

ABLP Responds to Pringle's Claims

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Honourees Beverly Skerritt-Airall (second from left) Dorbrene O'Marde (on her left) and Veronica Yearwood (yellow dress). Beverly's daughter Zarah Airall is extreme left. Story on page 7

ABLP Responds to Pringle's Claims



Statement by the Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party rejects as false and misleading the claim by Jamale Pringle that visa restrictions imposed by the United States are the fault of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda or that he can somehow “fix” them.

The position of the United States Government has been stated plainly by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio:

“In support of this critical objective, the Department of State is announcing a significant expansion of an existing visa restriction policy that targets those

working on behalf of U.S. adversaries to undermine our national interests in our hemisphere, including regional security and democratic sovereignty.”

He has also made clear the principle that governs all such decisions:

“Getting a U.S. visa is not a right; it is a privilege which we alone decide.”

These are decisions of the United States Government, taken in pursuit of its own national interests and applied across the Western Hemisphere. They are not determined by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and no Opposition politician in this country can reverse them by campaign slogan or empty boast.

Antigua and Barbuda is not alone in this matter. Other countries in the Caribbean are also affected, and many nationals across the region are denied visas every day under U.S. law and policy.

The difference is that while others play politics, this Government has been doing the serious diplomatic work. Antigua and Barbuda has been at the forefront of discussions with the United States to secure improved arrangements. Indeed, as recently as two days ago, Prime Minister Gaston Browne discussed this matter directly with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau.

That is how responsible governments act. They engage, they represent, and they persist. They do not mislead the public with promises they have no power to fulfil.

Mr Pringle’s statement is either a sign that he does not understand how relations between states work, or a calculated attempt to deceive the people for political gain. Neither is a qualification for leadership.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda deserve the truth. U.S. visa policy is made in Washington, not in St John’s. No amount of political posturing can change that reality.



ELECTION DAY

Thursday, 30 April

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





RENAISSANCE
A New Era of Progress and Development

ABLP To Host Manifesto Launch Event Today

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is hosting a special event at the American University of Antigua today (Monday April 20) to launch its 2026 Elections Manifesto.

Party sources confirmed that the event will feature presentations from the party leadership including Prime Minister and Political Leader, Gaston Browne, Party Chairman, E.P Chet Greene as well as several of the candidates who will contest the April 30 general elections on the party's slate.

One party official described the event as a 'not-to-be-missed' occasion with representatives from the private sector, civil society groups, other stakeholders and supporters of the ABLP expected to be in attendance.

In his remarks, the Political Leader is expected to share highlights of some of the policy platforms upon which the party will contest the elections.

The ABLP's campaign theme for 2026 is: *The Renaissance: A New Era of Progress and Development*.

Meanwhile, the ABLP's candidate for St. Philip North, Randy Baltimore, has described as 'false and misleading', a flyer currently being circulated on social media advertising a so-called candidates' debate scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Glanvilles Polyclinic.

Baltimore wishes to make it abundantly clear that he has not agreed to nor has he had any confirmation by any organizing body regarding it. Further, neither his team nor the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has received any official communication concerning this purported event.

Even more concerning, checks have revealed that the relevant personnel at the Glanvilles Polyclinic are also unaware of any such event being scheduled on the premises for the stated date and time.

This raises serious questions about the origin and intent of this circulating



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flyer, which appears designed to create misinformation, disinformation, and unnecessary political confusion within the constituency.

Candidate Randy Baltimore is therefore calling on those responsible to desist immediately from engaging in deceptive tactics intended to mislead

the public and stir political discord.

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party remains committed to engaging the people honestly and respectfully, with a message rooted in development, stability, and national advancement.

Police Issue Warning Against Removal And Destruction Of Political Campaign Materials



The police have revealed that they have received multiple reports of individuals defacing political posters and billboards and warn that anyone caught in the act will be prosecuted.

“It has been brought to the attention of the Commissioner of Police and the Police Administration that individuals are engaging in the removal, defacing, and destruction of political flyers, posters, and billboards across various communities.

“The Force takes this matter seriously. Such actions are unlawful and undermine the democratic process, particularly during a period of heightened political activity. Political materials lawfully placed by parties or their representatives are protected, and any interference with them constitutes a criminal offence,” a STRATCOM statement noted.

It said members of the public are hereby warned to desist immediately from engaging in these activities. “The Police are actively monitoring the situation, and increased surveillance measures are being implemented in affected areas. Any individual found removing, tampering with, or destroying political campaign materials—whether identified through surveillance footage or reported by credible witnesses—will be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda,” the statement indicated.

The Royal Police Force is also calling on the political leadership of all parties to play a responsible role during this pe-

riod by encouraging their supporters and affiliates to act lawfully and refrain from engaging in the destruction or removal of campaign materials.

The Royal Police Force says it remains committed to ensuring a peaceful and orderly environment for all citizens and urges everyone to respect the rights of others, regardless of political affiliation. Anyone with information regarding these incidents is encouraged to contact the nearest police station or call the Criminal Investigations Department.

Meanwhile, the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is adding its voice to the calls for persons to desist from defacing or destroying poster, billboards or other paraphernalia erected as part of the election campaign.

In a statement the party said: *The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party strongly condemns the destruction, removal, and interference of political paraphernalia, including posters and billboards, across political lines.*

Such actions have no place in a dem-

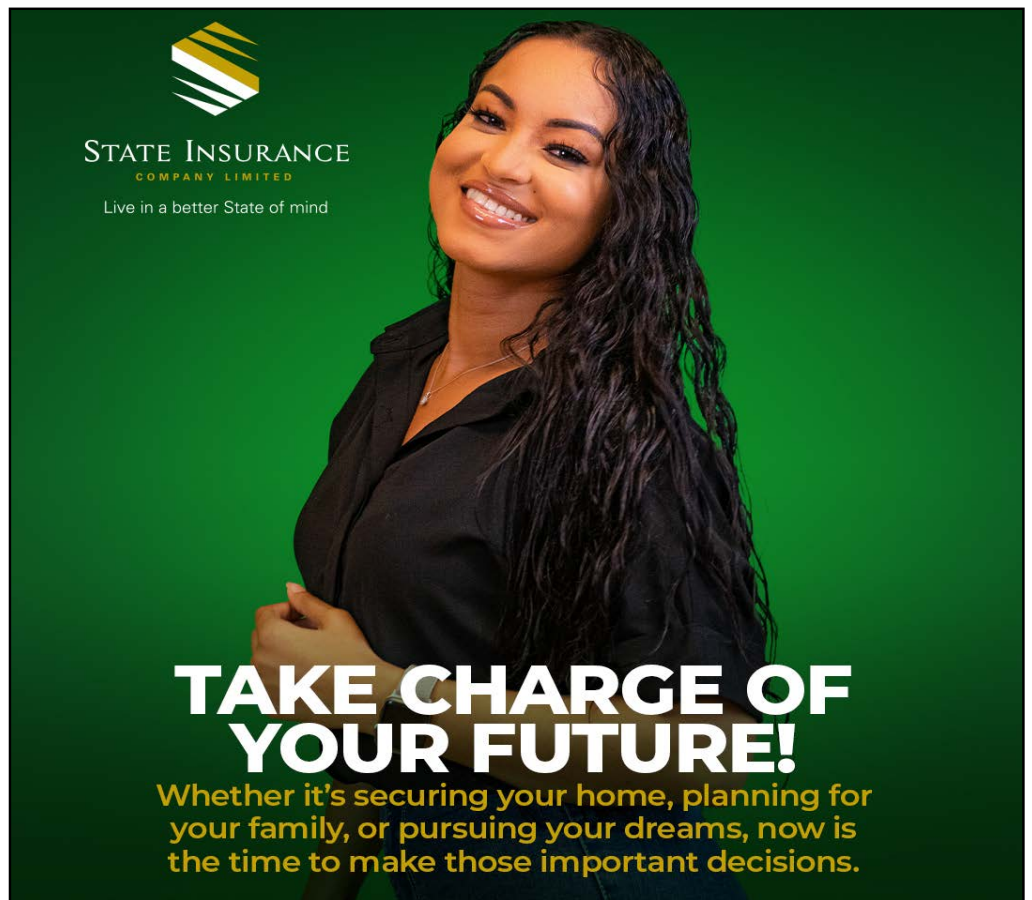
ocratic society. Elections are about choice. They are about allowing the people of Antigua and Barbuda to freely decide which party and which vision they believe can best provide stable governance and national progress for all.

Any attempt to disrupt or undermine that democratic choice is unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The ABLP is currently in contact with the relevant authorities to assist in ascertaining those responsible for these activities. We are also appealing to members of the public to report any sightings or information that may help identify the culprits.

We call on those involved, directly or indirectly, as well as anyone encouraging or inciting these acts, to desist immediately.

The democratic process must be respected, and political differences must never descend into destruction, intimidation, or disorder.



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Ottos Comprehensive Dominates Annual Theatre Festival



The spotlight shone brightly on the young dramatists from the Ottos Comprehensive School at the prize giving ceremony of the 9th Secondary Schools Drama Festival held Saturday night at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre.

The Festival lasted for one week and featured performances from eleven secondary schools in two categories; dance and theatre (drama). Several schools participated in both categories.

The theatre arts students from the Ottos Comprehensive School showed their dominance in the drama category by winning eight of the eighteen awards presented during the night. Ottos Comprehensive won for **Best Actor**, Jeremiah Joseph, and **Best Actress**, Leana Fields. A scholarship to further their studies in theatre arts is



awaiting them should they choose to pursue further studies in this field.

Ottos Comprehensive also won for **Best Supporting Actor**, Joel Bridges, **Outstanding Original Script**, **Outstanding Teenage Script**, **Outstanding Directing**, **Outstanding Sound Effect**, and **Outstanding Set Design**.

St. Mary's Secondary won the **Most Promising Actor**, Jahvonte Ryan, and **Best Supporting Actress**, Carol Thomas.

Irene B. Williams Secondary won three awards; **Most Promising Actress**, T'Nesa Lewis, **Outstanding Female Improvisation in Acting**, Shayne James and **Outstanding Ensemble Performance**.

The Princess Margaret School won

the awards for **Outstanding Male Improvisation in Acting**, Nickquane Theodore and **Outstanding School in Improvisation**.

Pares Secondary won the award for **Outstanding Lighting**, Jennings Secondary for **Outstanding Stage Management** and the All Saints Secondary for **Outstanding Costume**.

In the **Dance** category, the prizes were more equally shared with the **Most Promising Male Dancer** going to Christopher Lee of St. Mary's Secondary, the **Most Promising Female Dancer**, Jada-Linn James of Ottos Comprehensive, **Outstanding Solo Dancer**, Emari John of the Antigua Grammar School, **Outstanding Duet**, Otezza Luke and Tylana Jarvis of the Jennings Secondary, **Outstand-**

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ing Improvisation Dance, Otezza Luke of Jennings Secondary, **Outstanding Make-Up**, Pares Secondary, **Outstanding Innovative Costume**, All Saints Secondary, with Sir Novelle Richards Academy winning the **Outstanding Choreography** and **Outstanding Group Performance** awards.

Several Special Awards were also presented at the prize-giving. These were the **Spirit of the Festival Dance Contingent Award** which went to Sir Novell Richards Academy with Otos Comprehensive winning both the **Spirit of the Festival Drama Contingent Award** and the **Spirit of the Festival Overall Contingent Award**.

For the second year in a row, an award was presented to honour the memory of a young and talented actor, Tyrel Buckley, who died more than a year ago. That award was presented by Buckley's mother and it went to Zayell Thomas.

Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Creative Industries, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim congratulated the schools which participated in the festival thanking them for their dedication, discipline, and the excellence they displayed throughout this festival, adding that he looks forward to seeing even more schools across the nation embracing and participating in this important platform in the years ahead.

“Theatre is a powerful instrument. It shapes confidence, sharpens intellect, and deepens our understanding of society. It teaches us empathy—how to see the world

through another’s eyes—and it challenges us to reflect on our own realities. In this sense, the stage becomes a classroom, and every performance a lesson in humanity,” he observed.

Cultural Icons Receive ‘Lifetime Achievement Awards’



Three cultural icons whose combined years of dedication to the performing arts and culture generally totaled in excess of 150 years...have been presented with *Lifetime Achievement Awards* for outstanding contributions to culture and the arts.


On Saturday night, the Ministry of Creative Industries in collaboration with the Department of Culture presented the awards to playwright and dramatist, Dorbrene O’Marde, dramatist, Beverly Skerritt-Airall and dancer and choreographer, Veronica Yearwood during the annual prize giving ceremony for the National Secondary Schools Theatre Arts Festival.

All three are well-known figures in the performing arts space locally for many years. O’Marde and Yearwood have extended their reach to regional and international markets as well. Both O’Marde and Skerritt-Airall, have been performing and or writing plays since they were students at the Antigua Grammar School and the Antigua Girls High School respectively. Following secondary school, they continued their love-affair with the theatre. O’Marde was instrumental in the formation of Harambee Open-Air Theatre which was at the forefront of a very active theatre culture in the 1970’s and 80’s. Skerritt-Airall was an early member of the group and there-

fore she was a constant presence in many of its productions. (Skerritt-Airall is the mother of Zarah Airall, a highly respected theatre arts teacher, playwright and actor).

OMarde’s biography that was read at the presentation reads in part: **DORBRENE E. O’MARDE, author and playwright, is a recognized cultural worker throughout the Caribbean region. He is best known as playwright, director and producer (theatre and music), newspaper/magazine columnist, speaker and a calypso writer, judge and analyst.**

Skerritt’s-Airall’s biography reads in part: *Even though she grew up in a*



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household where two English teachers would have her fall in love with the literary arts, it was not until a schools' local drama festival that Beverley Aïrall nee Skerritt would discover her passion for the performing arts. In circa 1968 while attending the Antigua Girls' High School, Beverley played the lead role of Juliet in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Yearwood's biography stated in part: *Veronica Yearwood is a teacher, choreographer, cultural activist, and researcher from Antigua and Barbuda. She founded the Antigua Dance Acad-*

emy (ADA) in October 1991. Yearwood was Artistic Director of the National Dance Theatre of Antigua and Barbuda from 1989 to 2001. She is a founding member of the Caribbean Folk Arts Association (CARIBFOLK) and is part of the International Dance Council (CID). Her work includes deep research into traditional dance — especially masquerades — across many Eastern Caribbean islands (e.g., St. Kitts, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Barbados).

In his acceptance speech, thanked the organisers for recognizing the work that he had done over the years and while he has been active in other areas of the arts, such as calypso writing and judging, he has every intention 'to be back' in the theatre arts space.

"I want to say thanks to those who came before me; the Community Players, the Little Theatre Group and The Grammarians (a theatre group that preceded Harambee Open-Air Theatre). I therefore want to make special mention of those 'who paved the way'

for us to follow. I want to say thanks to those who were in the trenches with me and here I wish to recognize Beverly as being one such person here tonight. There were also other actors, directors, stage-managers, costume designers, make-up artists and sound and lights technicians...all those who helped make a production what the final product turned out to be as theatre never is, and, will never be a one-person event," he remarked. The cultural icon also thanked his family, including his wife of many years, Ingrid, for the support they provided over the course of his career.

O'Marde gave high marks to the current crop of dramatists and he urged both them and their theatre arts teachers to continue the work of keeping this vital art-form of story-telling alive and well.

He indicated that he was quite pleased with the performances over the course of the festival noting that the future of theatre arts in Antigua and Barbuda looks 'bright'.

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Photo Essay

National Theatre Festival Awards Ceremony



Photo Essay



Ministry of Health Hosts Antimicrobial Stewardship Workshop

The Ministry of Health concluded a two-day Antimicrobial Stewardship Workshop at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC), aimed at strengthening the responsible use of antimicrobial medicines across the healthcare system.

The workshop brought together a wide range of healthcare professionals, including doctors, pharmacists, nurses, laboratory personnel, veterinarians, and public health officials, in a coordinated effort to address the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance.

The sessions were facilitated by Abraham S.T. Weekes, Senior Technical Specialist at the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Pharmaceutical Pooled Procurement Service (OECS-PPS). Weekes is a highly experienced pharmacist with over two decades of expertise in hospital pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical systems, and antimicrobial stewardship across the region.

Delivering remarks at the opening ceremony, Permanent Secretary Stacey Gregg-Paige underscored the urgency of the issue, noting that antimicrobial resistance “directly affects how care is delivered, the outcomes we achieve, and the sustainability of our health system.” She further emphasized that the matter represents a critical dimension of health security, with implications extending beyond individual patient care to national and regional resilience.

Gregg-Paige described the workshop as both timely and essential, highlighting the importance of collaboration among healthcare professionals. She noted that such engagements provided an opportunity for reflection, discussion, and practical action to strengthen antimicrobial use within the local context.

She also stressed the importance of a One Health approach, recognising



the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, and pointed to the need for strengthened surveillance systems to better understand patterns of use, detect emerging resistance, and support informed decision-making.

The workshop focused on practical, case-driven approaches to improving antimicrobial use in both clinical and community settings. Key sessions covered the importance of antimicrobial resistance, the role and functions of antimicrobial stewardship committees, and strategies for enabling the rational use of medicines within the healthcare system.

Participants also engaged in working sessions designed to develop context-specific solutions, strengthen governance and surveillance systems, and enhance collaboration among stakeholders. A continuing education session further supported pharmacists

and doctors in advancing best practices in antibiotic use.

The Permanent Secretary encouraged participants to engage fully and to focus on actionable outcomes, noting that “the true value of this engagement will be determined by what follows... in the decisions made, the consistency of approach, and the outcomes achieved.”

Antimicrobial resistance remains a significant threat to public health globally and within the region. The Ministry emphasised that strengthening antimicrobial stewardship is essential to ensuring effective treatment outcomes, safeguarding patient safety, and preserving the efficacy of existing medicines.

The Ministry of Health extended its appreciation to the OECS-PPS and all participating stakeholders for their collaboration in advancing this critical initiative.

Pandemonium Wins Pan Explosion Competition



The Pandemonium Steel Orchestra emerged winners of the community-based Pan Explosion steelband competition held at the Simon Bolivar Park on Saturday night.

The competition was held among eight steelbands where the format calls for each band to have no more than 15 players with their presentation not exceeding twenty minutes playing time. During the presentation, the bands were allowed to play a medley of songs from any genre they choose. In the winning presentation, Pandemonium featured a medley of songs that spanned jazz, reggae, soca, pop and salsa.

For its winning performance, Pandemonium will receive a cash prize of \$4,000.00.

Second place went to Original Steel Orchestra which will receive a cash prize of \$2,000.00. The third spot went to Golden Sticks Ensemble. They will receive \$1,000.00 in cash.

The other steelbands that participated in the competition were; Halcyon, West Side Symphony, WIOC Gemonites, Panache, and Rising

Stars.

The competition was organized by the members of the Original Steel Orchestra with two primary goals in mind; firstly, as a community effort designed to keep interest in pan music alive and well and secondly, to raise funds for the band to participate in this year's panorama competition held during the Carnival festivities.

Original Steel Orchestra's manag-

er, Elvis 'Kenya' Weatherill, said the competition was quite good with the bands putting on a grand show for the audience. "The attendance was quite good and we are pleased with the overall level of the show. In ten years of holding this competition, it is now being seen as an excellent opportunity for pan players to sharpen their skills with Carnival just around the corner as well as to provide incentives for players to remain in their bands," he remarked.


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Antigua and Barbuda to Host Major Caribbean Youth Leadership Conference In June



Antigua and Barbuda will take center stage this June as it hosts the Rotaract District 7030 Conference 2026, under the theme **“Linked in Wadadli”**. This marks the first time in over two decades that the country will host this flagship regional event, led by the Rotaract Club of Antigua.

Scheduled for June 25 to 29, 2026, the conference will be held at Pineapple Beach Club and will bring together approximately 200 young leaders and professionals from across the Caribbean for four days of leadership development, collaboration, and cultural exchange.

Rotaract District 7030 represents a network of 47 clubs across the Caribbean, spanning territories such as Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Curacao, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique,

Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The annual conference serves as the district’s premier platform for training, networking, and advancing youth-led solutions to regional challenges.

This year’s theme, **“Linked in Wadadli,”** reflects a strong focus on connection, identity and regional integration. It highlights Antigua and Barbuda as a hub where Caribbean youth can build partnerships, exchange ideas, and strengthen collective leadership.

The conference programme will feature a mix of intensive leadership training sessions, expert-led discussions, innovation workshops, and community service activities, alongside cultural showcases that celebrate Caribbean

diversity. Participants will also engage in networking events designed to foster long-term professional and regional connections.

For decades, the Rotaract District 7030 Conference has rotated across Caribbean territories, consistently attracting an average of **150 - 200 participants annually** and contributing to local economies while building a pipeline of skilled, service-driven leaders.

The 2026 conference is being led by District Rotaract Representative Crystal Mohammed of Rotaract Club of San Fernando South, with Co-Chairs Sherwyn Greenidge and Dr. Namadi Belle of Rotaract Club of Antigua, supported by a diverse local and regional planning team. Their leadership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening youth capacity and expanding opportunities for collaboration across the region.

Beyond the sessions and networking, the conference aims to deliver a clear outcome: equip Caribbean youth with practical leadership skills, strengthen regional collaboration, and drive community impact through service projects aligned with global development priorities.

Members of the public, organizations, and stakeholders interested in contributing to or supporting Caribbean youth leadership and regional integration are invited to connect with the organizing team.

Rotary Club Announces Date and Theme For Colours, 2026

The Rotary Club of Antigua will host the 17th edition of its flagship fundraiser, *Colours: Welcome to Smurf Village*, on **Saturday, 4th July 2026**, at the Coolidge Cricket Ground.

This year introduces a refreshed experience with new event hours from **5:00 PM to 11:00 PM**, creating a seamless sunset-to-starlight atmosphere for patrons.

Colours remains a central part of the Club's annual service work. Each year, the event raises critical funds to support community programmes across Antigua and Barbuda. Proceeds directly fund initiatives such as Meals on Wheels, youth development, education support, and community health outreach.

The 2026 theme, *Welcome to Smurf Village*, focuses on community. The concept reflects a shared responsibility to support those in need. The "village" represents unity and collective action. The Smurf-inspired theme brings a light, creative expression to a serious purpose. It reminds patrons that strong communities depend on people showing up for each other.

The event delivers a full all-inclusive experience. Patrons will enjoy premium drinks, quality food, and a curated music lineup in an open-air setting.

Guests are encouraged to dress with the theme in mind. Blue, red, and white set the tone. Patterns, florals, and playful village details add personality. No strict costume rules apply and style remains personal and expressive.

The Rotary Club of Antigua continues to recognize the strong support from sponsors and partners who contribute each year. Their involvement has helped Colours grow into one of the island's most consistent and impactful fundraising events. The Club also acknowledges its long-standing supporters, including corporate partners, media houses, and community stakeholders who help bring the event to life each year.

Now in its 17th year, Colours stands as more than a social event. It connects people to purpose and turns celebration into meaningful community support.

Tickets are now available on the Ticketing App. Every ticket contributes di-



rectly to service projects across Antigua and Barbuda.





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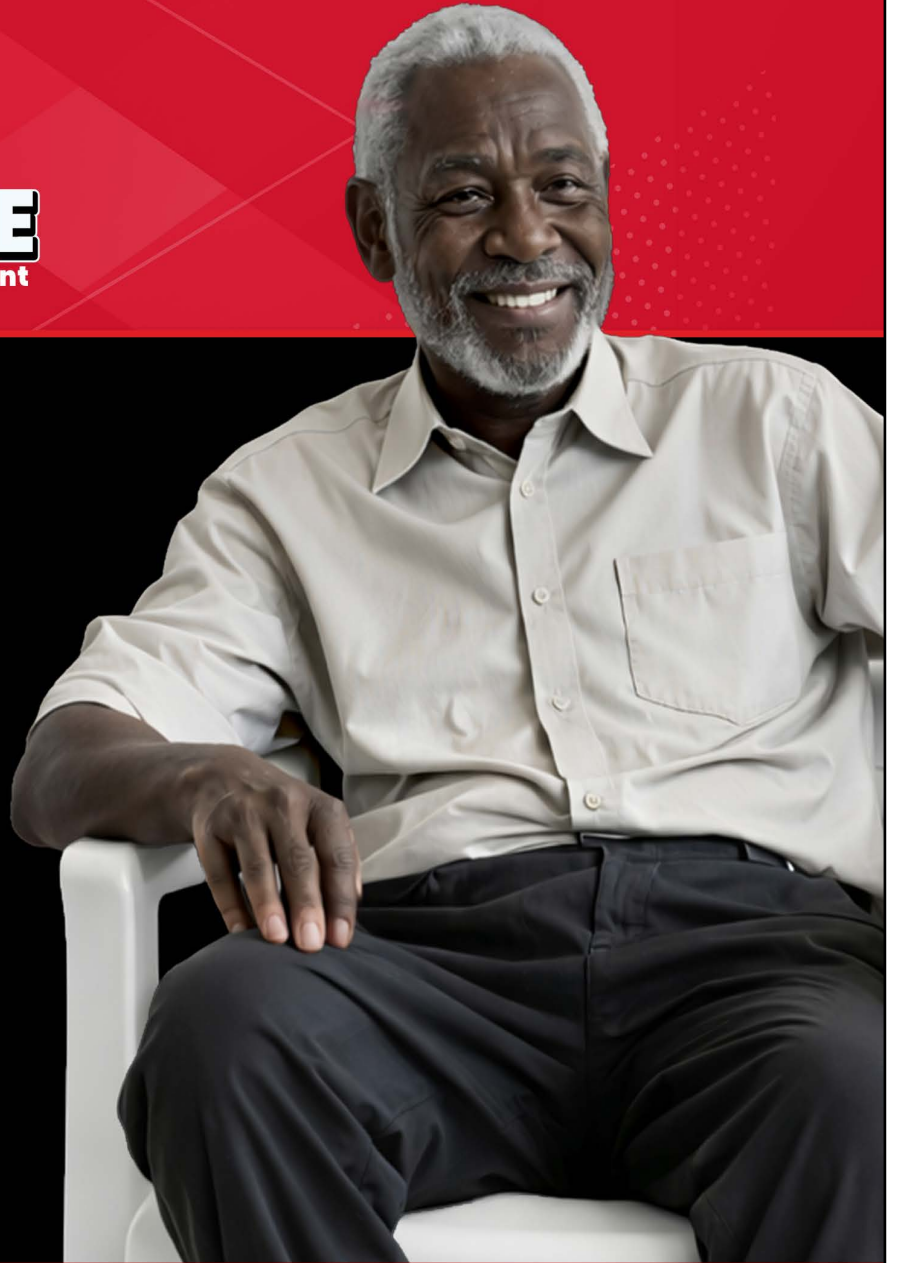
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Quo Vadis, CARICOM? Strengthening Unity Through Clarity: A Constructive Path Forward



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E Pilgrim

The current developments within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) present not merely a challenge, but an opportunity—an opportunity to reaffirm the foundational principles upon which the Community was established and to strengthen the mechanisms that sustain its relevance and credibility.

CARICOM was founded on a shared vision, enshrined in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which emphasizes cooperation, mutual respect, and collective advancement. The Treaty speaks clearly to “the promotion of the sustained economic development of Member States” and “the strengthening of coordination of foreign and foreign economic policies.” Importantly, it also underscores that Member States are to act “in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality and the rule of law.” These provisions reflect a deeper truth: CARICOM was never intended to function merely as a mechanism for decision-making, but as a regional architecture grounded in trust, consultation, and shared responsibility.

It is therefore essential to recognize that the present disagreement, while centred on the reappointment of the

Secretary-General, has evolved into a broader concern regarding procedure, communication, and documentation. In any rules-based institution, process is not peripheral—it is central to legitimacy. Where there is ambiguity, even if unintended, confidence can be affected.

At the same time, it must be acknowledged that all parties involved appear to be acting in what they perceive to be the best interest of the Community. This recognition is critical, as it allows the discussion to remain anchored in good faith rather than adversarial positioning. CARICOM is more than an institution; it is the expression of a shared Caribbean identity, forged through history, cooperation, and a common aspiration for progress.

It is also important, in the spirit of fairness and institutional respect, to acknowledge that the office of the Secretary-General must be viewed within the broader framework of institutional responsibility and continuity. The effective functioning of that office, like all organs of the Community, must be guided by the overarching imperative to safeguard unity, uphold established procedures, and maintain the confidence of Member States. In that regard, it is reasonable to expect that all necessary steps will be taken to remove any obstacle that may impede the resolution of this matter, with due regard for the interests of the Community and the integrity of its processes.

In navigating this situation, what some have described as the Pilgrim Doctrine offers a useful and practical lens. It rests on the premise that for small states, the preservation of cooperative space is not optional—it is essential.

Disagreements will arise, but they must be managed in a manner that safeguards the collective good and sustains the integration movement. The application of this approach requires that Member States consciously

preserve spaces for engagement, even in moments of disagreement. It calls for restraint in public discourse, prioritization of dialogue over division, and a deliberate commitment to ensuring that no single issue is allowed to undermine the broader project of regional integration.

A constructive and peaceful resolution therefore requires a clear, step-wise approach.

First, there must be immediate de-escalation.

All parties should commit to addressing the matter within established diplomatic channels, refraining from further public escalation while discussions are ongoing. This is not a limitation on accountability, but a recognition that effective resolution is best achieved through structured engagement.

Second, there must be clarification of facts.

A special closed consultation of Heads of Government should be convened, with appropriate support from Foreign Ministers. The purpose of this meeting should be to establish a shared and agreed understanding of the sequence of events, including the nature of invitations, participation at the retreat, and the communications that have since been interpreted differently.

Third, there must be transparency through documentation.

A structured and timely disclosure of relevant documents to all Member States is essential. This should include the agenda, invitations, records or summaries of deliberations, and communications relating to the appointment process. Transparency in this regard is not only corrective—it is confidence-building.

Fourth, there must be institutional strengthening.

CARICOM should undertake a focused procedural review of its governance practices, particularly as they relate to high-level appointments and

decision-making processes.

This review should clarify rules of representation, define the parameters of “Heads-only” engagements, and establish clear documentation standards to prevent future ambiguity.

Fifth, there must be forward assurance.

Following these steps, the Conference of Heads of Government should issue a unified statement reaffirming commitment to the principles of the Treaty, outlining agreed procedural improvements, and emphasizing that the responsibility for safeguarding the integrity of the Community rests collectively with all Heads of Government, who are the ultimate custodians of the regional integration movement.

The question of the Secretary-General’s tenure, while sensitive, should be approached within this structured framework. Any determination in that regard should emerge from a calm and collective process, rather than from the pressures of public discourse. The integrity of the institution must remain paramount.

Ultimately, CARICOM’s strength has never been defined by the absence of disagreement, but by its capacity to resolve differences with dignity, discipline, and purpose. The Treaty did not envision a Community free of challenge; it envisioned one capable of addressing challenges through cooperation and respect. This moment calls for leadership that rises above immediate contention and affirms the long-term interests of the region.

In the final analysis, the Caribbean does not move forward when it is divided in voice, but when it is united in purpose. This is the moment to reaffirm that unity—not in uniformity of opinion, but in commitment to a shared future. The path forward is therefore clear: engage quietly, clarify honestly, reform prudently, and proceed together—anchored in the enduring principle that the preservation of cooperative space is essential to the stability and progress of the Caribbean Community.

In so doing, the Community must re-

main guided by its enduring vision:

“A Community of sovereign states, united in diversity, committed to the ideals of economic integration, human and social development, and a foreign policy that enhances the international standing of the Caribbean region.”

Author Bio (Column Version)

His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim is a senior public servant and diplomat, serving within the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. He is also Ambassador to the Association of Caribbean States and Per-

manent Representative to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). A transformational leader, he is the past valedictorian of the Caribbean Leadership Program and has extensive experience in public administration and regional policy development.

Disclaimer

The views expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the official position of any government or institution.

#votealexbrowne #governmentmustworkforyou
 #ReadyToServe #stphillipsnorth #VoteUPP



CANDIDATES' DEBATE

Thursday, 23rd April, 2026
Time: 7:30pm – 8:30pm
Venue: Glanvilles Polyclinic

The poster features two podiums on a stage. The left podium is red and has the ABLP logo (a torch with a flame) on it. The right podium is blue and has the Antigua and Barbuda national flag (a sun) on it. The background is a dark stage with spotlights.

More Than Honour: Why the UWI Five Islands Campus Celebrates Every Student



By Adeola A. Matthew, Student Retention and Success Manager, UWI Five Islands Campus

There is a quiet but powerful truth at the heart of every great university: buildings do not make an institution — people do. Research outputs, academic rankings, and infrastructure tell only part of the story. The fuller story is found in the student who arrives



nervous on the first day of the semester, uncertain whether she belongs; in the mature professional who returns to the classroom after two decades away, determined to finish what he started; in the school leaver still finding his footing in a world that suddenly feels much larger than it did in June. It is these people who make the University of the West Indies, Five Islands Cam-

pus something more than a research institution. They are the reason we exist, and they are the reason we celebrate.

On April 15, 2026, UWI Five Islands Campus held its Student Honour Society Ceremony — a milestone event that placed more than 250 students in the spotlight for their outstanding academic performance during Semester

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Feature



I of the 2025–2026 academic year. Students from the School of Business and Management, the School of Health and Behavioural Sciences, the School of Humanities and Education, and the School of Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence crossed the stage with pride, celebrated before their lecturers and peers. Honourees were recognised through two distinct designations: the Honour Roll, which celebrates exceptional performance within a single semester, and the Principal’s List, which acknowledges the sustained consistency that defines true academic discipline. Both distinctions matter. Together, they tell a richer story about what excellence looks like across different journeys.

But this ceremony was never only about GPA points. It was about something deeper — a declaration that this campus sees its students, all of them, and chooses to honour not just performance, but perseverance.

Walk into any classroom at UWI Five Islands Campus and you will find a community unlike almost any other in higher education. A 17-year-old fresh from CSEC sits alongside a 50-year-old professional re-entering academia. A first-generation university student navigates coursework beside someone whose career spans decades. Students from varying economic backgrounds,

educational histories, and life experiences share the same classrooms, the same assignments, and the same ambitions. This is not a challenge to be managed — it is the defining strength of what we do.

The campus has built its student sup-

port infrastructure deliberately around this diversity. Through programmes designed to meet students at every point of entry — whether they come directly from secondary school or have been away from formal education for years — UWI Five Islands Campus ensures that no learner is left without a pathway to success. The goal is not simply access. It is belonging, growth, and achievement.

This is what a student-centred ethos looks like in practice: not a slogan on a website, but structures, services, and ceremonies that say, you matter here.

The Honour Society Ceremony is one visible expression of that commitment — inspiring those already enrolled to reach further, and sending a clear message to prospective students across Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean: there is a place for you here, and when you excel, we will make sure the world knows it.

Excellence, after all, deserves to be celebrated out loud.

The graphic features a red background with the ABLP logo (a torch with 'ABLP' on a shield) in the top right. Below it, the text 'ABLP DELIVERS' is written in large, bold, white letters with a drop shadow. Underneath that, 'UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS' is written in smaller white letters. At the bottom, there are two small boxes: the first contains the ABLP logo, and the second contains a stylized 'X'.



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MEN ARE FOR LABOUR!



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Time: 7:00 PM



Venue: St Anthony's Secondary School, Langfords



Admission: \$50

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DJ ACE

7

5

HOSTED BY: JESSE FYAH & DJ KAVITY

PARTICIPANTS

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DJ KYLE (CMC) | DJ TREBLEBEATZ (APUA) | DJ STRANGER (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)
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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

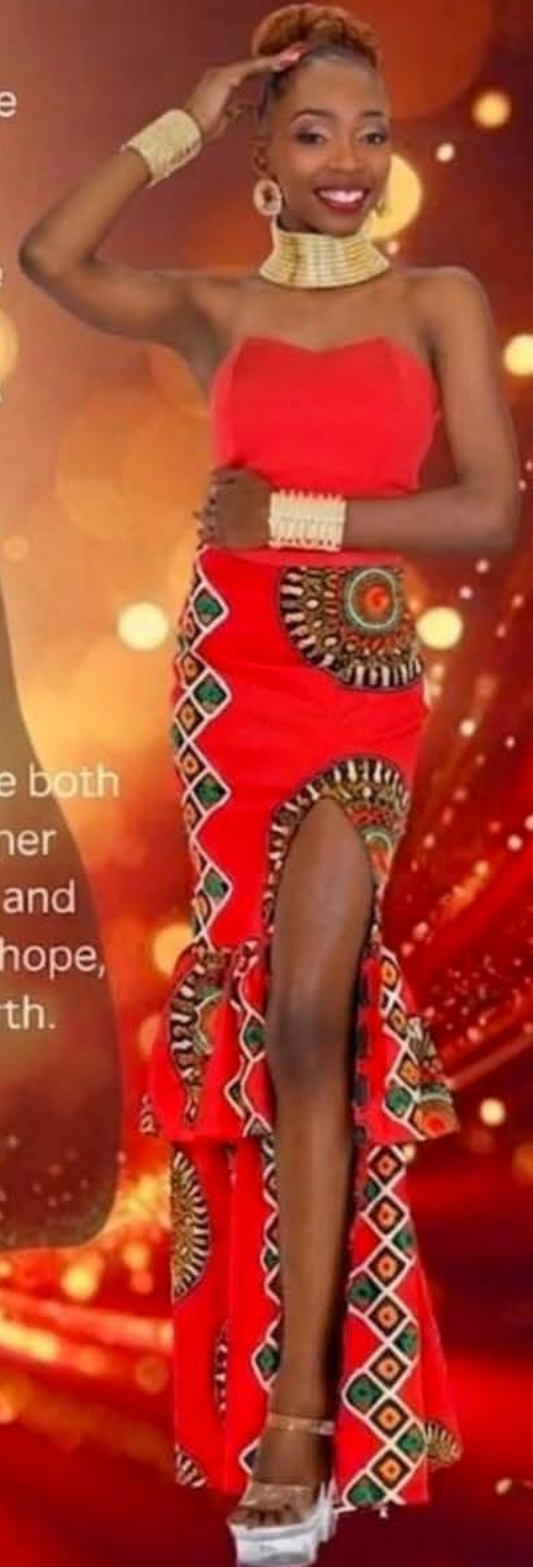


Iszarea Lloyd proudly represents St. Phillip's North as a young woman of purpose, resilience, and quiet strength.

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



Regional News



Amid US tensions, Mexico, Spain, Brazil urge respectful dialogue with Cuba

Mexico, Spain and Brazil voiced concern Saturday over the “dramatic situation” in Cuba, which has faced months of pressure from United States (US) President Donald Trump, with the trio urging “sincere and respectful dialogue.”

Without explicitly mentioning the United States, the three leftist-led countries expressed “deep concern regarding the grave humanitarian crisis that the people of Cuba are enduring, and call for the adoption of necessary measures to alleviate this situation.”

The countries, in a joint statement issued by Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called for a “sincere and respectful dialogue” in line with international law.

The purpose of such a dialogue should be to “find a lasting solution to the current situation and to ensure that it is the Cuban people themselves who decide their own future in full freedom,” the statement said.

The appeal came as a summit of leftist leaders is taking place in Barcelona, led by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro



Sanchez, one of the biggest critics of the United States and Israel’s bombing campaigns in the Middle East.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Brazil’s Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva were among the attendees, who called for efforts to “protect democracy.”

Cuba has been bracing for a possible attack following repeated warnings from Trump that Cuba is “next” after he toppled Venezuela’s leader Nicolas Maduro and went to war against Iran.

Trump has imposed an oil blockade of Cuba, aggravating the impoverished island’s worst economic and energy crisis in decades. (AFP)

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Reggae rocks Diane Warren: Renown American songwriter teams with Jamaican acts for new album

Academy Award honoree, Emmy and Grammy-winning songwriter, Golden Globes winner, and Billboard Music Awards songwriter for three consecutive years Diane Warren is set to release a 13-track album of reggae songs titled *Songs in the Key of Diane: A Reggae Compilation of Diane Warren Songs*.

The project, which is due for release on July 31, will feature Pacific Island artistes covering some of Warren’s most beloved songs.

The collection of classic, deep-cut, and unreleased songs, all written by Warren, feature the likes of Common Kings, Fiji, Pia Mia, Lea Love, Gramps Morgan, among others.

“I’ve always loved reggae,” said Warren in a statement announcing the project that mixes unheard songs and lesser-known tracks with certified hits. “It’s music that just makes you feel good. My music has always had that rhythmic Caribbean feel, starting with *Rhythm of the Night*. It’s cool to have



fresh covers of the old hits; it’s like putting a new set of clothes on them. But I’m even more excited about the songs that haven’t been heard before.

There’s such a wide variety of artistes on this record, which made it so much fun to do.”

The album emerged from a more than three-decade relationship between Warren and Regime Music Group President Steven Rosen, who curated the project and co-produced it alongside Warren and Regime/Island Empire co-founders Ivory Daniel and Kevin Zinger.

“What makes a song great is its ability to stand on its own two feet, and be able to work in different genres, like reggae,” added Warren. “If the melody, lyrics and rhythm are there — the bones — it should work in any style of music. I could write something as a ballad and have it turned into a killer dance track. I love taking a song and flipping it on its head.”

Gramps Morgan of Morgan Heritage performs the song *I Wish That*. When the Jamaica Observer caught up with him on Friday, he was excited to be a part of the project. (Jamaica Observer)

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(JELLY BEANS)

Regional News



Remains of 50 babies, 6 adults found at Trinidad and Tobago cemetery

The remains of at least 50 infants and six adults were discovered Saturday after they had apparently been discarded at a cemetery in Trinidad and Tobago, police said.

A preliminary investigation showed it “may be a case involving the unlawful disposal of unclaimed corpses,” the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) said in a statement.

The bodies were found at Cumuto Cemetery, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the capital Port of Spain in Trinidad.

Police said the six adult remains included four male and two female corpses, with all but one of the men found with identification tags.

“The TTPS stresses that this is an active and developing investigation, and further forensic analysis is underway to determine the origin of the remains and any associated breaches of law or procedure,” the statement said.

Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro called the discovery “deeply troubling,” saying his agency was handling the case “with urgency, sensitivity and unwavering commitment to uncovering the truth.”



Trinidad and Tobago, an English-speaking archipelago nation located about 10 kilometers (six miles) off the Venezuelan coast, has reckoned in recent years with rising violent crime, recording 623 murders in 2024 among the population of 1.5 million.

A US State Department report said the murder rate of 37 per 100,000 people

made Trinidad and Tobago the sixth most dangerous nation in the world in 2023.

The murder rate fell 42 percent the following year, but Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar declared a state of emergency in March due to another rise in violent crime. (AFP)

ELECTION DAY
Thursday,
30 April

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

Commonwealth Sport to kick off regional engagement with board meeting in Barbados



The Executive Board of Commonwealth Sport will be heading to Barbados next week, continuing its effort to host major meetings across different parts of the Commonwealth rather than in one fixed location.

A Commonwealth Sport press release said the Barbados stop is part of the organization’s plan to take its Board “on the road,” giving members a chance to connect more closely with countries, partners, and local sporting communities. While formal meetings are on the agenda, the visit will also include discussions with government officials and a cultural experience, ending with a showcase of Road Tennis, the is-

land’s well-known indigenous sport.

Once the Barbados meetings wrap up, president of the group, Donald Rukare will lead a smaller group to Antigua and Barbuda.

There, they are expected to meet with senior government leaders and representatives from Commonwealth Games Associations. The visit is aimed at helping prepare for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2026, which is set for November.

Dr Rukare highlighted why these traveling meetings matter, saying: “Taking our Board meetings on the road is an essential part of who we are

as a truly global sports organization. It allows us to connect directly with our members, understand local contexts and challenges, and build the relationships that are vital to delivering meaningful impact through sport.

“By meeting in Barbados, we are not only advancing our strategic work, but also strengthening our partnership with the Caribbean region. Celebrating cultural and indigenous sports, such as Road Tennis, is a vital part of the Commonwealth Sport Movement, recognizing the unique sporting traditions that bring communities together and define our shared identity.”

Sandra Osborne, who also serves as Vice-President of Commonwealth Sport, said Barbados is proud to host the meeting. She noted: “It is a great honour for Barbados to host the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board and to welcome colleagues from across the Commonwealth to our island.

“This visit is an opportunity to showcase not only our strong sporting culture, but also the richness of our heritage, which reflects the creativity, resilience and community spirit that defines our nation.

“We’re looking forward to welcoming everyone, sharing a bit of what makes Barbados special, and giving them a real sense of how important sport is to everyday life here.” (Dominica News Online)

At least six killed in Kyiv as gunman opens fire and takes hostages

At least six people have been killed and others injured after a person opened fire in Kyiv on Saturday, Ukrainian officials say.

The incident happened in the southern Holosiivskyi district. Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said the man, who lived locally, began shooting at people on the street and then took others hostage in a nearby supermarket.

Klymenko said the attacker was killed in the supermarket following a shoot-out with police. His motive is currently unclear.

The exact number of victims also remains unclear, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said 14 people were known to have been injured, including a 12-year-old boy.

He said four people had been killed on the street while a woman, thought to be around 30 years old, died later in hospital. The attacker also killed a hostage.

Police negotiators spoke to the shooter for around 40 minutes while he was in the supermarket, Klymenko said. He described the man as "acting chaotically".

"We tried to persuade him, realising that there was an injured person there," he explained, adding that the attacker



had not made any demands.

"We offered to bring in tourniquets to stop the bleeding and so on. But he did not respond, so the order was given to eliminate him, especially after he killed one of the hostages."

Four hostages were then freed, officials said.

Ukraine's prosecutor general, Ruslan Kravchenko, identified the shooter as a 58-year-old man from the Russian capital, Moscow, and said he had used an automatic weapon to carry out the fatal shooting.

The weapon used by the attacker was officially registered, officials said. The circumstances surrounding the issuing

of the permit, as well as the shooting itself, are now being investigated.

Zelensky said the shooter had lived in the eastern Donetsk region - which is largely under Russian occupation and was subject to a separatist conflict prior to Moscow's full-scale invasion - for "a long time".

He also said that the man had set fire to his apartment before leaving to begin his shooting spree.

While Kyiv is often subject to attacks during the ongoing war with Russia, shootings of this kind are rare in the city. (BBC)



Pope says 'tyrants' speech was not aimed at Trump



Pope Leo says he was not seeking to debate Donald Trump when he criticised “tyrants” for spending billions on wars in a speech earlier this week.

The pontiff said the remarks, delivered days after a high-profile spat with the US president, had been written a fortnight earlier – “well before the president ever commented on myself”.

“And yet as it happens, it was looked at as if I was trying to debate, again, the president, which is not in my interest at all,” he told reporters aboard a flight to Angola on Saturday.

On Monday, Trump launched a scathing attack on the first American Pope – who has been a vocal critic of the US-Israeli military operation in Iran – as “terrible for foreign policy”.

The Pope, who is on a tour of Africa, said a “certain narrative that has not been accurate” had developed, citing

“the political situation created” by Trump’s comments.

In response to the pontiff’s latest remarks, US Vice-President JD Vance, who converted to Catholicism as an adult, said he was “grateful to Pope Leo for saying this”.

“While the media narrative constantly gins up conflict - and yes, real disagreements have happened and will happen - the reality is often much more complicated,” Vance added.

Earlier in the week - before the Pope’s speech referring to “tyrants” - Vance had urged the Vatican to “stick to matters of morality”.

During the speech in Cameroon on Thursday, the Pope had criticised leaders who “turn a blind eye to the fact that billions of dollars are spent on killing and devastation, yet the resources needed for healing, education and res-

toration are nowhere to be found”.

“The masters of war pretend not to know that it takes only a moment to destroy, yet often a lifetime is not enough to rebuild,” he said.

The Pope also condemned “an endless cycle of destabilisation and death” in a “bloodstained” region of Cameroon that had been gripped by insurgency for nearly a decade.

The remarks were interpreted by some as a reference to Trump – who later told reporters: “The Pope can say what he wants, and I want him to say what he wants, but I can disagree.”

He had initially posted his lengthy criticism of the leader of the Catholic Church after the pontiff had voiced concern about Trump’s threat that “a whole civilisation will die” if Iran did not agree to US demands to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz.

The president said he was “not a big fan” of the Pope and called him “WEAK on crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy”. Trump also posted an AI-generated image of himself as a Jesus-like figure, which he later removed.

The Catholic leader’s Africa tour includes stops in 11 cities across four countries. It is his second major foreign visit since being elected to the papacy last year, and reflects the importance of Catholicism in Africa.

More than a fifth of the world’s Catholics – some 288 million people – live in Africa, according to figures from 2024. (BBC)



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Rat poison found in HiPP baby food jar in Austria, police say

Police in Austria have urged people to be vigilant after a sample of HiPP baby food was found to contain rat poison.

Police in the eastern region of Burgenland said the poisoned jar of carrot and potato purée had been reported by a customer and that their baby had fortunately not consumed the food.

The jar had apparently been tampered with, police said. Authorities believe at least one more poisoned jar is in circulation and have issued guidance on how to recognise tampered jars.

They have not confirmed that the cases involve an alleged extortion attempt. But the police statement said the warning had come from German investigators and tampered jars had also been seized in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

On Saturday, HiPP recalled its entire range of jarred purées sold in Spar supermarkets in Austria, saying consuming them may be potentially “life-threatening”.

The German-based company said the recall of baby food jars at Spar Austria was “not due to a product or quality defect on our part” - and that jars had left its factory in “perfect condition”.

“The recall is related to a criminal act that is being investigated by the authorities,” it said on its website.

“As part of ongoing criminal investigations, isolated cases of tampered HiPP baby food jars have been seized - as previously reported in Austria, now also in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

“The responsible authorities determined upon examination of these



jars that they contained rat poison.”

Spar has also removed the brand’s baby food from its stores in other countries as a precautionary measure.

Austrian authorities have told consumers to look out for damaged or open lids, a missing safety seal, an unusual or spoiled odour, or a white sticker with a red circle on the bottom of the glass jar.

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety warned parents whose babies had consumed the brand’s food to consult a doctor if their children showed signs of bleeding, extreme weakness or paleness.

Customers have also been asked not to consume HiPP jars purchased at Eurospar, Interspar and Maximarkt, and to return them for a refund.

There are more than 1,500 Spar shops across Austria.

Police previously stressed baby food sold in other shops remained unaffected by the recall.

HiPP’s baby formula was also unaffected.

Retailers in the Czech Republic and Slovakia have also preemptively removed all HiPP baby food jars from sale.

The incident comes just a few months after two other baby brands had to issue wide-scale recalls of infant formula over contamination fears.

In January and February, Nestle and Danone issued recalls of their baby formula brands in more than 60 countries, including in the UK, after babies fell ill.

Specific batches were understood to have been contaminated with toxin cereulide, which can trigger nausea and vomiting when consumed. The toxin is not destroyed by cooking or when making baby milk.

The UK’s Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) said in February that at least 36 infants in Britain had suffered food poisoning due to contaminated baby formula. None of the infants’ conditions were life-threatening, the UKHSA said. (BBC)

Zelensky condemns US extension of Russian sanctions waiver



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has condemned a US decision to extend the period during which Russia is allowed to sell oil despite Western sanctions.

The move means countries can purchase Russian oil and petroleum products already loaded on vessels at sea until 16 May.

The US argues that the waiver is meant to ease the energy supply crunch sparked by the US-Israel war with Iran.

But in his remarks on Sunday, Zelensky said "every dollar paid for Russian oil is money for the war" in Ukraine. Widespread sanctions have been in place against Russia since President Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022.

The devastating US and Israel attacks against Iran have prompted it to retaliate not only against Israel and US military bases in the Gulf, but also against energy fatalities and other civilian

sites across Arab allies of the US in the region.

Additionally, Iran has virtually shut the Strait of Hormuz - the narrow passage where some 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) is usually transported through.

This has led to turmoil in energy markets, with fears that a world recession may ensue if it is not reopened soon.

The US move to ease Russian sanctions on 13 March was widely condemned by Zelensky as well as his European allies.

Extending the waiver on Friday, the US said it wanted "to ensure oil is available to those who need it" as negotiations to end the war "accelerate".

The Ukrainian leader said Russia had more than 110 tankers from its "shadow fleet" - vessels with obscured ownership designed to help it bypass sanctions - with "over 12 million tons" of oil.

Their sale, he added, would bring \$10bn (£7.4bn) to Moscow's coffers

as "a resource that is directly converted into new strikes against Ukraine".

The Ukrainian leader did not explain what those figures were based on.

But he added that just over the past week, Russia had launched "over 2,360 attack drones, more than 1,320 guided aerial bombs, and nearly 60 missiles of various types at our cities and communities".

That included the deadliest attack against Ukraine in months on 15 April during which more than 700 drones and missiles were used in multiple waves in one night, killing at least 18 people.

Ukraine has also attacked Russia, particularly focusing on energy facilities.

However, despite ongoing attacks, a stalemate has been reached in the war in Ukraine, with Russia in control of about 20% of Ukrainian territory.

Efforts led by the US to end the war have been put on hold as a result of the war in Iran. (BBC)

Lions stay unbeaten in Super40 Championship

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

The Lions recorded their fourth win in as many matches with a 39-run victory against the All Saints Pythons at New Winthropes on Saturday.

Demari Benta hit 48 and opener Tyrone Williams Jr. struck 35 to guide the Lions to 208 all out in 39.1 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Kadeem Josiah bagged five for 36.

In reply, the All Saints Pythons were dismissed for 169 in 36.1 overs. Opener Michael Haynes Dover struck 52, and Kenrick Scott made 31. Orandel Boston grabbed seven for 26.

The Empire Nation recorded their third win in four matches with a crushing 233-run victory over the Bethesda Golden Eagles at Bethesda.

Opener Tanez Francis smashed a century as Empire Nation made 320 for nine off their allotted 40 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Francis hit 163 off 110 balls, including 12 sixes and nine fours.

Captain Justin Athanaze made 36 and opener Zianni Da Silva struck 31, while Bryan Bailey took three for 23. In reply, the Bethesda Golden Eagles were bundled out for 87 in 20.3 overs. JQuan Athanaze captured four



Kerry Mentore

for 28.

The Pigotts Crushers claimed their second win in four games with an 89-run victory over the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks at Pigotts.

The Crushers fell for 164 in 33.3 overs after being sent in to bat. Opener Malique Walsh hit 43. Captain Elroy Francis Jr. bagged four for 20 and left-arm spinner Kadeem Henry took three for 10.

In reply, the Liberta Blackhawks crashed to 75 all out in 23.3 overs. Jalen Harris snapped up three wickets for five runs, and Emroy Lee claimed three for 20.

The Jennings Tigers recorded their second win in four matches with a six-wicket victory over the Bolans Blasters at Jennings. Batting first, the Bolans Blasters made 139 all out in 27.2 overs. Hughan Tonge claimed four for 29, and Zavier Freeland took three for 28.

The Jennings Tigers achieved victory by scoring 140 for four in 27.1 overs. Captain Glenton William struck 49, while Ondre Peters captured three for 28.

The WES Rising Sun Spartans secured their first win in four matches with a crushing 158-run victory against Tertiary Institutions and Schools at Rising Sun.

Captain Kerry Mentore and his son Kerique Mentore both hit centuries to lift the Rising Sun Spartans to 366 for six off their 40 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Kerry Mentore slammed 144 of 70 balls, including six fours and 15 sixes. Kerique Mentore struck an unbeaten 128 off 126 balls, with seven fours and seven sixes.

In reply, Tertiary Institutions and Schools were dismissed for 208 in 38.2 overs. Ronaldo Antigua cracked 41, captain Kaivalya Mishra hit 39, and opener Hosea Roberts scored 34. Jamal Smith claimed three for 41, and Hilroy Andrew captured three for 55.



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SAP FC go second in First Division League



Players of the SAP FC team

SAP FC have moved from fourth to the runners-up position on goal difference in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

SAP FC moved up to second place in the 14-team standings by recording their 12th win in 23 matches with a 2-1 victory against Five Islands FC at St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.

The result allows SAP FC to advance to 45 points, two adrift of leaders Freemans Village Scorpions, who have played 22 matches.

Five Islands FC have slipped from third to fifth place with 42 points after suffering their

fourth defeat in 23 matches.

Five Islands 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 Swetes Vipers have moved from fifth to third place on goal difference in the First Division. The Swetes Vipers achieved the feat by securing their 13th win in 23 matches with a 1-0 victory over Willikies FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, Wayne Williams broke the deadlock by scoring an own goal in the 53rd minute to secure victory for the Swetes Vipers.

The result allows the Swetes Vipers to advance to 45 points, the same as SAP FC. Willikies FC remained in ninth place with 27 points after suffering their 10th defeat in 21 matches.

English Harbour FC consolidated their position in 10th place by recording their seventh win in 22 matches after being awarded a 3-0 victory via default against FC Masterballers, who showed up late for their encounter.

The result allows English Harbour FC to advance to 24 points, while FC Masterballers remain in the cellar of the 14-team standings with nine points after losing for the 17th time in 22 matches.

Chargers Eagles outlast Royal Cruisers in women's volleyball league

The Chargers Eagles 1 pulled off a narrow and hard-fought 3-2 victory over the Royal Cruisers in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Women's Division 1 League on Saturday.

The Chargers Eagles 1 claimed their second win in four games after overcoming a two-nil deficit to secure victory in the keenly contested affair at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

It took the Chargers Eagles two hours and five minutes to prevail 16-25, 16-25, 25-18, 25-21, and 15-7 against the Royal Cruisers, who lost for the third time in four games.

The Royal Cruisers recorded their first win by snatching a 3-2 victory against Hidow Caribbean Starz 1.

It took the Royal Cruisers two hours and seven minutes to prevail 25-14, 24-26, 26-24, 14-25, and 15-13 against Starz 1, who lost for the third time in four games.

But Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville's unbeaten run in the Women's Division 1 League was ended in a 3-1 loss to the Jets.

The Jets showed resilience in the crucial moments, edging two very close sets to secure their third win in four games with a 25-17, 20-25, 26-24, and 28-26 victory over the Stoneville women, who lost for the first time in four games.

Vernon G. Edwards Limited High Flyerz notched up their second win in four games with a 3-0 victory over the Renegades in the Men's Division 1 League.

The High Flyerz took just an hour to prevail 25-17, 25-15, and 25-21 against the Renegades, who lost for the fourth time in as many games.

Defending champions Zamine Shipping and ABI Insurance Pytonz have extended their unbeaten run in the



Chargers Eagles 1 women's volleyball team

Men's Division 1 League.

The Pythons notched up their fourth win in as many games by surging to a 3-1 victory against Gwava and N18 Construction Invaders.

It took the Pythons one hour and 50 minutes to prevail 25-18, 25-18, 23-25, and 25-12 against the Invaders, who suffered their second loss in four games.

Former perennial men's champions, Theatric Lighting and JOMA Stoneville, also extended their unbeaten run, claiming their third win in as many games with a 3-1 victory against Cool and Smooth/Joma Da Storming Lions.

After dropping the opening set 15-25, Stoneville regrouped and delivered a strong comeback, taking control of the match with consistent attacking and

solid defense to close out the win, 25-20, 25-18, and 25-22 over Da Storming Lions, who lost for the first time in three games.

The Chargers Falcons maintained their successful start in the Women's Division 2 League. The Falcons claimed their second win in as many games with a 25-19, 25-13 victory against Hidow Caribbean Starz 2, who lost for the first time in two encounters.

The Chargers Momentum also maintained their winning start in the Men's Division 2 League with a straight-set, 2-0 victory over the Sharks.

The Chargers Momentum claimed their second win in as many games with a 25-11, 25-21 victory against the Sharks, who lost for the second time in as many outings.

More success for Cedar Grove Gunners in Division 2 basketball



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

The Gunners notched up their 13th win in as many matches by shooting their way to a commanding 80-55 victory against the Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Olivee Morris shot a game-high 23 points; Keaddy Martin produced 13 points, nine assists, and five rebounds; Sergio Symister sank 12 points and snatched nine rebounds; and John Roland Jr. scored 10 points and claimed nine rebounds for the Gunners.

Emeka Emujuru-Oupe sank 15 points and claimed six rebounds; Jesus Lopez converted 13 points and snatched

six rebounds; Julian Henry produced 10 points, nine assists, and seven rebounds; and Joshua Morrison scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Fearless Crew, who lost for the sixth time in 12 games.

The Old Road Daggers notched up their 11th win in 14 matches by coasting to an 81-64 victory against the Cuties Ovals Ojays 2.

Rafiki Harris provided 20 points, eight assists, and six steals; Wester Batista Perez converted 17 points; Kedar Clare sank 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and Gary Harrison produced 15 points, seven rebounds, and five blocks for the Daggers.

Orion Seraphine sank 22 points and claimed five steals; Dominic Anthony produced 12 points, nine rebounds, and five steals; and Yohhan Nicholas converted 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Cuties Ovals Ojays 2, who suffered their second defeat in 13 games.

Meanwhile, the Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz and the JSC Red Hawks recorded wins in their latest matches in ABBA's First Division League.

The Stingerz claimed their ninth win in 13 matches with a 140-78 drubbing of the All Saints Slam.

Jaheem James produced a game-high 55 points, 11 assists, eight steals, and five rebounds; Dequan Williams sank 28 points and claimed six rebounds;

and Joshua Minner and Humroy Wright each chipped in with 21 points, seven assists, and five rebounds for the Stingerz.

Takeem Martin sank 26 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Andrew Daigle converted 21 points and snatched 12 rebounds; Nigel Joseph had 11 points and seven rebounds; and Anjis Anthony scored 10 points for the All Saints Slam, who ended their campaign by crashing to their 12th defeat from their quota of 14 games.

The JSC Red Hawks notched up their seventh win in 13 games with a commanding 119-66 victory over the Navigators.

Bryce Smith produced 31 points, 25 rebounds, six steals, and six blocks; Kymani Powell provided 30 points, nine rebounds, and five assists; David Mubagwa had 25 points, 15 rebounds, and six assists; Andre Burnett contributed 18 points, 12 assists, and seven rebounds; and Bernard Andrew sank 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the Red Hawks.

Beniah Mark converted 20 points and snatched 11 rebounds; Tyreke Lewis sank 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; and Michael Barton scored 10 points and claimed 22 rebounds for the Navigators, who remain winless and at the bottom of the eight-team standings after suffering their 13th defeat in as many games.



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Villa Lions stay third in Premier Division League

The Aston Villa Lions FC consolidated their third-placed position in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

The Villa Lions notched up their 14th win in 21 matches with a 9-0 drubbing of the bottom team, Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United, in the second game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Eroy Gonsalves and Samuel Brazier both recorded hat tricks for the Villa Lions. Gonsalves scored in the third, 35th, and 43rd minutes, while Brazier had conversions in the seventh, 13th, and 45th minutes.

Josue Arias converted twice with strikes in the 48th and 56th minutes, and the other goal was scored by Kharique Joseph in the 24th minute.

The result allows the Villa Lions to stay in third place by advancing to 43 points, while Jennings United FC remains at the bottom of the standings with six points after crashing to their 19th defeat in 21 matches.

The Pigotts Bullets strengthened their fourth-place position by claiming their 12th win in 21 matches with a 3-2 victory against the Ottos Rangers FC in the last encounter on Saturday.



Players of the Villa Lions starting XI

Akeem Isaac achieved a hat trick during the encounter in which the Ottos Rangers led twice. Isaac scored his first with a strike in the 52nd minute to draw Bullets level at 1-1 after Jevaughn Adams gave the Ottos Rangers a one-nil lead at halftime with a 36th-minute conversion.

Isaac scored another equalizer for Bullets by converting a penalty kick in the 70th minute after Tequaine Tonge scored in the 62nd minute to give the Ottos Rangers a 2-1 advantage.

Isaac completed his hat trick by scoring the winner with a strike in the 77th minute to snatch victory for the Bullets.

The result allows the Pigotts Bullets to remain in fourth place by advancing to 39 points, while the Ottos Rangers finished their campaign the bottom of the

12-team standings with 11 points after crashing to their 17th defeat from their quota of 22 matches. The Ottos Rangers have been relegated and will compete in the First Division next season.

The Garden Stars FC ended the season in seventh place by recording their eighth win from their quota of 22 matches with a 2-1 victory against the Attacking Saints in the opening match of Saturday's triple-header.

Ngozie Harvey struck the winner for the Garden Stars with a 79th-minute conversion. His teammate Michilo Regis snatched an equalizer for the Garden Stars with a strike in the 45th minute after Dwight Preudhomme scored in the 42nd minute to put the Attacking Saints ahead.

The result allows the Garden Stars to finish the season with 31 points, while

the Attacking Saints remain in their eighth-place position with 23 points after suffering their 12th defeat in 21 matches.

Meanwhile, the Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades have narrowed the gap on leaders and defending champions All Saints United in the Premier Division League.

The Grenades moved within three points of leaders and back-to-back champions, All Saints United, by recording their 15th win in 18 matches with a 3-1 victory against the Potters Tigers.

Goals by Troy Jules in the 12th minute and Barrington Blake in the 44th minute gave the Grenades a two-nil lead at halftime. Stanley Province added a third with a 70th-minute conversion. Keon Greene reduced the deficit by scoring a consolation goal in the 90th minute for the Potters Tigers.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to remain in second place by advancing to 47 points, while All Saints United currently leads the Premier Division with 50 points from 19 matches.

The Potters Tigers remain in sixth place on goal difference with 33 points after losing for the sixth time in 21 matches.