a sport court - a place to play, compete, and come together. Today, that vision has become a reality.

“The initiative also moved forward at the request of Principal Rexford Harry, who sought support for the creation of a modern recreational facility for the students of Sir McChesney George Secondary School,” the release noted.

According to the release...founded in 1976 by guests of the former Coco Point Lodge, the Coco Point Fund has spent nearly 50 years supporting community development on Barbuda under its mission of helping Barbudans help themselves. Over the years, the Fund has helped build preschools, daycare centres, and bus stops, and has supported the education of many young Barbudans through schools and institutions in the United States and the Caribbean.

The multi-sport court was constructed by local contractor Do It Right Construction and funded through the combined support of the Coco Point Fund and the Barbuda Ocean Club, with the assistance of Justin Wilshire, Director of Development for Peace, Love & Happiness.

The Coco Point Fund extends its sincere gratitude to the Barbuda Ocean Club for its cooperation and support



in helping bring the project to completion, and to Do It Right Construction for its expert work in bringing the court to life.

“This court is about much more than sports,” the Fund said. “It gives students a dedicated place to build confidence, strengthen teamwork, and improve their physical health, and it will serve as a source of energy and pride for the school community for years to come.”

Werner Minshall and Joan Minshall, members of the Coco Point Fund Board and residents of Barbuda Cottages, said: “We have been visiting and enjoying Barbuda and its people for more than fifty years. This new court shows what is possible when long-standing community commitment is matched by new investment in Barbuda’s future.

“We are pleased to see the Barbuda Ocean Club continuing the Coco Point Fund’s tradition of helping Barbudans help themselves. Without the cooperation of the Barbuda Ocean Club, this project would not have been possible.

“Barbuda is entering a new era, and the opportunities created by thoughtful tourism development can help the island grow and prosper. We are thankful that the new owners of Coco Point see the potential in the people of Barbuda and are willing to invest in it.”

Although the court is now complete and ready for play, the Coco Point Fund said there is still more to do. The organization is seeking sponsorships for a new scoreboard and a few final aesthetic improvements to complete the facility.

“We have reached an important milestone, but we are still looking for partners to help us add the finishing touches,” the Fund said.

The April 14 ceremony will serve as the official public celebration of a project made possible by collaboration among the school, the Coco Point Fund, private-sector partners, and supporters who believe in creating opportunities for Barbudan students to thrive.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): DESIGN & SUPERVISORY SERVICES

for

New Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Limited Branch Friars Hill, St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) invites qualified design consultancy firms to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in a two stage design competition for a new multi-storey consolidated branch at Friars Hill, St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda.

Stage 1 (EOI) will shortlist 3 firms (Joint Ventures permitted) based on experience, team capability, financial capacity and references. Only shortlisted teams will receive a competition brief, site and geotechnical information, program, budget range and sustainability targets and will be asked to submit a standardized concept design package (site plan, concept plans, massing/visuals, sustainability concept, design narrative and preliminary cost strategy). All shortlisted firms will receive an honorarium; the winning team will be awarded the full design commission following evaluation by an expert panel.

Required Qualifications

- Proven design experience with regards to commercial/financial institution projects.
- Multi disciplinary team coordination and delivery capability.
- Relevant professional registrations and insurance.
- Local/Regional (CARICOM) operational presence.

EOI Submission

Submit by email to register interest in submitting and EOI to:

Sonya Roberts-Carter, Chief Operations Officer, ECAB
scarter@ecabank.com

Subject: "EOI: ECAB New Branch Design Services"

Copied:

Jerome Jenkins, Project Manager: jeromeijenkins@gmail.com
Colin John Jenkins, Project Manager: colinjenkins@gmail.com

Deadline for registration of Interest:
April 22, 2026, 17:00 AST

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any submission.

More Building Supplies to arrive in Antigua and Barbuda This Week



ABPSA newly elected President Janela Evanson

One of the most popular initiatives introduced by the government within the last few months has been the provision of building materials to needy families to assist with the construction of new homes or repairs to existing properties.

The popularity of the programme is evidenced by the quick manner in which the first shipment of \$1 million of materials were distributed to the most vulnerable in the society.

Now comes word from the Cabinet that a second shipment of materials is on the way.

“Acting on the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda approval a few months ago of important measures to strengthen its ongoing efforts



New ABPSA executive

to improve housing conditions for vulnerable and low-income households across the nation, Cabinet announced the imminent arrival of critical building supplies this week set to bolster the initiative,” a Cabinet statement reported.

Central to this effort is Cabinet’s approval for the importation of a new shipment of essential building materials, which will arrive in the country this week. The materials are expected to provide timely relief and directly support the Government’s housing assistance programme, ensuring that much-needed repairs and improvements can be accelerated nationwide.

This shipment will assist less fortunate households in addressing urgent structural needs, including roof repairs, reinforcement works, and the replacement of rotting boards and leaks—helping to ensure that residents live

in homes free from deterioration and unsafe conditions.

The programme has already begun island-wide distributions of lumber and other building supplies to eligible homeowners, including seniors, persons with disabilities, and families facing economic hardships. This initiative forms part of the Government’s broader social intervention aimed at upgrading the national housing stock and enhancing residential living standards.

The Government believes these actions are fully aligned with its policy objectives to ensure that every citizen has access to safe, durable, and dignified housing. By facilitating the availability of quality materials, the Administration remains committed to lifting housing standards, fostering community resilience, and empowering citizens to maintain and build their homes to modern and sustainable standards.

Public Notice Regarding Retroactive Payments — Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) is issuing the following public notice to ensure that all eligible exit employees are informed of upcoming retroactive payments.

This announcement outlines the eligibility criteria and processing instructions for the Final 9% Salary Increase and Retroactive Risk Allowance Payments covering various periods between 2010 and 2024.

As many of these exit employees are no longer reachable through internal hospital channels and some may now reside overseas, we kindly request your assistance in publicizing this information to the general public to ensure all past healthcare workers receive their entitled benefits.

The full notice and instructions for claimants follow below.

Former employees of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre are advised of the following:

1. Final Retroactive Payment – 9% Salary Increase

Former eligible employees who were employed during the period January 1, 2019 to January 31, 2024, are advised of the payment of the outstanding balance of retroactive payment associated with the 9% salary increase for the aforementioned period.

Please note that any previous payments made towards this total amount will be deducted.

Eligibility Criteria

- Former employees who were employed after January 1 2019; and
- Held a permanent position (i.e., were not employed on a fixed-term contract) during the qualifying period.



2. Retroactive Risk Allowance Payments (January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2019)

Former employees who were employed between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2019, and who were not in receipt of a risk allowance during that period, may be eligible for retroactive risk allowance payments.

All inquiries should be sent to finance.helpdesk@msjmc.org with the subject line: First Name Last Name – Retroactive Payment Inquiry (Risk Allowance/9% Increase).

Payment Processing Instructions

Former employees who are currently residing in Antigua and Barbuda will be issued payment by cheque, while those residing overseas will receive payment via bank transfer. Please indicate in your email whether you are resident in Antigua or abroad.

For Cheque Payments (Residents in Antigua):

- State the exact name the cheque should be written in
- Present a valid government-issued photo ID when collecting pay-

ment

For Overseas Bank Transfers:

Please email the following documentation and banking details to facilitate payment processing:

- A valid government-issued photo ID
- Current address
- Account number or IBAN number
- Name and address of bank
- Bank SWIFT code or FW routing number
- Name and address of correspondent bank
- Correspondent bank SWIFT code or FW routing number

Your electronic payment timeline and cheque collection date will be communicated to you via email once information is confirmed.

SLBMC thanks all former employees for their past service and appreciates their patience as this process is carried out.

Governor General Hosts Reception for Candidates Selected for The King's Foundation UK Building Crafts Programme



PHOTO 1 GALLEY BAY RECEPTION ABCAS KINGS FOUNDATION APRIL 9

Their Excellencies Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, and Lady Williams hosted a cocktail reception on Thursday evening at Galley Bay Resort and Spa in honour of the eight Antiguan and Barbudan participants selected for The King's Foundation Building Craft Programme in the United Kingdom.

The reception provided an opportunity to formally recognise the cohort ahead of their departure for training and to celebrate their achievement at the national level.

In his remarks, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams congratulated the participants and underscored the wider importance of the programme.

"This programme represents far more than individual advancement," he stated. "It is an investment in the preservation of our heritage and the strengthening of our national capacity. The skills you gain will contribute directly to the future of Antigua and Barbuda."

The evening brought together representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS), government officials, and programme partners, including His Excellency John Hamilton, British High Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda; Kasia Howard, Senior Education Manager at The King's Foundation; and Dr. Reg Murphy, Heritage Expert, reflecting the collaborative effort behind the initiative.

President of ABCAS, Dr. Ezra Jonah Greene, highlighted the intentional composition of the cohort and the long-term impact of the programme.

"What is especially important about this cohort is the mix of individuals and experience they bring," Dr. Greene said. "This was a deliberate effort, not only to build capacity in heritage preservation, but to ensure that the knowledge gained is brought back home, shared, and used to strengthen our historic buildings and structures. With our tutors also participating in the programme, we are creating a pathway for continued training and

development within ABCAS."

The King's Foundation Building Craft Programme, delivered in collaboration with ABCAS, equips participants with practical training in traditional building techniques and sustainable construction practices. The experience will support ongoing efforts to strengthen local capacity in heritage conservation and resilient building methods.

The reception also reaffirmed the continued commitment of Their Excellencies to initiatives that promote education, skills development, and national advancement.

Their Excellencies expressed appreciation to the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies, The King's Foundation, the management and staff of Galley Bay Resort and Spa, as well as valued philanthropic partners including the Mill Reef Club and other donors whose support continues to strengthen initiatives in heritage preservation and skills development.

ABLP DELIVERS



535 ft Superyacht Dock Constructed at Falmouth Harbor Marina

Upland Development Project

- US \$30M dollar upgrade in the waterfront
- New passenger terminal serving over 800,000 passengers annually
- Retail and dining space
- Day-club concept
- Home-porting operations allowing more efficient passenger handling
- Turning cruise growth into more local business participation



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RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc

Waste. Worth. Wealth.

Across our shores, beneath our sun,
 A quiet crisis has begun.
 Not loud like storms, not fierce like rain,
 But building slowly—day by day—again and again.

Our bins are full, our landfills grow,
 Yet still, we act like we don't know.
 That every bottle, can, and cap,
 Could shift the course, could close the gap.

Because waste is not just what we throw,
 It's what we fail to truly know.
 A hidden value, left unseen,
 A missed chance to keep our island green.

Waste. Worth. Wealth.—three words so clear,
 A message that we all must hear.
 For what we toss without a thought,
 Could be the change we say we want.

Across Antigua and Barbuda's land,
 A shift is happening—hand in hand.
 Students rising, communities strong,
 Proving together we all belong.

They sort, they clean, they learn, they lead,
 Turning action into deed.
 And through this work, a truth takes shape,
 One that no system can escape.

That waste has worth, it always did,
 It's just a truth we somehow hid.
 And when that worth is understood,
 It builds a wealth for common good.

But this is more than bottles and bins,
 More than where recycling begins.
 It's about systems, broken, strained,
 And voices lost, too long restrained.

Because while waste piles high each day,
 Another group is kept at bay.
 Persons with disabilities—ready, able, strong,
 Yet excluded for far too long.



The world has spoken, clear and loud,
 In words that should make us all proud.
 The United Nations states it plain:
 “Inclusive societies benefit all and sustain.”

And still, the gap remains so wide,
 Potential lost, pushed aside.
 Not from lack of skill or will,
 But systems that exclude them still.

So what if we could change the game?
 Not just reduce, but reframe?
 Not just clean, but also create,
 A system strong, inclusive, great?

A model built from what we waste,
 Designed with care, with thought, with haste.
 One that turns what we discard,
 Into jobs that break down every guard.



From schools to streets, from homes to shore,
 We're seeing what's possible—and more.
 Thousands engaged, both young and wise,
 Opening hearts and changing eyes.

They're learning not just what to do,
 But why it matters—me and you.
 Why every item, every choice,
 Can amplify a nation's voice.

Because climate action is not afar,
 It's in who we are, where we are.
 It's in the hands that sort each day,
 In every step along the way.

And yes, the numbers tell the tale,
 Of efforts strong, of systems frail.
 Millions of items kept from waste,
 A growing movement, not misplaced.

But numbers alone will never show,
 The deeper change we need to grow.
 A change in mindset, bold and new,
 Where inclusion leads in all we do.

Imagine now, a system scaled,
 Where nothing wasted, none are failed.
 Where machinery hums, where jobs are made,
 Where dignity is never delayed.

Where persons once left on the side,

Now stand at the center, full of pride.
 Leading change, shaping the way,
 Turning night into a brighter day.

This is not just a distant dream,
 It's closer now than it may seem.
 With the right support, the right embrace,
 We can transform this entire space.

The United Nations makes it clear,
 A message we all need to hear:
 "No one must be left behind,"
 A call to act, a shift in mind.

So let us rise, let us rethink,
 Before we reach the final brink.
 Let us build what we know we can,
 A future shaped by human hands.

Where waste is valued, not ignored,
 Where every person is restored.
 Where systems serve both earth and soul,
 And inclusion is the final goal.

Waste. Worth. Wealth.—say it again,
 Let it echo through our land.
 Not just words, but a guiding light,
 Leading us forward, bold and right.

Because in the end, it's plain to see,
 The future is shaped by you and me.
 And if we act, if we commit,
 We can build a world that truly fits.

A world where nothing goes to waste,
 Where every life has rightful place.
 Where worth is seen, where wealth is shared,
 And every soul is fully cared.

So next time you toss, just pause and think,
 Is this the edge—or is it the link?
 To something greater, something new,
 A better world—built by you.

Waste. Worth. Wealth.
 The rhythm is clear.
 The future is calling.
 Are we ready to hear?

ABLP DELIVERS



Building Homes, Building Lives

Construct Antigua and Barbuda Initiative (CABI): First time home owners get duty free concessions up to the value of EC \$500,000. For existing homes that require renovations and expansions, home owners get duty free concessions up to the value of \$250,000.

Helping Those Who Need it Most

- Forgiveness of electricity and water debt owed to APUA by disconnected households
- National reconnection programme underway
- Entrepreneurial Development Fund: loans, training, mentorship and grants/loans.

A caring government ensures no family is left in the dark.



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

April
13|14|15
16|17|18



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS'
THEATRE FESTIVAL

IX

7 PM

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Cultural Centre

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BLESS EYE

LUCIANO

THE STRAYS

THE CLIMAXX BAND

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EARLY BIRD

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FALMOUTH RECTORY GROUNDS @ 7:00PM UNTIL

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Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Jessica Serena Tracey proudly represents St. John's Rural North, carrying with her the vibrant spirit of McKinnons Village and the resilience that defines her journey.

A dynamic entrepreneur, dancer, and youth advocate, Jessica has used every chapter of her life to grow in purpose, leadership, and service. From excelling as a student leader to building businesses and mentoring through dance, she embodies determination, creativity, and faith.

Her passion for youth development, entrepreneurship, and community upliftment continues to inspire those around her. Grounded in service and guided by purpose, Jessica stands as a confident, compassionate, and empowered ambassador for the proud people of St. John's Rural North.



Jessica Tracey
ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH

Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT



Julissa Stoute proudly represents St. Paul as a vibrant 20-year-old university student whose poise, passion, and purpose set her apart.

She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management at The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, specializing in Tourism and Hospitality Management. A past student of Old Road Primary School and Antigua Girls' High School, Julissa built a strong foundation in leadership, discipline, and creativity.

Her love for the performing arts earned her a Grade One in dramatic presentation. Ambitious and driven, she aspires to make a meaningful impact in tourism and hospitality while proudly showcasing Caribbean culture on the global stage.

Julissa Stoute
ST. PAUL



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT



Aliyah Andrew, a proud resident of St. John's Rural East and first-year Law student at the University of London, is driven by a passion for justice and national development.

As a Junior Paralegal and active member of JCI Antigua, she is committed to advocacy, youth empowerment, and nation-building. Representing her constituency and the Honourable Maria Browne in the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Queen Pageant 2026, Aliyah returns to the stage with confidence and purpose.

Her platform addresses absentee fatherhood and its impact on child development, as she champions stronger families and brighter futures for every child.

✦ A voice for change. A vision for impact.

Aliyah Andrew
ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM ◦ SOUL ◦ SPIRIT



Queenela Williams proudly represents St. Mary's South with creativity, confidence, and cultural pride.

A dynamic performer and dedicated member of the National Youth Theatre, she uses the stage to connect, inspire, and tell meaningful stories. Her artistic journey began at Antigua Girls' High School and has since earned her regional recognition, including awards for acting excellence and appearances at CARIFESTA. Beyond performance, Queenela works in customer service and is a local entrepreneur whose handcrafted earrings celebrate individuality and Caribbean identity.

Deeply committed to service, self-love, and personal growth, she continues to uplift her community while aspiring to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and expand her creative impact.

Queenela Williams
ST. MARY'S SOUTH



Echoes of the Past

RHYTHM • SOUL • SPIRIT

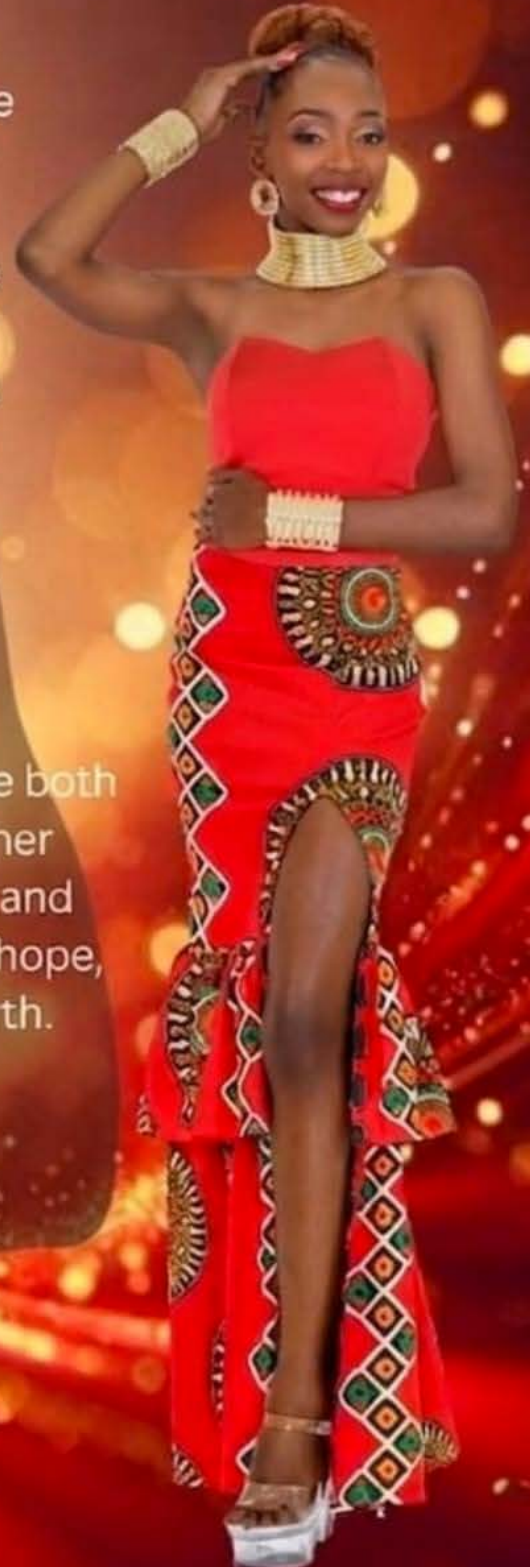


Iszarea Lloyd proudly represents St. Phillip's North as a young woman of purpose, resilience, and quiet strength.

Born on August 30, 2005, she is a proud graduate of Glanvilles Secondary School, where she emerged as Valedictorian, and is currently pursuing Social Sciences at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. Though naturally quiet and observant, Iszarea possesses a vibrant spirit and a heart deeply committed to service.

Passionate about cooking, singing, sports, photography, and reading, she aspires to become both an interior designer and photographer. Through her platform, she advocates for youth development and mental health awareness, determined to inspire hope, healing, and a stronger future for St. Phillip's North.

Iszarea Lloyd
ST. PHILLIPS NORTH



PM Skerrit questions \$4.5M renovation of Arawak House of Culture, proposes new site

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit is advocating for a complete relocation of the Arawak House of Culture, the state of which has been the subject of some public contention in recent years.

His call came during a press conference recently.

The Arawak House of Culture, which is seen as a significant part of Dominica's cultural landscape, was severely impacted by Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Since then, the road to renovation of what was the main public theater venue in the country has come under scrutiny by prominent voices in the arts community.

Currently, the prime minister is positing that seeking rehabilitation of the historic structure is futile, alluding to the potential of it becoming a money pit.

"In respect to the Arawak House of Culture, the reality is, my view is that, and I've said so before, that we should not have pursued the repairs of the Arawak House of Culture," he remarked. "It's an old building, there is no parking for patrons. It was built for a period in time and, to me, once you start touching an old building, problems will keep piling up."

He continued, "When you're going to touch an old building your contingency must be even higher than the actual construction cost. You just do not know what's going to happen. You understand? So, as they seek to do something, a problem comes up."

Skerrit explained that the Ministry conducted a comprehensive review of the necessary actions for the Arawak House of Culture and received a report from the Ministry of Public Works stating that \$4.5 million dollars is needed to renovate it.

"The lighting, you have termite infestation there," he revealed.

His argument is that new land should



be acquired to build a new, modern Arawak House of Culture.

"Let's find some land somewhere, in the Canefield area, somewhere in Roseau and build a new facility," he stated. "A modern facility where we can have a coffee shop, we can sit down and have coffee...you can have something to eat..."

He continued, "We have to think bigger. This thing about trying to fix an old thing doesn't make sense."

Skerrit went on to add that his suggestions include having a more broad-based committee of enthusiasts and activists. "And I think the ministry invited some people to visit and so they had an appreciation of what was taking place, but I think we need to sit down within the public service and engage other stakeholders to determine what we do."

"Do we, for posterity, keep the Arawak and spend \$4.5 million or do we look for a new location and do something that can last us for the next 40 years?" he queried.

This follows April 3, 2025, when Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, then a guest on the Creole HeartBeat Program, hosted by Ambassador Leroy 'Wadix' Charles, revealed that work

on the roof of the Arawak House of Culture had been completed, as part of the planned overhaul of the facility.

The Government of Dominica signed a contract on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, with Caribbean Building Specialties Ltd. for the Waterproofing of the Arawak House of Culture's galvanized roof.

The contract, valued at EC\$113,000, was signed by Mrs. Gloria Joseph, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Community Development, and the company's Director, Mr. Kamlesh Sharma.

Once completed, the upgraded Arawak House of Culture was expected to serve as a venue for national events, particularly during Independence, DOMFESTA, Carnival, and Emancipation celebrations.

At the time it was explained that the extensive rehabilitation would include complete restoration of the external and internal structures, including the roof, stage, seating, flooring, foyer, and air conditioning.

Additionally, the reported intention was to install a new sound and lighting system and artistic indoor and outdoor décor. (Dominica News Online)

Govt may weigh shorter work week amid global fuel crisis



St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Minister of National Security, St. Clair Leacock, has raised the possibility of reducing the country's standard five-day work week as the government prepares for the severe economic fallout of international conflict.

Speaking on the OMG morning radio show, Leacock discussed the local implications of the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran, specifically highlighting the threat of a global oil crisis and skyrocketing fuel costs.

He revealed that the government has proactively established a technical committee of experts, spanning security, economics, foreign affairs, and civil society to advise the Cabinet and formulate a contingency plan.

When outlining the drastic measures the country might need to

adopt if fuel prices were to double, Leacock openly questioned the sustainability of the current labor schedule.

"Do we continue to have a 5-day work week, do we have to limit ourselves to a lesser numbers?" Leacock asked.

While Leacock did not explicitly use the exact phrase "four-day work week," his suggestion to limit the five-day work week to "lesser numbers" points directly to a shortened work schedule as a potential conservation strategy already adopted by nations like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

This potential reduction in the work week was floated alongside a list of other severe, hypothetical energy-saving measures, which include:

Implementing mandatory carpool-

ing and limiting public transportation.

Rationing fuel for security forces, power companies, and essential transportation.

Restricting the hours that citizens are allowed to run electricity in their homes.

Reducing government taxes on fuel imports.

Leacock warned that the international crisis represents a "very serious headwind" that could turn the local economy upside down and drastically alter the government's budgetary plans.

However, he assured the public that the government is not waiting until the crisis is on their doorstep to act, and that the multi-disciplinary committee is already hard at work to help the nation navigate the upcoming challenges. (St Vincent Times)

Mideast war threatens food security in Caribbean, CARICOM official warns

Warning of the threat the ongoing Middle East conflict poses to the Caribbean's food and economic security, Wendell Samuel, assistant secretary-general (ASG) of CARICOM, is calling for stronger regional coordination to enhance resilience, bargaining power, and capacity to absorb external shocks.

Speaking on Friday during a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hybrid regional dialogue on the conflict's implication for agrifood systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, Samuel noted that while the Caribbean region is geographically distant from the conflict, its economies remain highly exposed to the global shocks transmitted through energy markets, food systems, and global supply chains.

"CARICOM's high import dependence for food, fuel, fertilisers, and shipping services means that the external geopolitical tensions quickly morph into domestic economic challenges," he said. "Inflation, food affordability, fiscal stability are not abstract risks for us. They are immediate public policy concerns."

The US-Israel war with Iran has generated pressures on global energy, fertiliser, and agrifood systems.

The disruption stems from constraints on global shipping after Iran imposed a blockade on ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz, a significant maritime route that connects major Gulf energy producers with international markets.

The FAO noted that under normal conditions, this strait channels nearly 20 million barrels per day of crude oil and refined products, equivalent to approximately one quarter of global



seaborne oil trade, as well as significant volumes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fertilisers.

However, the restrictions have affected the fluidity of these exchanges, and have created tensions in international markets.

This increased volatility has been observed in energy prices and key agricultural inputs, with effects transmitted to agrifood systems worldwide.

These impacts are seen in higher production costs, pressure on food prices, and risks to food security, particularly in countries with high import dependency.

CARICOM, as a bloc, imports more than 60 per cent of its food, 2022 data has shown. Over the period 2018-2020, the CARICOM food import bill was US\$13.76 billion or approximately five per cent of GDP.

Stating that energy volatility, fertilis-

er shortages and shipping disruptions will result in compounded economic and social pressures, Samuel said, "The gravest risk is rising food insecurity."

"Left unaddressed, this can increase poverty, malnutrition, and social tensions. Empirically, it has been shown that small changes in real income translate into large movements in poverty rates and, consequently, food insecurity."

While emergency food assistance may be required in some contexts, he stated that "sustained resilience depends on productivity-enhancing technologies, climate-smart agriculture, and strengthened regional food systems".

Arguing that "a fragmented response will be insufficient" to address the issues arising from the Middle East conflict, he said the CARICOM region has



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formulated a draft response matrix, to mitigate the projected fallout and challenges to food security.

This document, which will be presented to the region’s agriculture ministers for their consideration, is intended to act as a comprehensive policy framework that links external shocks to policy responses.

‘It identifies sequencing and targeting responses, proposes short-term rapid measures to stabilise conditions while the long-term reforms strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability, and it also calls for regional, collective, and collaborative action,’ he said.

The response matrix proposes that governments, in the near term, may need to apply carefully targeted measures to protect household and essential sectors, while directing a long-term focus on renewables, to address the challenge of volatility in the oil markets, Samuels noted.

To combat fertiliser supply disruptions, short-term measures must include prioritising strategic crops and promoting alternative or organic inputs. Strategically, governments should also aim to diversify fertiliser supplies and exploration of regional or domestic production capacity.

He further noted that heightened geopolitical risk increases freight rates, insurance costs, and the likelihood of delays, creating shortages and price instability in CARICOM economies with limited storage and just-in-time import systems.

It is imperative, Samuels contended, that immediate coordination around essential imports be considered while medium-term solutions must include regional shipping arrangements and regional strategic reserves to mitigate shipping and logistic risk.

Food price inflation, supply pressures have pushed up global food price inflation with direct consequences for household welfare and social stability.

To address this, regional governments may need to rely on well-targeted food subsidies, cash transfers, and school-feeding programmes to protect the most vulnerable. However, he not-

ed the extent of these interventions may be limited by the member states not having the required funding and elevated public debt levels.

The long-term priority must be the strengthening of shock-responsive social protection systems capable of scaling during crises.

He noted, too, rising import bills place pressure on foreign reserves, fiscal space, and exchange rates, which may undermine the development gains that the countries have achieved. This, he said, underscores the importance of prudent fiscal targeting in the short-term and coordinated regional

approaches to import substitution, financing, and risk-sharing in the longer term.

“Priority actions could include strengthening regional coordination on procurement, logistics, and strategic reserves, accelerating investment in renewable energy and food system resilience, enhancing policy alignment to allow rapid collective response during external shocks, and reinforcing regional institutions tasked with food security and economic surveillance,” Samuel said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

April
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Trump orders US naval blockade of Strait of Hormuz

President Donald Trump on Sunday ordered a United States (US) naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in response to Iran's "unyielding" refusal to give up its nuclear ambitions during failed peace talks in Islamabad.

While acknowledging that the marathon negotiations in Pakistan had gone "well" and "most points were agreed to," Trump said Tehran had refused to concede on the issue of its nuclear program.

"Effective immediately, the United States Navy, the Finest in the World, will begin the process of BLOCKADING any and all Ships trying to enter, or leave, the Strait of Hormuz," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

"Any Iranian who fires at us, or at peaceful vessels, will be BLOWN TO HELL!"

Trump suggested that "other countries" would be involved in the blockade effort, without specifying.



US Vice President JD Vance left Pakistan without a deal after weekend talks with a team led by Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf — the highest-level meeting between the two sides since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The talks were meant to solidify a fragile two-week ceasefire with a final deal to end the conflict that has engulfed the Middle East, leaving thousands dead and roiling global markets. But no conclusions were reached.

"We leave here with a very

simple proposal, a method of understanding that is our final and best offer. We'll see if the Iranians accept it," Vance told reporters.

Trump said he had been fully debriefed by the US negotiating team of Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law.

Trump slammed Iran for promising to open the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's crude oil passes, and "knowingly" failing to deliver.

"They say they put mines in the water, even though all of their Navy, and most of their 'mine droppers,' have been completely blown up. They may have done so, but what ship owner would want to take the chance?" Trump said.

"As they promised, they better begin the process of getting this INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY OPEN AND FAST!"

Iran had effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz for weeks, since the United States and Israel launched a bombing campaign against the Islamic republic more than six weeks ago.

On Saturday, the US military announced that two of its warships had transited the strait at the start of a mine clearance operation.

Trump warned that eventually, US forces would "finish up the little that is left of Iran" if necessary.

"We are fully 'LOCKED AND LOADED,'" he wrote. (AFP)



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Ukraine and Russia accuse each other of hundreds of ceasefire violations

Ukraine and Russia have each accused one another of hundreds of violations of a short ceasefire coinciding with Orthodox Easter celebrations.

The Ukrainian military said on Sunday morning that Russian forces had committed 2,299 violations since the truce began at 16:00 local time (13:00 GMT) on Saturday - including shooting four unarmed soldiers.

The Russian defence ministry, in turn, said Ukrainian forces had committed 1,971 violations, including three attempted counter-attacks in Dnipropetrovsk region.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky earlier said his nation's forces would respond "symmetrically" to Russian attacks during the ceasefire, calling Easter "a time of peace".

He added that he hoped the truce could be extended beyond Easter to facilitate peace negotiations which have all but stalled with the outbreak of war in the Middle East - but Russia rejected the idea, saying its attacks would resume on Monday.

Russian troops mounted 28 attacks and carried out nearly 2,000 drone strikes, Ukraine's military said, but did not use bombs or missiles.

Russian forces in the north-eastern Kharkiv region executed four Ukrainian soldiers after the ceasefire came into force, the local prosecutor's office said, describing the incident as a "grave violation of international humanitarian law".

Ukraine's military said the troops



were shot after being disarmed, calling it "another war crime by Russia".

Ukrainian authorities published what appears to be an image taken by a drone showing four bodies lying in a clearing.

In Ukraine's northern Sumy region, which borders Russia, local authorities said a Russian drone hit an ambulance overnight, injuring three medics.

Russia's defence ministry said Ukraine had launched three overnight attacks on positions in the Pokrovsk area and Otradne in Dnipropetrovsk region.

It also said four attempts by Ukrainian troops to advance in Sumy and Donetsk were "thwarted".

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the Easter ceasefire earlier this week, having previously resisted repeated calls from Ukraine for a temporary cessation of fighting. Zelensky said his forces would act in kind.

Earlier in the year, Putin ac-

quiesced to a US request to halt strikes on energy infrastructure as Ukraine braced for bitterly cold temperatures.

Both Ukrainian and Russian sources accused each other of limited violations in the first few hours of the truce on Saturday, before making the much larger claims.

Ukrainian and Russian authorities also announced they had each swapped 175 prisoners of war on Saturday, including seven civilians a piece.

Ukrainian civilians and soldiers on the frontlines of the conflict - which has been raging since 2022 - have low expectations about the ceasefire.

Kyiv has long pushed for a more comprehensive ceasefire, which it and its European allies see as a necessary first step towards striking a lasting end to the full-scale invasion.

But Moscow has insisted on agreeing a peace deal first, prompting accusations that it is not serious about ending the fighting. (BBC)

A 9-year-old was found locked in a van since 2024, malnourished and unable to walk



A 9-year-old boy has been rescued after living locked in his father's utility van in eastern France since 2024, according to the local prosecutor.

The child has been hospitalized, and his father detained.

Police were alerted by a neighbor to the "sounds of a child" coming from a van on Monday in the village of Hagenbach, near the borders with Switzerland and Germany, according to a statement on Saturday from prosecutor Nicolas Heitz.

After forcing the van open, officers found the child "lying in a fetal position, naked, covered by a blanket on top of a mound of trash and near excre-

ment," Heitz said. The boy was clearly malnourished and could no longer walk after being in a seated position for so long, according to the statement.

The boy's father told investigators that he put the child in the truck in November 2024 "to protect him" because his partner wanted to send the then 7-year-old to a psychiatric hospital, the prosecutor said.

Heitz said there was no medical record that the boy had any psychiatric problems before he disappeared and that he had had good grades in school. The boy told investigators that he had "big difficulties" with his father's partner and thought his father "had no

choice" but to lock him up, according to the prosecutor. He said he hadn't showered since 2024.

The father was handed preliminary kidnapping and other charges and kept in custody. His partner denied knowledge that the boy was in the van, according to the prosecutor. She was handed preliminary charges, including for failure to help a minor in danger, and released under judicial supervision.

The boy's 12-year-old sister and the 10-year-old daughter of his father's partner were placed in the care of social services.



The prosecutor's office is investigating whether others were aware of the boy's detention.

Friends and family told investigators they thought the boy was in a psychiatric institution. His teachers were told he had transferred to a different school, according to the prosecutor's office.

The authorities have not released the names of the victim or his relatives.



Hagenbach residents contacted by The Associated Press expressed shock on Saturday over the cases and said they were unaware of the boy's whereabouts, but didn't want to discuss details.

The prosecutor declined to comment further to AP pending further investigation. (AP)

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Lopsided wins for Stingerz and Ovals in ABBA's Division 1 League



Players of the Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz meet in a huddle during a timeout in an ABBA Division League game at the JSC Sports Complex. (Photo courtesy of the ABBA)

Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz and Cuties Ovals Ojays romped to lopsided wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 League on Saturday.

The Elite Stingerz claimed their eighth win in 12 matches with a 110-63 victory against the Navigators at the JSC Sports Complex.

Jaheem James produced 28 points, eight steals, and six rebounds; Humroy Wright sank 28 points and claimed five rebounds; Joshua Minner provided 16 points, 10 assists, and six steals; Keroi Lee sank 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; and Steven Matthew chipped in with 15 points, nine rebounds, and eight assists for the Elite Stingerz.

Beniah Mark shot a game-high 31 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Tyreke Lewis sank 12 points and claimed six rebounds; and Raheem Sawyer scored nine points and snatched 11 rebounds for the Navigators, who remain at the bottom of the eight-team standings after suffering their 12th defeat in as many games.

The Ovals Ojays notched up their seventh win in 14 matches with an emphatic 137-64 victory against the All Saints Slam.

Jabiri Smith produced a game-high 35 points, eight assists, and six rebounds; Jalen Owen provided 32 points, 10 assists, and eight rebounds; Sam Taylor contributed 30 points, nine assists, nine rebounds, and eight steals; Jaley-le Joseph sank 17 points; and N'Kenge Drew scored 10 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Takeem Martin sank 20 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; Sean Nicholas converted 13 points and snatched 10 rebounds; and Felix Hamilton scored 10 points and claimed seven rebounds for the All Saints Slams, who crashed to their 11th defeat in 13 games.

In previous encounters, Daryll Matthew Ottos claimed their eighth win in 12 games with a commanding 134-63 drubbing of the Navigators.

Danny Perez produced a game-high 30 points, six rebounds, and six steals; Nick Strawter sank 27 points and pro-

vided eight assists; Pindo Drammeh converted 26 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; and Ziven Clark chipped in with 17 points and six assists for Ottos.

Beniah Mark sank 21 points, and Christian Wood scored 19 points for the Navigators.

Da Project notched up their eighth win in 12 games by soaring to an emphatic 104-89 victory over the Cuties Ovals Ojays.

Cornell Greenwood produced 31 points, six rebounds, and five assists; T-Shawn Lewis sank 28 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; Terry Dawkins produced 19 points, nine rebounds, and six assists; and Malik Moore chipped in with 10 points, six rebounds, and six assists for Da Project.

Jabiri Smith converted 28 points; Tajahron Davis provided 25 points, six assists, and five rebounds; and Sam Taylor contributed 18 points, six assists, and five rebounds for the Ovals Ojays, who crashed to their seventh defeat in this year's Division 1 League.

Scorpions take over lead in First Division League



The Freemans Village Scorpions football team

The Freemans Village Scorpions have jumped to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

The Freemans Village Scorpions jumped from third to first place by recording their 13th win in 21 matches with a 4-1 victory over the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at Cedar Grove.

The Blue Jays made a poor start to the match, losing Ti-Zone Matthew, who was expelled in the 12th minute after receiving a red card.

Goals by Romar Gidersingh in the 17th minute and Shafeeq Joseph in the 24th minute gave the Scorpions a two-nil lead at halftime. Joseph scored his second goal of the match in the 70th minute to increase the Scorpions' advantage.

Ja-Rohn Thomas scored a consolation goal for the Blue Jays by converting a penalty kick in the 80th minute. His teammate Kareem Martin scored an own goal to wrap up victory for the Scorpions.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to advance to 44 points, two ahead of Five Islands, who slipped from first to second place on goal difference.

Five Islands, who have completed 21 matches, are awaiting the result of their 22nd match against Willikies FC, which ended prematurely after a brawl between players of both teams in Willikies on Tuesday, April 7.

The Greenbay Hoppers slipped to fourth place with 41 points from 19 matches. The Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain second from the bottom of the standings with 12 points after crashing to their 16th defeat in 22 matches.

Willikies FC remained in eighth place on goal difference with 27 points from 20 matches.

The Swetes Vipers jumped from fifth to third place on goal difference by recording their 12th win in 22 matches with a 3-0 victory against English Harbour FC at Freemans Village.

The goals were scored by Joel Jacob

in the 13th minute, Lyndon Goodwin in the 63rd minute, and Dejaun Francis in the 82nd minute.

The result allows the Swetes Vipers to advance to 42 points, the same as Five Islands, who have a superior goal difference.

English Harbour FC remains in 10th place with 21 points after crashing to their 12th defeat in 21 matches.

Empire FC consolidated their position in seventh place by claiming their 10th win in 21 matches with a 4-0 drubbing of FC Masterballers at Radio Range.

Markens Dorisca's 25th-minute conversion gave Empire FC a one-nil lead at halftime. The other goals were scored by Lee Andre Nicholas in the 87th minute, Steven Ambrose in the 88th minute, and Kamali Looby in the first minute of added time.

The result allows Empire FC to advance to 34 points, while FC Masterballers remain in the cellar of the 14-team standings with nine points after losing for the 16th time in 21 matches.

Antiguans lose 3rd qualifier in 2026 CONCACAF women's competition



The Antigua and Barbuda senior women's team after their CONCACAF Women's Championship Group B match at the National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica, on Friday, April 10, 2026. (Photo courtesy the ABFA)

Antigua and Barbuda's senior team remain winless after losing 4-0 to Jamaica in their third match of their Group B campaign in the qualifying round of the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Championship at the National Stadium in Kingston on Friday.

The Jamaicans went out in search of the opener in the first half, including hitting the woodwork on three separate occasions. **Khadija "Bunny" Shaw produced a hat trick to secure the third win in as many Group B matches for the Reggae Girlz.**

Shaw ultimately found the breakthrough goal for Jamaica from the penalty spot in the first minute of added time in the first half.

Shaw further extended the lead for the *Reggae Girlz* with two strikes to complete her hat-trick on the night.

The powerfully built striker found the back of the net in the 55th minute with

a quick control and finish from the center of the box, followed by a diving header in the 55th minute. **Kiki Van Zanten** provided the assists for both goals.

Deneisha Blackwood converted a penalty in the first minute of added time in the second half to seal the win for the Jamaicans.

Antigua and Barbuda will retake the pitch on April 14 with a visit to Dominica. Jamaica will be in search of another win in the W Qualifiers when it hosts Guyana on April 18.

The Benna Girls, who suffered 4-0 losses to Nicaragua and Guyana in their two previous matches at home at the ABFA Technical Center, will wrap up their campaign in the five-team Group B against Dominica in St. Lucia on Tuesday, April 14, at 3 pm.

The Jamaica, who are leading Group B with a perfect nine points from three

matches, will face Guyana in their final match on Saturday, April 18.

The Antigua and Barbuda women's team is competing in five-team Group B alongside Jamaica, Guyana, Nicaragua, and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda are among 29 CONCACAF member associations, excluding the region's two highest-ranked nations (USA and Canada), that are competing in six groups in the preliminary stage of the competition, which is being played during the FIFA Women's International Match Windows in November 2025 and February and April 2026.

The group winners will qualify for the CONCACAF Women's Championship, which will be played in November 2026, and serve as the Confederation's qualifier for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

Lions get second win in defense of Super40 Championship



CMW New Winthropes Lions batsman Tyronne Williams Jr.

Caribbean Motor Works (CMW) New Winthropes Lions continued their successful start in defense of their title in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Championship on Saturday.

The Lions and Empire Nation recorded the only wins during the second round of matches, which were affected by rainy weather conditions across the island.

The Lions made it two wins in a row by pulling off an eight-wicket victory against the Bolans Blasters at New Winthropes. The Bolans Blasters were dismissed for 114 in 27.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Orandel Boston bagged four for 29, and Ian Eusebe claimed two for 20.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. smashed an unbeaten half century to lead the Lions to victory at 116 for two in 15.5 overs. Williams Jr. slammed 76 not out off 54 balls, including four sixes and seven fours.

In the only other second-round match that was not washed out by the rainy weather conditions, Empire Nation

recorded their first win in two outings with a crushing 109-run victory against WES Rising Sun Spartans at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The Empire Nation made 246 for five off 20 overs after being sent in to bat. JQuan Athanaze smashed 92 off 46 balls, including six sixes and 10 fours.

Damian Lowenfield struck 54 off 30 balls, and opener Zianni Da Silva scored 34 off 28 balls. Jakeem Pollard picked up three for 42 for the Rising Sun Spartans, who suffered their sec-

ond loss in as many games.

The other three second-round matches were abandoned without a ball being bowled due to the wet conditions.

The matches affected are the encounter at Mock Pond in All Saints between the All Saints Pythons and the Bethesda Golden Eagles, the clash involving the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks and Tertiary Institutions and Schools at the Factory Grounds, and the game at Jennings between the Jennings Tigers and the Pigotts Crushers.

ABLP DELIVERS

535 ft Superyacht Dock Constructed at Falmouth Harbor Marina

Upland Development Project

- US \$30M dollar upgrade in the waterfront
- New passenger terminal serving over 800,000 passengers annually
- Retail and dining space
- Day-club concept
- Home-porting operations allowing more efficient passenger handling
- Turning cruise growth into more local business participation

Grenades stay second in Premier Division



Players of the Jennings Grenades starting XI

The Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades consolidated their second-place position in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday. The Grenades moved within six points of leaders and back-to-back champions All Saints United by recording their 14th win in 17 matches with a 7-1 drubbing of Aston Villa Lions FC in the opening game of a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to remain in second place by advancing to 44 points, while All Saints United currently leads the Premier Division with 50 points from 19 matches.

The Villa Lions will remain in third place with 40 points after suffering their seventh defeat in 21 matches.

The Pigotts Bullets and the Potters Tigers fought to a 2-2 draw in the second encounter on Saturday.

The result allows the Pigotts Bullets to remain in fourth place by advancing to 36 points after securing their third draw in 20 matches.

The Potters Tigers remain in sixth place on goal difference by securing their

sixth draw in 20 matches. It allows the Potters Tigers to advance to 33 points, the same as fifth-placed Old Road FC, who have also played 20 matches.

Old Road FC failed to regain their position in the top four in the Premier Division after dropping crucial points in a 3-3 draw with the Attacking Saints in their latest outing at the ABFA Technical Center.

Rakeem Joseph scored twice with strikes in the 21st and 27th minutes, and Chantmoi Taylor produced a 40th-minute conversion to give Old Road a 3-0 lead at halftime.

But the Attacking Saints hit back in the second half to salvage the draw via conversions by Dwight Preudhomme in the 65th minute, Obafami Poyotte in the 74th minute, and Rick Gordon in the 82nd minute.

The result left Old Road FC in fifth place with 33 points after securing their sixth draw in 20 matches. The Attacking Saints remain in their eighth-place position with 23 points after salvaging their second draw in 20 matches.

Meanwhile, Point West Ham jumped from 10th to ninth place by claiming

their eighth win in 16 matches with a 2-1 victory against Belmont FC at Cashew Hill.

Jahmarley Barzy gave West Ham a one-nil lead at halftime with a 23rd-minute conversion. Belmont FC contributed to their own demise with two players being expelled after receiving red cards in the 38th minute.

N'Jre Carbon-Buckley and Brendon Sutherland were expelled, which resulted in Belmont FC finishing the match with nine players. Bryan Samuel doubled Point West Ham's lead with a 74th-minute conversion.

Rondre Mills reduced the deficit by scoring a consolation goal for Belmont FC with a strike in the 85th minute.

The result allows Point West Ham FC to advance to 28 points, while Belmont FC remains in 15th place with 14 points after suffering their 11th defeat in 17 matches.

The Liberta Blackhawks moved from 14th to 13th place by claiming their sixth win in 17 matches with a 4-2 victory against Blackburn Palace FC at the Fort Road playing field.

Elijah Miller scored in the fifth minute to give Blackburn Palace a one-nil lead at halftime. Davidson James snatched an equalizer for the Liberta Blackhawks with a 49th-minute conversion.

Diondre Harrigan converted a penalty kick in the 55th minute to restore Blackburn Palace lead with a 2-1 advantage. But the Blackhawks scored three more goals to snatch victory.

Jakeze Quinland had a double conversion with strikes in the 67th and 82nd minutes, and the other goal was scored by Lester Dupigny in the 68th minute.

The result allows the Liberta Blackhawks to advance to 19 points. It means Blackburn Palace FC finished their campaign in sixth place with 33 points after suffering their sixth defeat during their quota of 19 matches.