

# ABLP Urges Support for Female Candidates Ahead of General Elections

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*ABLP Political Leader and Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, presents his party's 2026 Election Manifesto under the theme: The Renaissance: A New Era of Progress and Prosperity*

## ABLP Urges Support for Female Candidates Ahead of General Elections



The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) has renewed its push for increased female representation in national leadership, urging stronger support for women seeking elected office ahead of the next general elections.

Political leader of the party, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, speaking at Monday's Manifesto launch highlighted the ABLP's longstanding commitment to empowering women. He added that such progress provides a solid foundation, but insisted that more must be done to achieve full equality between men and women in all areas of national life.

"We will continue to build until women are equal to men in all fields of endeavour," PM Browne stated, while making a direct appeal for women to actively support each other, particularly in political representation.

Central to the call was a strong endorsement of two emerging candidates, Kiz Johnson and Maria Browne, who were described as "young, bright" leaders within the party.

The ABLP leader urged party members and supporters to prioritise their election to the House of Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda in the upcoming polls, and to view their

candidacies as critical to advancing gender equality at the highest level of decision-making.

"If we are serious about empowering our women, we cannot leave them out of the highest decision-making authority," the Prime Minister stressed. "We must support them to ensure they can serve in the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda."

Maria Browne and Kiz Johnson were described as potential "trailblazers" whose success could pave the way for greater female participation in national politics.

The call forms part of what party officials described as a broader "Renaissance" within the ABLP, aimed at strengthening inclusivity and ensuring that women play a more prominent role in shaping the country's future.



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## Michael Joseph Champions Healthcare Overhaul, Youth Empowerment and Climate Resilience



Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and ABLP caretaker for St. John's Rural West, Michael Joseph, has underscored the government's commitment to transforming healthcare, strengthening climate resilience, and empowering young leaders.

Speaking at the launch of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's 2026 Manifesto, Joseph said the administration is pursuing a comprehensive overhaul of the health sector.

"In health, we are not simply managing a system—we are transforming it," he declared.

Joseph pointed to ongoing efforts to strengthen primary healthcare, expand access, and modernise services across both public and private institutions. He said the goal is to ensure that no citizen is left behind, regardless of geography or circumstance.

The minister pointed to a shift

towards preventative care, including tackling non-communicable diseases, promoting mental health awareness, and encouraging community-based wellness initiatives.

"A healthy nation is not built in hospitals alone, but in homes, schools, and communities," he said, reaffirming the government's position that healthcare is a right for all citizens.

Addressing environmental concerns, Joseph described climate change as one of the most pressing challenges facing Antigua and Barbuda, noting that its impacts are already being felt across the country.

"As a small island state, we do not debate whether climate change is real—we live its reality," he stated, referencing rising temperatures, shifting weather patterns, and coastal vulnerabilities.

He outlined a series of measures aimed at strengthening climate re-

silience, including protecting marine ecosystems, improving waste management systems, and advancing sustainable development practices.

"We are building not just infrastructure—but resilient infrastructure. Not just policies—but sustainable progress. Not just promises—but delivery," Joseph said, adding that Antigua and Barbuda is taking a proactive leadership role despite its size.

He also reflected on his own appointment to the Senate and ministerial role just over a year ago, addressing questions about his youth and experience.

"The answer is simple—because this government understands that the future cannot be built without the youth of this nation at the table," he said.

He described the ABLP as a party that blends experience with innovation, and said young leaders are actively shaping the country's future rather than waiting for change.

"I stand here as part of a generation that is not waiting for change—we are participating in it," he added.

Framing his remarks within the broader theme of a national "renaissance," Joseph said the government is focused on investing in health, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring leadership continuity through youth empowerment.

He urged citizens to reflect on the country's progress and their role in shaping its future.

## ABS Rejects UPP Bias Claims, Defends 'Know Your Candidates' Programme

The Antigua and Barbuda Broadcasting Service (ABS) has rejected allegations of bias made by the United Progressive Party (UPP) following the party's decision to withdraw its remaining candidates from the broadcaster's 'Know Your Candidates' programme.

In a statement posted on its Facebook page this week, ABS confirmed that the UPP informed the station of its withdrawal ahead of scheduled appearances by candidates Johnathan Joseph and Malaka Parker on Monday morning.

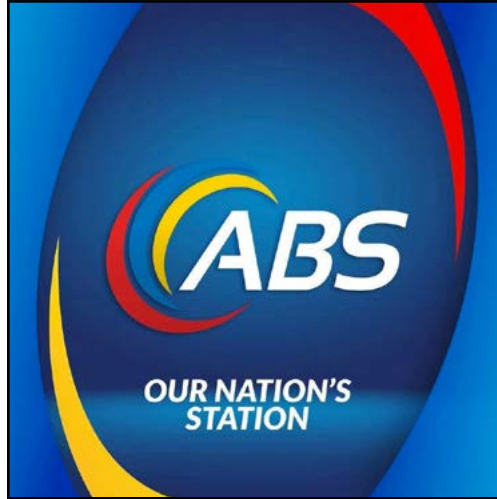
The broadcaster noted that the party had only recently agreed to participate in the programme, with two of its candidates, Ashworth Azille and Kelvin Simon, appearing in interviews on Friday.

However, ABS strongly refuted claims that the programme or its host demonstrated bias or combative behaviour, as alleged by the opposition party. The UPP had cited "complaints from our candidates and viewers about the bias and combativeness displayed by the programme's host and the negative slant of the news reports following their appearance" as the basis for its decision.

In response, ABS maintained that such claims are unfounded and do not reflect the editorial standards guiding its coverage.

The state broadcaster stressed that 'Know Your Candidates' is structured to promote accountability, transparency, and informed decision-making among the electorate. According to ABS, incumbent candidates are expected to give a full account of their performance in office, while new candidates are required to articulate their policies and plans, providing a baseline against which future performance can be measured.

ABS reiterated its commitment to fair, balanced, and professional journalism, noting that all participants are treated



equitably under the programme's format.

The broadcaster also underscored the importance of open public engagement, particularly during the election period, and encouraged all candidates to utilise available media platforms to communicate with voters.

Despite the UPP's withdrawal, ABS indicated that the 'Know Your Candidates' programme will continue as scheduled, offering voters the opportunity to hear directly from those seeking public office.

## NOTICE

**TO: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. Johns  
Antigua.**

**TO: Your Worship  
St. John's Magistrate Court  
High Street  
St. Johns  
Antigua.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence**

**I, ISIAKA AKANNI YEKINNI of Potters Village, St. Georges, Antigua. Owner, Manager, and Proprietor of ADEIS MINI BAR located in the TWIST MALL on REDCLIFFE STREET, St. John`s, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate`s Court on High Street, St. John`s, Antigua on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing ( Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap.249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "ADEIS MINI BAR" situated at Potters Village in the parish of St. Johns, Antigua and Barbuda.**

**Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
ISIAKA AKANNI YEKINNI  
Manager/Owner/Proprietor**

## Three People Rescued At Sea In Operation Coordinated By ABDF Coast Guard

Three persons whose vessel, *F/V Lady Medesha*, developed electrical problems near Redonda, have been rescued following a search and rescue operation initiated by the Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard.

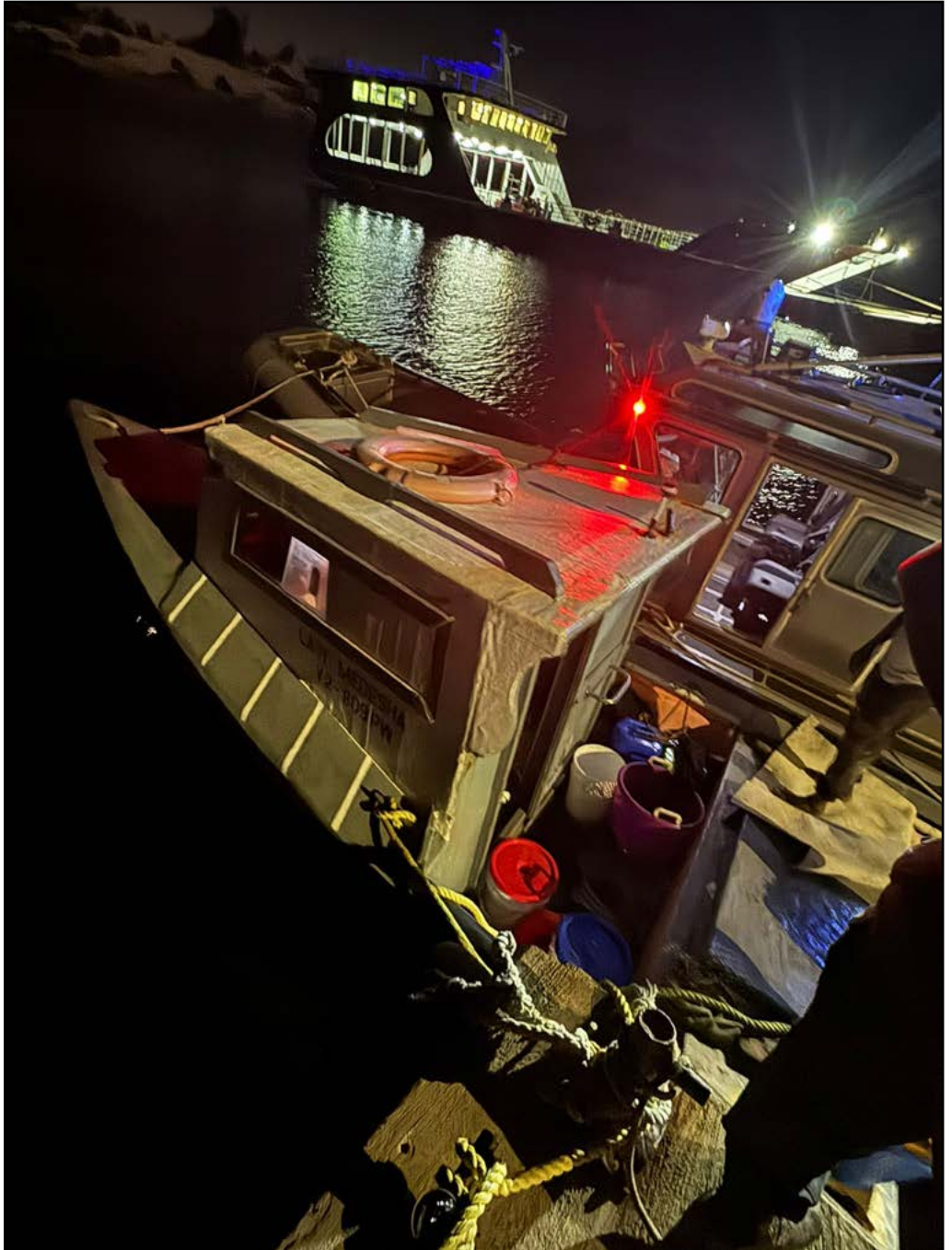
Their distressed vessel was located off Nevis and it has been towed to Nevis with all three occupants reportedly doing well.

An ABDF statement said its Coast Guard responded to a Maritime Distress situation involving the vessel *F/V Lady Medesha* on Monday, 20 April 2026.

At approximately 0745 hours, the Coast Guard Base received a distress report from Singerman Base (a voluntary maritime distress monitoring station situated in Montserrat) via VHF Channel 16 indicating that the vessel had experienced an electrical failure while operating approximately 7NM Northeast of Redonda, with three people on board.

Upon receipt of the report, the ABDF Coast Guard immediately activated the Search and Rescue (SAR) system. Initial coordination efforts included engagement with the Fisheries Department, the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center Fort-de-France Martinique, and dialogue with the vessel's owner to gather additional information in support of the rescue. A Coast Guard patrol vessel was deployed to the reported area, while an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB) maritime alert broadcast was issued to the attention of vessels operating within the general area. Shifting position reports posed initial challenges in locating the vessel at the surface, therefore aerial support was later deployed to improve coverage of the operational area.

The ABDF Air Wing aircraft (Raven 1) successfully located *Lady Medesha* approximately 5NM southeast of Nev-



is, where regional coordination efforts resulted in the St. Kitts and Nevis Defence Force Coast Guard responding to the exact location of the distressed vessel, where it was safely towed into Charlestown. All three people on board were accounted for, and no injuries were reported.

The ABDF Coast Guard commends the timely cooperation between lo-

cal agencies, regional partners, and members of the maritime community, which contributed to the successful outcome of this operation. Mariners are reminded to ensure seaworthiness of their vessels and that all vessels are equipped with functional communication and electrical systems prior to departure and to maintain regular contact with shore-based stations.

# National CHOGM Task Force Prepares For Advanced Visits



Preparations for Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) moved to another level with the planned visits by teams from the Commonwealth starting next week.

The first of two Advanced Visits takes place on April 28 and 29 with approximately thirty-five (35) representatives from over a dozen countries expected to participate.

The idea of the Advanced Visits is

for representatives from across the Commonwealth to visit the host country well in advanced of the actual meeting to do an on-site inspection of the facilities, venues and to get a first-hand understanding of some of the arrangements in place for CHOGM.

The second Advanced Visit takes place from May 5 to 6 with a virtual visit set for May 7.

In preparation for these visits, members of the National Task Force



## Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger  
-Medium Drink  
**\$19.99**

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





toured several of the venues on Tuesday to carry out actual ‘walk-throughs’ of the venues and to get a better understanding of the physical spaces, the amenities and ancillary services that will be in place either for the Advanced Visits or for the actual conference.

The Task Force Team visited the conference’s main venue, the American University of Antigua Conference Centre. They visited the conference hall, the rooms to be allocated

for the media centre, and the areas for both the Women’s and the People’s Forums. They also visited a few of the classrooms where bilateral meetings will take place.

From AUA, the team visited Signature Aviation, the VC Bird International Airport, Stickey Wicket, the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, the Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre, and the Copper and Lumber Store before returning to St. John’s.

Protocol Lead for the Task Force,

Shereese George, said she was ‘quite pleased’ with the tour noting that it allowed the team members to pose questions to the officials at the various venues as they anticipate the types of questions that the Advanced Team members are likely to ask. “I think the tour to these venues was useful as it allowed us to gather information that will be valuable during the Advanced Visits. Overall, I would describe it as ‘a success,’” George stated.

**ELECTION DAY  
Thursday,  
30 April**

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

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THIS  
SATURDAY  
**25**  
APRIL

# Red & REDDY THE CONCERT

**MASICKA | SIZZLA | BURNING FLAMES | DESTRA  
ASA BANTAN | CLAUDETTE PETERS | TIAN WINTER**

**MENACE | SOCA VILLAN | YOUNG VICE | KID FRESH  
ISLAND PRINCE | YOUNG LYRICS | EMPRESS**

 **7:00PM**

**FREE**

 **RISING SUN  
GROUNDS**

# Education Community Mourns Passing of Clare Hall Secondary School Teacher

*The Ministry of Education has expressed deep sorrow following the passing of Sherilyn Martin, Head of Business at Clare Hall Secondary School, who died after a period of illness.*

*In an official statement, the Ministry joined the Clare Hall Secondary School community in mourning the loss of what it described as “an extraordinary educator and an exceptional human being,” whose contribution to the nation’s education sector left a lasting mark.*

*Martin was hailed as a dedicated professional and inspirational leader who served with “quiet strength, dignity, and un-  
out her career, she re-  
the academic and personal  
extending her influence*

*The Ministry noted that  
was matched by her warm  
describing her as a person  
ness” who made all those  
and respected. Her grace  
said, earned her the ad-  
affection of students,  
school community.*

*Her passing has been de-  
loss, not only to her fam-  
to Clare Hall Secondary  
education community. Despite  
Ministry noted that her  
the many lives she touched and the high standards she consistently upheld.*

*The Ministry of Education extended heartfelt condolences to Martin’s family, relatives, friends, and the entire Clare Hall Secondary School community, as well as to all who had the privilege of knowing her.*

*It also offered prayers for strength and comfort during this period of grief, expressing hope that those mourning her loss will find solace in cherished memories and the enduring impact of her life’s work.*

*Martin is being remembered as an educator whose influence will continue to inspire generations to come.*

*Counsellors were reportedly dispatched to Clare Hall Secondary School on Monday to offer support to teachers and students through their grieving process.*



*wavering purpose.” Through-  
mained deeply committed to  
development of her students,  
well beyond the classroom.  
her professional excellence  
and compassionate nature,  
of “rare and genuine kind-  
she encountered feel valued  
and humility, the statement  
miration of colleagues, the  
and the respect of the wider*

*scribed as an immeasurable  
ily and loved ones, but also  
School and the broader edu-  
the void left by her death, the  
legacy will endure through*

## Two Men Remanded To Prison On Firearm And Ammunition Charges

Two men have been remanded to His Majesty's Prison following their appearance before the court on firearm and ammunition-related charges.

Orian Carr, 26 of Pares Village, and 25-year-old Djarie Sheppard of Willikies appeared before Chief Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel on Tuesday, where they were remanded to prison until April 28, 2026.

Both men are charged with unlawful possession of one Hi-Point C9 9mm Luger pistol, unlawful possession of seven (7) 9mm matching rounds of ammunition, and fraudulent use of a license plate.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred around 12:50 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, when police officers attached to the Willikies Police Station were on mobile patrol along the Willikies Main Road and observed a blue Honda Fit motor car travelling



*Djarie Sheppard of Willikies*



*Orian Carr of Pares Village*

without a front number plate.

The vehicle was intercepted, and a search conducted in the presence of both occupants led to the discovery of one 9mm pistol along with seven (7)

matching rounds of ammunition inside the vehicle.

The firearm and ammunition were seized, and both men were arrested and subsequently charged.

## 21-year old Green Bay Man Pleads Guilty To Firearm Possession

A twenty-one (21) year old Green Bay man has pleaded guilty to the possession of an illegal firearm and he has been asked to return to the court on May 12 for sentencing.

The matter stems from an incident last July at Nut Grove when the man – Joel Isaac and ‘others known’ were found in possession of a modified flare gun. The possession of this firearm without first having a licence to do so is an offence under Section 6 (1) of the Firearms Act Chapter 171 of the Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Following his guilty plea, the court went through the sentencing guidelines on how this matter ought to be handled.

Isaac is currently on bail granted by the High Court and he is to remain on bail until the May 12 sentencing date.



## \$10,000-Reward Offered Regarding The Theft of Government Laptops

The Ministry of Health is offering a reward of ten thousand Eastern Caribbean dollars (EC\$10,000.00) to any individual who provides credible information that leads to the identification of the person or persons responsible for the recent theft of thirty (30) Dell Pro 16 PC16250 notebook laptops which were stolen from the Ministry of Health Headquarters.

Members of the public are urged to come forward with any information that may assist in the investigation and subsequent retrieval of the critical healthcare equipment. All information, no matter how minor it may seem, could prove valuable and will be treated with strict confidence.

Persons with information relevant to this investigation are urged to contact the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda by telephone at 462-3913 or 462-3914, or anonymously through the Crime Stoppers hotline at 800-TIPS.

The Ministry also cautions the public against purchasing or accepting any laptops matching the description below. These devices remain the property of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and are NOT authorized for sale or distribution. Any person found in possession of these items will be subject to legal action.

Serial Numbers of Stolen Devices:

1. 1YFJLD4/THOM9JDMCH-G005810R9FA02
2. 1ZFJLD4/THOM9JDMCH-G005810R93A02
3. 2NCJLD4/VN0JJ-12FLOV0059AAH64A00
4. 2XDJLD4/VN0JJ12FLOV-



00593ABY3A00

5. 2YFJLD4/VN0JJ-12FLOV00598A85PA00

6. 2ZFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810R8XA02

7. 3XDJLD4/VN0JJ12FLOV00593AC3RA00

8. 3YFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810R9KA02

9. 3ZFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810RCJA02

10. 4XFJLD4/VN0JJ-12FLOV00598A81DA00

11. 4YFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810RADA02

12. 6GSX3G4/VN0JJ-12FLOV005BIA2DRA00

13. 6XFJLD4/VN0JJ12FLOV00598A81NA00

14. 6ZFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810R9AA02

15. 7XFJLD4/VN0JJ-12FLOV00598A811A00

16. 8YFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810R9UA02

17. 9WDJLD4/VN0JJ12FLOV00593AC3IA00

18. 9XFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810RA6A02

19. 9YFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810RB0A02

20. BWDJLD4/VN0JJ12FLOV00593AC43A00

21. BXFJLD4/VN0JJ-12FLOV00598APFMA00

22. BYFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810R9SA02

23. CZJLD4/VN0JJ-12FLOV00593AF8HA00

24. DYFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810RBBA02

25. DZFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810R4VA02

26. GYFJLD4/VN0JJ-12FLOV00593AF8HA00

27. HWDJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810R4VA02

28. HXFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810RDZA02

29. HZFJLD4/VN0JJ12FLOV00593ANLVA00

30. JXFJLD4/TH0M9JDMCH-G005810RA7A02

## Smoldering at the Cook's Sanitary Landfill

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) experienced a fire on

Sunday, 19th April 2026, at approximately 10:00 p.m.

In a statement, the Authority said it has been engaged in extinguishing the fumes; however, Landfill fires can be challenging and the site remains smoldering with after fumes as the sector affected stored white goods, electronics and old vehicles.

“NSWMA would like to publicly thank all government stakeholders specifically the Antigua and Barbuda Fire Department who acted in the emergency situation to gain control of the fire and aid in the extinguishing of the blaze.

“We sincerely apologize to the surrounding communities for the disruption and the



resulting poor air quality. People with respiratory ailments should remain indoors or take the necessary precautions,” the statement added.

It said the Landfill remains open; however, users are asked to proceed with caution. The Authority will continue to update on the situation.

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**(JELLY BEANS)**



# SENIORS ARE FOR LABOUR!



THE ANTIGUA &  
BARBUDA TRADES  
AND LABOUR UNION  
(AT&LU) PRESENTS

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026



# THE ULTIMATE DJ COMPETITION DE-LABOUR MIX 8PM-12AM



HOSTED BY: JESSE FYAH & DJ KAVITY

PARTICIPANTS (LEFT TO RIGHT)

DJ ACE (BARNES HILL & NEW WINTHROPES SECTION) | DJ SHADY (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ KYLE (CMC) | DJ TREBLEBEATZ (APUA) | DJ STRANGER (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ SPARK (CLARE HALL & CASSADA GARDENS SECTION) | DJ STUEY (LIBERTA SECTION)

PRIZES: 1<sup>ST</sup> \$1000.00  
2<sup>ND</sup> \$750.00 - 3<sup>RD</sup> \$500.00



AT&LU HEADQUARTERS  
46 NORTH STREET

BINGO WILL BE PLAYED  
BETWEEN THE ROUNDS

# CBH Mounts Presentation At Villa Polyclinic

Staff from the Central Board of Health hosted an interactive and informative presentation Tuesday at the Villa Polyclinic, aimed at promoting safe food purchasing and storage practices among members of the public.

As part of the initiative, the team creatively set up a “CBH Mini Mart” display, showcasing a variety of common grocery items. This practical setup allowed patients to engage in a hands-on learning experience, where they were guided through important “do’s and don’ts” when shopping for food.

Patrons were educated on how to properly inspect goods before purchase, including checking expiration dates, avoiding dented or damaged cans, and ensuring that packaging is intact.

Special emphasis was placed on storing food items away from chemicals, as well as examining fruits and vegetables for signs of spoilage.

In addition, the team highlighted proper food storage techniques, particularly how to safely store items in refrigerators to maintain freshness and prevent contamination.


The Central Board of Health encourages all consumers to remain vigilant when purchasing groceries. Always take a moment to examine items carefully to ensure they are safe, fresh, and suitable for consumption.

Safe shopping habits play a vital role in protecting your health and that of your family.



## ABLP DELIVERS

→





### One Nation. No One Left Out.

Support for Barbuda

- \$50,000 EC monthly airfare subsidy to support air travel between Antigua and Barbuda
- Lower ticket prices for passengers traveling for school, business or for families maintaining connections across both islands
- Keeping travel between Antigua and Barbuda accessible and affordable, including for small businesses relying on the movement of people and services
- Supports tourism access to Barbuda
- Ensuring that geography does not become inequality.

*Because development must reach **every citizen, everywhere.***

**COMING SOON**



# **ANNOUNCING A NEW HOUSING RENEWAL LOAN PROGRAMME**

**\$150 MILLION TO BE ALLOCATED  
FOR PEOPLE WHO  
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**INTEREST RATES 2-3%  
UP TO 30 YEARS TO REPAY**

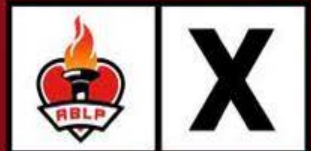




# MEN ARE FOR LABOUR!



**RENAISSANCE**  
A New Era of Progress and Development





# WOMEN ARE FOR LABOUR!



THE ANTIGUA &  
BARBUDA TRADES  
AND LABOUR UNION  
(AT&LU) PRESENTS

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026



# THE ULTIMATE DJ COMPETITION DE-LABOUR MIX

8 PM - 12 AM



REPRESENTING:  
BARNES HILL AND  
NEW WINTHROPES  
SECTION

**DJ ACE**

7

5

HOSTED BY: JESSE FYAH & DJ KAVITY

## PARTICIPANTS

DJ ACE (BARNES HILL & NEW WINTHROPES SECTION) | DJ SHADY (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ KYLE (CMC) | DJ TREBLEBEATZ (APUA) | DJ STRANGER (JENNINGS & EBENEZER SECTION)  
DJ SPARK (CLARE HALL & CASSADA GARDENS SECTION) | DJ STUEY (LIBERTA SECTION)

PRIZES: 1<sup>ST</sup> \$1000.00  
2<sup>ND</sup> \$750.00 - 3<sup>RD</sup> \$500.00



AT&LU HEADQUARTERS  
46 NORTH STREET

BINGO WILL BE PLAYED  
BETWEEN THE ROUNDS



# PARENTS ARE FOR LABOUR!



# **WE'RE BACK... STILL DANCING THE LINE**

*The rhythm never stopped.  
The passion never faded.  
And now... we're back.*

Join us for an unforgettable evening of **movement, music, and magic** as we return to the stage – stronger, sharper, and still dancing the line between grace and power.



**Date: Saturday 16th May 2026**



**Time: 7:00 PM**



**Venue: St Anthony's Secondary School, Langfords**



**Admission: \$50**

**Come celebrate the comeback.  
Feel the energy. Witness the return.**

Secure your tickets now from any LDC Antigua member—  
and let's dance the line together! ✨



# 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

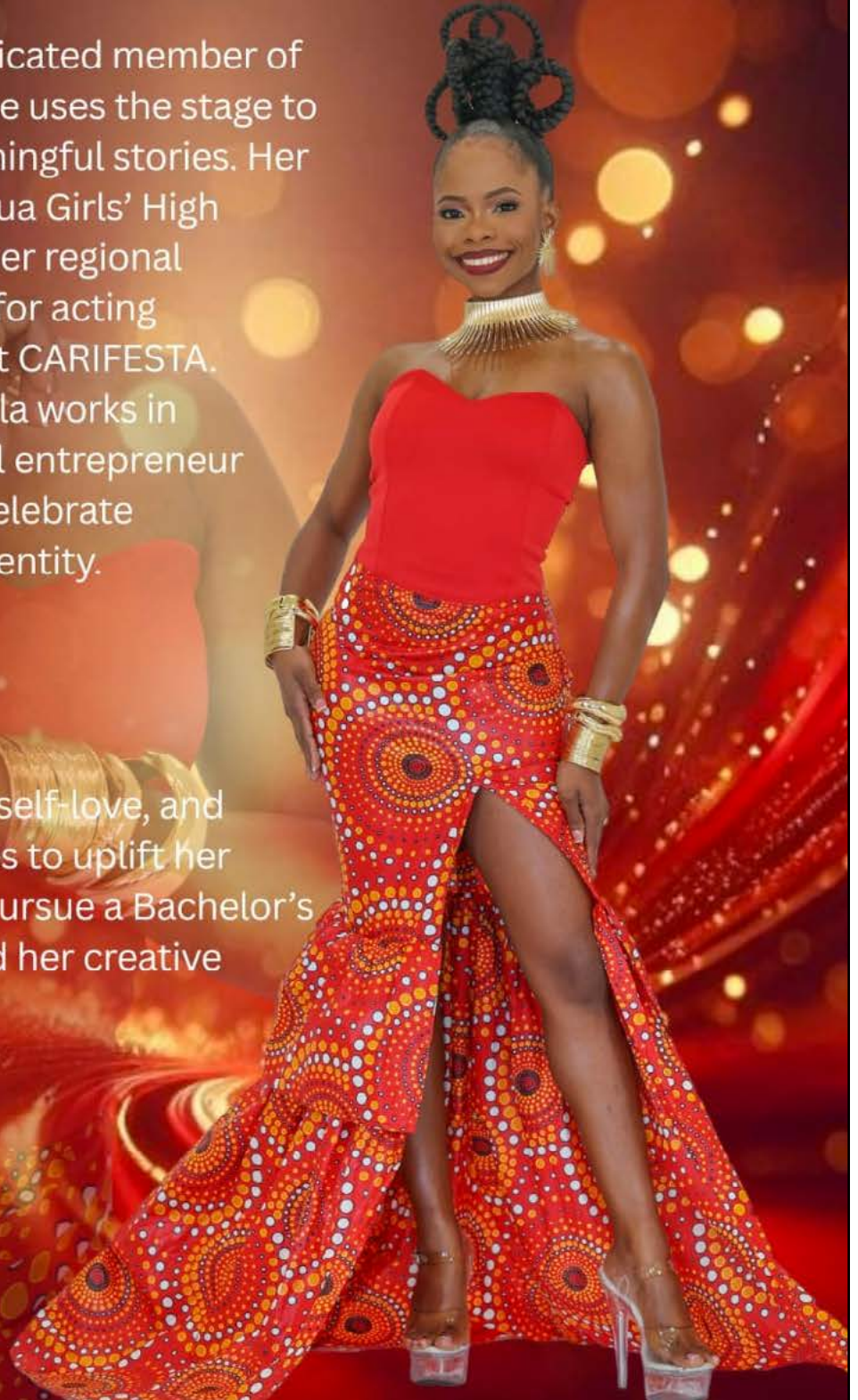


Queenela Williams proudly represents St. Mary's South with creativity, confidence, and cultural pride.

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

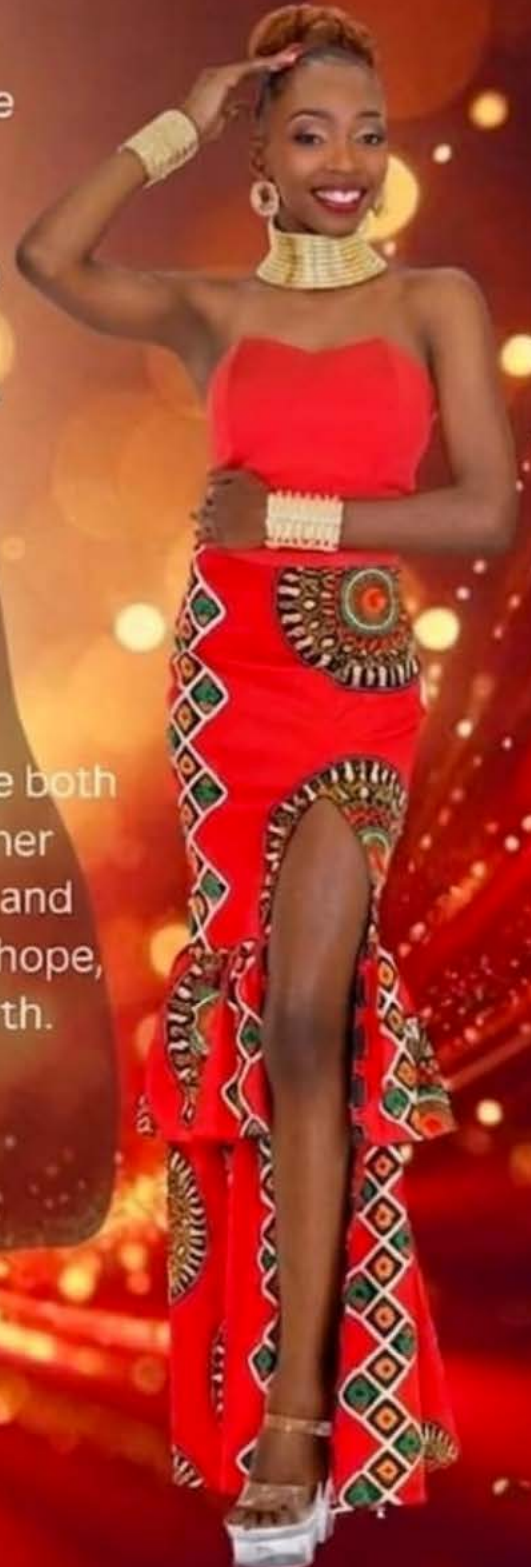


Iszarea Lloyd proudly represents St. Phillip's North as a young woman of purpose, resilience, and quiet strength.

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**



## Israeli soldiers punished over vandalism of Jesus statue in Lebanon

The Israeli soldier who hit a statue of Jesus with a sledgehammer in Lebanon and the soldier who photographed the incident will receive 30 days of military detention, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has said.

The IDF also said the two soldiers - who have not been named - would be "removed from combat duty" following an inquiry.

Another six soldiers who were at the scene and failed to intervene or report the incident will be dealt with separately, it added.

The incident in the village of Debel in southern Lebanon prompted widespread condemnation after an image of it was widely shared online this week. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was "stunned and saddened" by what happened.

In its statement on Tuesday, the IDF said an inquiry into the incident had "determined that the soldiers' conduct completely deviated from IDF orders and values" and expressed "deep regret over the incident".

It also said IDF troops had replaced the damaged statue "in full co-ordination with the local community" a short while ago.

It stressed that its operations in Lebanon were directed "solely" against the Iran-backed group Hezbollah "and other terrorist groups, and not against Lebanese civilians".



Locals had said the statue was on a crucifix outside a family home on the edge of Debel, one of the few villages where residents have remained during Israel's war with Hezbollah.

The head of Debel's congregation, Father Fadi Flaifel, told the BBC after the incident: "We totally reject the desecration of the cross, our sacred symbol, and all religious symbols.

"It goes against the declaration of human rights, and it doesn't reflect civility."

He claimed similar acts had happened before.

Thousands of Israeli troops continue to occupy a wide area of southern Lebanon after a US-brokered ceasefire came into force between Israel and Lebanon on Friday.

The ceasefire has paused six weeks of fighting between the IDF and the Shia Muslim armed group Hezbollah, although both sides have accused each other of violations.

Hezbollah began firing rockets at Israel in support of Iran two days after Israel and the US launched a war on Tehran on 28 February.

Israel began a military campaign in Lebanon on 2 March in which more than a million people have been displaced and more than 2,290 have been killed, including 177 children and 100 healthcare workers, Lebanese authorities say.

Israeli officials say that 13 Israeli soldiers and two civilians have been killed by Hezbollah attacks in the same period. (BBC)



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## Mass trial for 486 alleged MS-13 gang members begins in El Salvador



A mass trial of 486 suspected MS-13 gang members has begun in El Salvador, the country's attorney general's office has said.

The group are collectively accused of committing more than 47,000 crimes - including murder, extortion, drug and arms trafficking - between 2012 and 2022.

United Nations experts have criticised the use of mass trials, saying that they "undermine the exercise of the right to defence and the presumption of innocence of detainees".

But the attorney general's office said it had "compelling" evidence that would allow "maximum penalties" to be imposed on those found guilty.

Among those on trial are people alleged to have been involved in a wave of gang violence in March 2022, which saw 87 people killed in one weekend, and led President Nayib Bukele to declare a "war on gangs".

The attorney general's office did not provide details on the length of the trial but it said that 413 suspects were already in custody, while arrest warrants had been issued for 73 others who are being prosecuted in absentia.

A controversial state of emergency, which expanded powers to arrest those suspected of gang affiliation or support and suspended some constitutional rights, has been in place in El Salvador since March 2022.

Since it came into force, tens of thousands of suspected gang members have been arrested, but human rights groups have argued it has led to arbitrary detentions.

Supporters of President Bukele's hardline approach to fighting crime say it has made El Salvador a safer place but UN experts have warned his government it "cannot trample on fair trial rights in the name of public safety".

MS-13 is a transnational gang which was designated as a terrorist organisation by the US last year.

It was founded in Los Angeles during the 1980s, formed by immigrants who had fled El Salvador's civil war, but its presence is now larger in Central America.

The attorney general's office said "for years, this structure has operated systematically, instilling fear and grief in Salvadorean families".

It said the charges against the 486 suspects people also included femicide and disappearances, adding that the crimes had impacted lives and limited the country's economic and social development.

In addition, the accused are charged with "rebellion for attempting to maintain territorial control to establish a parallel state", the office said. (BBC)

## Florida's attorney general announces criminal investigation into OpenAI

Florida's attorney general said his office was issuing subpoenas to OpenAI on Tuesday morning, seeking information about how the leading AI company approaches user threats of harm to themselves and to others.

The subpoenas are part of a new criminal investigation into the company, James Uthmeier said in a press conference. The actions are an escalation from his previously announced probe of the artificial intelligence company, which he said will continue as a civil investigation alongside the newly announced criminal investigation.

On April 9, Uthmeier announced he would launch an investigation into OpenAI and its ChatGPT tool over national security and safety concerns. Among other concerns, he is investigating whether ChatGPT provided any planning assistance to the alleged gunman in the Florida State University mass shooting that left two people dead in April last year.

"We have been looking into the recent FSU shooting, and that shooter's communications with ChatGPT," Uthmeier said in a press conference Tuesday morning. "Our review of that communication has revealed that a criminal investigation is necessary."

"ChatGPT offered significant advice to the shooter before he committed such heinous crimes," Uthmeier said, adding "that the chatbot advised the shooter on what type of gun to use, on which ammo went with which gun,



on whether or not a gun would be useful in short range."

"If this were a person on the other side of the screen, we would be charging them with murder," Uthmeier said. "We cannot have AI bots that are advising others on how to kill others."

Uthmeier announced his office was issuing subpoenas seeking information about OpenAI's policies and internal training materials regarding user threats of harm to themselves and others from March 2024 until this month. The subpoenas will also request information from the same time frame on all policies and internal training materials regarding how OpenAI cooperates with and reports crime to law enforcement agencies.

In addition, the subpoenas seek an organizational chart of OpenAI's leaders and senior managers, as well as a list of all employees working on ChatGPT.

In a statement to NBC News in early April, an OpenAI spokesperson said: "We build ChatGPT to understand peo-

ple's intent and respond in a safe and appropriate way, and we continue improving our technology."

"Our ongoing safety work continues to play an important role in delivering these benefits to everyday people, as well as supporting scientific research and discovery," the company said, noting that more than 900 million people use ChatGPT each week. The company did not immediately reply to a request for comment on Tuesday's developments.

"We are going to look at who knew what, designed what, or should have done what," Uthmeier said in the Tuesday press conference from behind a lectern that said "Investigating OpenAI."

"I'm a big believer in limited government. I believe government should only interfere in business activities when you have significant harm to our people," he added. "This is that."

The suspect in the FSU shooting, 21-year-old Phoenix Ikner, faces multiple charges related to last year's

shooting that killed Robert Morales and Tiru Chabba. According to court documents seen by NBC News, Ikner was exchanging messages with ChatGPT in the minutes before the shooting, asking questions like: "What time is it the busiest in the FSU student union?" and "If there was a shooting at FSU, how would the country react?"

Attorneys for the family of one of the victims indicated in early April that they were preparing to file charges against OpenAI. "We have been advised that the shooter was in constant communication with ChatGPT leading up to the shooting," said Ryan Hobbs, an attorney for Morales' family. "We also have reason to believe that ChatGPT may have advised the shooter how to commit these heinous crimes. We will therefore file suit against ChatGPT and its ownership structure very soon."

Along with Uthmeier, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has emerged as an outspoken critic of large AI corporations and their freewheeling approach to AI development and deployment.

In December, DeSantis proposed an Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights for American citizens, focusing on "data privacy, parental controls, consumer protections, and restrictions on AI use of an individual's name, image or likeness without consent," according to the bill's announcement. (NBC)



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**26**  
APRIL

# MEGACADE

📍 RISING SUN GROUNDS

ISLAND WIDE

# THIS SUNDAY

START TIME **11:00AM**

# Sports News

## Ovals Ojays end Gunners' unbeaten run in Division 2 basketball



The Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 have ended the unbeaten run of the leaders, Cedar Grove Gunners, in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League.

The second-placed Ovals Ojays 2 notched up their 12th win in 14 games by soaring to a 70-60 victory over the Cedar Grove Gunners in a top-of-the-table clash in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday evening.

Jayleyle Joseph produced 18 points, 10 rebounds, nine steals, and five blocks; Yohhan Nicholas provided 14 points, 13 rebounds, and seven steals; Dajon George sank 13 points; and Dominic Anthony chipped in with 10 points, eight rebounds, and six steals for the Cuties Ovals Ojays 2.

Tyras Grayman sank 17 points and grabbed 26 rebounds; Iornie Joseph produced 12 points, 12 rebounds, and five steals; and Olivee Morris converted 10 points for the Gunners, who lost for their first time after winning their previous 13 games.

The Navigators 2 claimed their third win in 13 games by snatching a narrow 81-78 victory over Square One Construction Cristos United in a bottom-of-the-table clash in Monday's opening game.

Raheem Sawyer produced 33 points, 10 rebounds, seven steals, and five assists; Tristan Thibou sank 17 points and grabbed 21 rebounds; Abdul Wadud converted 12 points and snatched 19 rebounds; and Ricky Willock chipped in with 11 points, eight rebounds, and five assists for Navigators 2.

Dwayne Samuel sank 30 points and grabbed 14 rebounds; Pernel Phillip converted 21 points and snatched 14 rebounds; and Bruce Whyte scored 15 points and claimed five rebounds for Cristos United, who remained at the bottom of the nine-team round-robin League 2 standings after suffering their 15th defeat in as many games.

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## Greenbay Hoppers go second in First Division League



*Players of the Greenbay Hoppers FC*

The Greenbay Hoppers have moved from fourth to second place on goal difference in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

The Greenbay Hoppers claimed their 15th win in 22 matches with a 6-0 drubbing of the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the ABFA Technical Center.

Tyler Anthony struck a hat trick with conversions in the ninth, 39th, and 69th minutes. The other goals were scored by Ammiel Greenaway in the 36th minute, Tyree Archibald in the 78th minute, and Jari Jackson in the 81st minute.

The result allows the Cedar Grove Blue Jays to stay second from the bottom of the 14-team standings

with 15 points after losing for the 17th time in 24 matches.

It also allows the Greenbay Hoppers to advance to 47 points, the same as leaders, the Freemans Village Scorpions, who have also played 22 matches.

SAP FC dropped from second to third place on goal difference with 45 points from 23 matches, the same as fourth-placed Swetes Vipers.

Five Islands FC have slipped to fifth place with 42 points from 23 matches.

Empire FC leapfrogged Parham FC into sixth place by claiming their 11th win in 22 matches with a 2-0 victory against Bolans FC at Golden Grove.

Following a goalless first half, Empire secured victory by scoring twice in the second half via goals by Marckens Dorisca in the 53rd minute and Sydney Samuel Jr. in the 67th minute.

The result allows Empire FC to advance to 37 points, one ahead of Parham FC, which slipped from sixth to seventh place from the same number of matches.

Bolans FC remains in 12th place with 17 points after suffering their 12th defeat in 23 matches.

Golden Grove FC occupies eighth place with 30 points from 22 matches, while Willikies FC remains in ninth place with 27 points from 21 matches.

## Browne wins ABCF's April Criterium Road Race



The top three overall finishers on the podium in the ABCF's April Criterium Road Race during the presentation at APUA Inet Office on Old Parham Road on Sunday, April 19, 2026. From left, Shawn Weathered, Tahje Browne, and Aiden Tonge. (Photo courtesy of the ABCF)

Teenager Tahje Browne continued to stamp his dominance on the domestic scene, winning the latest Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) event, the April Criterium Road Race, across the northern parts of the island on Sunday.

Producing high-speed intensity, tactical brilliance, and raw endurance, Browne claimed the overall title by winning the Elite Male division in the race that took the cyclists on a route from Old Parham Road to Hodges Bay and back to the starting point.

Browne delivered in commanding fashion. Over four grueling laps, Browne demonstrated complete race control, breaking away with authority to cross the finishing line in two hours, nine minutes, and 10.59 seconds, a time that underscored both

power and precision.

Behind him, the battle for podium positions was fierce. Shawn Weathered and Newell Mack fought hard to secure second and third places, respectively, each pushing the pace but unable to reel in Browne's dominant lead.

From the very first whistle, the Cadets (11–14) set the tone. It was a tight contest, but Benjamin Carr powered through to claim victory in 53 minutes and 46.84 seconds, edging out D'Jani Richards in a thrilling finish separated by just three seconds.

In the Junior Male category, Aiden Tonge showcased grit and determination to take top honours, crossing the finish line in two hours, 13 minutes, and 23.69 seconds. Elite Thomas captured second place, and Alexis Bastardo finished in third place.

In the Masters division, experience met endurance as Micah Gore emerged victorious after a demanding race against seasoned competitors.

Gore clocked a time of two hours, 26 minutes, and 20.91 seconds to secure victory, with Vaughn Gomes taking second place and Edward Henry finishing in third place.

Lone competitor Dexter Simmons rode a strong and disciplined race to win the Sports Class in two hours, 12 minutes, and 17.63 seconds.

Only two of the total of 21 cyclists that participated failed to finish the race that utilized the same route that will be used when Antigua and Barbuda host the ABWU Invitational OECS Championship on Sunday, May 31.

## Winnings start for Strictly Business in ABSCA men's 30-over contest



**Rackaman Construction Strictly Business**

Last year's losing finalists, Rackaman Construction Strictly Business, have made a successful start in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) Men's 30-Over contest.

Strictly Business launched their campaign with a 123-run victory over Goody's Advent 300 in All Saints.

Strictly Business made 212 for five off 29 overs. Player of the match Shaquan Reifer smashed 52, including seven sixes.

Kim George hit 46, Jevon Howel struck 30, Melvin Charles cracked 25, and Ashfield Weatherhead scored 22. Kerry Burton claimed two for 23, and Dorian Grant captured two for 43.

In reply, 300 was dismissed for 88 in 24 overs. Molvin James and Blair Thomas each scored 25. Owen Gra-

ham snapped up four wickets for two runs, Shaquan Reifer grabbed three for 19, and Ashfield Weatherhead claimed two for 21.

Dredgers won by default against Mix Up Stars, who were unable to field a team for their opening match at Dredgers.

A decision is pending from the ABSCA involving the opening-round match between PMS and Goody's Advent 300.

Meanwhile, defending champions Alzarri and Sharon Joseph North Sails Antigua Female Flyers got off to a disappointing start in defense of their title in the ABSCA St. John's Cooperative Credit Union Women's 15-over contest.

Wayne's Electrical Services Survi-

vors surged to a 10-wicket win over Female Flyers in their opening encounter at Dredgers.

The Female Flyers made 62 for five off their allotted 15 overs. Terez Parker hit 29, and Mauveuhl Simpson struck 13. Player of the match Kimberly Anthony claimed two for 10.

Survivors achieved victory by scoring 64 without losing any wickets in 9.5 overs. Kimberly Anthony smashed 33, and Grace Persaud hit 25 not out.

However, the opening encounter between Potters Uprising Cricket Team and Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Jennings Rockets at PMS was not played and will be rescheduled.

## Four-day match abandoned due to dangerous pitch at SVRS

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced that the second match of the Leeward Islands vs Trinidad and Tobago bilateral series in the 2026 West Indies Four-Day Championship has been abandoned as a draw on Tuesday due to dangerous pitch conditions at the Sir Viv Richards Stadium (SVRS) in North Sound, Antigua.

Play was halted on the first session of the third day after the pitch began to exhibit unpredictable and uneven behaviour, raising serious concerns for player safety.

During this period, a delivery by West Indies fast bowler Jayden Seales struck Leeward Islands player Jeremiah Louis while he was batting.

Jeremiah Louis was immediately attended to by medical personnel and subsequently transported to hospital to be evaluated for a possible concussion and is reported to be in stable condition.

At the time, the Leeward Islands Hurricanes were 140 for seven 47.3 overs in the second innings, an overall lead of 96 runs. Jeremiah Louis was on one, and Rahkeem Cornwall was not out on 10.

Opener Mikyle Louis struck 73, and Jahmar Hamilton scored 41. Seales captured all seven wickets for 34 runs.

The Leewards were bundled out in their first innings for 131 in 39.3 overs after being sent in to bat. Karima Gore hit 57. Pacer Anderson Phillip bagged six for 38, and Seales claimed three for 33.

In reply, Trinidad and Tobago recovered from 131 for nine to make



**Cricketers engage in a match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium at North Sound in Antigua. (CWI Media)**

175 in 60 overs to take a first innings lead of 44 runs. Jyd Goolie hit an unbeaten 51, and Joshua Da Silva scored 36. Antiguan fast bowler took a career best six for 52, and fellow pacer Oshane Thomas claimed three for 52.

The decision to abandon the match was made in accordance with the official playing conditions governing the competition. Under these conditions, when on-field umpires determine that it is dangerous or unreasonable for play to continue, play must be stopped and the CWI Match Referee consulted.

Following discussions with the curator, it was determined that the pitch could not be safely repaired without creating an unfair advantage and was therefore deemed unfit to resume, resulting in the match being abandoned as a draw.

Both teams will be awarded points

earned up until the abandonment of the contest in accordance with the championship's playing conditions.

CWI further advises that no matches are scheduled at the Sir Viv Richards Stadium until the Championship Final, set for May 17–20, and confirms that all necessary resources and expertise will be deployed to ensure the preparation of a safe and competitive playing surface for that fixture.

It is also important to note that the surface used for the Leeward Islands vs Trinidad and Tobago match is one of six pitches available at the venue and differs from the one used for match one of the Guyana vs Windward Islands bilateral series.

CWI claims it will continue to prioritize player safety while ensuring the highest standards of pitch preparation and match operations across all venues.