

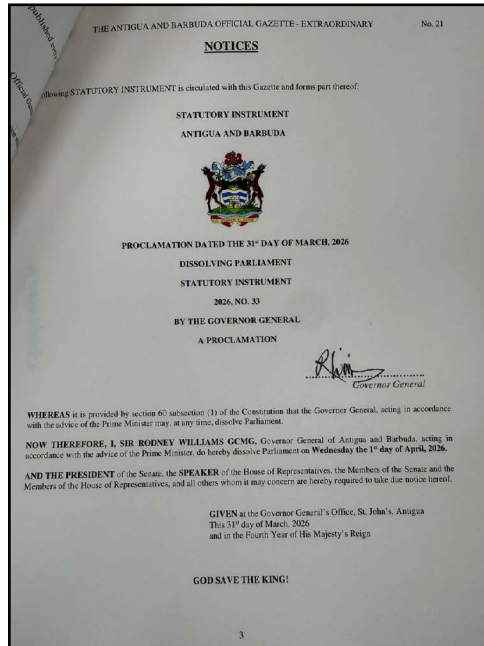
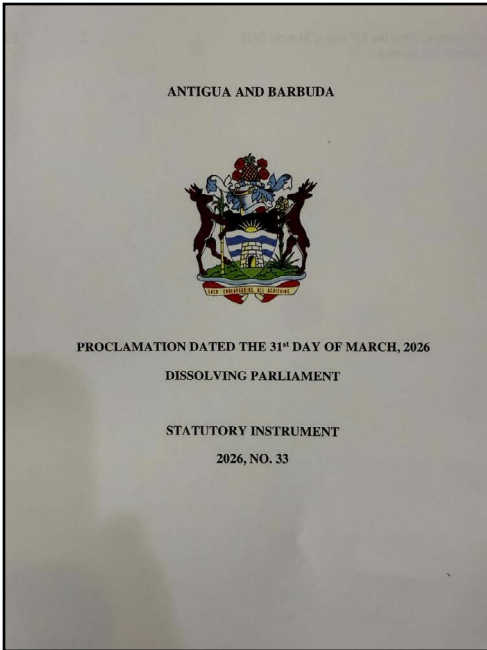
Government Paves The Way For Elections

Story on page 2



The Antigua and Barbuda parliament has been dissolved as the government paves the way for general elections expected before the end of the month

Government Paves The Way For Elections



Writ of Elections Expected Soon

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda wishes to inform the public that a Proclamation dissolving Parliament has been officially published in the Gazette as a Statutory Instrument dated March 31, 2026.

The Proclamation was issued by His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, acting in accordance with Section 60(1) of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda and on the advice of Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

With the dissolution of Parliament, all Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate cease to hold their seats, and the country now moves into the general election period in accordance with the laws and Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda. The necessary administrative and electoral processes will now proceed under the direction of the relevant authorities to prepare for the holding of General Elections within the constitutionally prescribed timeframe.

The Government advises that the dissolution of Parliament is a normal constitutional process and marks the end of the current parliamentary term, making way for the people of Antigua

and Barbuda to elect a new Government.

The public is encouraged to ensure that they are properly registered and that their voter identification cards are in order in preparation for the upcoming General Elections.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to ensuring that the electoral process is conducted in a free, fair, transparent, and orderly manner in keeping with the country's democratic traditions.

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A&B's Growth Experience Highlights Urgency of Regional Population Debate

Antigua and Barbuda's experience as one of the few growing populations in the Eastern Caribbean is being held up as a key example of why the region must confront its demographic challenges head-on.

That perspective emerged during the launch of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's (ECCB) Strategic Plan 2026–2031, where Governor Timothy Antoine addressed the question of whether governments should introduce incentives to encourage population growth amid mounting economic pressures on citizens.

Antoine underscored that the issue goes beyond policy preference and speaks directly to the region's economic future, describing it as “a very interesting question” that often triggers strong and varied reactions whenever it is raised by political leaders.

He revealed that in six of the eight countries within the currency union, populations are either stagnant or declining—raising serious concerns about the feasibility of achieving ambitious growth targets.

“How are we going to expand these economies and double them over the next 10 years with a population decline?” Antoine asked. “Who is going to buy the goods that the businesses create? How are you going to generate consumption? How are you going to generate business opportuni-



Governor Timothy Antoine

ty?”

Pointing to global examples, The ECCB Governor noted that population expansion has been a major driver of economic growth in larger economies. “Look at the United States, 350 million and counting, and a big part of that is immigration and the expansion of consumption,” he said. “More and more people are buying... so businesses have things to sell and people to buy.”

Antigua and Barbuda has recorded population growth, due in part to its openness to regional migration. Timothy Antoine stated, adding that nationals from across the Caribbean—including Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Grenada—have contributed to the labour force and consumer base, helping to sustain economic activity.

“The truth about it is, Antigua and Barbuda has in fact taken on people from all around the region,” pointing out that the inflow of those citizens has been a key factor in supporting economic expansion.

According to Antoine, such movement of people is not incidental but essential. “Part of how these economies grow is because people have come in,” he said, stressing the role of migration in driving demand and supporting business growth.

However, he acknowledged that discussions about increasing population—particularly through immigration—often provoke unease across the region. “We can go to New York, and England, and Canada, and live and work, no problem,” he said. “But once we talk about people coming here, we get concerned... that

they will come and take what we have.”

The Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank called for a more balanced and honest conversation, urging policymakers and citizens alike to move beyond fear and focus on practical solutions. “We have to take the temperature down, have an honest conversation. Yes, it has to be managed. Yes, we don't want criminals,” he said. “We actually want people with skills.”

He said attracting skilled workers will be critical if the region hopes to accelerate growth and create sustainable economic opportunities. “We have to bring skilled people to these countries if we want to grow faster, and we want to create demand for businesses to actually grow and to succeed”.

At the same time, Timothy Antoine pointed to the Caribbean diaspora as a vital but under-utilised resource. Encouraging nationals to return home, he said, will require meaningful improvements in key areas.

“We are going to have to improve our healthcare system, and we are going to have to make sure digital connectivity really works, so that they can work from here, even if they have jobs outside.”

“We have to have a serious conversation in this region, followed by action, about growing these populations,” Antoine said.

ECCB Governor: EC Dollar Strong, But Growth Now Critical



The strength and stability of the Eastern Caribbean dollar remain firmly intact, but economic growth must now take centre stage if the sub-region is to avoid stagnation.

That is the position of Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Governor Timothy Antoine, who was addressing the launch of the ECCB Strategic Plan 2026–2031 on Tuesday evening.

Antoine reminded those in attendance and online that the ECCB itself was forged during a time of uncertainty.

“Even as we speak about the future, we must honor our past,” he said. “The ECCB was born out of crisis—and yes, courage. That decision created confidence where there was uncertainty, and stability where there was fragility.”

Five decades later, he said, the foundation remains solid.

“Our currency peg holds firm and I confirm to you this evening that our EC dollar remains strong. The backing currently approaches 99%.”

He cautioned, however, against complacency, urging citizens and policymakers alike to appreciate and safeguard the region’s financial achievements.

“When you start taking these things for granted, that’s when we could have a challenge,” he warned. “Never take our successes for granted. They must be recognised, they must be celebrated, and they must be protected.”

Despite the strong monetary position, the ECCB Governor made it clear that stability alone is not enough to secure long-term prosperity.

“Stability by itself does not create prosperity—growth does,” he maintained. “Because without growth, stability becomes stagnation, and stagnation inevitably leads to decline.”

tion inevitably leads to decline.”

The Governor explained that the ECCB’s new strategic plan is built around six key pillars, with monetary stability at its core.

“Job number one—keep our EC dollar strong,” he declared, underscoring the bank’s continued commitment to maintaining confidence in the currency.

Addressing concerns about global economic shifts, including movements in the United States dollar, Timothy Antoine reaffirmed that there are no plans to alter the longstanding currency arrangement.

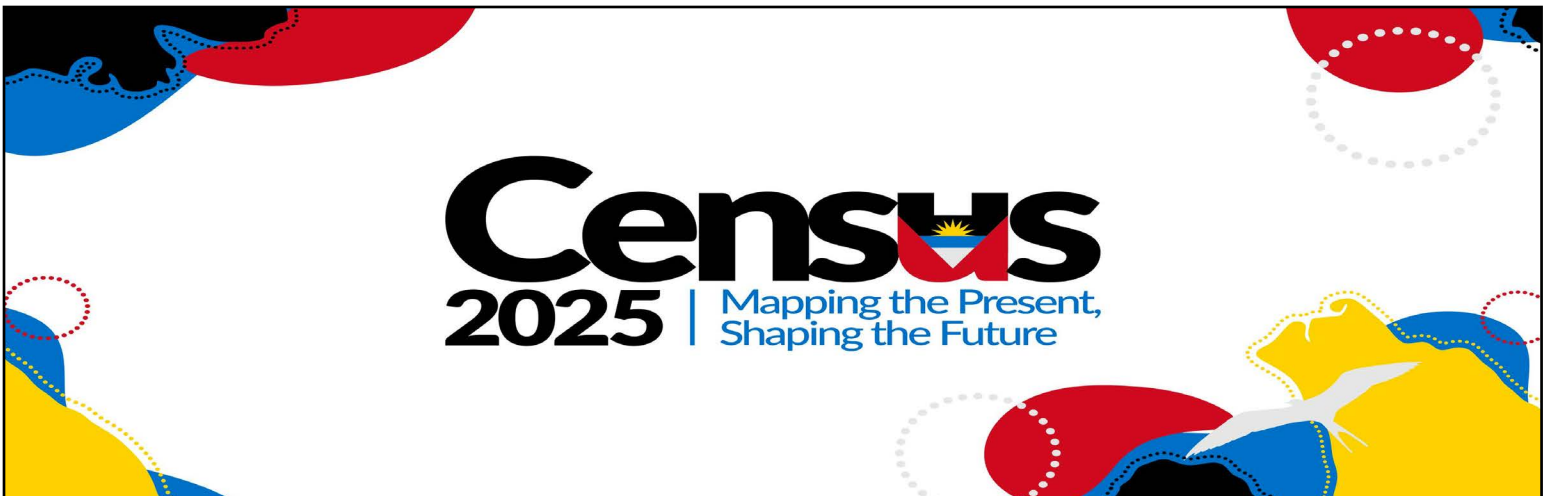
“We monitor that, but we have no plans to de-peg,” he stated. “No plans to de-peg because it has worked well for us. And yes, we understand what’s going on at the moment—we are monitoring that.”

Looking ahead, Antoine also announced plans to commemorate a major milestone in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union’s financial history.

“Later this year, we are going to have a special event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our peg,” he revealed. “July is the actual anniversary, so stay tuned.”

The anniversary, he added, will not only celebrate the success of the currency peg but also provide an opportunity for deeper discussion on its continued relevance and effectiveness.





Suspension of Field Operations for the 2025 Population and Housing Census

The Census Office wishes to inform the general public that, in light of the recent announcement of the pending general elections in Antigua and Barbuda, a decision has been made to temporarily suspend field operations associated with the ongoing 2025 Population and Housing Census.

This decision has been made to ensure that the integrity, neutrality, and smooth execution of these separate activities, the electoral process and the Census are maintained. It is recognized that both activities are of national importance and require significant logistical coordination, public engagement, and the full attention of all stakeholders.

Field activities, including household visits and in-person data collection, will therefore be paused effective immediately. During this period, all enumerators and field staff will stand down from active duty, while internal administrative and preparatory work will continue where necessary.

The Census Office wishes to assure the public that this suspension is temporary. Plans are already being developed to resume Census field operations as soon as it is practical to do so following the conclusion of the elections. Updated timelines and further details will be communicated in due course.

The cooperation and understanding of the public are greatly appreciated. The success of the Population and Housing Census depends on the continued sup-

port of all residents, and the Census Office remains committed to delivering a comprehensive and accurate account

of the nation's population and housing characteristics.

NOTICE

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS "FIRST TOWNS SUPERETTE"

I, NICHOLAS EDWARDS, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court at, High Street, St John's Antigua on Tuesday 7th April, 2026 next ensuring for a BOTTLE LICENCE in respect of premises known as "FIRST TOWN SUPERETTE", situated at Kent Street, Parham Town, St Peter's Antigua and Barbuda, Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 17th day of March, 2026
Nicholas Edwards
268-724-6490

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Observes World Autism Awareness Day 2026

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) will today (April 2) join the global community in celebrating World Autism Awareness Day under the theme “Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value.” This year’s observance aims to shift the narrative from simple awareness to active acceptance and tangible support for individuals on the autism spectrum.

As Autism Awareness Month begins, SLBMC is making a strong call to action for residents across the nation to move beyond conversations and actively participate in advocacy that creates real change in healthcare, education, and social inclusion.

“True advocacy is not a passive stance; it requires continuous, intentional action from every corner of our society,” said Dr. Saleem Hughes, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at SLBMC. “When we say that every life has value, we must back that up by dismantling the barriers that prevent individuals with autism from accessing the care and opportunities they deserve. Our collective duty is to build an environment where they don’t just exist, but truly thrive.”

In line with this push for action, SLBMC is encouraging the public to actively participate in and attend the various community events taking place throughout the month of April. From educational workshops to sensory-friendly activities, supporting these initiatives directly empowers the local autism community and its allies.

To visually demonstrate solidarity, the medical center is asking the entire community to join them for a special “Light It Up Blue” campaign on Friday, April 24, 2026.

“We are inviting everyone, wheth-



er you are at work, at school, or at home, to light it up blue by wearing blue on Friday, April 24th,” Dr. Hughes added. “It is a simple but incredibly powerful way to show families navigating autism that they are seen, valued, and fully supported by their community. Let’s paint our twin islands blue and let that visibility serve as a reminder of our shared responsibility.”

Looking ahead, SLBMC is also preparing to host a national town hall titled “Bridging the Gap: A National Conversation on a Neuroinclusive Road Map to Health, Education & Employment.” Convened through the hospital’s Pediatric Department, this event is designed to bring focused attention to the systems, struc-

tures, and supports required to better serve neurodivergent children, adolescents, and adults in Antigua & Barbuda. The Town Hall will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 5PM at the SLBMC Auditorium.

SLBMC remains dedicated to expanding its services and improving outcomes for all children across Antigua and Barbuda. The community is urged to support local autism initiatives this month and commit to advocacy that makes a lasting difference.

For more information about Autism Awareness Month activities, pediatric services, or the upcoming town hall, please contact the SLBMC Marketing & Communications Department.

Chaneil Imhoff Returns to Alma Mater for Career Day Presentation



Communications specialist, media practitioner, and Founder of the Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing (WISH), Chaneil Imhoff, returned to her alma mater, The Antigua Girls' High School, this week to deliver an interactive Career Day session focused on journalism, media, and critical thinking.

The session moved beyond a traditional lecture format, engaging students in practical discussions about how information is gathered, verified, and shared. Imhoff challenged students to think critically about the content they consume, emphasizing that journalism is defined not by platform, but by process. Through interactive

exercises, students explored the difference between credible reporting and misinformation, and were encouraged to ask questions, seek multiple sources, and value accuracy over speed.


Students were also introduced to a range of career opportunities within the media and communications sector, including broadcasting, digital media, content creation, and communications strategy. The session underscored the importance of strong storytelling and analytical skills across industries.

The visit also held personal significance, as Imhoff's daughter delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of the student group, reflecting a meaningful full circle moment and the generation-

al impact of education and mentorship.



As part of the engagement, Imhoff, through WISH, facilitated the donation of mental health posters to the school. The posters, now displayed within the school environment, serve as visible reminders of available support and aim to encourage ongoing conversations around mental health among students.

"Equipping young people with both media literacy and mental health awareness is critical," Imhoff said. "We have to ensure that students are not only informed, but also supported as they navigate increasingly complex environments."



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No Alcohol Sale Permitted On Good Friday

The Police Administration is reminding the general public that the sale of alcohol is strictly prohibited on Good Friday, April 3, 2026, in accordance with the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) (Amendment) Act, No. 9 of 2014, of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

In keeping with the provisions of the Act, any licensed premises where intoxicating liquor is sold, exposed, or kept for retail sale, except those operating under a hotel licence, tavern licence,



or club licence, must remain closed to the public for the entire day.

For the avoidance of doubt, no alcohol is to be sold from

midnight on Thursday, April 2, through the entirety of Good Friday.

The Police Administration is urging all owners and operators of establishments that falls with this restriction to comply fully with the law.

Failure to adhere may result in the revocation of licences and other legal actions in accordance with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

The full cooperation of the general public is expected and appreciated.

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Flow Supports Sir Richie Richardson's Charitable Event



Wayne Hull, Country Manager of Flow Antigua and Barbuda, presents a Samsung S25 smartphone to cricket legend Sir Richie Richardson

Flow Antigua and Barbuda has again signaled its support for the annual charitable event, the 3rd Annual Sir Richie Richardson Charity Golf Day slated to take place at the Cedar Valley Golf Course on April 11.

The cricket legend and golf enthusiast, has organized the event to raise funds to support charitable organizations with which he shares a passion.

Country Manager of Flow Antigua and Barbuda, Wayne Hull, recently

presented a Samsung S25 smartphone to cricket legend Sir Richie Richardson in support of the event. Flow also provided a highspeed mobile wireless dongle to facilitate live streaming of the event.

Slow Down! Take time to think and reflect



Why disciplined reflection leads to better decisions—personal, professional, and national.

By Garfield Joseph, MBA

As Antigua and Barbuda approaches another general elections, the discipline of scheduling time to think—long practised by highperforming leaders—offers citizens a powerful tool for making excellent personal and national decisions.

I first learned the disciplined power of scheduling thinking time while working at Yum! Brands in the United States. During that period, I attended a leadership training seminar entitled *How to Achieve Breakthrough Results*. One idea from that course stayed with me long after it ended: extraordinary performance begins when leaders intentionally schedule time to think.

At the time, it felt almost counterintuitive. In fastpaced organisations, thinking is often assumed to happen on the run—between meetings, during travel, or late at night. The course challenged

that assumption. It taught that thinking itself must be structured, deliberate, and protected.

When I put this discipline into practice—blocking out quiet, uninterrupted time purely for reflection—it transformed not only my performance at work, but my life more broadly.

As I began to think more deeply, hard truths emerged. I realised that certain markets I was responsible for were underperforming because I was not engaging them in the right ways. I adjusted my routines, rethought how I spent time with struggling teams, and became more intentional about where my attention was needed. Thinking about the business differently allowed me to significantly improve my results year over year.

At the same time, the thinking extended beyond the office. I recognised that spending insufficient time with family was creating anxiety that affected my judgment and energy. I became more deliberate about protecting family time. I also confronted personal health realities—recognising the need to consume fewer calories, improve selfcare, and invest more consistently in my physical wellbeing.

None of these insights came from being busy. They came from pausing—creating the mental space to see clearly. None of these changes would have happened without deliberately scheduling thinking time: time to reflect on work, family, religion, personal growth, and results. Consequently, there were deliberate changes in both what I started doing—and what I chose to stop doing.

That experience taught me a lesson with universal relevance.

The Real Problem: Busy Minds, Shallow Decisions

Today, many people live in a constant state of motion. We are busy, responsive, and informed—yet deprived of the mental space required for sound judgment. Important decisions, whether personal or national, are increasingly made under pressure, emotion, or distraction.

The problem is not a lack of intelligence or care. The problem is a lack of thinking time.

Despite extensive evidence that reflection improves decisionmaking, available research suggests that roughly **80% of managers fail to deliberately schedule protected thinking time**. History—both corporate and civic—shows that sustained success depends less on speed and more on reflection.

What High Performers Do Differently

Research into topperforming CEOs, particularly those leading privateequitybacked firms, consistently shows that they outperform peers over the long term. One habit stands out: they intentionally schedule uninterrupted time to think.

These leaders use thinking time to examine performance, reassess priorities, challenge assumptions, and anticipate future risks and opportunities. For them, thinking is not an indulgence—it is core work.

That same discipline, when applied to everyday life, is equally powerful.




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Why Thinking Time Matters for Everyone

Scheduling thinking time delivers tangible benefits across multiple dimensions of life, including:

Clarity of direction – helping individuals realign actions with longterm goals

Better decisionmaking – reducing impulsive or emotionally driven choices

Stronger problemsolving – revealing options hidden by urgency

Improved personal balance – strengthening family relationships and wellbeing

Breakthrough results over time – as better decisions compound into better outcomes

Whether in leadership, parenting, health, or finances, meaningful improvement begins with reflection.

How to Practice It

Thinking time does not require dramatic change. A simple structure works:

Fifteen to twenty minutes

Twice per week

Quiet, uninterrupted

No phone, email, or social media

Use a notebook. Ask difficult questions. Look honestly at what is working—and what is not. Treat this appointment with yourself as nonnegotiable.

Applying Thinking Time to National Decisions

As Antigua and Barbuda approaches another general election, citizens face one of their most important responsibilities: selecting the country's next management team, including the Prime Minister.

In successful organisations, owners and Boards of Directors do not approach leadership decisions casually. They pause. They examine performance. They assess capability, experience, and future direction.

In a democracy, that responsibility belongs to the electorate.

The Questions That Deserve Reflection

When citizens slow down and think, essential questions surface:

Which team is best positioned to move the country forward at this time?

Which team demonstrates the talent and experience to deliver consistent results?

What does past performance reveal?

Which team has demonstrated genuine care for the welfare and wellbeing of citizens?

Which team has the strongest cadre of leaders to represent the country on the regional and international stage?

These are not questions that can be answered in passing. They require intentional reflection.

A Moment That Demands Thoughtful Judgment

Taken together, these are the ques-

tions now before the electorate of this country. Much like owners of a business or a Board of Directors entrusted with safeguarding an organisation's future, you—the voting public—have the final decisionmaking authority.

This decision is not symbolic. It is consequential.

Your vote matters. But because it matters, it deserves careful thought. Before casting it, schedule thinking time. Reflect on performance, capability, direction, and alignment with your hopes for the future.

The future of this nation will not be shaped by haste or noise, but by judgment. At this moment, that responsibility rests in your hands.



Those who achieve extraordinary results—whether in business, family life, personal health, or national leadership—understand a simple truth: breakthrough outcomes begin with disciplined thinking, underpinned by care, conviction, community, and emotional connection.

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Toward a Global Architecture of Peace



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

The preceding articles in this series have examined both the immediate dangers of escalating global conflicts and the wider consequences of instability across regions. From the Middle East to Africa, from Eastern Europe to fragile states across the developing world, a consistent pattern emerges: modern conflict is no longer isolated. It is interconnected, systemic, and increasingly global in its consequences.

The conclusion is therefore clear. Peace does not endure by sentiment alone; it must be deliberately built, structured, and sustained.

In an era defined by economic interdependence, shared environmental systems, and integrated global networks, instability in one region inevitably reverberates across all others.

Conflict disrupts supply chains, increases the cost of living, weakens institutions, and undermines decades of development progress. The world can no longer afford to treat peace as an aspirational ideal. It must now be understood as a strategic necessity.

At the heart of this argument is a simple but demanding proposition: peace must be organized at every level—global, regional, national, and human. It must be reflected in the way nations interact, the way societies coexist, and the way humanity relates to the natural environment upon which it depends.

This gives rise to three interdependent principles:

- Peace among nations.
- Peace among peoples.
- Peace with our environment.

These are not abstract concepts. They are the conditions required for stability, prosperity, and the continued advancement of human civilization.

Achieving them requires strengthening the institutions responsible for managing international cooperation—most notably, the United Nations.

The United Nations, comprising 193 member states, remains the most comprehensive multilateral institution ever created. Yet its structure reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945, not the complexities of the twenty-first century. Institutions that do not evolve risk losing legitimacy; and when legitima-

cy weakens, so too does compliance. In such circumstances, the capacity to prevent conflict and enforce collective decisions is diminished.

Reform is therefore not optional—it is necessary. A more representative and responsive system, capable of acting decisively in the face of global challenges, is essential. This includes re-examining the composition and functioning of the Security Council, addressing structural imbalances, and ensuring that mechanisms for collective action are not rendered ineffective by procedural constraints.

At the same time, global peace will not be secured by global institutions alone.

Peace succeeds or fails first at the regional level. It is within regions that tensions emerge, disputes escalate, and opportunities for early intervention either succeed or collapse. Regional institutions must therefore form committed, coordinated partnerships dedicated to promoting dialogue, resolving disputes, and reinforcing stability among neighboring states. Where regional diplomacy is strong, conflict can often be prevented. Where it is weak, crises deepen before the wider international community can respond.

Economic cooperation also plays a central role. Nations that are interconnected through trade, transport systems, and shared economic interests are less inclined toward conflict because stability becomes mutually beneficial. Deeper economic integration



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strengthens interdependence and reduces the incentives for confrontation.

Beyond economics, the pursuit of peace must extend into scientific and environmental cooperation. The sustainable use of ocean resources, the protection of biodiversity, and the management of climate systems are collective responsibilities. Oceans cover approximately seventy percent of the Earth's surface, yet their potential remains only partially understood. Unlocking the benefits of the Blue Economy requires cooperation, not competition.

Similarly, international collaboration in science and technology—including space exploration—demonstrates what humanity can achieve when it works toward shared goals. Such cooperation accelerates innovation, improves resilience, and expands the boundaries of human knowledge.

Underlying this framework is a philosophical choice. Some traditions argue that policy should aim to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number. While this principle has shaped much of modern governance, it is no longer sufficient in a world where inequality, exclusion, and instability remain deeply interconnected. Humanity must strive instead for a higher standard—the pursuit of the greatest possible good for all. Peace, to be durable, must be inclusive.

History provides ample evidence that reconciliation is not weakness, but strength. Leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr. demonstrated that dialogue, justice, and moral clarity can transform societies and alter the course of history. Their legacy reinforces a fundamental truth: peace is not passive. It is constructed through deliberate effort, sustained commitment, and principled leadership.

It is perhaps unsurprising that some have begun referring to this ap-

proach—sometimes with skepticism—as the “Pilgrim Doctrine.” In certain quarters, the term is used not as endorsement, but as a suggestion that the vision it represents is overly ambitious or impractical. I accept this characterization with humility, but not with hesitation. Many of the ideas that have ultimately shaped human progress were once dismissed as unrealistic. The circumstances we now face are not theoretical. They are immediate, measurable, and consequential. To respond effectively requires not caution in thinking, but clarity of purpose.

The choice before the international community is therefore stark. The world can continue along a path marked by geopolitical rivalry, fragmented cooperation, and recurring crises. Or it can take deliberate steps toward building a system that prioritizes stability, coordination, and shared progress.

The creation of zones of peace is cen-

tral to this effort. These zones are not passive spaces free of conflict; they are structured environments in which nations commit to dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect as the primary means of resolving disputes. They represent a shift from reactive crisis management to proactive stability building.

The task before us is no longer to imagine peace in the abstract, but to build the institutions, partnerships, and habits that make it durable. If we fail, instability will continue to define this century. If we succeed, peace will become not merely an aspiration, but the governing architecture of human progress.

The End

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Expression of Interest Submission for

Consulting Services from Firms

using Selection Methods: QCBS, QBS, FBS, LCS and CQS

(FE-S)

Version	Date
Original Publication	June 26, 2023
Revision 1	March 18, 2024

Expression of Interest (EOI) Consulting Firms

[Note to Firm: Insert signed Cover letter in a format of your choosing]

General Information

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

I. Consulting Firm Information

Name of Firm ¹ :	
Country of Registration: ²	Registered Postal Address:
Contact Telephone Number:	E-mail Address:
Name of Authorised Representative EOI Submitted by:	Position of Authorised Representative:

A. Brief Background of Consulting Firm

Present a brief background of the firm and list the services provided by the firm. A company profile/brochure can also be attached but not copied and pasted below. **[500 words]:**

¹ The Name of Firm shall be the full legal name of the firm which would be used under any subsequent contract for this assignment. In case of JVs established or to be established for this assignment, identify the legal name of the Lead consulting firm. A Firm is defined in "Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB" (Procedures), January 2021.

² In case of JVs, specify the country of registration of the Lead consultant. The lead consultancy firm must submit a copy of the Certificate of Registration / Incorporation of itself and of each JV member and SC through section VI. EOI Attachments.

B. Associations (Joint Venture³ partner(s) or Sub-consultancy firm(s) in association with the Lead Firm)

Name of Firm	Country of Registration	Joint Venture (JV) or Sub-consultant (SC)	Name of Authorised Representative EOI Submitted by	Position of Authorised Representative
		Choose an item.		
		Choose an item.		
		Choose an item.		
		Choose an item.		

C. Brief Background of JV partner(s) or SC firm(s)

Present a brief background of each of the JV partner(s) or SC firm(s) and list the services provided by the firm(s) relevant to the assignment by each entity. Include the date of establishment of the JV and major relevant highlights similar to this assignment. A company profile/brochure of each entity⁴ can be attached (Section VI. EOI Attachments.) ***(Maximum 1,000 words for each entity)***

(Note to Firm: Please insert additional text boxes as necessary for each entity)

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

⁴ Entity refers to the consulting firm and/or the affiliated parties under the partnership arrangement.

D. Summary of Rationale for the Structure of the Consultants Expressing Interest

Present the rationale for and benefits of working in association (JV or SC) with others rather than undertaking the assignment independently (as appropriate). Describe the proposed management and coordination approach between the firms and the anticipated role of each. **(Maximum [500 words]: 500 words for each entity):**

We confirm that: (please check)

- Documentation regarding our corporate structure including beneficial ownership has been attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments.
- Documentation regarding our Board of Directors or equivalent has been attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments.
- A written agreement to associate for the purpose of this Expression of Interest or a letter of intent to enter into such agreement to perform the assignment if successful has been signed between the JV partners and has been attached (if applicable).
- The lead consulting firm and JV partners, if any, are not sole proprietorships.⁵
- If our team is shortlisted and invited to submit a Proposal, we understand it is not permissible to transfer the invitation to any other Firm, such as a parent company, subsidiaries, and affiliates⁶.
- We understand that the Recipient/Client⁷ has the right to reject a Proposal if the Consultant removes or changes a JV member without the Client's prior consent.

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

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

⁷ "Recipient" refers here to the entity which signed the Financing Agreement with CDB who may be represented by an implementing or executing agency, and which may also be called the "Client".

II. Assignment Specific Qualifications and Experience of Lead Firm or JV Partners.⁸

Please provide relevant project information in the Sections below.

A. Project References

Please select the most recent and relevant projects to demonstrate the entity’s technical qualifications, technical experience, and geographical experience [**minimum two (2) projects within the last ten (10) years**].

i. Project Summary

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

ii. Project Details

PN 1	
Project Title	
Country/Region	

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

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

¹⁰ List name of each entity as it applies to the details of experience such as the name of the Lead Consulting Firm, JV partner, etc.

Start Date	
Completion Date	
Continuous/Intermittent	
Contracting Party	
Lead Firm	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate name of the Lead Consulting Firm/JV partner)</i>
Firm (if not Lead Firm and JV Partner)	
Role within contract (if not Lead Firm)	
Funding Source	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate, for example, whether from MDB, Private Sector, Public Sector, etc.)</i>
Value of Contract in USD	
Value of Services provided in USD	
Description	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate your role, for example, whether Consulting Firm, JV partner or sub-contractor and inputs in person-months and describe the types of activities undertaken)</i>
Point of Contact of Contracting Party ¹¹	Name: Contact Number: E-mail address:

PN 2	
Project Title	

¹¹ Procuring Entity reserves the right to contact the Contracting Party to ascertain information included in the EOI.

Country/Region	
Start Date	
Completion Date	
Continuous/Intermittent	
Contracting Party	
Entity	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate name of the Lead Consulting Firm/JV partner)</i>
Funding Source	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate, for example, whether from MDB, Private Sector, Public Sector, etc.)</i>
Value of Contract in USD	
Value of Services provided by the entity in USD	
Description	<i>(Note to Firm: indicate your key position role, for example, whether Consulting Firm, JV partner or sub-contractor and inputs in person-months and describe the types of activities undertaken)</i>
Point of Contact of Contracting Party	Name: Contact Number: E-mail address:

(Note to Firm: Please insert additional Project Details tables as necessary with their corresponding PN reference numbers against the Project Summary table.)

B. Financial Capability

i. Financial Documents

The (lead) firm and its parties shall provide copies of financial statements of the (lead) firm and JV partners, where applicable, within the last 5 years during the period **years 2021 to 2025** (including turnover from consulting services and other activities, profit & loss, current asset & liability, and fixed asset & liability) to demonstrate that they have the necessary financial capacity to undertake the assignment. The financial statements shall:

- (a) reflect the financial situation of the (lead) firm or in case of JV member, and not an affiliated entity (such as parent company or group member).
- (b) be independently audited¹² or certified in accordance with local legislation.
- (c) be complete, including all notes to the financial statements.
- (d) correspond to accounting periods already completed and audited.

(Please check)

Attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments are copies of financial statements¹³ 5 years required above; and complying with the requirements.

ii. Financial data

Table 1 below should be completed to reflect the data provided in the financial statements.

Table 1

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

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

¹³ If the most recent set of financial statements is for a period earlier than 12 months from the date of Application, the reason for this should be justified.

¹⁴ If the currency is not in USD, use the prevailing exchange rate at the time of this EOI submission.

(NW)					
Current Assets (CA)					
Current Liabilities (CL)					
Working Capital (WC)					
Information from Income Statement					
Total Revenue (TR)					
Profits Before Taxes (PBT)					
Cash Flow Information					
Cash Flow from Operating Activities					

III. Brief Comments on Terms of Reference (maximum of 500 words)

IV. Organisational Structure and Staffing of entity with experience related directly to the type of assignment.

Provide details in the table below of the human resources available (key and non-key experts) to execute the type of assignment in question (if required). An organogram / organisational chart can be attached in Section VI. EOI Attachments.

1	2		3	4	5	6
No.	Category of Specialisation of Expertise and Skillset ¹⁵	General number of this resource available	Minimum required degree level	Minimum years of experience	Total number of resources who meet the requirements	Comments/ Further information , if any
N.B.		<i>Note to Firm: complete this section, e.g., total number of Civil Engineers available.</i>			<i>Note to Firm: complete this section, e.g., total number of Civil Engineers available with at least 10 years of experience</i>	<i>Note to Firm: complete this section, if any</i>
1	Solid + Liquid Waste Management Specialist	<i>[5 persons]</i>	Post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Environmental Engineering, Civil Engineering, or Waste Management.	A minimum of 15 years' experience in solid waste management projects, including integrated system assessments, feasibility studies, and strategy development.	<i>[3 persons]</i>	
2	Social Safeguards Specialist		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Social Development.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in social impact assessments for infrastructure projects, including experience in at least one solid waste infrastructure project.		

¹⁵ Listed individual experts will not be evaluated at this EOI stage but rather the human resources available collectively within the entity.

3	Environmental and Climate Change Specialist		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Environmental Science, Climate Science, Environmental Management, Engineering.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in conducting environmental assessments for infrastructure projects, including experience in at least one solid waste infrastructure project.		
4	Financial and Economic Analyst		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Economics, Finance, or Business Administration.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in financial and economic analysis of infrastructure or environmental projects.		
5	Civil / Environmental Engineer		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering.	A minimum of 10 years' experience in engineering design, including the design of solid waste facilities such as sanitary landfills, transfer stations, recycling centres, and composting plants.		
6	Policy and Institutional Specialist		A post-graduate degree or equivalent professional certification with demonstrated experience in Public Policy, Environmental Law, or Institutional Development	A minimum of 10 years' experience in reviewing and reforming policies, legislation, and institutional frameworks related to environmental management.		
7	Non-key Experts:					

Procurement and Contract Specialist					
Capacity Development and Training Specialist					
Community Engagement Specialist					
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist					
Mechanical Engineer (Plant and Equipment Advisory)					
Disaster Management Specialist					
		Post-graduate degree in any relevant discipline related to the assigned role		Minimum 5-10 years of relevant professional experience in infrastructure, environmental, or public sector projects. Experience relevant to the specific functional area.	

(Note to Firm: Please insert and modify rows and columns as necessary)

V. List of existing commitments

Provide a list of existing active commitments of projects being undertaken, if any.

Commitment Contract Title	Value of Contract (USD)	Value of Work remaining to be completed by Entity (USD)	Start Date	End Date (Estimated)

(Note to Firm: Please insert additional rows as necessary)

VI. EOI Attachments

No.	Description
1	Certificate of Registration or Incorporation of the Lead Member
2	Certificate of Registration or Incorporation of the JV member (for each member)
3	Documentation regarding Corporate Structure including beneficial ownership for each member of the Association
4	JV Agreement Letter of Intent to enter a JV Agreement (where relevant)
5	Documentation regarding the firm's (JV partners, as applicable,) Board of Directors
6	Financial Statements
7	Signed Governance and Eligibility Declaration on letterhead of consultant
8	Litigation & Arbitration Disclosure Statement

(Note to Firm: Please insert additional rows as necessary)

[Note to Firm: Insert Letterhead of (lead) Entity]

VII. Governance and Eligibility¹⁶ Declaration

We [insert name of the consulting firm or joint partners], represented by the undersigned, certify to the best of our knowledge and belief that: *(please check all boxes that apply)*

- Understanding: We have read the Request for Expressions of Interest, including the draft terms of reference (TOR), for this assignment.
 - 1. Governance:**
- No Conflicts of Interest: Neither the consulting firm nor its JV member or SC or any of its experts prepared the TOR for this activity and have no conflict of interest in accordance with the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021) Section 5 specifically Paragraphs 5.17 Conflict of Interest.
- No Conflicts of Interest: None of the members of our entity are subsidiaries of and/or dependent on the Client, Executing Agency or the Implementing Agency or individuals related to them and do not have an unfair competitive advantage in accordance with the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021) Section 5 specifically Paragraphs 5.18 – 5.20 Unfair Competition.
- Suspension and Debarment: We, the lead entity and JV member or SC along with any of our subcontractors, suppliers, consultants, manufacturers, or service providers for any part of the proposed services, are not subject to, and not controlled by any entity or individual that is subject to a temporary suspension or a debarment imposed by CDB or subject to a public debarment by an MDB which is a signatory to the Agreement on Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions. Further, we are not ineligible under the Employer's country laws or official regulations or pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council. Neither the consulting firm nor the JV member or SC has ever been convicted of an integrity-related offense or crime related to corruption, fraud, collusion, coercion, or obstruction.
- Suspension and Debarment: We understand that it is our obligation to notify CDB should any member of the entity become ineligible to work with CDB or other MDBs, in the context described in the above point, or be convicted of an integrity-related offense or crime as described above and in accordance with the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021) Section 5 specifically Paragraphs 5.25-5.27 Prohibited Practices.

¹⁶ Eligibility refers to the details as set out in Section 4 of CDB's Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021) or former versions of the CDB's Procurement Procedures and any such waivers by CDB, as relevant.

- No Misrepresentations: We understand that any misrepresentations that knowingly or recklessly mislead or attempt to mislead, may result in the automatic rejection of the proposal or cancellation of the contract, if awarded, and further remedial action, in accordance with CDB's Prohibited Practices and Other Integrity Related Matters Framework, may be pursued.

2. Eligibility:

- Eligibility: All consulting entities proposed in this EOI are eligible to participate in CDB-funded, -supported and -administered` activities in accordance with Section 4 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021).
- Experience Declaration: We confirm that the project references submitted as part of this EOI accurately reflect the experience and involvement of the specified entity.
- Agreement of Association: JV member(s) named in this EOI, authorised us in writing to represent them in expressing interest in this activity as detailed and attached in the Letter of Agreement / Intent to enter into a JV Agreement.
- Agreement of Association: Sub-consultant(s) named in this EOI, confirmed their interest in this activity in writing by way of signing a document indicating their willingness and availability to participate in the assignment.
- State-owned Enterprise or Institution: We are not a state-owned enterprise or institution.
OR
- State-owned Enterprise or Institution: We are a state-owned enterprise or institution but are legally and financially autonomous¹⁷ and operate under commercial law¹⁸.

Signature:

Authorised Representative

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

¹⁷ "Legally autonomous" means a legal entity separate from the eligible country's government. "Financially autonomous" means not receiving budget support from any public entity, and not being obliged to pass financial surplus to the same, except through dividends to shareholder.

¹⁸ Being vested with legal rights and liabilities similar to any commercial enterprise, including, being incorporated or established by statutory charter under local law; having the right: (i) to enter into legally binding contracts; (ii) to sue; (iii) to be sued; and (iv) to borrow money, being liable for the repayment of debts and being able to be declared bankrupt.

Dominica's geothermal plant begins power export as commissioning enters final phase



Dominica's long-anticipated geothermal energy project has reached a major milestone, with the Dominica Electricity Services Limited (DOMLEC) confirming that the facility has begun exporting power to the national grid as commissioning advances.

In a statement issued on March 30, 2026, DOMLEC reported that key components of the new 33kV transmission system—including equipment at Fond Colé and Laudat, as well as the underground line linking both sites—have been successfully tested and energised. The geothermal generators were first started and loaded in early March using an existing section of the company's network.

According to the utility, geothermal power will now be transmitted through the new system as part of ongoing testing. However, DOMLEC cautioned that generation will not be continuous during this phase, and customers may experience unplanned outages as engineers complete final checks on new-

ly installed equipment. The company thanked the public for its patience, noting that the work is essential to ensuring the safe and reliable integration of geothermal energy into the grid.

The update comes as Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced that the Laudat plant remains on track to be formally commissioned by the end of March. Speaking at a press conference, he said the facility has been undergoing several weeks of testing and is "operational in all aspects." He added that reports so far indicate successful performance and that the government looks forward to citizens benefiting from the investment.

The 10-megawatt plant, valued at US\$34.8 million, will be the second geothermal facility in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the first within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). By tapping Dominica's volcanic resources, the project is expected to supply clean, stable energy to approximately

23,000 homes and significantly reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, according to the Dominica Geothermal Development Company.

The commissioning of the Laudat plant is also positioned as an early achievement under the OECS Decade of Action for Sustainable Energy Development. Launched in February with the Basseterre Declaration, the initiative aims for at least 30 percent renewable electricity generation across the region by 2035. Dominica is one of five OECS Member States participating in the GEOBUILD Programme, supported by the Caribbean Development Bank, which seeks to expand geothermal development in the Eastern Caribbean.

DOMLEC said it remains committed to keeping the public informed as the project moves toward full operation and to delivering a more resilient and sustainable energy system for the country. (Dominica News Online)

NCB Foundation grants \$11.1m in support to 45 J'cans in need



For Bridgette Small, the simple act of leaving her bed had been out of reach for far too long.

Paralysed by illness and without a functioning wheelchair, she had missed school moments with her child and the rhythms of everyday life.

Small was one of 45 Jamaicans who received support through NCB Foundation's Grant a Wish programme at a recent handover ceremony at The Atrium in Kingston.

"I developed a condition that left me paralysed and wheelchair-bound," Small said, her voice steady but emotional. "Due to financial difficulties, I could not repair my current wheelchair. One side of it is damaged; the brakes are not working; the wheels keep falling off, and so I submitted my wish."

The initiative delivered approximately \$11.1 million in direct support this year, addressing needs ranging from shelter and urgent medical care to ed-

ucation and income-generating opportunities.

Also among the beneficiaries was Clinton Christie, a 72-year-old widower and former tradesman, now seeking to transition from physically demanding plumbing work to small-scale poultry farming.

With support to build a chicken coop, he is now positioned to pursue a more sustainable source of income, while continuing to support his family, including his youngest daughter, who is currently at university.

"I have myself, my two grandchildren, and my last daughter to finish university, and so I would like to start something that can help me contribute to our success," Christie shared.

Chair of NCB Foundation Thalia Lyn said the programme's strength lies in its ability to respond at the right moment with meaningful, practical support.

"Real impact is personal," Lyn said. "Grant a Wish is about meeting people where they are at critical turning points in their lives and stepping in with support that helps them move forward. It is not about handouts, but about giving people a hand when it matters most."

Launched in December 2025 in western Jamaica, following the impact of Hurricane Melissa, the programme invited Jamaicans to share their needs through an on-site wishing wall, revealing both disaster-related challenges and everyday hardships.

In January, two families in St Elizabeth who lost their homes during Hurricane Melissa began their recovery, with new houses rebuilt in partnership with Food For The Poor Jamaica.

Over the years, Grant a Wish has become a defining part of N.C.B. Foundation's community investment approach, delivering direct, targeted support to individuals and families across the island. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

Vincy Mas preps for early launch with ‘the great escape’ concept



The Carnival Development Corporation (CDC) is gearing up for an early launch of Vincy Mas, aiming to blend nostalgia with the future of the festival.

According to CDC CEO Rodney Small, the media launch, themed “The Great Escape,” is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, just after the Easter holiday.

This event aims to position St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a premier tourism product, offering visitors a stress-free escape through the freedom of carnival.

Following the media launch, the official carnival launch, dubbed “One Road,” will take place three days later on the tarmac. This year’s festival will lean heavily on a “Then, Now, Next” concept to create a strong emotional attachment for attendees.

Organizers plan to evoke nostalgia

by celebrating the musical era from 2000 to 2020, while also embracing current trends and looking ahead to the festival’s future in 2026 and beyond.

Small is also sounding the alarm over the decline of live stage shows in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, urging promoters to help revive this crucial aspect of the culture.

Hel expressed concern that the local entertainment landscape has shifted heavily toward DJ-led events and Sunday brunches, making it increasingly difficult for promoters to successfully host live band performances.

Small noted a stark contrast with other regional festivals, such as in Trinidad and Grenada, where massive stage shows remain the “main course” of the carnival experience while other events act as appetizers.

Locally, there has been an unfortunate cultural shift where some audi-

ences now view stage shows as boring, occasionally even booing live bands off the stage.

To combat this trend, the CDC is looking into future incentives to encourage private promoters to host more stage shows, which would ensure that local artists have platforms to perform and earn outside of CDC-run competitions.

Addressing the recent regional criticism of St. Vincent’s heavily debated “bush music,” Small defended the genre’s uniqueness but acknowledged the need for better quality control if artists want to compete for major international awards.

Small emphasized that artists must learn to network, properly negotiate their contracts, and avoid the mindset of just wanting to “eat a food” without long-term career planning.

(St Vincent Times)

Meta, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube aren't fully complying with child account ban, Australia says

Australia's online safety watchdog said Tuesday it was considering court action against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube alleging they are not doing enough to keep Australian children younger than 16 off their platforms.

Experts say the Australian courts could decide what steps the platforms can reasonably be expected to take under the laws that took effect on December 10 banning young children from holding accounts.

Julie Inman Grant, who is Australia's eSafety Commissioner, on Tuesday released her first compliance report since those laws took effect demanding 10 platforms remove all Australian account-holders younger than 16.

While 5 million Australian accounts had been deactivated, a substantial number of Australian children continued to retain accounts, create new accounts and pass platforms' age assurance systems, the report said.

Inman Grant said in a statement her office had "significant concerns about the compliance" of half of those 10 platforms. Her office was gathering evidence against the five that they had not taken "reasonable steps" to prevent young children holding accounts.

Courts could order fines of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (\$33 million) for systemic failures to comply. eSafety would decide on whether to initiate court action against any platform by midyear.

Age-restricted platforms that aren't under investigation are Reddit, X, Kick, Threads and Twitch.



Communications Minister Anika Wells said the five criticized platforms were deliberately not complying with Australian law.

"Social media platforms are choosing to do the absolute bare minimum because they want these laws to fail," Wells told reporters.

"This is the world-leading law. We're the first in the world to do it. Of course they don't want these laws to work because they want that to be a chilling effect on the dozen countries that have come out since Dec. 10 to follow Australia's step," she added.

eSafety had identified "poor practices" such as platforms allowing unlimited attempts for a user to pass their age assurance methods and prompting the user to try to pass the age assurance method even after they declared themselves underage.

Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, told The Associated Press it was committed to complying with Australia's social media ban. "We've also been clear that accurately determining age online is a challenge for the whole industry," the statement said.

Snap Inc., the parent company of Snapchat, said it has locked 450,000 accounts in compliance with the law and continued to lock more every day.

"Snapchat remains fully committed to implementing reasonable steps under the legislation and supporting its underlying goal of improving online safety for young Australians," a Snap statement said.

TikTok declined to comment on Tuesday and Alphabet Inc., which owns YouTube and Google, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. (AP)




 Open Daily -
 7:00am - 11:30pm


 SENIOR HOGGS
 TEQUILA BAR

- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🎸 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

268 736 7165

Supreme Court weighs Trump's contentious attempt to limit birthright citizenship

Tackling one of President Donald Trump's most provocative policies, the Supreme Court on Wednesday considers the lawfulness of his proposal to limit the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship for anyone born on U.S. soil.

Announced on the first day of Trump's second term in office as part of his hard-line immigration policy, the executive order at issue would limit birthright citizenship to people who have at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.

As a result, babies born to temporary visitors who entered the country legally or to people who entered illegally would not be citizens at birth. Trump is attending the oral argument in person, a first for a sitting president.

His executive order upends the traditional understanding of a provision of the Constitution's 14th Amendment known as the citizenship clause.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States," the clause states.

The clause, ratified with the amendment after the Civil War to provide equal rights to formerly enslaved Black people, has long been assumed by officials at all levels of the government to apply to almost anyone born in the United States, regardless of the legal status of their parents.

The few exceptions understood at the time included children born to diplomats and foreign invaders.



Trump's executive order was immediately blocked by courts around the country and has never been in effect. Most legal experts predict he faces an uphill battle to win the case.

The plan, if it were implemented, would affect thousands of babies born every year across the U.S.

One woman, who asked not to be identified to protect her family, was heavily pregnant last year when she heard about the executive order. Originally from Argentina, she now lives in Florida on a student visa and was immediately alarmed about what legal status her child would have.

"My baby was actually going to be one of the first ones impacted. I immediately went into panic mode," she said in an interview.

Determined to make sure her now-8-month-old son's citizenship was secured, she started making arrangements to apply for a passport for him before he was even born. Although her son now has his passport, she said she is deeply sympathetic to other families expecting babies who remain unsure what will

happen.

"I know there's probably a lot of different families and moms, pregnant moms, in my situation that are probably stressed," she said.

The administration's legal argument focuses on the "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" language in the citizenship clause, saying it has a much broader meaning than hitherto believed.

Solicitor General D. John Sauer argued in court papers that the citizenship clause was intended to apply primarily to the children of free slaves. People must be under the direct "political jurisdiction" of the U.S. and not have any allegiance to another country, he wrote.

He cited, among other things, the 1884 Supreme Court ruling in a case called *Elk v. Wilkins* that spelled out why Native Americans did not, at the time, have birthright citizenship. That case "squarely rejected the premise that anyone born in U.S. territory, no matter the circumstances, is automatically a citizen so long as the federal government can regulate them," Sauer wrote.

Experts on Native Ameri-

can law have questioned the government's reliance on that case, telling NBC News it was limited specifically to the unique status of tribes under U.S. law.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which is leading the legal challenge to Trump's executive order, responded in its brief that the text of the 14th Amendment is largely self-explanatory, as are the history and tradition of how it has been interpreted.

The group's lawyers also point to an 1898 Supreme Court ruling called *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, which concluded that a man born in San Francisco to parents who were both from China was a U.S. citizen.

In addition to probing the language of the 14th Amendment, the justices may also examine whether the executive order falls afoul of a federal immigration law that uses similar language, including "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." The court could rule that the executive order is unlawful under that law without having to decide the 14th Amendment question and put the onus on Congress to act.

The Supreme Court has a 6-3 conservative majority, which repeatedly ruled in Trump's favor last year. But the court handed him a major defeat in February when it ruled that his broad use of tariffs was unlawful.

Trump responded to that ruling with harsh criticism of the justices who voted against him in the 6-3 decision, calling them "disloyal to the Constitution." (NBC)

Families cram into Greek court for trial into deadliest train crash

Relatives of the 57 people who died in Greece's worst ever train disaster crowded into a courtroom on Wednesday, demanding justice for the victims. The trial had already been postponed once because of the chaotic start last week.

Most of the victims of the crash three years ago were students, killed when their intercity service from Athens to Thessaloniki smashed head-on into a goods train on the same line near Tempi in the centre of the country.

Some of the victims are thought to have burnt to death after surviving the initial collision.

Many relatives were unable to get into the courtroom in the central town of Larisa last week, and the situation was little different when it resumed on Wednesday.

Police officers allowed in only participants who were legally scheduled to attend.

Some relatives complained that two rows of seats had been taken up by police, while others said they still could not witness proceedings clearly enough.

Defence lawyer Zoe Konstantopoulou appealed for the proceedings to be filmed as access for families had been restricted.

The February 2023 disaster is widely known in Greece as the "Tempi crime" - with many arguing it encapsulates negligence and corruption at the heart of the state.

Thirty-six people are on trial in a case that is expected to hear from 350 witnesses and set to last years.

Among those killed was 20-year-old Anastasia Plakias, a student at the University of Thessaloniki.

She, like so many other victims, was travelling back to lectures in the northern city after spending a public holiday with her family.

In the weeks after the crash, her grieving father Dimitris told the BBC he would always be proud of his daughter



who "only had love to give".

He said: "We relatives call it a state assassination of our children, and all the people who were aboard that train... in which European country could this be possible?"

Anastasia had been travelling with her 20-year-old twin cousins, Thomi and Chrysa, who were also killed.

Thirty-three of the defendants face up to life in prison if convicted.

Among those in the dock is a station master who failed - along with everyone else - to spot that the two trains had been travelling towards each other on the same line for 10 minutes.

Other railway officials are also on trial along with two Italian former employees of the trains' parent company, Ferrovie dello Stato.

The Tempi disaster provoked widespread anger and protest across Greece. The railway network had not made use of EU funding intended to improve safety. The head of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, Laura Kovesi, later said the collision could have been avoided if the money had been spent on modernising the signalling system in time.

Trade unions in Greece had warned that some sort of catastrophe on the railway network was waiting to happen.

To the amazement of some, the crash site was bulldozed within days, which experts say destroyed potentially crucial evidence.

This fuelled claims of a cover-up, which authorities have denied.

Despite the public outcry, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was re-elected soon after the disaster and has survived two related no-confidence votes in parliament.

Mitsotakis apologised to the families of the victims in the days after the crash and has asked repeatedly for public patience so that justice can take its course.

To the frustration of many campaigners, no politician is among those on trial.

The case is taking place in a remodelled conference hall that cost hundreds of thousands of euros and Mitsotakis has said it is "among the most functional and modern in Europe".

More than 60,000 pages on evidence is to be presented and 200 lawyers are involved in the case, but proceedings descended into chaos on 23 March when the courtroom became overcrowded.

Survivors of the disaster and family members of the deceased were forced to sit in the seats of the accused, most of whom were absent.

Lawyers argued health and safety regulations were being violated.

Maria Karystianou, who lost her 19-year-old daughter Marthi, said relatives had been "packed like sardines" and the spectacle was "an absolute disgrace". (BBC)

GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PREPARATION PROJECT

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY, DETAILED DESIGN, AND INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – FIRMS

The **Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB)** has applied for financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of the **Integrated Solid Waste Management Preparation Project** and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of the GOAB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOAB shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is the Executing Agency of this Project and now wishes to procure consultancy services for a feasibility study, detailed design and integrated solid waste management strategy for Antigua and Barbuda.

The objective of the consultancy is to strengthen solid waste management in Antigua and Barbuda. Further details can be found in the attached Terms of Reference (TOR). The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of approximately fifty-two (52) weeks. The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) now invites interested eligible consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the provision of these consultancy services.

Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organised in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50 per cent beneficially owned by citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;
- (b) in the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- (c) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.¹ Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria de-

¹ *Occasionally contracts may be financed out of special programmes that would further expand the number of eligible countries or restrict eligibility to a particular group of member countries. When this is the case, it should be mentioned in this paragraph.*

tailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January 2021), as applicable and as published on CDB’s website.

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to technical competence, qualifications and experience, local and regional experience on similar assignments, financial capability, and existing commitments. Key Experts will **not** be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Interested consultant teams are required to submit their Expression of Interest using the “EOI Consulting Firms template”² attached to this REOI or downloaded from the Specific Procurement Notice on CDB’s website.

All information must be submitted in **English**. Further information may be obtained from the **first address** below between 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. AST hours Monday to Friday.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted electronically to the email address under **Address 1** below, no later than **06 April 2026 at 4:00 p.m. AST** and copied simultaneously to CDB at the email under **Address 2** below. The submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked “**Expression of Interest – Consultancy Services for a feasibility study, detailed design and integrated solid waste management strategy for Antigua and Barbuda**”.

Following the assessment of submissions, a short-list of not less than three and not more than six applicants will be provided with full terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals to undertake the assignment. GOAB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not selecting any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

<p>(1) National Solid Waste Management Authority Sir George Walter Hwy, Piggotts St. George’s, Antigua Tel: +1 (268) 562-1348 Email: finance.pmu@ab.gov.ag</p>	<p>(2) Caribbean Development Bank Tel: +1 (246) 539-1600 Email: procurement@caribank.org</p>
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2 *When drafting the REOI and the TOR, the Client should also prepare an Expression of Interest Submission Template. The latter should be tailored by the Recipient to the specifics of the assignment in question and can be downloaded from CDB’s website at: 20230626_CDB EOI Consulting Firms-template v1.docx (live.com) It will be included as an attachment to this REOI. For REOIs advertised in newspapers locally or nationally, the EOI submission template may be requested by the interested consulting firms directly from the Recipient, and wording in this REOI shall be modified accordingly.*

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Canadian teams continue to dominate Gillian Brazier Basketball Tournament

The three Canadian teams, defending champions Stingers, Canucks, and Maple Marauders, continue to stamp their authority at the 20th Gillian Brazier Basketball Tournament on Tuesday.

They brought intensity, standout performances, and thrilling moments as teams returned to the court at the JSC Sports Complex on the second day of the March 30 to April 4 tournament.

The Maple Marauders delivered a commanding 63-8 victory against the Cyclones of Antigua in the opening game.

Chelsea Hemeon led the charge with a well-rounded performance, recording 14 points and three steals. Alongside Ceciky Ward-Roberts, the pair anchored a dominant defense effort that effectively shut down the Cyclones' offense, including limiting their top

scorer, Lena Mills.

Despite the loss, Mary-Jane Grant and Palmaria Pestaina battled hard on the boards, each collecting five rebounds for the Cyclones.

The second game of the night proved to be the most competitive, as the Canucks pulled off a 55-45 victory against the Dover Tigers of Barbados.

In an impressive comeback effort, the Canucks pulled away late to secure their 10-point victory. Reece Burleigh continued her strong tournament performance, leading the Canucks with 13 points.

Ahriann Fields energized the crowd with her electrifying play, finishing with four steals for the Tigers.

In the final match-up, the defending champions, Stingers, cruised to a commanding 68-28 victory against the Wings Mystics of Antigua.

Naomi Stanley and Hailey Fennema led the Stingers with 14 points apiece, showcasing their offensive strength.

The Wings Mystics put up a determined fight, high-lighted by Jodaliah Constant's perfectly 5-for-5 performance from the free throw line.

Adding to the evening's atmosphere, the Hellsgate Steel Orchestra delivered a vibrant and memorable performance between games, energizing the crowd and celebrating local culture.

The tournament will continue with three more matches at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday.

The Stingers will tackle the Canucks at 5:45 pm, the Dover Tigers will meet the Maple Marauders at 7 pm, and the Wings Mystics will take on the Cyclones in an all-Antiguan showdown at 8:30 pm.



The Maple Marauders basketball team of Canada

Sports News

Antiguans to depart for 2026 CARIFTA Games in Grenada

A 15-member team will leave Antigua and Barbuda today (Thursday) to represent the twin-island state at the 53rd CARIFTA (Track and Field) Games in Grenada over the Easter Holidays.

The 2026 CARIFTA Games will take place at the Kirani James Athletics Stadium in St. George's from April 4 to 6.

Three athletes will compete in the Under-17 Girls Division. Zonique Charles will contest the Javelin, Jaeda Pigott will run in the 800 meters, and Tyra Fenton will compete in the 200 and 400-meter races.

Six athletes will battle for supremacy in the Under-17 Boys category. Naeem Simon will contest the high jump, Geron Henry will compete in the 200 and 400-meter races as well as the 4x400-meter relay, while Lion Samuel will compete in the 800-meter race and the 4x400-meter relay.

Shaquan Garding will participate in the 400-meter race and the 4x400-meter relay, Shawn'zee Joseph will compete in the 1,500 and 3,000-meter races as well as the 4x400-meter relay, and Elite Thomas will contest the 1,500 and 3,000-meter races.

Kettia Ambrose, who is enrolled at



Tyra Fenton

St. John's University in the USA, will run in the 200 and 400-meter races in the Under-20 Girls' Division.

The other five athletes will compete in the Under-20 Boys division. Maliek Francis will contest the Javelin, Conroy Wilson will run in the 100-meter race and the 4x100-meter relay, while Delbert Joseph will compete in the 100 and 200-meter races as well as the 4x100-meter relay.

Judah Ashe will contest the 200-meter race and the 4x100-meter relay,



Maliek Francis

and Nathaniel Jones will contest the 4x100-meter relay.

The athletes are being accompanied by a six-member management team, comprising Manager Everton Cornelius; Head Coach Jamille Nelson; Assistant Coach Heather Samuel-Daley; Assistant Coach Evans Jawakie Jones; Physiotherapist William Richards; and Safeguarding Officer Anika Jno-Baptiste.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent is slated to home on Tuesday, April 7.



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Sports News



Jamaica Kingsmen join Caribbean Premier League



The recently renamed Jamaica Kingsmen will compete in the 2026 CPL.

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica’s returning Caribbean Premier League (CPL) franchise has been officially re-named the Jamaica Kingsmen.

The name was unveiled at a press conference on Tuesday at the Jamaica Pegasus in Kingston, marking Jamaica’s return to the regional T20 tournament after a two-year absence.

While the new ownership group, Kingsmen Sports Enterprise, considered keeping the previous Jamaica Tallawahs name, a decision was subsequently taken to rename the franchise.

Owner Fawad Sarwar says the Kingsmen name was the best choice and was endorsed by both the CPL and government.

The men’s tournament is set to begin in August, with the Jamaica Observer reporting that Sabina Park will host four games. The last time games were held in Jamaica was in 2019.

Previous owner Kris Persaud sold the franchise back to the CPL, citing financial challenges due to a lack of support from the government.

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DR Congo beat Jamaica to qualify for World Cup

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, (Reuters) - Former England under-21 international Axel Tuanzebe basked in the adulation of one of Africa's largest nations on Tuesday after his goal in extra time against Jamaica put the Democratic Republic of Congo into the World Cup.

The centre back kned the ball home in their inter-confederation playoff final to book a first World Cup place for the Congolese since they appeared at the 1974 tournament when the country was still known as Zaire.

"To get the winning goal for the country, this is what, as a young boy, you dream about," said Tuanzebe. "It's happened for me, and I'm so very happy. I'm so proud of what I

could do for my country."

Tuanzebe is Congolese-born but moved with his family to Britain as a five-year-old. He joined Manchester United aged eight and was included in the first-team squad when only 17.

A member of England's junior sides, he was released by Manchester United in 2023 and went to Ipswich Town in the Championship.

Congo, who will play in Group K at the finals with Colombia, Portugal and Uzbekistan, made overtures for him to play at the Africa Cup of Nations in early 2024 but he only switched allegiance at the start of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

"My dad has been with me all the

way and is here," said Tuanzebe, pointing at the stands at the Estadio Guadalajara. "My brother too," added the defender, who moved to Burnley at the start of the season.

With a population of almost 110 million DR Congo is one of the continent's most populous countries, but the majority of its team is made up of players from an extensive diaspora across Europe, who coach Sebastien Desabre said had forged a tight group.

"I'm so happy for the Congolese people and these players. They have fought resiliently through these qualifiers," the French-born coach said.



DR Congo's Rocky Bushiri, front, and teammates celebrate at the end of the World Cup playoff final soccer match between DR Congo and Jamaica in Guadalajara, Mexico, Tuesday, March 31, 2026. (AP)

Grenades regain second spot in Premier Division



Players of the Jennings Grenades starting XI

The Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades regained second spot in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Tuesday.

The Grenades moved within nine points of leaders and back-to-back champions All Saints United by recording their 13th win in 16 matches with a 3-1 victory against Garden Stars FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Luis Labrada struck twice with conversions in the 43rd and 56th minutes, while teammate Barrington Blake scored the other goal for the Jennings Grenades. Gerique George scored a consolation goal in the 74th minute for Garden Stars FC.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to leapfrog Aston Villa Lions FC into second place by advancing to 41 points, while All Saints United currently leads the Premier Division with 50 points from 19 matches.

The Villa Lions slipped from second to third place with 39 points from 18

matches, while the Garden Stars remain in seventh place on goal difference with 22 points after suffering their seventh defeat in 19 matches.

Meanwhile, Five Islands have also regained the top spot in the race for title honours in the ABFA's First Division League.

Five Islands leapfrogged the Greenbay Hoppers into first place by recording their 12th win in 21 matches with an 8-0 drubbing of FC Master Ballers at Radio Range.

Jamal Joseph scored four goals, and Lazaro Suarez had a double-conversion for Five Islands.

The result allowed Five Islands to move one point ahead of the Greenbay Hoppers with 42 points, while FC Master Ballers remain in the cellar of the 14-team standings with nine points after losing for the 15th time in 20 matches.

The Greenbay Hoppers slipped from first to second place after dropping crucial points in a 1-1 draw with SAP

FC at Golden Grove.

Khimani Cox scored in the 31st minute to give the Greenbay Hoppers a one-nil lead at halftime, while Emerson Henry snatched the equalizer for SAP FC with a 73rd-minute conversion.

The result allows the Greenbay Hoppers to advance to 41 points after securing their second draw in 19 matches. SAP FC slipped from fifth to sixth place on goal difference with 36 points after salvaging their ninth draw in 20 matches.

The Swetes Vipers FC consolidated their third-place position despite dropping points in a goalless draw with Parham at Freemans Village.

The result allows the Swetes Vipers FC to advance to 39 points after claiming their sixth draw in 21 matches. Parham FC slipped from fourth to fifth place on goal difference with 36 points after salvaging their sixth draw in 20 matches.

The Freemans Village Scorpions jumped from sixth to fourth place by recording their 11th win in 19 matches with a 2-1 victory over Golden Grove FC at Freemans Village.

Shafeeq Joseph struck the winner for the Scorpions with a 47th-minute conversion. His teammate Roy Gregory scored the equalizer with a strike in the 32nd minute after Kevin Paul's 16th-minute conversion gave Golden Grove FC the lead.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to advance to 38 points, while Golden Grove FC remains in eighth place on goal difference with 27 points after losing for the ninth time in 20 matches.