

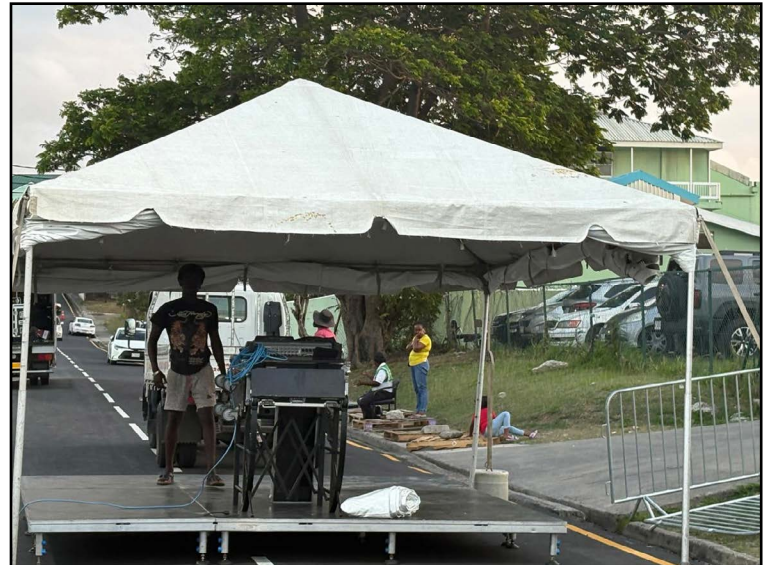
# Election Date Announcement Set For Tonight

Story on page 2



The stage, sound and all other arrangements are now in place for tonight's big announcement of the date for general elections

## Election Date Announcement Set For Tonight



The much-awaited date for general elections will be announced tonight at a major public rally planned for the headquarters of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, the People's Place.

Prime Minister and ABLP Political Leader, Gaston Browne, made it clear that following the dissolution of parliament last Wednesday (April 1) he will ask the Governor General to issue the Writ of Elections following the announcement of the election date tonight.

PM Browne is calling on his party supporters to turn out tonight in large number as it will mark the launch of the 'Big Red Machine' the ABLP's campaign machinery for what is expected to be a short electoral campaign.

Constitutionally, the election date can be a minimum of 21 days after the issuance of the Writ of Election. This means that the election is likely to be between April 28 and April 30, as the prime minister has indicated that the election would be in the month of April.

Meanwhile, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is buoyed by the results of the latest poll data even from

within the opposition United Progressive Party, which have indicated that the ABLP has a double-digit lead over the opposition as the party of

choice among the Antigua and Barbuda electorate.

For example, PM Browne revealed that an internal UPP poll, conduct-



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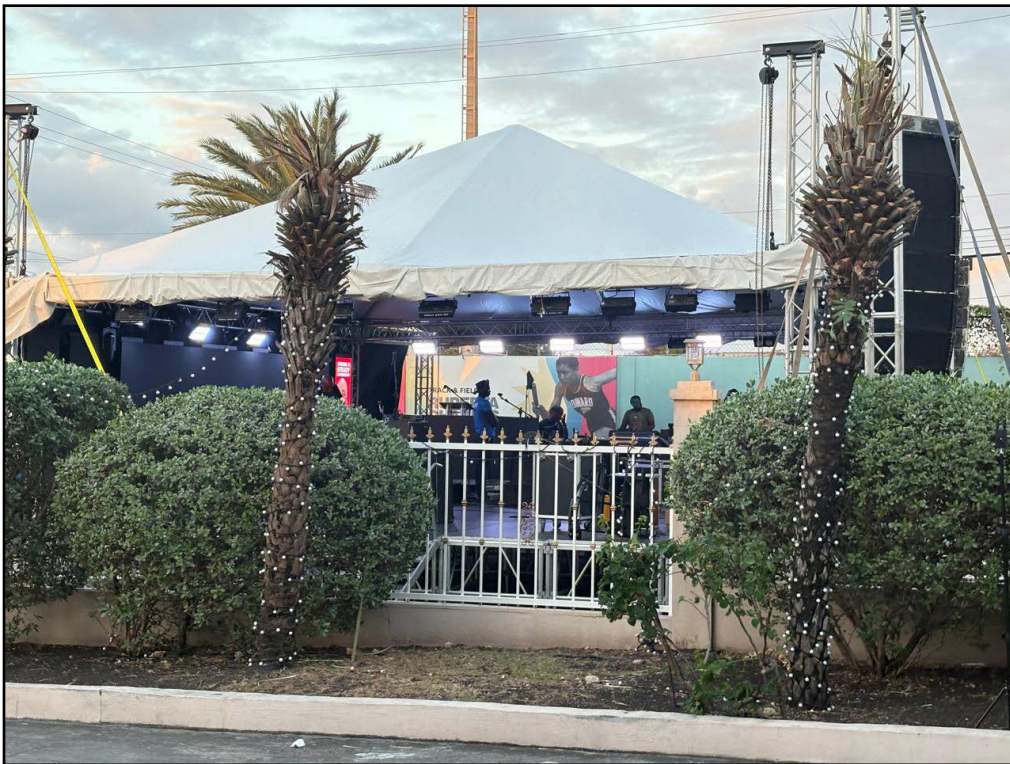
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ed by the reputable Jamaican pollster, Don Anderson, revealed that the ABLP had a solid support base of over 40 percent of the electorate. “The ABLP support base is rooted in

confidence, its track record, its policies and leadership,” the pollster found.

On the other hand, the UPP had a

committed support base of 20 percent with the remainder of the electorate non-committal or undecided.

“The poll found that those supporting the UPP did so out of a sense of loyalty to the party,” PM Browne reported from the information shared with him from within the UPP.

The pollster posed the question in the survey: why neither Jamale Pingle nor Harold Lovell was a good choice for leadership? The poll found that neither Pringle nor Harold Lovell found favour with the electorate as they were both perceived as being ‘ineffective’.

The further concretise the point, PM Browne provided the details of a Peter Wickham poll done last week in the St. John’s Rural East constituency showing that the ABLP candidate, Maria Browne, enjoying a sizeable lead over her UPP opponent, Ashworth Azille.

## Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

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



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



# Election Campaign Heats Up



Since last Wednesday's dissolution of parliament and the expected announcement of the date for general elections tonight (Tuesday April 7), there has been a flurry of activities over the past several days as the election campaign for both political parties heats up.

Teams from the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party have been busily engaged in mounting billboards in the various constituencies displaying the photographs of the candidates contesting the election in the particular constituency.

Additionally, candidates have been operationalizing their branch offices which will serve as the headquarters for the campaigns as part of the overall preparations. All candidates have so far 'hit-the-ground-running' and have been intensifying their campaigns as well as

seeking to complete infra-structural projects.

Although joining the campaign late following the retirement of Sir Molwyn Joseph, ABLP candidate for St. Mary's North, Dr. Philmore Benjamin is making a concerted effort both to meet the constituents on a personal basis as well as to undertake clean-ups and projects in the constituency.

The ABLP candidate for the St. John's Rural East, Maria Browne, has refurbished an old structure that previously served as the campaign office for the late, Sir Lester Bird, when he was the constituency representatives. The structure has been refurbished and expanded in what has been described as 'record' time to serve as both the branch office and a community centre.

The opposition United Progressive Party too has been doing its own elec-

tioning. Last Saturday, several of the candidates did a walk-through at the Public Market designed to woo members of the public to support their cause.

Meanwhile, the party's candidate for All Saints West constituency, Harold Lovell, has also acquired a structure in All Saints to establish his branch office.

Another sign that excitement is building for Tuesday night' launch of the ABLP campaign and the announcement of the election date, is that teams have been working since Sunday to erect the

stage and install the sound equipment for the rally taking place at Nugent Avenue immediately in front of the People's Place, the ABLP headquarters.

Some ABLP candidates, have already made announcements that transportation will be provided to bus supporters from the rural constituencies into St. John's for the big announcement.

The ABLP's campaign theme for 2026 general elections is; *The Renaissance: A new era of development.*

## Foreign Teams Will Observe Antigua and Barbuda General Elections



**Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne**

Antigua and Barbuda is inviting observer teams from at least three reputable organisations to monitor the upcoming general elections the date for which is expected to be announced tonight (Tuesday April 7).

This comes in an official release from

the Office of the Prime Minister which states that formal correspondence has been dispatched to key international and regional partners regarding the upcoming general elections in Antigua and Barbuda, following the dissolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 1 April 2026. “Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne has written to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), H.E. Ms. Carla Barnett; the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, H.E. Mr. Albert Ramdin; and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Hon Shirley Botchwey to formally notify them of the dissolution of Parliament and the Government’s intention to announce the date for general elections on Tuesday, 7 April 2026,” the release revealed.

In his letters, the release said the Prime Minister indicated that the Government

of Antigua and Barbuda would welcome the presence of Electoral Observation Missions from these organizations, should they wish to deploy such missions to observe the electoral process. The Government has also confirmed that all customary facilities and courtesies accorded to previous electoral observation teams will be extended to any missions deployed for the upcoming elections.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to the democratic process and to ensuring that the general elections are conducted in a free, fair, transparent, and credible manner, consistent with regional and international best practices.

Inviting international organizations to observe elections in Antigua and Barbuda has become a well-established practice dating back multiple electoral cycles.



**Office of the Prime Minister  
Government of Antigua and Barbuda**

5 April 2026

Hon Shirley Botchwey  
Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
Marlborough House  
London SW1  
United Kingdom

Dear Secretary-General,

I present my compliments and have the honour to inform you that the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda was dissolved on Wednesday, 1 April 2026.

It is my intention, on Tuesday, 7 April 2026, to announce the date for the holding of general elections to elect a new government.

In these circumstances, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda would welcome the presence of a Commonwealth Observer Group, should the Commonwealth Secretariat consider it appropriate to deploy one for this purpose.

All customary facilities and courtesies accorded to previous Commonwealth Observer Groups will be extended to any such Mission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



**Honourable Gaston A. Browne**  
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda



**Office of the Prime Minister  
Government of Antigua and Barbuda**

5 April 2026

H.E. Mr. Albert Ramdin  
Secretary General of the Organization of American States  
Organization of American States  
Washington, DC  
United States of America

Dear Secretary-General,

I present my compliments and have the honour to inform you that the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda was dissolved on Wednesday, 1 April 2026.

It is my intention, on Tuesday, 7 April 2026, to announce the date for the holding of general elections to elect a new government.

In these circumstances, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda would welcome the presence of an Electoral Observation Mission from the Organization of American States, should the General Secretariat consider it appropriate to deploy one for this purpose.

All customary facilities and courtesies accorded to previous Electoral Observation Missions of the Organization of American States will be extended.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



**Honourable Gaston A. Browne**  
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda



***Office of the Prime Minister***  
**Government of Antigua and Barbuda**

5 April 2026

H.E. Ms Carla Barnett  
Secretary General of the CARICOM Secretariat  
Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)  
Turkeyen  
Guyana

Dear Secretary-General,

I present my compliments and have the honour to inform you that the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda was dissolved on Wednesday, 1 April 2026.

It is my intention, on Tuesday, 7 April 2026, to announce the date for the holding of general elections to elect a new government.

In these circumstances, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda would welcome the presence of a CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission, should the Caribbean Community wish to deploy one for this purpose.

All customary facilities and courtesies accorded to previous CARICOM Electoral Observation Missions will be extended.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



**Honourable Gaston A. Browne**  
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

## CHOGM Planning To Continue During Election Campaign



The month of April will see intense election campaigning across Antigua and Barbuda with both major political parties vying for supremacy, however, in the midst of the campaigning the work of planning for the hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference (CHOGM) in November will continue unabated.

At a recent meeting, Chairman of the CHOGM Task Force, Foreign Minister E. P Chet Greene, urged members of the Task Force to remain committed to their respective tasks as the planning has reached a critical stage and there ought to be 'no letting up' in the planning activities.

He noted that he was the only member of the Task Force who is a candidate in the elections and thus he is the only person who may be excused for be-

ing absent from meetings during the election season (the month of April).

Minister Greene introduced to the meeting Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, who as the former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had served as head of the committee responsible for planning and executing the arrangements for the Small Island Development States Conference (SIDS4) held in May, 2024.

Liverpool will serve as Special Advisor to Minister Greene and he is expected to chair the meetings of the Task Force during the minister's absence. Additionally, the minister highlighted the role of the CHOGM Secretariat, which is headed by Coordinator Celia Roberts-Morgan, and which will assist with coordinating the work of the several Task Force



sub-committees.

During the meeting, Minister Greene sought and received a commitment from those present that they will remain focused and to redouble their efforts as Antigua and Barbuda prepares to host its the largest conference ever.

Along with the main CHOGM meetings and engagements involving heads of government from across the Commonwealth as well as meetings of foreign ministers, there are several

associate forums that will take place during the period November 1 – 4.

These are; the Women's Forum, the People's Forum, the Business Forum and a Youth Forum. Additionally, there will be a Global Eye Summit and a Global Citizens event among other major events taking place during CHOGM.

It is anticipated that more than five thousand delegates will converge on Antigua and Barbuda to attend these events.

## ‘Changing The Perception Of Agriculture Is Our Goal’



The Education Officer for Agricultural Science in the Ministry of Education, Nicolette Francis, says the ministry has been making ‘steady progress’ in its mission to ‘change the perception of agriculture’ in Antigua and Barbuda.

Francis was speaking at the conclusion of the recent Agro-Expo held at the Botanical Gardens, which was a joint undertaking of the ministries of education and agriculture. She reported that the number of schools

taking part in the expo has grown each year as the young people now recognize that agriculture goes beyond primary products such as crops but increasingly it is about the value-added or secondary products from agro-processing etc.

“The ministry of education is changing the perception of agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda, therefore, we organize this event thinking how can we showcase agriculture in a positive light in Antigua and Bar-

buda. So here we have on display different agro-processors showing how you can make jams and jellies, but even going beyond these items. The expo has also brought out the National Livestock Association displaying their animals to show that agriculture is not just about crops, but it also includes livestock production,” she reported.

Francis expressed her delight that the expo included a display from the Caribbean Agricultural Re-



search and Development Institute (CARDI) which featured what she described as ‘the best sweet potato in the world’.

For the schools that took part, Francis was particular pleased with both the enthusiasm of the students and the variety of items that they displayed from their various school farms.

“We had schools displaying what they did on their farms over the course of the school year. They brought their eggs and lettuce, but they also had other items such as cakes where one of the main ingredients was eggs.

A level of the popularity of the agro-expo is gleaned from the par-

ticipation of schools in the garden and broiler competitions that took place at the annual event.

“This year we had 31 schools that registered to participate which means that we had primary and secondary school students excited to go into the garden to represent their schools and to do well,” she stated. For example, she noted that all the secondary schools and one primary school – Buckley’s – took part in the broiler competition. The Antigua Girls High School won this event with a chicken weighing 6 pounds.

“We had the live weigh-ins which proved to be a popular event for the students as we were able to explain that this is the chicken from which

KFC comes. We need to do that; we need to say that it is not just the end product, but where it started,” Francis added.

Francis predicts that the Agro-Expo will continue to grow in leaps and bounds in the years ahead.

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- 1. Strategic Financial Planning.** Lead financial planning including budgeting and forecasting, develop and implement financial strategies to achieve company financial goals and objectives
- 2. Fundraising and Capital Structure Management:** Prepare fundraising proposals, develop and maintain financial models to support the funding architecture and ensure fiscal stability.
- 3. Manage the finance and accounting functions.** This includes cash and liquidity management, investments management, general ledger maintenance and reconciliations.
- 4. Financial Reporting and Analysis.** Prepare financial statements and reports including variance and trend analyses for senior management, the board and other external stakeholders
- 5. Compliance and Risk Management.** Ensure compliance with financial regulations, IFRS, tax laws; ensure proper internal controls; develop and maintain financial policies and procedures and ensure their proper implementation.
- 6. Management of the External Audit.** Coordinate to ensure timely completion of the annual audit.
- 7. Strategic Financial Support.** Provide financial advice to senior management and to support business decisions; monitor financial performance and provide recommendations for improvement
- 8. Strategic Relationships.** Manage relationships with banks, auditors, and other financial institutions and stakeholders

### **STAFFING SPECIFICATION**

1. At least a Bachelor's Degree in accounting, finance or related field
2. Must be a Certified Professional Accountant by an internationally recognized body
3. A minimum of five (5) years' experience in accounting and finance role with at least three (3) years at professional/managerial level in a finance and accounting position
4. Good knowledge of financial regulations and experience in preparing reports in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
5. Experience in budgeting, forecasting, preparing fund raising proposals, and funds management
6. Strong attention to detail and accuracy with good problem-solving and decision-making skills
7. A team player with excellent organizational, time management, communication, leadership and interpersonal skills.
8. Proficient in using financial software and Microsoft Office

\*\*\*\*\*

Persons interested in this position should submit their applications along with a detailed curriculum vitae to **hcdworks@outlook.com** no later than **April 20, 2026**

## Sir David Shoul Strengthens Relations with the Holy See

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary accredited to the Holy See Sir David Shoul, is wrapping up a visit to Rome where he continued engagements with members of the Vatican Diplomatic Corps and to participate in Holy Week liturgical celebrations.

This visit follows his attendance in January 2026 at the traditional New Year's exchange hosted by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, where he joined fellow diplomats accredited to the Holy See.

Ambassador Shoul's participation in the Holy Week Masses underscores the unique nature of the Holy See's diplomatic mission, which is grounded in pastoral outreach, the promotion of peace, and the defense of the common good, rather than the exercise of political power.

Commenting on his visit, Ambassador Shoul stated, "my presence in Rome at this time serves not only to deepen my spiritual growth within the Church but also provides an important opportunity to continue meaningful engagement with my Vatican diplomatic colleagues. These discussions will further our efforts to garner support for Antigua and



Barbuda and to promote our hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November this year."

Sir David is accompanied by

his wife, Lady Joan Shoul. They are expected to return to Antigua and Barbuda this week.

## Police Mount Manuhunt For Suspects in Easter Sunday Morning Shooting

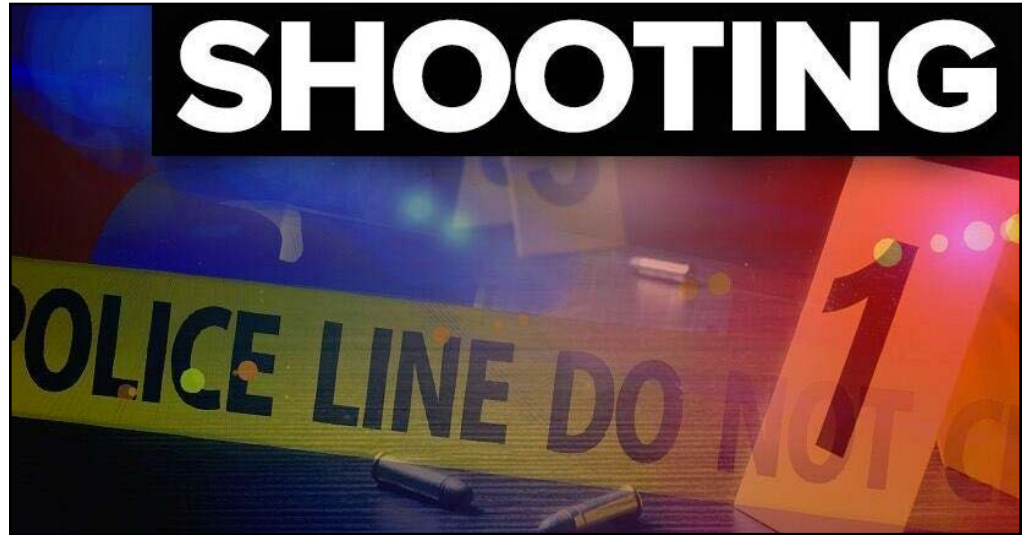
The police are appealing to the public for assistance in identifying and apprehending the suspects involved in a shooting incident that left four young men nursing gunshot injuries.

Initial reports indicate that around 12:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 5, four males between the ages of 17 and 20 were walking along Corn Alley when an unknown assailant discharged a firearm in their direction.

As a result, three of the victims, all aged 17, sustained injuries to their feet and thighs, while the eldest victim received an injury to his left hand. The injured individuals were transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre by police officers and Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Medical officials have reported that all four victims are in stable condition and are currently receiving further medical treatment.

The suspects reportedly fled the scene




in a white Toyota Belta motor car. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.




The police are urging anyone who may have witnessed the incident or who may have information regarding the suspects or the vehicle involved to contact the Criminal Investigations

Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).

The Police Administration strongly condemns this brazen act of violence and is appealing to members of the public to come forward with any information that can assist in bringing those responsible to justice.



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## Cause of Fire At Gambles Business Complex Remains a Mystery



The cause of a fire that gutted the Gambles Business Complex on Good Friday remains a mystery as fire investigators combed the burnt-out building for clues that will provide answers to their queries.

Fire Department spokesman, ASP Bagot reported that on Friday 3rd April 2026 at 12:45 pm the St John's Fire Station received a call stating that there was a structure on fire in Lower Gambles.

"An immediate response was made in the No 17 and 19 fire tenders. On arrival at the scene the fire crew met a 73 X 154 feet concrete building on fire. Water was used from the fire tenders to commence firefighting operations. Immediate back up was requested from the All Saints, Coolidge, and the Fire station located at the former US navy base all of which responded promptly. The contents of the building suffered both fire and smoke damage," Insp. Bagot reported.

He added that the building housed Chef World, the offices of Dr. Evan Wong, Dr. Edda Hadeed, Dr. Hanybal Yazigi, Dr. Vannetta Rodgers, Dr. Sharon Corder, the Law office of Wason and Company and Rhudd and Associates.

According to Insp Bagat the Fire brigade is currently investigating the origin of the fire.

The Gambles Business Complex is located immediately east of the St. John's Cemetery.

## Traffic accident on the Pares Main Road in which several persons were injured

Children are among four people seriously injured following a vehicular collision along Pares Main Road on Easter Monday.

The crash, which involved a car and a passenger bus, has left emergency responders scrambling, though the exact circumstances surrounding the incident remain unclear.

First responders rushed to the scene and worked urgently to stabilize the injured before transporting them to the hospital for treatment.

Emergency Medical Services dispatched three units to assist at the scene as rescue efforts intensified.





## DAILY PROGRAMMING




<b>EARLY VIBRATIONS</b>	<b>6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.</b>
<small>WITH GREMSTA</small>	
<b>THE RUSH HOUR SHOW</b>	<b>5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.</b>
<small>WITH ROGER LAKE</small>	<b>6AM-9AM SATURDAYS</b>
<b>TOUCHLINE</b>	<b>7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.</b>
<small>WITH EPILUS</small>	
<b>BAD COMPANY</b>	<b>2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS</b>
<small>LIVE FROM THE V.I.</small>	<b>&amp; 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS</b>
<b>REGGAE INSPIRATION</b>	<b>9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY</b>
<small>WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN</small>	
<b>JAH WADADLI</b>	<b>7PM-9PM FRIDAYS</b>
<small>WITH DJ JAH WADADLI</small>	

# GRATITUDE



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## The Wrong Reform: Why Term Limits and Fixed Election Dates Cannot Work in Antigua and Barbuda

### A Constitutional Series in Four Parts

By Gavin V. Emmanuel

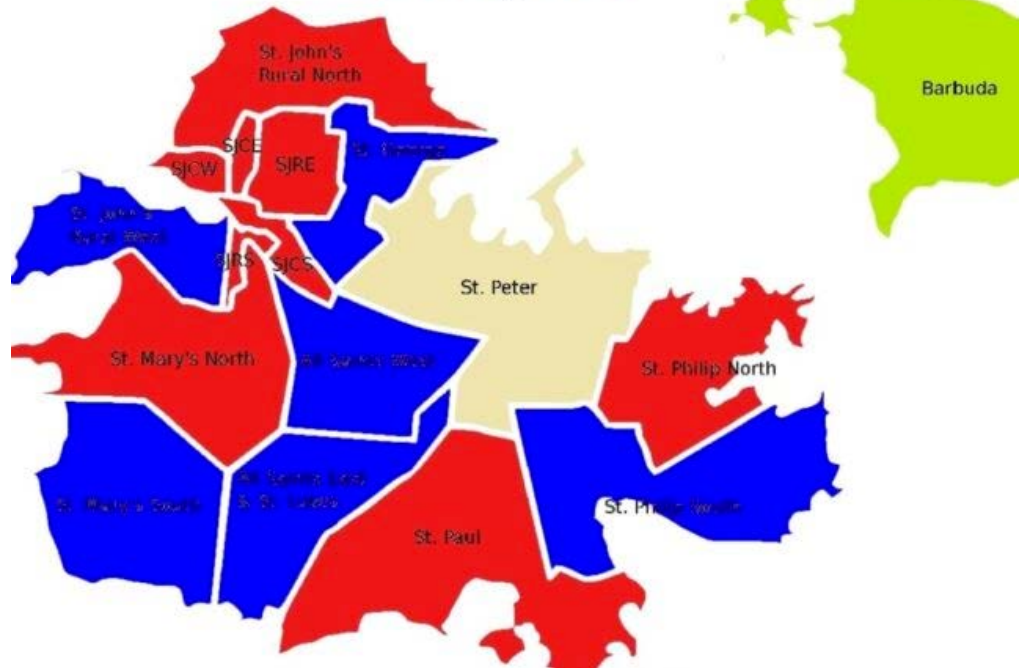
Two reform proposals have gained considerable traction in Caribbean political discourse in recent years: fixed election dates and term limits for prime ministers. Both are presented as tools of democratic accountability. Both are borrowed, whether consciously or not, from the vocabulary of presidential government. And both, when held against the constitutional architecture of Antigua and Barbuda, reveal themselves to be not merely impractical but structurally incompatible with the Westminster system that the 1981 Constitution enshrines.

This series examines each proposal in turn, grounding the argument in the specific provisions of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution and in the comparative experience of other Commonwealth jurisdictions.

Part One establishes the constitutional foundation of the argument. It explains the doctrine of responsible government and shows how Sections 60 and 69 of the Constitution are designed around parliamentary confidence rather than fixed timelines; and why a fixed election date, even if enacted by statute, would conflict directly with those provisions.

Part Two tests that argument against its strongest counterexamples. It examines the United Kingdom's Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, the most serious attempt to impose a fixed electoral calendar on a Westminster parliament. It also draws on the lessons of that experiment, as well as the administrative realities of boundary reform under Sections 62 through 65, to show

### Antigua & Barbuda General Election Results Jan 18, 2023



why calendar-driven elections fail in practice as well as in theory.

Part Three turns to the second proposal: term limits for prime ministers. It argues that term limits import a presidential logic into a parliamentary framework, contradict Section 69 of the Constitution, and, far from checking executive dominance, would accelerate the very presidentialization of the prime ministerial office that critics of Caribbean governance most fear.

Part Four completes the argument by examining what term limits would actually do to democratic accountability: weakening the electoral incentive that keeps leaders responsive, disrupting institutional memory in small states, and failing entirely to address the structural sources of patron-client governance. It closes by identifying the reforms that the existing consti-

tutional framework already makes possible and that genuine democratic renewal actually requires.

### Part One: The Constitution Speaks First

There is a particular brand of constitutional enthusiasm that arrives dressed in the language of accountability but carries, beneath its reformist garb, a fundamental misunderstanding of how parliamentary democracy actually works. The proposal to introduce fixed election dates has gathered considerable momentum across the Caribbean in recent years. It sounds appealing. It is, however, structurally incompatible with the Westminster model, and nowhere is that incompatibility more clearly exposed than in the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda. To understand why, one must begin not with politics but with constitutional

architecture.

The Westminster system is not simply a method of counting votes. It is a coherent theory of government built on a single load-bearing principle: the executive derives its authority continuously and conditionally from the confidence of the legislature. The moment that confidence is lost, the authority dissolves. Government, in this model, is not a fixed tenure but a living mandate—renewable, revocable, and always contingent. This is not an accident of design. It is the design itself. It is what constitutional scholars mean when they speak of “responsible government.”

The Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, enacted at independence in 1981, reflects this logic with precision. Section 60(1) provides that the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, may at any time prorogue or dissolve Parliament. The word “any” is doing considerable work here. It is not

ceremonial. It is the constitutional expression of the doctrine of executive-legislative accountability; the mechanism by which a government may go to the country when it has lost its majority, when a national crisis demands a renewed mandate, or when a legislative impasse cannot otherwise be resolved. Section 60(2) imposes a five-year maximum term, after which Parliament “shall then stand dissolved,” but this ceiling is not a schedule. It is an outer limit on an otherwise flexible instrument.

The distinction matters enormously. A fixed election date transforms the ceiling into a floor. It tells a government (and the electorate) that no matter what happens in the chamber, no matter how thoroughly confidence has collapsed or how urgently the country requires fresh direction, the vote must wait. This is not accountability. It is paralysis dressed up in procedural language.

The Constitution anticipates exactly this danger. Section 60(4) (sometimes called the “reserve pow-

er”) grants the Governor-General the discretion to dissolve Parliament unilaterally if the House passes a resolution of no confidence and the Prime Minister neither resigns nor advises a dissolution within seven days. This is a non-partisan safety valve, a guarantee that no government may cling to office after losing the legislature’s confidence. A fixed election date would render this provision legally incoherent. If the date is set by statute, the Governor-General’s constitutionally mandated power of discretionary dissolution becomes a source of conflict rather than resolution. Would the statutory date override the constitutional trigger? The answer, in a system where Section 2 declares the Constitution the “supreme law” of Antigua and Barbuda, is that any inconsistent statute would be void. A fixed-date law enacted without a constitutional amendment would not simply be inadvisable; it would be constitutionally vulnerable.



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- ✔ Proof of address
- ✔ Marital status documents (if applicable)

**REGISTRATION UNIT**  
**Chaia's Building**  
 (Opposite Lions Den)

**HOURS**  
**Monday - Friday**  
 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

**HON. MARIA BROWNE**  
 St. John's Rural East




**GET Reddy**

**UPDATE YOUR VOTER ID**

**WHAT TO BRING**

- ✔ Expired Voter ID
- ✔ Government-issued ID
- ✔ Proof of address
- ✔ Marital status documents (if applicable)

**REGISTRATION UNIT**  
**Glanvilles Polyclinic**

**HOURS**  
**Monday - Friday**  
 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

**HON. RANDY BALTIMORE**  
 St. Philip's North

**FOR ASSISTANCE**  
 784-7762



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AND FRIENDS

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STRAYS

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TUE **21** APR

EARLY BIRD

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# **Expression of Interest Submission for Consulting Services from Firms**

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

**(FE-S)**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>
Original Publication	June 26, 2023
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## Expression of Interest (EOI) Consulting Firms

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

### General Information

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

### I. Consulting Firm Information

Name of Firm <sup>1</sup> :	
Country of Registration: <sup>2</sup>	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]:**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Venture<sup>3</sup> 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 entity<sup>4</sup> 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)*

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>
- 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 affiliates<sup>6</sup>.
- We understand that the Recipient/Client<sup>7</sup> has the right to reject a Proposal if the Consultant removes or changes a JV member without the Client's prior consent.

---

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

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

<sup>7</sup> "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.<sup>8</sup>**

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

**ii. Project Details**

PN 1	
Project Title	
Country/Region	

<sup>8</sup> Sub-consultants' qualifications and experience are not considered.

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

<sup>10</sup> 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 <sup>11</sup>	Name: Contact Number: E-mail address:

PN 2	
Project Title	

<sup>11</sup> 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 audited<sup>12</sup> 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 statements<sup>13</sup> 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 <sup>14</sup> equivalent in 000s)	Historic information for previous 5 years				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>Statement of Financial Position (Information from Balance Sheet)</b>					
Total Assets (TA)					
Total Liabilities (TL)					
Total Equity/Net Worth					

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

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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)					
<b>Information from Income Statement</b>					
Total Revenue (TR)					
Profits Before Taxes (PBT)					
<b>Cash Flow Information</b>					
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 <sup>15</sup>	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.		

<sup>15</sup> 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.

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

*(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 Eligibility<sup>16</sup> 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.

---

<sup>16</sup> 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 autonomous<sup>17</sup> and operate under commercial law<sup>18</sup>.

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Authorised Representative**

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

<sup>17</sup> "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.

<sup>18</sup> 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.

# Regional News

## IICA launches CDB-funded AgriMSE business and regional market integration initiative with support from the CARICOM Private Sector Organization

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), introduced the AgriMSE Business Development and Regional Market Integration Project during a virtual event held on March 11, 2026.

This project is funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). It is designed to strengthen the competitiveness, operational efficiency and market access of Agricultural Micro and Small Enterprises (AgriMSEs) in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

In opening the event, Diana Francis, Representative of the IICA Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago underscored the importance of strengthening AgriMSEs as key drivers of agricultural value chains, rural livelihoods and food security. Francis emphasized that integrating AgriMSEs into the economy and markets required strong and continuous partnerships among regional institutions, development partners, the private sector, and most importantly, the consumers. The engagement and support from distribution, marketing and logistics firms will also be critical to ensure that products from the AgriMSE sector can be successfully moved within domestic markets and to markets across the region and abroad.

While the initiative is being implemented through three specialized consultancy streams designed to deliver targeted technical support to participating enterprises, IICA will ensure team integration and coordination and provide technical backstopping, stakeholder outreach and engagement support. These consultancy streams include EconoTech Ltd., leading on AgriMSEs business and production operational efficiencies for scale-up and market access, Jai Rampersad, leading on intra-regional marketing and export facilitation, and GBest



Consulting, leading on AgriMSE credit worthiness, readiness and financing accessibility. Working inclusively with national entities, these workstreams are expected to improve enterprise performance, enhance export readiness and facilitate greater access to financing and investment opportunities for AgriMSEs in the participating countries.

Complementary initiatives funded by the European Union were also presented by Janet Lawrence, Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Quality Specialist for the Caribbean at IICA, Barbados. Lawrence noted that the European Union has been a longstanding partner in supporting agricultural development in the Caribbean, providing funding for projects addressing sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues and related capacity building initiatives across the region for more than a decade. She highlighted that the EU projects complement the IICA-CDB project and will support stakeholders across the wider Caribbean region. These initiatives will provide additional resources to support not only AgriMSEs themselves but also policymakers and institutions responsible for strengthening the enabling environment necessary for agricultural enterprises to thrive. The EU projects also focus on areas such as agricultural health, food safety, quality as-

surance and regulatory frameworks, all of which are essential to enabling AgriMSEs to compete effectively in regional and international markets.

Patrick Antoine, Chief Executive Officer and Technical Director of the CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) also addressed participants and emphasized the importance of stronger collaboration between small agricultural enterprises and larger regional firms to address common constraints related to scale, logistics and processing. He shared that the CPSO is establishing a Regional Agribusiness Working Group which will support the continuation of the project's objectives beyond the life of the consultancy.

“The intention behind the Regional Agribusiness Working Group is to bring together the experience, networks and technical capabilities of larger regional enterprises to directly support the growth of AgriMSEs. Through collaboration in areas such as shared processing, logistics and packaging, we can help smaller enterprises overcome scale constraints and position themselves more effectively for regional and even international markets,” Antoine said.

The participation and support of distribution, marketing, and logistics companies will also be essential

to ensure that AgriMSE products can be successfully marketed in domestic markets, as well as in regional and international markets.

Speaking on the growing engagement between Caribbean and African private sectors, Antoine went further to share that the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) recently increased its investment commitment to the Caribbean from US\$3 billion to US\$5 billion, signaling expanded financing opportunities for regional enterprises. He noted that the Working Group will allow the CPSO to leverage partnerships such as these, alongside tools like the Regional AgriMSE Database being developed under the project, providing targeted support to enterprises beyond the project's lifespan while contributing to the CARICOM 25 by 2025 plus 5 food security agenda.

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The AgriMSE Business Development and Regional Market Integration Project will be implemented over an

18–24-month period and will engage agricultural enterprises in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago through diagnostic assessments, technical support programmes and market development initiatives. According to an AgriMSE participant, the introductory session was interesting and provided hope and an extra sense of purpose, offering a combination of all the things that AgriMSEs have been asking for in one place.

Francis emphasized “This has to be seen as more than just a project. While it is similar to several past and possibly future projects, it is overpoweringly focused on ensuring that agri-food products from micro and small agribusinesses (AgriMSEs) meet the quality and price competitive requirements to enter and establish presence in domestic and export markets.” She further stated that the project also intends to strengthen the base for continued organized and collaborative engagement in support of AgriMSEs through the IICA-CPSO partnership and other like-minded collaborators.

AgriMSEs interested in participating in the project, including those who may have missed the launch session, are encouraged to contact the project team to ensure they are included on the mailing list for upcoming project activities at [agrimse.exchange@iica.int](mailto:agrimse.exchange@iica.int).

The project also aims to ensure that the agri-food products of micro and small agricultural enterprises meet quality requirements and price competitiveness standards to enter and establish their presence in domestic and

export markets.

Speaking on the growing engagement between Caribbean and African private sectors, Antoine went further to share that the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) recently increased its investment commitment to the Caribbean from US\$3 billion to US\$5 billion, signaling expanded financing opportunities for regional enterprises. He noted that the Working Group will allow the CPSO to leverage partnerships such as these, alongside tools like the Regional AgriMSE Database being developed under the project, providing targeted support to enterprises beyond the project's lifespan while contributing to the CARICOM 25 by 2025 plus 5 food security agenda.

The project also aims to ensure that the agri-food products of micro and small agricultural enterprises meet quality requirements and price competitiveness standards to enter and establish their presence in domestic and export markets.

The CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) is the most recently accredited Associate Institution of the Caribbean Community. The CPSO is a ‘Service Organization’ to mobilize and advance private sector participation in CARICOM, with a mandate to contribute to the full implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The Membership of the CPSO is comprised of private sector entities operating in the CARICOM space, including Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs). (Dominica News Online)



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# Regional News

## East Carib. banks hold over \$28 Billion as businesses struggle for credit



Commercial banks across the Eastern Caribbean are currently holding billions in excess liquidity, creating a major barrier to economic growth as local businesses and entrepreneurs continue to struggle to secure loans.

Speaking at the launch of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's (ECCB) 2026–2031 strategic plan, Central Bank Governor Dr. Timothy N.J. Antoine highlighted a significant structural weakness in the region's financial system.

According to Antoine, financial institutions are holding more than \$28 billion in deposits, yet only have about \$16 billion in active loans. This massive disparity demonstrates that while funds are readily available, they are not being effectively channeled into productive investments, a reality that disproportionately affects small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) struggling to meet strict lending re-

quirements.

To combat this imbalance, the ECCB is rolling out its new “Big Push” strategy, which aims to unlock credit, improve access to finance, and modernize the region's financial infrastructure. Central to this initiative is the expansion of the ECCB's partial credit guarantee programme.

By providing guarantees of up to 75 to 80 percent on qualifying loans, the ECCB hopes to significantly lower the risk exposure for banks and encourage them to lend to underserved sectors. This programme has already facilitated over 300 loans valued at approximately \$30 million for farmers, creatives, fishers, and small businesses, and will now be scaled up to reach a wider cross-section of the economy.

Beyond improving credit access, the ECCB's strategic plan includes technological and structural upgrades. The

Central Bank plans to implement a regional credit bureau to help lenders assess borrower risks more accurately, which could lower borrowing costs.

Governor Antoine also announced plans to modernize payment systems, including a fast payment system for cheaper, quicker transactions within the currency union, as well as a pilot program for the CARICOM payment and settlement system to handle real-time, low-cost cross-border payments in local currencies.

Despite these ambitious plans, Governor Antoine noted that the banks are only part of the equation. He emphasized that there remains a critical shortage of “bankable” projects, urging the private and public sectors to collaborate in generating viable business opportunities that can successfully qualify for the available financing. (St Vincent Times)

## Taiwan, SVG launch program to empower young farmers



In a collaborative effort to revitalize the local agricultural sector, the Taiwan Technical Mission and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Ministry of Agriculture have successfully launched the “Advanced Training Program for Young Farmers” at the Orange Hill Biotechnology Center.

The comprehensive 20-week program aims to empower the next generation of agricultural leaders by equipping them with a blend of cutting-edge smart agriculture technology and modern agribusiness management skills.

The intensive training began in March, with the first week concluding on March 20. During this initial phase, participants received hands-on field experience and dove into the technical nuances of cultivating peppers and tomatoes.

Beyond crop cultivation, the initiative strongly emphasizes the business side

of farming. Early modules have already covered essential entrepreneurial skills, including customer service and human resource management. As the program progresses, trainees will explore more advanced smart farming applications and strategic agribusiness management.

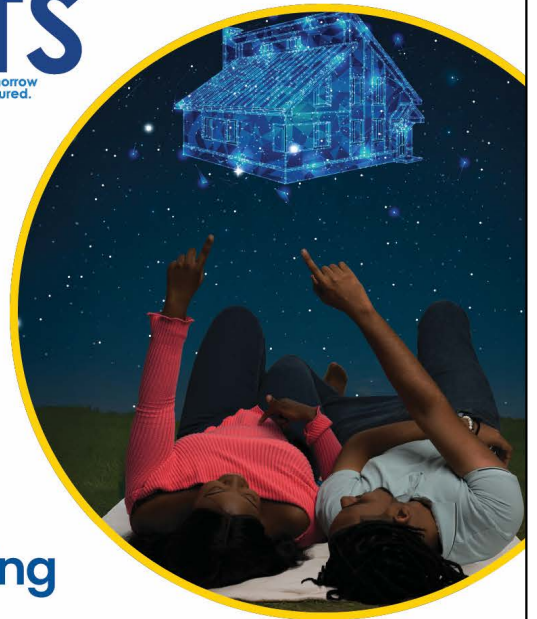
Organizers hope that by combining technological innovation with practical field experience, the program will reshape the public perception of agriculture. The initiative is designed to prove to the youth of St. Vincent and the Grenadines that farming is a highly promising, professional, and efficient career path.

According to the Embassy, Taiwan remains committed to supporting SVG’s young farmers throughout this transformative journey, working together to harvest a more innovative, sustainable, and vibrant future for bilateral agricultural cooperation. (St Vincent Times)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



## DR Congo agrees to take deportees from the US

The Democratic Republic of Congo has agreed to accept migrants deported from the US who are not themselves Congolese under a deal effective from this month, officials said.

The Ministry of Communication said a temporary reception system had been set up, while facilities to accommodate arrivals had been selected in the capital, Kinshasa.

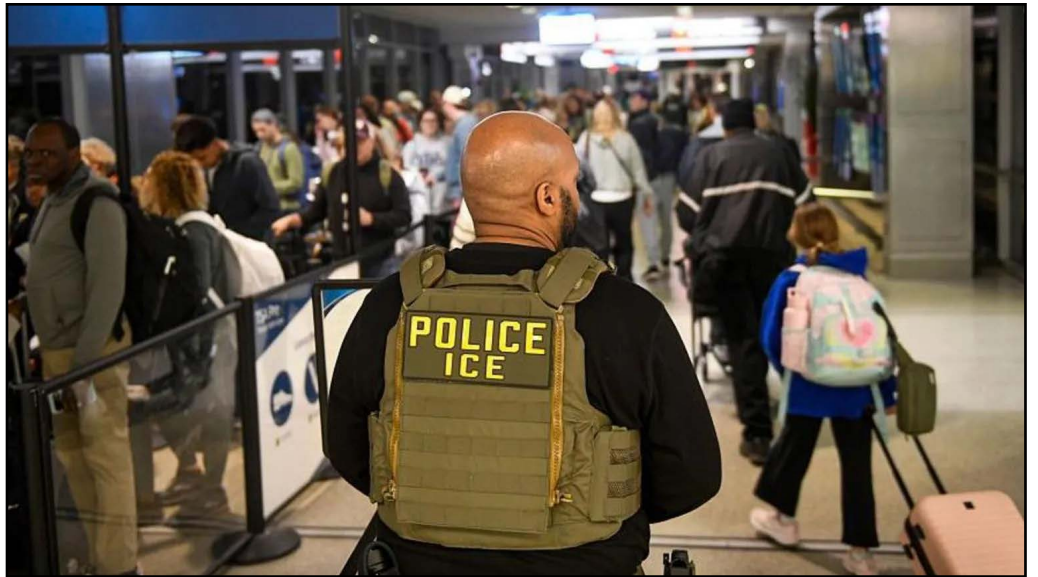
“Logistical and technical support” will be provided by the US, the statement on Sunday said, adding that the Congolese government would bear no financial cost for the scheme.

The government did not say how many deportees they would accept. The US has already sent deportees to several other countries in Africa as part of Washington’s crackdown on immigration.

Amid concerns that migrants could be returned to their home countries - where some fear persecution - Congolese officials said no such transfers are being planned.

The decision to receive what are known as third-country migrants - that is those who come from neither the sending nor receiving nation - aligns with DR Congo’s commitment to human dignity, international solidarity and to protect the rights of migrants, the statement read.

The Congolese authorities also said that the scheme is not a “permanent relocation mechanism or an outsourcing of migration policies”.



The US State Department said that while it did not comment on “diplomatic communications with other governments” the government remained “unwavering” in its “commitment to end illegal and mass immigration and bolster America’s border security”.

President Donald Trump’s administration has deported dozens of people to third countries since coming into power last January as part of its hard-line approach towards immigration.

Human rights campaigners have condemned the policy, with some questioning its legality.

DR Congo is joining other continental states, including Eswatini, Ghana and South Sudan, in receiving deportees from the US.

Last week, eight people from different African countries were deported to


Uganda.

According to a minority report from the US senate’s committee on foreign relations, the Trump administration has “likely” spent more than \$40m (£30m) in third-country deportations up to January 2026, although the total cost is “unknown”.

The US has provided more than \$32m “directly” to five countries - Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, El Salvador, Eswatini and Palau - it added.



The US is also negotiating a minerals deal with DR Congo to help gain access to the central African country’s vast reserves of key metals such as cobalt, tantalum, lithium and copper.

Under Trump, the US has also facilitated a peace deal between DR Congo and Rwanda, although implementation remains a challenge. (BBC)



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## Oil prices choppy after expletive-laden Trump threat to Iran



Oil prices saw choppy trading on Monday after US President Donald Trump threatened to destroy critical infrastructure in Iran unless it allows ships to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

In an expletive-laden social media post on Sunday, Trump said the US would attack power plants and bridges unless the crucial waterway is open by late Tuesday US time.

Brent crude rose above \$110 (£83.38) a barrel before those gains eased after a report of US-Iran talks over a potential ceasefire.

Oil and gas shipments from the Middle East have been severely disrupted as Tehran threatens to attack vessels that try to use the strait in retaliation for US and Israeli airstrikes since 28 February.

News website Axios reported that the US, Iran and a group of regional mediators are discussing the terms of a potential 45-day ceasefire that could lead to a permanent end to the conflict, citing US, Israeli and regional sources.

A White House source told the BBC that this was “one of many ideas and [Trump] has not signed off on it. Operation Epic Fury continues.”

The source added that Trump will “speak more” at a press conference at

13:00 local time (18:00 BST).

In the hours following the Axios report, the global benchmark oil price fell from over \$110 a barrel to around \$107.

Oil prices will remain volatile and swing with each headline of the war’s escalation and easing, said Sushant Gupta from consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

The focus remains on whether energy shipments from the Gulf can resume to ease a supply shortage that has impacted countries around the world, he said

Disruption to shipping in the narrow waterway, through which a fifth of the world’s energy shipments usually passes, has pushed up the price of energy around the world and raised concerns about higher inflation globally.

Oil prices rose above \$100 a barrel last week after Trump intensified threats against Iran, warning that US airstrikes over the next few weeks would send the country “back to the Stone Ages”.

Iranian attacks on oil facilities in the Gulf continued over the weekend.

Tehran claimed responsibility on Sunday for a wave of strikes on petrochemical plants in Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

On Monday, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned that its attacks against US economic interests would be intensified if civilian infrastructure in its country continues to be targeted.

On Sunday, Opec+ - which includes major oil-producing members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries like Saudi Arabia and Russia - agreed a small increase to crude output in May.

But the 206,000 barrels a day production hike will largely exist on paper only as several of the group’s key members are unable to increase output due to the conflict.

Trump has postponed several deadlines for Iran to remove its threats against ships using the strait but repeated his demands in the strongly-worded Truth Social post.

The paragraph below contains very strong language.

Trump wrote on Sunday: “Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it!!! Open the Fuckin’ Strait, you crazy bastards, or you’ll be living in Hell - JUST WATCH! Praise be to Allah. President DONALD J. TRUMP”.

A few hours later, in a post on the same platform he said: “Tuesday, 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time!”

Trump told Fox News there was a “good chance” an agreement would be reached on Monday, but said he was considering “blowing everything up and taking over the oil” if a deal was not reached soon.

Senior Iranian military officer Gen Ali Abdollahi Aliabadi dismissed an earlier Trump deadline, calling it “helpless, nervous, unbalanced and stupid”, adding that “the gates of hell will open” for the US leader. (BBC)

## Emergency jabs after 100 children die of suspected measles in a month in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has launched an emergency vaccination campaign after a fast-spreading measles outbreak is suspected of killing more than 100 people, mostly children, in what may be the country's most lethal wave of the disease in recent history.

The campaign, which began on Sunday, comes amid more than 7,500 suspected measles cases since 15 March, according to health ministry data.

More than 900 of these cases have been confirmed - a sharp increase from 2025, when just 125 measles cases were recorded over the entire year, local media report.

While Bangladesh has long vaccinated children against the highly contagious disease, the recent outbreak has exposed gaps in its programme, raising concern.

"Vaccines are foundational to child survival," Rana Flowers, the Unicef representative in Bangladesh, said in a statement on Sunday, adding that the current measles outbreak was "putting thousands of children, especially the youngest and most vulnerable, at serious risk."

In Bangladesh, a nation of 170 million people, routine measles vaccines are given to children as young as nine months old.

But Shahriar Sajjad, deputy director of the Health Department, told BBC Bangla that about one-third of those infected in the recent outbreak were under nine months old.

The infections of these young infants "who are not yet eligible for routine vaccination, are especially alarm-



ing", said Flowers from Unicef.

On top of routine vaccinations, Bangladesh conducts special measles vaccination campaigns every four years.

But these campaigns haven't gone according to plan.

There have been no special measles vaccination campaigns since 2020, first because of Covid then because of the "political situation", Sajjad told BBC Bangla.

Bangladesh experienced political upheaval in 2024, when massive anti-government protests toppled its long-ruling leader Sheikh Hasina. An interim government took over after Hasina's ousting, and only in February this year did the country elect a new government.

A measles vaccination campaign was supposed to be held in April this year, "but it did not happen", Sajjad said.

A health official said procurement issues had led to a shortage of vaccines, including for measles, the Daily Star reported.

Many in Bangladesh have blamed the vaccine shortages on the former interim government, which oversaw a new vaccine procurement system.

But measles resurgences "are typically the result of these accumulated gaps rather than a single factor", Unicef said in its statement.

"Bangladesh has a strong history of high immunisation coverage, but even small disruptions can lead to the gradual accumulation of immunity gaps over time."

Along with international partners like Unicef and the World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh has launched an emergency vaccination campaign for measles and rubella, a milder disease with similar symptoms to measles.

This campaign, which started on Sunday, will be rolled out across 30 upazilas - sub-districts in Bangladesh - and targets more than 1.2 million children between six months and five years old.

The campaign will prioritise "children who have missed routine immunisation and are most vulnerable to severe illness and complications", according to Unicef.

There will also be a particular focus on Dhaka, the densely populated capital, and Cox's Bazar, home to crowded Rohingya refugee camps, Unicef said.

Besides the vaccination

drive, health authorities are also publishing infographics that teach people how to identify and prevent measles.

Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease, which can lead to severe complication and death.

In 2024, an estimated 95,000 people were killed by measles around the world - most of them children under five years old, according to the WHO.

Measles can be prevented through vaccination - but according to the WHO, 95% of the population has to be vaccinated in order to stop the disease from spreading.

Over the past two decades, the number of global measles cases and deaths resulting from the disease have fallen sharply.

There were 11 million cases of measles worldwide in 2024 - a significant decrease from 38 million in 2000, according to the WHO.

But the organisation has warned about a resurgence in parts of the world as vaccination rates fall. In 2024 and 2025, the world saw the highest number of measles outbreaks in more than 20 years, according to medical journal The Lancet.

Cases of measles have risen in some countries in Asia and Africa, as well as in Europe, the US and the UK, where there is growing scepticism against vaccines, especially after the pandemic.

In February, an outbreak of measles in some schools in north London prompted health authorities to remind parents to vaccinate their children. (BBC)

## Somalia set for 'historic' first offshore oil drilling



Somalia says it is ready to begin its first offshore oil drilling operations, with a Turkish government-owned drilling ship expected to arrive off its coast on Friday.

The move follows the successful completion of seismic surveys last year by a Turkish research vessel.

In a post on X, Somalia's Petroleum Minister Dahir Shire described the move toward what would be the country's first offshore drilling as a "historic milestone in our offshore energy journey... A new chapter begins."

The foreign ministry said if the drilling were to be successful, it would un-

lock offshore oil reserves and support the country's economic recovery as a regional energy player.

The Turkish Petroleum Corporation's drilling ship, Çağrı Bey, is on its first international mission, heading into Somalia's territorial waters in the Arabian Sea.

It will carry out deep water drilling at sites identified by recent surveys that mapped the country's hydrocarbon potential.

"This signals Somalia's readiness to move into exploratory drilling, beginning with our most promising offshore prospects," Shire said.

He added that the country would ensure that the benefits of the oil drilling leads to national prosperity and improves the well-being of the people.

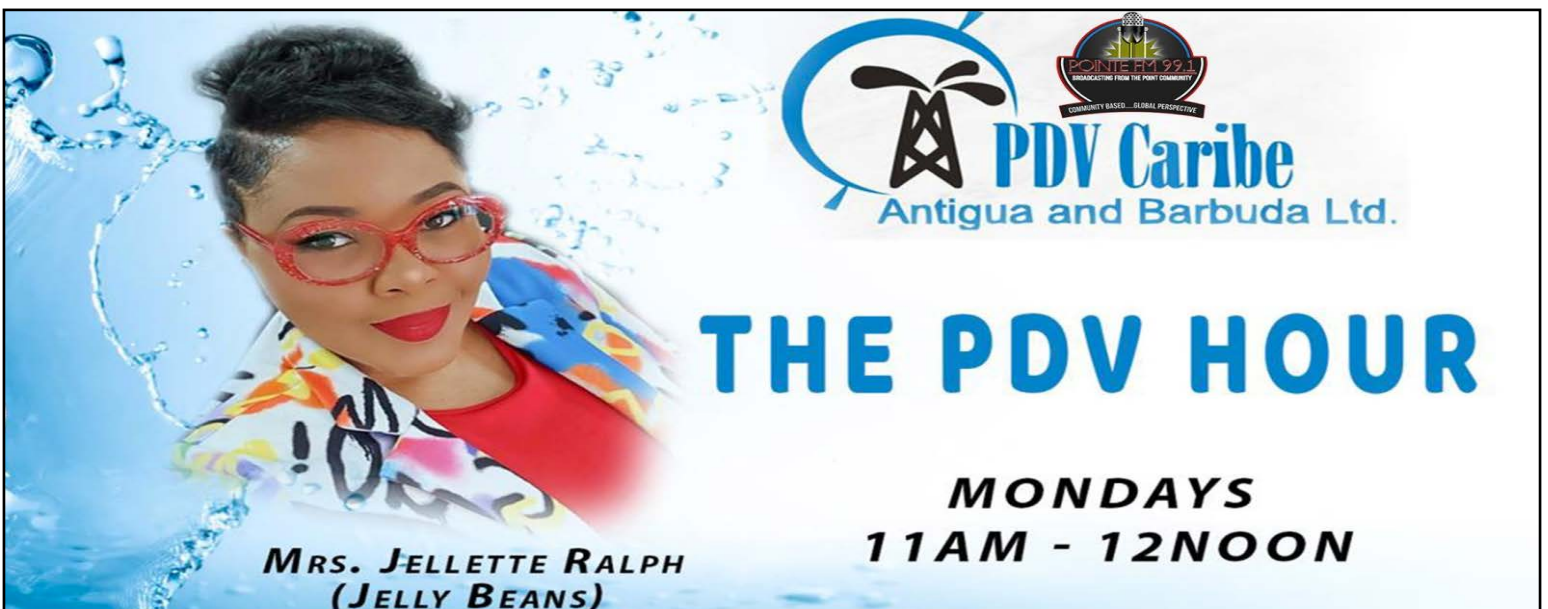
Turkey and Somalia formalised their cooperation in 2024 through a production-sharing agreement.


On Monday, Somali Foreign Minister Ali Omar said the oil drilling campaign would reinforce Turkey's role as a "trusted long-term partner" in development.


Speaking on Saturday ahead of his planned travel to Somalia, Turkey's Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said any discovery of oil or gas reserves would bring significant economic benefits to Somalia, East Africa and Turkey.

Ankara has been deepening its ties with Somalia and has invested in the country for more than a decade. It has also expanded its military presence there in recent years, where it already operates a major base built in 2017.

Researchers estimate the country holds billions of barrels of oil reserves, but exploration has been hampered by decades of conflict and political instability. (BBC)




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**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.<sup>1</sup> Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria de-

<sup>1</sup> *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”<sup>2</sup> 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 <b>Email:</b> finance.pmu@ab.gov.ag</p>	<p>(2) Caribbean Development Bank Tel: +1 (246) 539-1600 <b>Email:</b> 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.*

## Bullets and Tigers among winners in Premier Division League



*Players of the Pigotts Bullets starting XI*

The Pigotts Bullets and the Potters Tigers picked up wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

The Pigotts Bullets claimed their 11th win in 19 matches by pulling off a 3-1 victory against Green City FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Akeem Isaac struck the winner by scoring the only goal of the match in the 38th minute. The result allows the Pigotts Bullets to leapfrog Old Road FC into fourth place by advancing to 35 points.

Green City FC remains in ninth place on goal difference with 22 points after crashing to their 10th defeat in 20 matches. The Attacking Saints, who are currently in eighth place, also have 22 points from 19 matches.

The Potters Tigers consolidated their sixth-place position by securing their ninth win in 19 matches after being awarded a 3-0 victory via default

against John Hughes FC, which failed to show up for their encounter on Sunday.

The result allows the Potters Tigers to remain in sixth place on goal difference by advancing to 32 points, the same as fifth-placed Old Road FC, who have also played 19 matches.

John Hughes FC remains third from the bottom of the standings with 13 points after crashing to their 15th defeat in 20 matches.

The Aston Villa Lions FC dropped points but remain in third place in a 2-2 draw with the Ottos Rangers in the opening game of Saturday's double-header.

Eroy Gonsalves scored in the fourth minute, and Jahlanie Barzey had an 82nd-minute conversion for the Villa Lions. Howayne James scored both goals for the Ottos Rangers with strikes in the 43rd and 47th minutes.

The result allows Villa Lions to remain in third place with 40 points after

securing their first draw in 20 matches. The Ottos Rangers remain second from the bottom of the 12-team standings with 11 points after salvaging their second draw in 20 matches.

Garden Stars FC consolidated their position in seventh place by recording their sixth win in 20 matches with a 6-0 drubbing of Sir Molwyn Joseph Jennings United in the second match on Saturday.

Sedique Adams, Courtney Clarke, and Jevaughn Jarvis each scored twice for Garden Stars. Adams had conversions in the third and 85th minutes, Clare found the back of the net in the 13th and 58th minutes, and Jarvis scored in the 22nd and 36th minutes.

The result allows the Garden Stars to advance to 25 points, while Jennings United FC remains at the bottom of the standings with six points after crashing to their 18th defeat in 20 matches.

## Scorpions go third in First Division League

The Freemans Village Scorpions have leapfrogged the Swetes Vipers into third place in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

The Freemans Village Scorpions jumped from fourth to third place on goal difference by recording their 12th win in 20 matches with a 3-0 victory over Willikies FC at Freemans Village.

Darius Hector opened the scoring by converting a penalty kick in the sixth minute, while the other goals were scored by Romar Gidersingh in the 13th minute and Shafeeq Joseph in the 70th minute.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to advance to 41 points, the same as second-placed Greenbay Hoppers, who have played 19 matches.

It means the Swetes Vipers slipped from third to fifth place on goal difference with 39 points from 21 matches. Willikies FC remained in eighth place on goal difference with 27 points after suffering their ninth defeat in 20 matches.

SAP FC prevailed 3-1 against Parham FC at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium to leapfrog their opponents into fourth place.

Following a goalless first half,

Devonta Kirk Geran scored twice with strikes in the 80th and 86th minutes after teammate Emerson Henry converted a penalty kick in the 52nd minute to secure victory for SAP FC.

Trevaughn Harriette scored the only goal for Parham with a 47th-minute conversion. The result allows SAP FC to move from sixth to fourth place on goal difference by advancing to 39 points after securing their 10th win in 21 matches.

Parham dropped from fifth to sixth place with 36 points after suffering their fifth defeat in 21 matches.

Empire FC consolidated their position in seventh place by claiming their ninth win in 20 matches with a 7-0 drubbing of Golden Grove FC at Golden Grove.

Lee Andre Nicholas struck a hat trick, Kamali Looby had a double conversion, and the other goals were scored by Markens Dorisca and Jariiek Simon.

The result allows Empire FC to advance to 31 points, while Golden Grove FC remains in ninth place on goal difference with 27 points after losing for the 10th time in 21 matches.

English Harbour FC consolidated their 10th-place position by recording their sixth win in 20 matches with a 3-1 victory against Bendals FC at En-

glish Harbour.

Alfred Francis put Bendals FC ahead with a 19th-minute conversion. But English Harbour secured victory by scoring three goals, which were converted by Kofie Adams in the 29th minute, Clarence Marsh in the 38th minute, and Rakeem Jamie Isaac in the 80th minute.

The result allows English Harbour FC to advance to 21, while Bendals FC remains third from the bottom of the 14-team standings with 15 points after losing for the 14th time in 21 matches.

Meanwhile, Bolans FC and the Cedar Grove Blue Jays battled to a 2-2 draw in their encounter at Cedar Grove.

Goals by Joel Martin in the ninth minute and Sherquan Daniels in the 49th minute gave Bolans FC a two-nil lead. But the Cedar Grove Blue Jays hit back to salvage the draw via conversions by Reuben Reubel in the 58th minute and Ja-Rohn Thomas in the 64th minute.

The result allows Bolans FC to remain in 11th place with 17 points after securing their eighth draw in 20 matches.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays remain second from the bottom of the standings with 12 points after salvaging their third draw in 21 matches.



# Sports News



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## Stingers retain Gillian Brazier basketball championship



*The players of the Juel Stingers of Canada celebrate after retaining their title in the Gillian Brazier Basketball Tournament at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, April 4, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club)*

The Juel Stingers of Canada delivered an emotional and electrifying finish to retain their title in the Gillian Brazier Basketball Tournament.

The Stingers claimed back-to-back titles by prevailing 56-36 against fellow Canadian team, the Maple Marauders, in the final of the 20th Gillian Brazier Basketball Tournament at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

The championship game saw an intense battle between the Maple Marauders and the Stingers. Tears and sweat were left on the court as both teams gave everything in pursuit of the Gillian Brazier title.

Maria Downey and Hayley McMillan each scored 13 points for

the Marauders, keeping the game competitive.

However, Hailey Fennema delivered a dominant performance with 24 points, leading the Stingers to victory and securing their place as back-to-back champions.

The Canucks of Canada claimed the bronze medal by producing a strong performance with a 62-39 victory over the Dover Tigers of Barbados in the playoff for third place.

Grace Gordon led all scorers with 17 points, showcasing her consistency throughout the tournament. Zen Thomas put up a solid effort for the Dover Tigers with 11 points, but the Canucks' depth proved too much to over-

come.

At the end of the tournament and at the awards presentation, a number of persons were recognized. Besides sponsors, officials and volunteers, three persons were singled out, comprising Event Coordinator Valencia Burnette, and committee members Siman Jallow and Travis Jackson.

A tournament filled with passion, resilience, and outstanding talent came to a close, with every team leaving their mark on the court. From rising stars to dominant veterans, the 20th Gillian Brazier Tournament was a true celebration of women's basketball.

## Wins for Flyers and Da Project in ABBA's Division 1 League



*Players of Da Project basketball team*

Defending champions EZ Fit Flyers and Da Project and recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League on Sunday evening.

The Flyers extended their lead at the top of the first division by securing their ninth win in 11 matches with a narrow 80-77 victory against Cuties Ovals Ojays in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

TJ Williams shot a game-high 29 points; Nicholas Moore sank 13 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Adonis Humphreys converted 13 points and snatched 13 rebounds; and Kwame Brathwaite scored 11 points for the

Flyers.

Jalen Owens sank 24 points; Tajahron Davis converted 18 points and claimed five rebounds; Jabari Smith scored 14 points and snatched five rebounds; and Sam Taylor chipped in with eight points and seven rebounds for the Ovals Ojays, who crashed to their sixth defeat in 12 games.

Da Project claimed their seventh win in 11 encounters with an 86-64 victory over Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz in the second game of Sunday's double-header.

Terry Dawkins produced 23 points, eight rebounds, and seven assists, and Sadiq Phillip sank 18 points and

grabbed 15 rebounds as the main performers for Da Project.

In support, T-Shawn Lewis provided 16 points, 17 rebounds, and six assists; Malik Moore converted 15 points and claimed five rebounds; and Cornell Greenwood chipped in with 11 points, eight rebounds, and seven assists for Da Project.

Joshua Minner shot a game-high 24 points and claimed eight rebounds, Keroi Lee sank 14 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Brycen Thomas scored 11 points for the Elite Stingerz, who suffered their fourth loss in 11 games.

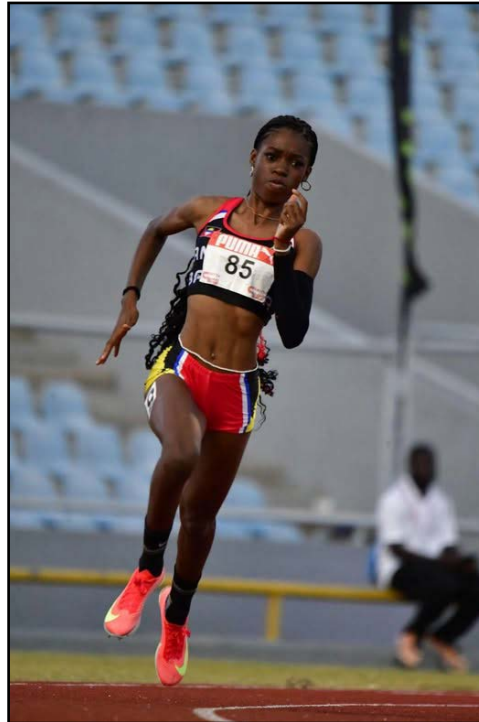
## Success for Antiguan athletes at CARIFTA Games

Some members of the Antigua and Barbuda 15-member team have attained success at the 53rd CARIFTA (Track and Field) Games in Grenada, which ended at the Kirani James Athletics Stadium in St. George's on Easter Monday.

Rising sprinting star Tyra Fenton has copped Antigua and Barbuda's first gold medal at the three-day event over the Easter weekend, winning a photo finish in the Under-17 Girls 100 meters final on Saturday.

Fenton clocked 11.30 seconds, the same time as Jazae Johnson of The Bahamas, but Fenton secured the gold when their times were separated by thousandths of a second. Brion Ward of The Bahamas secured the bronze medal in 11.63 seconds.

Fenton had earlier secured a bronze medal in the final of the Girls Un-



Tyra Fenton

der-17 400 meters final. Fenton, who was the defending champion in the event, crossed the line in 52.62 seconds on day one of the regional athletics championships.

Last year's runner-up, Keyezra Thomas of The Bahamas, was second once more, clocking 52.58 seconds, while Jamaica's Shameika McLean claimed the gold medal in 52.47 seconds.

Zonique Charles delivers another outstanding performance, claiming a silver medal by securing second place with a throw of 46.27 meters in the under-17 girls' javelin final.

Maliek Francis delivers on the big stage, securing bronze in the under-20 boys' javelin throw with a personal best of 60.14 meters in the final.

Naeem Simon finished 11th in the final of the under-17 boys high jump.

## DeGannes claims first gold for Antiguanans at CARIFTA Aquatics Championships

Antigua and Barbuda has captured three medals, including a gold by Anya DeGannes, at the 39th CARIFTA Aquatics Championships at the Pierre Samot Community Aquatic Centre in Le Lamentin, Martinique.

Anya DeGannes produced a personal best and established an age-group record to claim the nation's first gold by winning the 100-meter butterfly final in the girls 13 to 14 category.

Madison MacMillan captured silver in the 800-meter freestyle final in the girls' 15 to 17 category, while Ellie Shaw won silver in the



Antiguan Anya DeGannes, center, stands on the podium during the flag ceremony after winning gold in the 100-meter butterfly final in the girls 13 to 14 category at the 39th CARIFTA Aquatics Championships at the Pierre Samot Community Aquatic Centre in Le Lamentin, Martinique, on Saturday, April 4, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABSF)

200-meter breaststroke final in the girls' 15 to 17 category.

Jamie Tranter produced a personal best to finish fourth in the 50-meter backstroke final in the boys' 13 to 14 division.

Christopher Walter also produced a personal best to claim fifth place in the 100-meter butterfly final in the boys' 11 to 12 division.

Kaylee Warner finished sixth in the 100-meter butterfly final and came seventh in the 50-meter backstroke final in the girls' 11 to 12 category.

Alyssa Watkins finished seventh in the 100-meter butterfly final in the girls' 11 to 12 category.