

# ABLP Leader Pledges Continued Support for Workers

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A 'sea of red' took over the streets of St. John's on Monday as the AT&LU\ABLP observed the 75th anniversary of celebrating Labour Day

## ABLP Leader Pledges Continued Support for Workers, Calls for Fair Wages and Respect

Leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Gaston Browne has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving the lives of workers, declaring that labour remains at the heart of national development.

Speaking at his party's Labour Day rally yesterday, Mr. Browne placed strong emphasis on the value of employees across all sectors, describing them as the "bedrock" of the country's progress.

Addressing a wide cross-section of workers, the Prime Minister stressed that every contribution matters, regardless of occupation or social standing. He underscored that sanitation workers, teachers, healthcare professionals, security officers and others all play a critical role in shaping the nation's development.

"You are the architects and builders of this country," Browne said, noting that Antigua and Barbuda's progress over the decades has been driven by the sacrifices and dedication of its workforce.

Central to his message was a pledge to continue advancing policies aimed at worker empowerment. He highlighted ongoing efforts to increase salaries and wages, pointing out that his administration has consistently moved to improve worker earnings without the need for prolonged industrial disputes.

"We are committed to increasing salaries and wages routinely," he said, noting that the government is also working toward transitioning from a minimum wage system to a livable wage framework. According to Mr. Browne, this shift is essential to ensuring that workers can adequately meet their financial obligations and maintain a decent standard of living.



**Leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Gaston Browne**

The Prime Minister also addressed working conditions, acknowledging that gaps remain in workplace safety. He gave assurances yesterday that steps are being taken to improve environments across both public and private sectors, including increased attention to maintenance, sanitation, and occupational safety standards.

He appealed to workers to take advantage of expanding opportunities in education and skills training, and pointed to government-backed initiatives designed to help individuals complete their schooling, gain certification, or learn a trade. These programmes, he said, are intended to equip workers with the tools needed to secure better employment and to advance economically.

"Education is power," the ABLP leader stated, emphasising that access to learning and skills development is key to long-term empowerment.

Beyond wages and training, he highlighted broader efforts to improve workers' quality of life through increased access to home ownership, business opportunities, and other

forms of economic participation, part of a wider strategy to transition more citizens into the middle class.

The Prime Minister also delivered a firm message to employers, particularly within the private sector, insisting that workers must be treated with dignity and respect. He warned against any form of mistreatment, stating that employees are not expendable but rather central stakeholders in business success.

"Workers are the most significant stakeholders, and they must share in the profits," he declared.

Mr. Browne singled out employees in the tourism industry, calling for improved pay and conditions for hotel workers. He stressed that, given the importance of tourism to the national economy, those employed in the sector should not be struggling.

Prime Minister Browne also called for greater accountability within the public sector, urging senior officials to ensure that workers receive all outstanding payments, including back pay where applicable. He emphasised that timely compensation is a matter of respect and fairness.

While outlining the government's responsibilities, he also urged workers to play their part by maintaining high levels of productivity, adding that sustained economic progress depends on a balance between fair compensation and strong performance in the workplace.

"We must remain productive to protect the gains we have made," he said.

The ABLP leader and Prime Minister reiterated that workers will remain central to his administration's agenda, and pledged continued investment in wages, working conditions, and opportunities, while stressing that no worker should be left behind.

## ABLP Chairman Predicts Internal UPP Conflict Could Force Pringle's Exit

Chairman of the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), E.P. Chet Greene, has predicted continued internal turmoil within the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP), suggesting the situation could trigger a by-election in the constituency of All Saints East and Saint Luke within six months.

Speaking on Monday at the party's Labour Day rally, Greene declared that "the unravelling of the UPP will continue," while acknowledging he was "no Nostradamus" or biblical prophet. Despite that caveat, he asserted that in short, mounting internal pressures within the opposition will increase.

Greene specifically pointed to Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle, claiming he would be unable to withstand what he described as imminent internal challenges from within his own party.

"Pringle will be forced to resign the seat of parliament after being set upon by the majority of the party."

The ABLP chairman further suggested that such a development could pave the way for a political comeback by ABLP candidate Lamin Newton, who narrowly lost the seat in the last general election. Greene expressed confidence that Newton would secure victory if a by-election is called, contributing to what he described as the party's goal of a "clean sweep."

Beyond predictions of political instability, Greene used the platform to criticise the UPP's record in opposition, arguing that it has failed to provide meaningful or constructive engagement on national issues. He cited past opposition to government measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as resistance to



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

initiatives such as cruise tourism re-

sumption and the establishment of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

"Democracy requires an effective opposition," Greene said, contending that the UPP has not met that standard in recent terms.

He also outlined the ABLP's approach to governance, emphasising ongoing engagement with constituents. The ABLP chairman suggested that all elected ABLP representatives organize and host quarterly town hall meetings to maintain direct communication with the public.

"That's the balance we strike for democracy," he said. "Do not become strangers. Do not become visitors," E.P. Chet Greene asserted.



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# AT&LU Celebrates 75 Years Observing Labour Day

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of observing Labour Day, with celebrations this year focusing on its longevity and its many accomplishments over these many decades.

In speeches before the annual Labour Day observance at the VC Bird Bust on Lower All Saints Road on Monday, both AT&LU President Bernard deNully and General Secretary Alrick Daniel recalled that the first Labour Day was observed without the support of the planters, but the early leaders of the union were determined that workers in Antigua and Barbuda should have a day of their own similar to workers internationally.

President deNully said workers' contribution is critical to businesses large and small and that it is essential that they are treated justly.

"The most important component of any business or organization is the worker and without the worker, the functionality of business itself would not be possible.

We must appreciate the worker, we must value the worker and we must reward the worker with a liveable wage. I will now go further, if we appreciate and value the worker before they retire, we must also appreciate and value the pensioner in his or her retirement days after working year after year," he suggested.

The AT&LU president reported that there has been a resurgence of the



union in recent times as it has successfully completed negotiations at multiple bargaining units as well as sign new contracts on behalf of workers at others.

General Secretary Daniel recalled that many of the rights that workers enjoy today were fought for and won by the AT&LU more than seventy years ago.

"Today, Labour Day is now recognized in Antigua and Barbuda. This is only one of the many rights that have been won by the AT&LU and the ALP

now ABLP. The right to form and join trade unions, the right to collective bargaining, and of course universal adult suffrage. Today, we enjoy freedoms gained through the struggles of the past. However, I wish to caution you, the struggles are not over. The modern threats are even greater than those of the past. These threats do not originate from within our borders; but rather, in the global village of which we are a part," he emphasized.

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## Antigua and Barbuda leads discussions at global Education Summit at the UN

Antigua and Barbuda played a leading role at the Transforming Global Education Summit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The five-member delegation attending the summit was led by Director of Education, Clare Browne, and included Dr. Jrucilla Samuel, Director of Youth Affairs; Chevaughn Burton, Assistant to the Focal Point for Safe Schools in the Ministry of Education; Janet Simon, CARICOM Youth Ambassador; and Pia Nichols, President of the National Youth Volunteer Corps.

The Summit was held on 1st May and was convened by the PVBLC Foundation in collaboration with the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, the Kingdom of Tonga, and the Learning Economy Foundation.

Browne, who delivered opening remarks and participated in two panel discussions, underscored Antigua and Barbuda's vision for education reform.

"Transformation does not begin with scale, it begins with coherence, discipline, and intentional design. In Antigua and Barbuda, digital transformation is not a standalone goal, but an enabler of education reform, workforce readiness, and national resilience," Browne stated.

"Too often, global conversations focus on large-scale systems. But Small Island Developing States like Antigua and Barbuda are not peripheral, we are practical leaders," he further added.

Dr. Samuel moderated the Antiguan panel, which addressed the summit's theme: "Redefining Education Systems for the Future: Integrating Mental Health, Nutrition, and Holistic Youth Development as Global Priorities."

She emphasized the critical nature



of the dialogue, noting that the panel featured "three distinguished, youthful practitioners from Antigua and Barbuda—Burton, Simon, and Nichols—who represent the intersection of education, volunteerism, and safety."

Burton highlighted how Small Island Developing States are ensuring school infrastructure supports quality education while meeting disaster resilience standards.

"Disaster risk reduction is increasingly being integrated into everyday school experiences, not treated as a one-off lesson. In line with SDG 4, we are equipping students with relevant life skills that prepare them for real-world challenges," he said.

Simon, in the meantime, explored strategies for embedding mental health and nutrition into daily teaching without overburdening teachers.

"We are not asking teachers to carry more, but to embed health and wellbeing into the natural rhythm of schooling. Nutrition can be taught through practical activities—linking science lessons to healthy food choices,

or using school gardens as living classrooms. Mental health can be supported through simple daily practices such as mindfulness breaks, peer support groups, and open classroom discussions that normalize emotional wellbeing," she explained.

Nichols examined how volunteerism can evolve into a strategic tool for equity, addressing socio-economic disparities in education. She noted, "Government services often have a reach limit due to budget or staffing constraints. More volunteers inside and outside schools can help address the non-academic pillars of development, including mental health, nutrition, and social stability."

The summit's overarching theme, "*Redefining Education as Global Infrastructure*," framed education as a cornerstone of resilience, equity, and sustainable development. Antigua and Barbuda's delegation demonstrated how small states can lead with clarity, coherence, and disciplined innovation, offering a compelling blueprint for global transformation.

## Governor General and Lady Williams Attend St. John Hospice Fundraiser at Casa Palmadita



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams attended the St. John Hospice fundraiser, “*Wash You Foot and Come,*” held at Casa Palmadita, Fitches Creek, on Sunday, 3 May 2026.

The St. John Hospice falls under the patronage of Sir Rodney and Lady Williams and continues to provide compassionate care and support for terminally ill persons and their families. The fundraiser was held in aid of the Hospice’s ongoing work and brought together supporters, well-wishers, volunteers, and members of the wider community in a spirit of generosity and fellowship.

Sir Rodney delivered brief remarks in which he commended the Hospice for its quiet but deeply meaningful

service to the nation. He noted that the work of the Hospice is rooted in dignity, comfort, and love, and encouraged those present to continue supporting the institution through donations, volunteerism, and public advocacy.

Lady Williams presented a donation to Charlene Selkridge, Chair of the Planning Committee for the event, on behalf of The Halo Foundation. The Foundation has been pleased to support the St. John Hospice over the years, in keeping with its commitment to care, compassion, and service to vulnerable members of the community.

The programme was ably guided by Colin Maynard, the newest member of the St. John Hospice Board, who

served as Master of Ceremonies. Guests were also treated to excellent musical entertainment provided by Armani Gomes on pan, Garrett Gill on guitar, and Jevonte on keyboard.

Sir Rodney and Lady Williams expressed appreciation to Selkridge and the Planning Committee, the Board and management of the St. John Hospice, the staff, caregivers, volunteers, sponsors, performers, and all who contributed to the success of the event.

The fundraiser served not only as an opportunity to raise much-needed funds, but also to heighten awareness of the vital role played by the St. John Hospice in providing comfort, dignity, and compassionate care to families across Antigua and Barbuda.



Caribbean Community

## Note No. 156 of 2026

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda and has the honour to convey the following congratulatory message from Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of CARICOM, to the Honourable Gaston Brown, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

### Begins:

*“Prime Minister,*

I extend warmest congratulations to you and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party on your resounding victory in the General Elections held on 30 April 2026.

This fourth consecutive term signals the continued confidence of the electorate of Antigua and Barbuda in your leadership, and the path you have articulated for increased prosperity and security of the people.

We look forward to your continued contributions as a member of the Conference of Heads of Government, including as Lead Head in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet on Services.

The CARICOM Secretariat remains committed to continuing to work with your administration to deepen and strengthen our integration movement.”

**Ends.**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda the assurances of its highest consideration.



**Georgetown**  
**1 May 2026**

# Messages



May 1, 2026

The Honourable Gaston Browne  
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Queen Elizabeth Highway  
St. John's  
Antigua and Barbuda

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Government and People of The Virgin Islands, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your historic and landmark victory at the polls following the general elections held on April 30, 2026.

Your leadership of the Antigua Labour Party through four consecutive electoral victories is truly a monumental achievement. This election victory speaks not only to the enduring strength and vitality of the Party, but is a powerful testament to the profound trust and confidence the people of Antigua and Barbuda have placed in your stewardship and vision for your nation's future. I am confident that under your stewardship, Antigua and Barbuda will continue to thrive.

Please also convey congratulations to your entire team. I extend best wishes for a productive and successful term as you continue the vital work of Antigua's national development amid ongoing geopolitical shocks and climate challenges.

The Virgin Islands looks forward to deepening its relationship with Antigua and Barbuda in the years ahead. I am confident that our shared values and common aspirations will further strengthen the bonds of cooperation and friendship between our peoples.

Once again, on behalf of the Government and People of The Virgin Islands, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your victory. We look forward with optimism to witnessing the continued transformation of Antigua and Barbuda under your continued stewardship.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Natalio D. Wheatley".

Natalio D. Wheatley, Ph.D  
Premier

# Messages

## **CARICOM Nationals in Ethiopia (CNIE)**

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**May 1, 2026**

### **His Excellency Gaston Browne - “Gassy Dread”**

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Office of the Prime Minister

St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda

#### **Your Excellency,**

On behalf of the **CARICOM Nationals in Ethiopia (CNIE)**, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on your re-election as Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. Your re-election is a testimony to the confidence placed in your leadership by the people of Antigua and Barbuda!

We take this opportunity to recall Your Excellency’s official visit to Ethiopia, during which members of our community had the distinct honour of welcoming you upon your arrival at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa. We further acknowledge your visit to Shashemene, a site of profound historical and cultural significance to the international Rastafari community and to the Caribbean. Your visit was deeply appreciated and remains a meaningful expression of the enduring connection between your office and CARICOM diaspora in Ethiopia to strengthen Africa–Caribbean relations.

In honour of our enduring connection, we also respectfully reference the report submitted to your office in February 2026 concerning the Caribbean Rastafari community in Ethiopia. We trust that this submission contributes to ongoing dialogue on diaspora affairs and the lived experiences of CARICOM Nationals in Ethiopia. The CNIE remains committed to engagement with your administration.

Please accept, Your Excellency, our congratulations on your re-election, together with our assurances of highest consideration and respect.

**Yours respectfully,**

**Janelle Hoilett**

Ad Hoc Chair

On behalf of the CARICOM Nationals in Ethiopia (CNIE)

+251 946 872 655

[caricomnationalsethiopia@gmail.com](mailto:caricomnationalsethiopia@gmail.com)

# Messages

**Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional  
Unida Nicaragua Triunfa**



Managua, 2 May, 2026

Excellency

Gaston Browne

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Saint John

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of the People and Government of Reconciliation and National Unity, and on our own behalf, we convey our Congratulations on the victory of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) during the General Elections held on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

From our Blessed and Always Free Nicaragua, please receive our Fraternal Embrace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Ortega Saavedra".

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rosario Murillo".

Rosario Murillo

# Messages

## **CARICOM Nationals in Ethiopia (CNIE)**

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**May 1, 2026**

### **His Excellency Gaston Browne - "Gassy Dread"**

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Office of the Prime Minister

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda

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Please accept, Your Excellency, our congratulations on your re-election, together with our assurances of highest consideration and respect.

**Yours respectfully,**

**Janelle Hoilett**

Ad Hoc Chair

On behalf of the CARICOM Nationals in Ethiopia (CNIE)

+251 946 872 655

[caricomnationalsethiopia@gmail.com](mailto:caricomnationalsethiopia@gmail.com)

# VACANCY

## IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

The Systems Administrator is responsible for maintaining APUA's IT infrastructure, ensuring the reliable operation of network systems, and providing technical support across the organisation. This role includes monitoring and maintaining computer systems, installing and configuring hardware and software, and resolving technical issues to support efficient day-to-day operations.

### Key duties include:

- Conducts hardware repair & maintenance functions.
- Provides technical support for APUA's server system.
- Performs network operating system installation and upkeep, software installation.
- Provides technical support and operating system installation for workstations, laptops and computer peripheral equipment to include printers, facsimile machines, photocopiers, small UPS equipment and handheld meter readers.
- Performs productivity & utility software installation and upkeep on workstations, to include MS Office products, CRM products, anti-virus and anti-spyware software.
- Develops and maintains software, performs computer systems gap analysis, defines new product specifications and conduct product procurement.
- Sets up accounts for new users and test new technology.

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- A Computer Science, Network, Computing or Engineering Degree;
- At least 4 years of experience working in IT or related field;
- Strong leadership qualities, project management, problem solving, network trouble shooting, debugging, and written and verbal communication skills;
- Proficiency in programming languages (Java, C++, C#, CSS, HTML);
- Sound knowledge of proxy servers, LAN, software and application development life-cycle, Frameworks and Libraries, Algorithm design, SQL Server, Python, and Database Administration;
- A high degree of flexibility, team oriented and a willingness to learn.

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- Tracking shipments and resolving challenges including delays;
- Ensuring adequate and appropriate storage and security of products;
- Keeping updated inventory records and maintaining documentation on Purchases;
- Liaising with Stores staff and other internal teams to test product quality (status upon delivery and storage conditions);
- Ensuring storerooms are maintained in accordance with health and safety standards;
- Ensuring that employee performance management policies are adhered to in all areas including, but not limited to, employee training and development, performance appraisals and recommends disciplinary action where appropriate.

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related field from a reputable tertiary institution.
- Stores/ Warehouse and Stock Management experience would be an asset.
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# BARBUDA Caribana 2026

## MAY 2026

### THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

- 2PM | OPENING PARADE
- 3PM | KIDS FEST
- 8PM | JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH

### FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

- 11AM | WHEELS UNITED - PARK & LIME
- 8:30PM | CALYPSO / SOCA MONARCH

### SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

- 10AM-5PM | SPRITZ & SUN - SEAFOOD FEST - AND-  
JOHNNY DESOUZA FISHING TOURNAMENT
- 10PM-4AM | CARIBANA COLORS FETE

### SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC  
HORSE RACING

### MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

- 4AM-10AM | J'OUVERT
- 6PM-10PM | LAST LAP

EVENT SCHEDULE



# Messages



**Organisation of  
Eastern Caribbean States**

**The OECS Commission**

Morne Fortune, PO Box 179, Castries, Saint Lucia

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1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**The Honourable Gaston Browne**

Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

St. John's

Antigua and Barbuda

**Dear Prime Minister,**

I extend, on behalf of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and in my own capacity, warmest congratulations to you on your re-election to a fourth consecutive term as Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

The clarity of the mandate you have secured is not incidental. It reflects a sustained confidence by the people of Antigua and Barbuda in your leadership at a time when the global environment has become increasingly volatile, fragmented, and uncertain. In such an entropic moment, continuity of leadership - anchored in experience and decisiveness - becomes not merely a national asset, but a regional one.

Your stewardship over successive terms has been marked by a consistent effort to position Antigua and Barbuda as both resilient and outward-looking: strengthening fiscal stability, sustaining tourism recovery, and engaging assertively in international economic diplomacy. These are significant achievements that represent the kind of pragmatic statecraft that small island states must exercise if we are to navigate a world in which traditional certainties - multilateral guarantees, predictable trade regimes, and stable geopolitical alignments - can no longer be taken for granted.

Your renewed mandate therefore carries significance beyond national borders. Within the OECS integration movement, it comes at a moment when we are consciously shifting from coordination to deeper integration; from dependency to greater self-reliance; and from passive alignment to strategic engagement with global partners. As you are aware the Chairmanship of the OECS Authority providentially passes to Antigua and Barbuda in June this year and your leadership - grounded in a clear sense of national interest but responsive to regional imperatives - will be critical in advancing this transition.

The challenges before us are not incremental. They demand a convergence of will and action across our Member States: to strengthen economic union arrangements, to secure our financial and regulatory sovereignty, to deepen functional cooperation, and to assert a more coherent collective voice in the international system. In this regard, your continued leadership provides both stability and strategic opportunity.

# Messages

Please be assured of the OECS Commission's full commitment to working closely with you and your Government in advancing these shared priorities. The work ahead calls for nothing less than a disciplined, region-first approach which recognizes that the scale required for resilience and competitiveness lies not within individual states, but within the strength of our collective enterprise.

I wish you every success as you commence this new term of office, and I look forward to your assumption of the OECS leadership in shaping a more secure, integrated, and self-determined future for our region.

Please accept, Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Didacus Jules PhD, SLC  
Director General  
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

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## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Dear Prime Minister Browne,

On behalf of the Executive Director's Office, I extend warm congratulations on your re-election. Securing an unprecedented fourth consecutive electoral victory is a notable achievement and a clear reflection of the confidence that the people of Antigua and Barbuda continue to place in your leadership.

We greatly value the opportunity to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the IMF Executive Board, and we deeply appreciate your government's continued engagement with our office, and collaboration with the Fund. We look forward to continuing this close and constructive partnership in the period ahead.

Please accept my very best wishes for every success as you begin this new term. I also look forward to the opportunity to visit Antigua and Barbuda in the near future.

Sincerely,

Brad Brad Recker (he/him)

Executive Director

Constituency Office of Canada, Ireland, and the Caribbean

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

700 19th Street, NW I HQ1 11-170C I Washington, DC 20431

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## Democracy in Action: Antigua and Barbuda Swears In New Administration Following Peaceful 2026 Election



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

Having served in the past as a voter registration officer for a specific constituency, I have always been fascinated by the ebb and flow of popular support within the democratic process. Elections often reflect not only political campaigns, but also the evolving hopes, concerns, expectations, and confidence of ordinary people. Over time, one observes how national priorities shift and how electorates respond to leadership, policy direction, economic realities, and social stability. Yet amid these changing political tides, one constant remains clear: democracy functions best where peace, order, and mutual respect prevail. Democracy requires not only the right to vote, but also the collective responsibility to preserve peace and respect differing political opinions.

Under Section 61 of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, “a general election of members of the House shall be held” following the dissolution of Parliament, thereby establishing the constitutional authority for democratic elections with-

in the state. Since Independence in 1981, this constitutional framework has guided the orderly transfer and renewal of political authority in Antigua and Barbuda. With more than 60,000 registered electors on the national voters’ list, citizens once again exercised their democratic rights in a calm and orderly manner during the 2026 general election.

The 2026 general election will undoubtedly be remembered as another defining moment in the democratic history of Antigua and Barbuda. The resounding victory of Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) reflected not only electoral success, but also the confidence many citizens placed in continuity, economic management, and national development. The outcome was particularly historic as it secured a fourth consecutive term for the ruling leadership. In a 17-member Parliament, the governing party won 15 declared seats, giving the administration one of the most decisive parliamentary outcomes in recent political history.

Preliminary electoral analysis also suggests that the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party secured in excess of 60 percent of the popular vote, while the principal opposition party received approximately 30 percent, with smaller political parties and independent candidates accounting for the remaining share. These figures indicate not merely a parliamentary victory, but a broad national endorsement of the government’s present policy direction and leadership approach.

Since achieving Independence from the United Kingdom on 1 November 1981, Antigua and Barbuda has successfully conducted ten general elections — in 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2018, 2023, and

2026. These elections have consistently demonstrated the nation’s commitment to constitutional democracy, political stability, and peaceful electoral transitions. Governments have changed through the ballot box rather than through instability, reinforcing confidence in the country’s parliamentary traditions and democratic institutions.

The orderly conduct of the 2026 election also highlighted the enduring importance of Universal Adult Suffrage, introduced in Antigua in 1951. Before that historic reform, voting rights were largely restricted by property ownership and income qualifications, leaving many ordinary citizens without political representation. Universal suffrage transformed the political landscape by empowering workers, women, and the wider population to participate directly in governance and national decision-making.

That development fundamentally reshaped Antigua and Barbuda’s democratic culture and strengthened the labour movement. Leaders such as Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr. emerged during that transformative period, advocating for workers’ rights, social mobility, and political inclusion. The democratic freedoms exercised in 2026 therefore stand firmly on foundations built through decades of constitutional development and civic struggle.

Across Antigua and Barbuda, citizens exercised their constitutional right to vote in an atmosphere characterized by calm, tolerance, and respect for democratic norms. Despite the intensity that naturally accompanies elections, the people of the nation demonstrated commendable political maturity. Supporters of different political parties participated freely in the democratic process, reinforcing



Antigua and Barbuda's reputation as one of the Caribbean's more stable parliamentary democracies. The election once again demonstrated that democracy flourishes best where citizens are able to vote freely without fear, intimidation, or disorder.

A genuine democratic process requires what may appropriately be described as a "zone of peace" — an environment in which political competition occurs without violence, coercion, hostility, or intimidation. Such an atmosphere allows citizens to exercise independent judgment, engage in free political expression, and participate confidently in national decision-making. Without peace and civic restraint, democratic institutions can quickly become weakened by fear, division, and instability. Antigua and Barbuda's peaceful electoral environment therefore remains one of the nation's greatest democratic strengths.

At a time when several democracies globally face polarization, social fragmentation, and institutional distrust, Antigua and Barbuda's democratic tradition remains a valuable example within the Caribbean Community. The country has repeatedly shown that strong political competition can coexist with national stability once democratic norms and mutual respect are maintained.

The victory of Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne and the ABLP suggests that a significant portion of the electorate endorsed the government's policy direction, particularly in areas such as infrastructure development, housing, tourism growth, education, healthcare modernization, and economic resilience during uncertain global conditions. Many voters appeared persuaded that continuity in leadership offered stability at a time when many small island developing states continue to face inflationary pressures, climate vulnerabilities, and wider geopolitical uncertainty.

At the same time, every strong democracy requires a vibrant and constructive opposition capable of advancing alternative ideas, policies, and perspectives. The election outcome has also brought into sharper focus the leadership and organizational challenges presently confronting the Opposition. Addressing these challenges will be important for strengthening balanced political discourse, encouraging healthy democratic debate, and ensuring robust representation of differing national viewpoints within Parliament and public life.

Strong electoral mandates often create opportunities for broader national reflection on constitutional development. The election outcome may

therefore reopen national discussions concerning constitutional reform, including revisiting a referendum on accession to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) as the nation's final appellate court, while also exploring an appropriate timeframe within which Antigua and Barbuda may join other Caribbean Community nations that have transitioned to republican constitutional systems. Such discussions, if approached carefully and inclusively, can form part of the country's continuing democratic evolution and constitutional maturity.

Moreover, the election demonstrated the professionalism of election officials, security personnel, political agents, volunteers, and ordinary citizens who collectively ensured the process remained credible and orderly. Once the ballots are counted, nation-building must remain the shared responsibility of all citizens, regardless of political affiliation. Elections may determine political leadership, but peace and national unity ultimately determine the long-term success and stability of any democracy.

The preservation of democratic traditions and peaceful elections remains essential not only for present stability, but also for the political education and confidence of future generations.

As Antigua and Barbuda swears in its new administration and governance resumes, the nation can take pride in the fact that democracy prevailed calmly and decisively. The 2026 election was not merely a contest for political office; it was a reaffirmation of the nation's democratic culture, institutional resilience, and collective commitment to stability, peace, development, and progress for future generations. In the final analysis, the true victor of the 2026 election was the democratic spirit of Antigua and Barbuda itself.

# Commentary

## The boxer on the ropes - an analysis of the Antigua and Barbuda 2026 General Elections | Part I



by Dr W. Aubrey Webson

Taking body blow after body blow and the boxer is driven back against the ropes.

At that moment, every trainer in every corner knows one simple truth: if you do not knock him out, you stand the chance of facing a stronger, more focused, and more dangerous opponent.

A wounded animal is never weaker. That's when its survival instincts emerge and it rises as a more determined, relentless and ferocious force than when it roamed free and unchallenged.

That describes the story of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

In 2004, and then again in 2023, the ABLP's back was against the ropes. Many believed the party was finished, that its era had passed, that the blows it had taken at the polls were fatal. But politics, like boxing, is not decided by one or two rounds. Victory comes from resilience, strategy, and by the

ability to absorb pressure. The fighter must be able to learn and adjust quickly and be able to counter punch with laser sharp precision, force and purpose.

In 2023, the UPP landed a punishing blow. They did not score a knock-out. While the party had the ABLP on the ropes, it simply did not possess enough strength and fire to score a knockout punch.

Was it luck? Was it a lack of ability or skill? We can speculate. What we do know, however, is that in 2026, the people of Antigua and Barbuda delivered their own verdict. The emphatic rebound of the ABLP at the polls was not just a swing of electoral fortune; it was a powerful demonstration of democratic confidence, institutional strength, and responsive leadership. It showed that when a party listens, reforms, renews itself, and returns to its roots, the people will respond.

As Abraham Lincoln reminded the world, "Elections belong to the people."

The people of this nation have spoken clearly. Their message is not only about who leads today, but about how that leadership behaves in the face of challenge.

### Democracy on Display

The 2026 election was more than a contest of parties, it was a test of institutions and the maturity of our democracy. Across Antigua and Barbuda, citizens went to the polls freely, without fear, and expressed their will with clarity and conviction. Once again, this island nation proved that democracy here is not a slogan, it is a lived practice.

In the words often attributed to Franklin D. Roosevelt, "The ultimate rulers of our democracy are the voters." More than sixty percent of registered voters turned out to cast their ballots - higher participation than in many established democracies, where turnout often falls below fifty percent in national elections. Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada and even the UK have all recorded national turnouts of less than sixty percent, and Jamaica, Belize, and Barbados have each had governments formed with the support of less than sixty percent of registered voters. The level of engagement in Antigua and Barbuda is a statement in itself; people believed the stakes were high, and they trusted the process enough to participate.

By returning the ABLP to office with renewed strength, voters did not sim-

ply endorse a party. They endorsed a direction, a vision, and a style of leadership that responded to the lessons of 2023 rather than ignoring them. They rewarded not arrogance, but adjustment, not denial, but transformation.

### Rope-a-Dope and Political Resilience

Muhammad Ali perfected the "rope-a-dope" strategy—leaning back on the ropes, absorbing punishment, letting his opponent exhaust himself, and then stepping forward with precision and power. Many believed Ali was finished, only to watch him rise, strike, and win.

In 2023, the ABLP took its blows. It heard the frustration, the disappointment, the warning from the electorate. But instead of collapsing, it regrouped. Instead of denying reality, it faced it. Instead of clinging to comfort, it chose transformation.

The 2026 result is proof that what did not knock the party out has made it stronger.

The opposition mistook a "knockdown" for a "knock-out." They misread a warning as a final judgment. In politics, as in the ring, failing to finish the job has consequences. If a boxer is allowed to recover, he returns with sharper focus. If a political institution is given a second chance and uses it wisely, it can become more disciplined, more inclusive, and more in tune with the people.

## THE POST-CONVENTION DECLINE OF THE UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY

*By Charlesworth C. M. Tabor, Attorney-at-Law*

The United Progressive Party (UPP) came into existence in 1992 through the merger of the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM), the United National Democratic Party (UNDP) and the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM). They came together as a unified opposition force to the governing Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ALP) that has dominated the governing of the State for decades.

After years in the political wilderness the UPP assumed State power in 2004 under the leadership of Baldwin Spencer, winning twelve of the seventeen electoral seats. The Baldwin Spencer led Administration governed Antigua and Barbuda from 2004 to 2014. After the 2014 general elections the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ALP) was returned to governance with a majority of fourteen seats. Then followed the 2018 and 2023 general elections where the ABLP won fifteen (15) and nine (9) seats respectively.

The results of the 2023 general elections were a tremendous improvement in the electoral fortunes of the UPP where they moved from one (1) parliamentary seat to six (6). Despite this positive electoral result the leader of the Party, Harold Lovell, immediately relinquished his leadership of the Party and also announced his disengagement from electoral politics. I have always maintained that this was a premature and strategic error and his subsequent return to electoral politics in 2026 is ample justification for my initial assessment and an addition to the comedy of his errors.

On Lovell's resignation as leader of the UPP, the Deputy Political Leader Jamale Pringle assumed the position



of interim Political Leader pending the Party's Convention in April, 2024.

As a rule, political conventions are by nature generally contentious and divisive because they are essentially a competition for leadership, invariably between different factions. The UPP Convention on 20-21 April, 2024 under the theme "Together in Unity: Forward to Victory" was no exception to the rule. In fact, the aftermath of the UPP Convention went way beyond the exception to the rule despite the theme. The ensuing chaos and resignation of senior members from the Party has sent the Party into a downward spiral from which it has not recovered to this day.

The leadership race at the Convention was between the interim leader Pringle and the challenger Richard Lewis. A week or two prior to the April Convention, the vast majority of the Party's Parliamentarians indicated in a letter that was leaked to the media their support for Lewis as the Leader. Coupled with that information, it also came to light that a poll was done which indicated that Lewis was the preferred candidate of many including the busi-

ness community. Many of the constituency branches as well favoured Lewis. Did this indicate strong support for the interim leader? Of course this is a competition for leadership and the Pringle faction, led by the Chairman of the Party and members of the leadership hierarchy, got to work and by whatever means necessary ensured that the Pringle faction prevailed at the Convention.

I suspected that the two former Leaders of the Party, Baldwin Spencer and Harold Lovell, were also quite pleased with the results of the Convention. The Convention was declared by many to be democratic hence the people spoke with the voice of God "vox populi vox dei". What human would dare to question a decision sanctioned by God? However, this is not the realm of heaven. This is the realm of Realpolitik where pragmatism and objectivity should be guiding factors in a Party's decision-making. Essentially, the primary role of a political party is to win and exercise State power. However, this objective will be difficult to achieve in the face of disunity, weak leadership and rampant individual self-interest that works against

# Commentary

the GREATER GOOD. It begs the question, therefore, what is the Greater Good. In this discourse, the Greater Good is primarily achieving State power. The next big task for a political party is to determine the modalities and instrumentalities that would effectively facilitate the achievement of the Greater Good.

Now, the internal discord and disunity that became the aftermath of the Convention, ultimately resulted in cataclysmic consequences for the Party. First came the resignation of Anthony Smith from the Party and him becoming an Independent Member of Parliament. Subsequently, other high ranking and brilliant executive members of the Party resigned. What I will posit now might be hard to believe by many people, but it is my strong belief that these post-convention resignations were due primarily to the weak leadership and management of the Party where persons were blinded by rampant self-interest and not the GREATER GOOD for the Party. The members who supported the Lewis faction in the Convention were treated as outcasts and enemies. No serious attempts were made to try to diffuse the tensions and bring the Party together. In fact, an attempt was made to bring a noted attorney from Barbados to come to Antigua to conduct a mediation between the parties but this was blocked by the leadership hierarchy. The internal dynamics of the Party were clearly toxic and dysfunctional, but that might have been the environment that some in the leadership wished to perpetuate.

Even the question of the selection of the two Deputy Leaders of the Party post-convention should have been seen as a most important and critical matter. This is a mandatory requirement of the Party's Constitution. However, at no time did the Party have two Deputy Leaders in place in its history. It has always been one. In the case of Baldwin Spencer the Deputy was Wilmot Daniel and for Harold Lovell the Deputy was Jamale Pringle. This fact might seem harmless and not signif-

icant, but it underscores the internal discord and division that has been like a millstone around the neck of the Party. With respect to the 2024 post convention; a visionary, strong and strategic Political Leader would have ensured that Richard Lewis was appointed as one of the Deputy Political Leaders. However, this was never a serious objective pursued by the Political Leader because as I have stated before Richard Lewis and the members of his faction were treated as outcasts. It is this lack of pragmatism and strategic thinking by the leadership of the Party that has plummeted the Party into the ensuing post-convention chaos.

As a student of one of the Caribbean's foremost intellectuals, CLR James; like him, I also believe that "any cook can govern". However, as Lenin added the "cook must first learn to govern". I have said all that to preface my discussion on the question of Leadership within the UPP.

The UPP at its April, 2024 Convention elected Jamale Pringle as the Leader of the Party, a role he has acted in following the resignation of Harold Lovell after the January, 2023 general elections. Jamale Pringle was also the Party's sole representative in Parliament after the March, 2018 general elections. The latter fact has created a lot of emotionalism among members of the Party and even some members who one could consider to be intellectuals. I am making this point because I have heard some of the members who could be considered intellectuals declaring that Jamale Pringle should be the Leader of the Party because he was the "Sole Pringle" in Parliament. To state that such emotionalism should have no place in politics and in particular the selection of a political leader would be a gross understatement.

It is accepted that political parties exist to pursue certain principles and long-term goals which would redound to the benefit of the State and its residents. Based on the political philosophy of utilitarianism, this is expressed

as the greatest good for the greatest number. However, no political party can achieve those principles and long-term goals that would benefit the State and its residents unless the Party assumes State Power.

Now, to assume State Power, which I have characterized already as the GREATER GOOD, a political party must take the necessary steps to achieve that objective. Emotionalism must be banished from the Party's political ethos. Pragmatism and objectivity should be the guiding yardsticks in a political party's decision-making. It is this absence of pragmatism and objectivity on the part of the leadership of the UPP that has contributed to its present lethargy and malaise.

Despite the UPP presenting a united face to the public on 7 April, 2026 at the ratification of its candidates for the general elections, that can be described as too little too late and simply a stratagem for public consumption. It is a public secret that Harold Lovell on his return to electoral politics and being declared as the Caretaker for the All Saints West Constituency, was still entertaining ambitions of challenging Jamale Pringle for leadership.

In any aspect of life leadership matters. It matters because a leader can determine whether the entity that is led (whether school, church or political party) progresses, stagnates or declines. The leadership of Jamale Pringle of the UPP was always problematic from the start because of perceptions of his intellectual standing in the Party. Generally, a political leader should stand out intellectually in his Party and that appeared to have been absent in the case of Pringle. Moreover, the important role of appearing to be the Party's chief strategist and public advocate was missing from his modus operandi. Pringle's problem was further compounded by the fact that many in the electorate had a negative perception of his ability as a leader. While we do not have a Presidential System of election, leadership

does matter and the perception of the leader can affect voting behavior.

The million dollar question now is whether the post-convention decline of the UPP has contributed to their poor general elections results.

While many would argue that there is no utility in engaging in counterfactual analysis, I would beg to differ since such analysis brings into focus the causal impact of actions. What I wish to posit, therefore, is that the aftermath of the UPP's Convention with its ensuing discord, fragmentation and defections were the major reasons for its disastrous election defeat.

While the Party tried to project an image of unity to the public in a few weeks before the polls, that certainly could not overcome the perception in the eyes of the electorate of a disunited group of people with subterranean, unresolved issues. The UPP dropped the ball when they failed to select the best person to lead the Party into the gener-

al elections. The members of the Party in Parliament (which is a powerful group in any Party) and polls did not see Jamale Pringle as the best leader. However, a Party which has breached its own Constitution so many times, has argued that Pringle was elected by a democratic process in the Convention and his leadership is impregnable and beyond reproach, despite the fact that the said Convention was believed by many to have been rigged by the Party hierarchy. Again, emotionalism and blind, rampant self-interest were allowed to prevail over pragmatism by allowing the status quo to remain.

Now, for the counterfactual analysis following the 30 April, 2026 general elections results. The *raison d'être* of any political party is to win State power so that it can implement its policies for the benefit of the State and its residents. It was always my contention that the UPP would have been a more formidable force in any election with Richard Lewis as the Leader, backed by a united and committed

Party. However, that was not the case because the Party leadership and hierarchy failed to grasp and internalize the concept of the Greater Good. The greater good required that you put the modalities and instrumentalities in place that would give you the best chance of winning State power. That was not done because emotionalism and rampant self-interest of key personnel in the Party's leadership hierarchy triumphed over Realpolitik and the Greater Good. Moreover, the UPP must genuinely learn to drink "bush tea" for the people's cold.

The results of the 2026 general elections are clear and shocking, with 15 seats for the ALP and 1 for the UPP. It might appear now that the Requiem Mass for the UPP is on the horizon. Yes, Pringle has won his seat because All Saints East and St. Luke is a UPP stronghold. However, the quintessential problem with the UPP is leadership and until that is understood and addressed the fortunes of the Party will remain in the doldrums.

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## Two in custody after 3 trucks owned by Chinese airport contractors were allegedly set ablaze

Minister for National Security Rayburn Blackmoore has confirmed that two individuals are in police custody assisting with investigations into an arson incident at the site of Dominica's International Airport project in Wesley.

The incident, which occurred earlier this week, involved three trucks owned by Chinese contractors that were allegedly set ablaze.

Speaking during a live interview on DBS Radio Thursday morning, Blackmoore stressed the seriousness of the matter.

"I cannot speak as to the motive of whoever did that. That is for the police to investigate. But what I have been advised is that there are two people in custody assisting the police with this investigation," he said. "It is critically important therefore for the people who are responsible to be arrested and of course for there to be a due process."

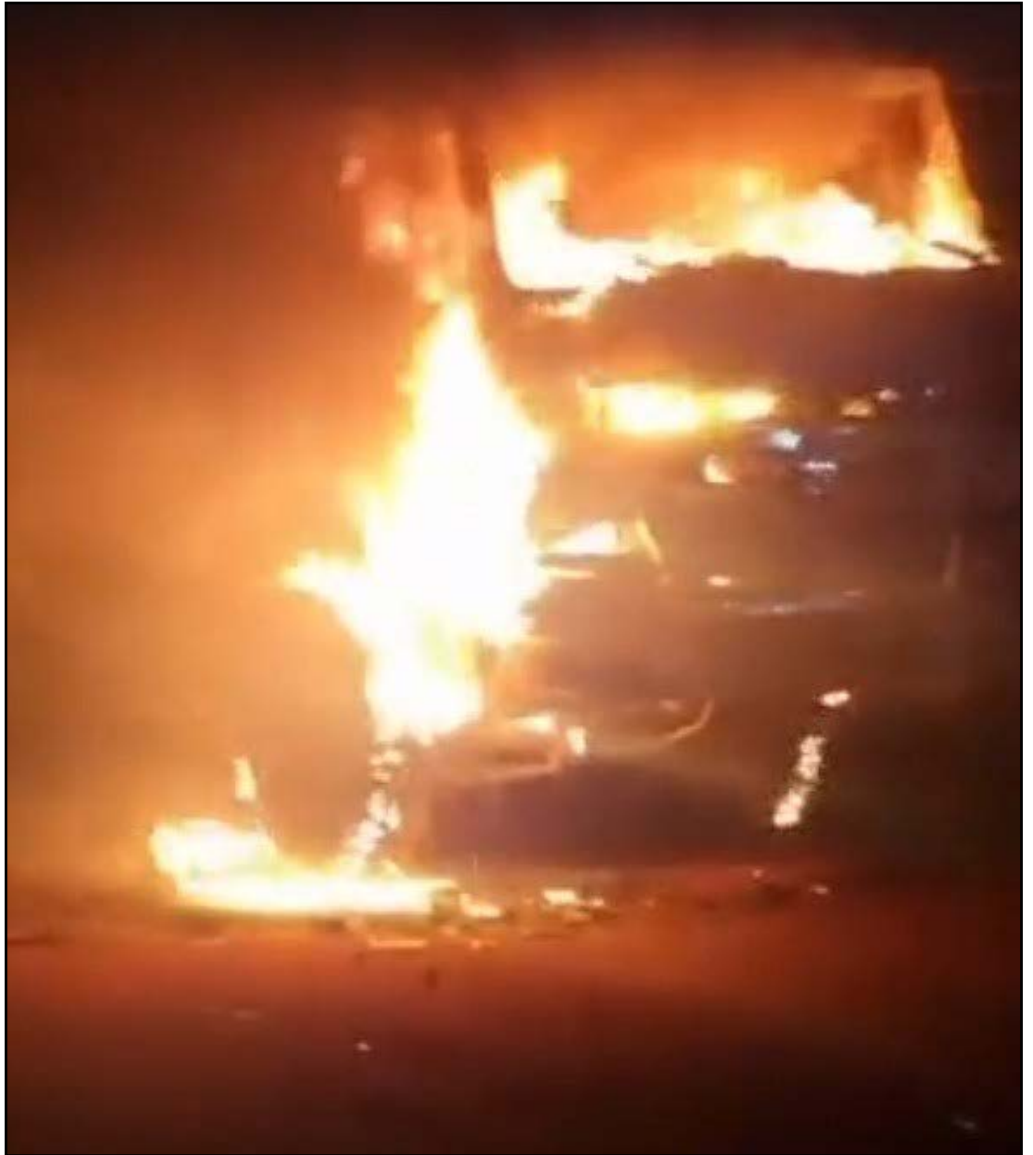
The Minister condemned the act, describing it as criminal and unrepresentative of the Dominican people, particularly residents of Wesley and Woodford Hill.

"This is certainly not an act against the Chinese contracting team, CR5 or MMC. This is a criminal act against Dominica, against all of us, perpetrated by criminal vagabond elements who must be pursued in the highest degree of intensity by the police," Blackmoore declared.

He emphasized that the communities surrounding the airport project have been welcoming and supportive of both local and foreign employees.

"Residents of both communities have been very embracing to the employees of the international airport and are supportive of the project itself," he noted.

Blackmoore also highlighted the



broader significance of the airport project, calling it a historic national achievement. He reminded listeners that the People's Republic of China has stood by Dominica during difficult times and urged citizens to continue fostering goodwill.

"Let us make them feel welcome and let us together make sure that we do everything possible to assist the police to identify those vagabonds, these criminals," he said.

The Minister further addressed recent concerns about weather-related damage in the Kalinago Territory, where five houses were destroyed and 18 families affected. He assured that

independent experts in hydrology, geology, and engineering would be brought in to assess risks and advise the government on safeguarding vulnerable communities.

Blackmoore concluded by underscoring the airport's importance as a cornerstone of Dominica's economic future.

"This ought to be a proud moment for us. We are building this airport that generations 60 years ago only dreamed about. It is critical for the survival of our country and for generations to come," he said. (Dominica News Online)

## Fraud charges for minister of religion over US\$12,000 truck deal



A 57-year-old minister of religion from St Catherine has been hit with fraud charges after a man allegedly paid more than US\$12,000 for a motor truck that was never delivered and his money never refunded.

Sean Green, of Oakwood Terrace, Wedgewood Gardens in Spanish Town has been charged with fraudulent conversion and non-delivery of goods and services on the contracted date, a police statement said Monday.

Reports from the Spanish Town police indicate that the complainant allegedly paid Green US\$12,132 for a 2010 Isuzu motor truck, which was to have been handed over in November 2025.

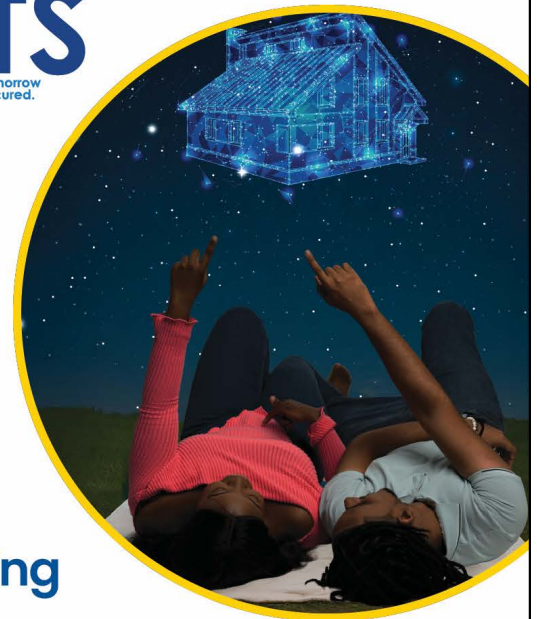
It's alleged the vehicle was not delivered and the funds were not returned, prompting a police report that led to Green's arrest and charge.

He is scheduled to appear before the St Catherine Parish Court on Tuesday, May 19. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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# Regional News



## Adam Stewart scores latest victory in battle over Butch Stewart's empire

The Supreme Court has struck out a claim by executors of the late hotel mogul Gordon "Butch" Stewart's estate seeking a "red flag" audit of several companies, ruling they lacked legal standing to bring the case.

The decision, announced orally on March 26 by Justice Cresencia Brown Beckford and released in writing Wednesday, blocks an attempt by the executors to carry out a red-flag audit of Gorstew Limited, Appliance Traders Limited and their subsidiaries. CorporateStrategy Consulting

In 2024, the executors had sought court authorisation to carry out an urgent audit of the companies, citing serious concerns about how the companies had been run since Stewart's death on January 4, 2021.

The executors are Trevor Patterson, Cheryl Hamersmith-Stewart, Elizabeth "Betty Joe" Desnoes, and Martin Veira. Hamersmith-Stewart is Butch's common-law widow.

Adam Stewart, the Sandals hotels boss who took over from his father, applied to the court for the case to be struck out. He rejected their claims and argued that their case was an abuse of the process and should be struck out as executors did not have authority under the Trusts Act to bring the claim. FamilyBusiness Successio

In a 24-page opinion, the judge ruled that the executors, in seeking to carry out the audit, were acting in their capacity as executors and not as trustees,

and that the Trusts Act does not govern executorial functions.

"In view of this finding, the executors in seeking to carry out this red flag audit are acting [as] executors and not trustees of the will of the Founder," Justice Brown Beckford wrote. "In that event, they do not have standing under the Trusts Act to bring this claim."

The judge added: "The executors' duties, though they may overlap with trustee duties and possibly in instances be the same activity, are not, in law, synonymous."

Justice Brown-Beckford argued further that if she is wrong that "the executors are not as a matter of law constituted trustees of the estate, the duties which they are seeking to carry out by this claim are clearly executorial and not trustee functions." CourtDocument Access

"This is confirmed by the Fixed Date Claim Form, which defines the claimants as executors and not trustees, clearly denoting the capacity in which the claim was being brought," the judge explained.

The judge also argued that executors "do not automatically become trustees of the will despite the will naming them as 'Executors and Trustees'."

She said: "It is noted that the executors are referred to as trustees throughout the will. This nomenclature, as shown in the preamble, was for convenience only."

The court examined Butch Stewart's will, noting that the relevant clause governing the ATL Group, which includes Gorstew Limited and Appliance Traders Limited, did not place those shares in trust.

The court also addressed the proposal to appoint US-based accounting firm Alvarez and Marsal to conduct the audit, which Adam Stewart's legal team argued would breach the Public Accountancy Act.

While the judge found that argument "not without merit" in principle, it ultimately failed because the application before the court was for authorisation to conduct the audit, not for the appointment of a specific firm.

The executors, who are to pay Adam Stewart's legal fees, were given permission to appeal.

The ruling represents a significant victory for Adam Stewart and his siblings, Brian Jardim and Jaime Stewart, in a long-running family dispute over the administration of their father's estate.

Adam Stewart was represented by Walter Scott KC and Ian Wilkinson KC and attorneys Conrad George, Anna Gracie, André Sheckleford, and Gabrielle Chin.

The executors were led by Michael Hylton KC and Kevin Powell KC, and attorney Timera Mason.

John Graham KC and attorney Peta-Gaye Manderson appeared for Gorstew Limited. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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## Gonsalves says 'vipers, hypocrites' to face political reckoning

Former Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves has issued a fiery warning to his political opponents and critics, labelling them “vipers” and promising they will soon face a “day of political reckoning”.

Speaking out against the current administration’s economic policies, Gonsalves vehemently defended his legacy while criticizing those who have aligned with the new government’s agenda.

Gonsalves rigorously defended the Unity Labour Party’s (ULP) nearly 25-year track record, emphasizing that his administration managed the economy with a balance of “prudence and enterprise”. He noted that under his leadership, the country never defaulted on its debt and received a “fantastic report in July 2024 from the IMF”.

However, Gonsalves expressed deep

frustration that just five months into the New Democratic Party’s (NDP) tenure, the narrative has shifted to warn of an impending “disorderly fiscal adjustment”.

In response, he directed severe criticism at individuals he described as “hypocrites,” “vipers,” and “double speakers” who are actively trying to tarnish the ULP government’s performance.

He accused these detractors of supporting the new administration’s agenda simply because “they want to eat a food,” suggesting their loyalties have been bought by the prospect of political patronage and financial gain.

The core of the dispute revolves around the NDP government’s agreement with the IMF to implement an “ambitious fiscal consolidation” program, which Gonsalves condemned as

“damning austerity” that will “cripple this country”.

He characterized the NDP’s embrace of the IMF’s recommendations as an “absurd agenda” and a “total betrayal” of the working class, noting that it entirely contradicts the promises the NDP made on the campaign trail to immediately improve citizens’ lives.

Despite the aggressive rhetoric aimed at his party’s legacy, Gonsalves remained defiant.

He advised his supporters not to lose their heads, but instead to stay organized, work in solidarity, and carefully document the actions of the current NDP government.

Unfazed, Gonsalves delivered a stern final message to his detractors: “Let them go ahead. They will have their day of political reckoning”. (St Vincent Times)



## PAHO urges countries to invest in midwifery



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Monday said that only 60 per cent of countries in the Americas, including the Caribbean, have a regulatory authority that clearly defines the scope of midwifery practice, and just half have systems in place for periodic license renewal and quality assurance.

“These gaps limit the ability of health systems to fully harness the contribution of midwives and ensure high-quality, safe and respectful care,” PAHO said in a statement ahead of the observance of International Day of the Midwife on Tuesday.

The United Nations (UN) organisation said that it is working closely with member states to strengthen midwifery and the broader health workforce and

that it supports workforce planning using national data, the development and modernisation of education and training programmes, and the advancement of regulation and professional recognition.

PAHO said it is also promoting the integration of midwives into interprofessional teams and supports the use of evidence-based guidelines to improve quality of care, including respectful maternity care.

It said currently, the region has 160 professional midwifery training programmes, many incorporating digital tools, interprofessional education and diverse clinical training settings. Encouragingly, 88 per cent of graduates achieve core midwifery competencies,

preparing them to deliver comprehensive care from sexual and reproductive health through pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period.

PAHO said it is urging countries to invest in midwifery as a cornerstone of resilient, equitable and people centered health systems.

“Midwives play a critical role in delivering comprehensive, essential care to women, newborns, families, and communities across the life course. When adequately trained, supported and integrated into health systems, midwifery personnel can provide up to 90 per cent of essential sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health interventions.” (CMC)

## Samsung family pays off record \$8bn inheritance tax bill



The family behind the South Korean corporate giant Samsung has completed its payment of a 12 trillion won (£6bn; \$8bn) inheritance tax bill, the largest such settlement in the country's history.

Chairman Lee Jae-yong and other members of the family, including his mother Hong Ra-hee and sisters Lee Boo-jin and Lee Seo-hyun, paid the sum in six installments over the last five years.

The bill is tied to the estate left by the firm's late chairman Lee Kun-hee, who died in October 2020.

Samsung is South Korea's biggest chaebol, or family-owned business, with operations spanning electronics, heavy industry, construction and financial services.

Lee Kun-hee left a 26 trillion won fortune, including shares, property and art collections.

At the time, the family said that "paying taxes is a natural duty of citizens".

Samsung confirmed on Sunday that the final payment had been made, noting that the sum is equivalent to roughly one and a half times the country's total inheritance tax revenue for 2024.

At 50%, South Korea's inheritance tax rate is among the highest in the world.

The handling of the tax bill was watched closely by investors as it could have affected the Lee family's ability to retain control of Samsung.

Part of Lee Kun-hee's estate, including his collection of art by Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, was donated to the National Museum of Korea and other cultural organisations.

The Lee family has a combined net worth of more than \$45bn, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Their wealth has more than doubled in the last year as demand for computer chips from the global artificial intelligence (AI) industry has helped drive up the stock market value of Samsung Electronics.

As well making computer chips, Samsung's technology operations include one of the world's largest smartphone makers and a major manufacturer of TVs.

Samsung Group was founded in 1938 by Lee Byung-chul, the grandfather of Lee Jae-yong, who now leads the company. (BBC)



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## Three dead in suspected virus outbreak on Atlantic cruise ship

Three people have died and a UK national is seriously ill in hospital after a suspected hantavirus outbreak on a small cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean.

The operator of the MV Hondius ship, tour company Oceanwide Expeditions, said a Dutch husband and wife, as well as a German national, had died but the cause has not yet been established.

However, the Dutch company said hantavirus has been confirmed in the case of the 69-year-old UK national who is in intensive care in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Hantavirus is usually passed to humans from rodents via their faeces, saliva or urine. It can cause severe respiratory illness. Rarely, it can be transmitted between people.

The MV Hondius vessel is currently off the coast of Cape Verde and has 149 people onboard.

Oceanwide Expeditions said there were also two crew members on board “with acute respiratory symptoms, one mild and one severe”.

They were of British and Dutch nationality and both required urgent medical care, it said. It said it had not been established that hantavirus had been confirmed in the pair. And it added that no other persons with symptoms had been identified.

Negotiations are in progress with local authorities following what Oceanwide Expeditions described as “a serious medical situation”.

Outlining a timeline, the company said a passenger had become unwell while aboard and died on 11 April.

His cause of death could not be determined, and his body was taken off the ship after it docked at St Helena on 24 April.

The passenger’s wife also disembarked on St Helena and the firm said



it was told she had become unwell during the return journey and later died.

“At this time, it has not been confirmed that these two deaths are connected to the current medical situation on board,” it added.

On 27 April, the firm said, another passenger - the British national - became seriously ill and was “medically evacuated” to South Africa.

The 69-year-old remains in a critical but stable condition in Johannesburg after it was confirmed a variant of hantavirus had been identified.

The firm added that on Saturday, a third passenger onboard MV Hondius died.

The cause of death has not been established, Oceanwide Expeditions said. It confirmed the passenger was German.

Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, South Africa’s minister of health, said of the British patient that he was critical and had been admitted to a private facility.

“He’s being taken care of. As you know, hantavirus, like all viruses, don’t have any specific treatment, so they are giving symptomatic treatment and support as much as they could.”

He said health workers and anyone who had contact with the patient would now be traced and tested.

A UK government spokesperson said the foreign office was in touch with the man’s family and that consular teams were operating in the UK, South Africa, Spain and Portugal to support British nationals.

Oceanwide Expeditions said the cause of the deaths were being investigated.

“The disembarkation of passengers, medical evacuation and medical screening require permission from, and co-ordination with, the local health authorities,” it said.

“Local health authorities have visited the vessel and assessed the situation.

“The medical transfer of the two ill persons on board has not yet taken place.”

It added that the option of sailing on to Las Palmas or Tenerife was being considered “to be the gateway for disembarkation, where further medical screening and handling could take place”.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said it was “acting with urgency” to support the MV Hondius, and thanked South African authorities for taking care of the British patient.

WHO’s regional director for Europe, Dr Hans Henri P Kluge, said: “I am in close contact with our teams to ensure a co-ordinated, science-based response.

“Hantavirus infections are uncommon and usually linked to exposure to infected rodents.

“While severe in some cases, it is not

easily transmitted between people. The risk to the wider public remains low. There is no need for panic or travel restrictions.”

According to the South African government, MV Hondius departed from Ushuaia in southern Argentina about three weeks ago, before it completed its journey to Cape Verde, where it is anchored outside the capital, Praia.

It is described as a 107.6m (353ft) polar cruise ship, with space for 170 passengers in 80 cabins, along with 57 crew members, 13 guides and one doctor.

One passenger onboard the MV Hondius, who asked to remain anonymous, told the BBC: “The latest word is that a plane is on its way and once it gets here three people will be evacuated from the ship and flown straight to Europe.

“Then the rest of us will almost certainly sail to the Canary Islands.

“The Cape Verde authorities clearly want nothing to do with us. This is what we’re hearing from the captain and staff. From what I can see the mood (on the ship) is pretty good.

“Only one person has been tested (the one now in South Africa) and he tested positive for hantavirus. So, we don’t actually know yet if the other cases are that or something unrelated.

“If they are all hantavirus then the transmission is a bit mysterious. We’ve been informed that there are no rodents on board, and person-to-person transmission is difficult/rare.

“Hopefully the other patients on board will be tested soon and then we’ll know better what’s going on.”

President of the Cape Verdean Public Health Institute, Maria Da Luz, said passengers would not be disembarking in Cape Verde in order to protect the local population, Cape Verde’s media outlet A Nacao reports.

Oceanwide Expeditions said strict precautionary measures were in process on board, including isolation measures, hygiene protocols and med-

ical monitoring.

“All passengers have been informed and are being supported,” it said.

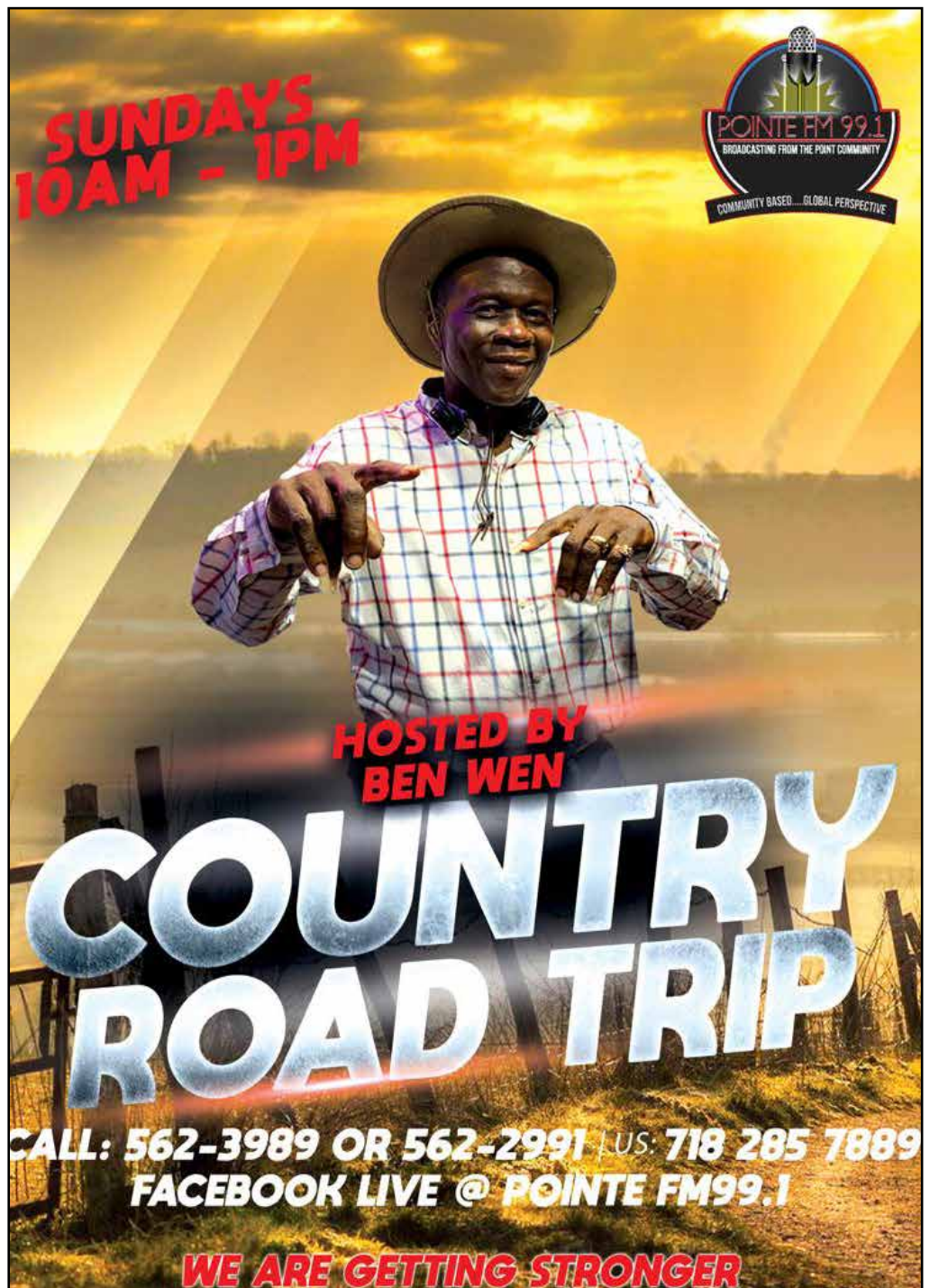
“Oceanwide Expeditions is in close contact with those directly involved and their families, and is providing support where possible.”

Microbiologist Siouxsie Wiles told the BBC the time between people being exposed to hantavirus and showing symptoms could be anywhere from one to eight weeks.

“With this incubation period are we going to see more people coming down with the disease in the next days and weeks?”

The UK Foreign Office told the BBC it was monitoring reports, and ready to support British nationals.

Hantavirus was in the headlines last year after the wife of Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman died from a respiratory illness linked to hantavirus in March 2025. (BBC)



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## Three dead after monster truck crashes into crowd

Three people have been killed and dozens wounded after a monster truck drove into a crowd in the south of Colombia.

Police said it is believed the driver's brakes failed during a show on Sunday in the southern city of Popayán in the province of Cauca.

Video of the incident shows people running as the truck crashes through a barrier and ploughs into the crowd, before coming to a stop, hitting an electricity pole.

Authorities said at least 38 people were injured.

A 10-year-old girl died at the scene according to a city official, newspaper El Espectador reported.

Popayán police commander Col Julián Castañeda told outlet El Tiempo it appeared there was a mechanical failure with the truck.



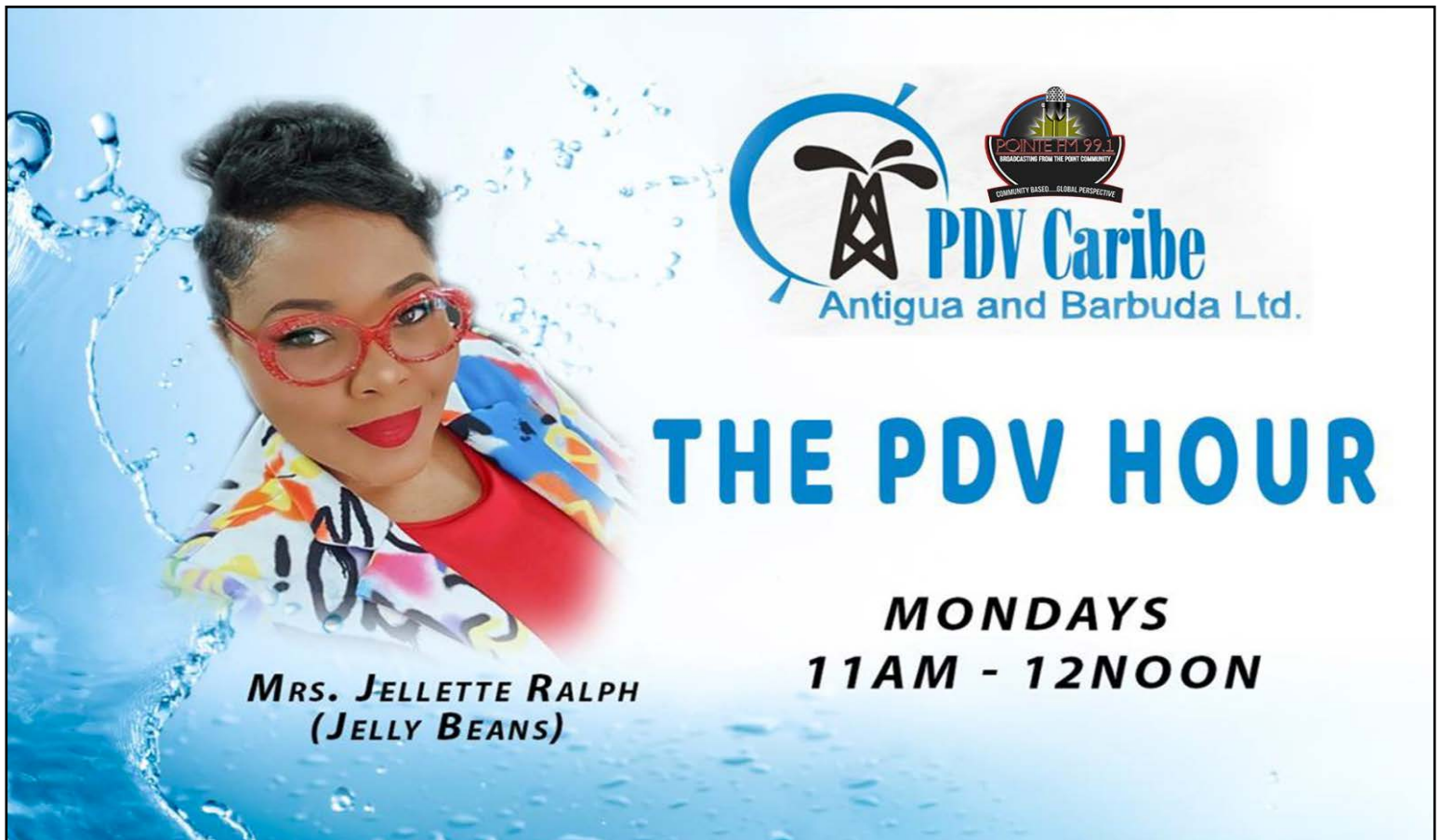
"The vehicle accelerated, it couldn't brake, and the driver is in stable condition."

The city's mayor said a rigorous investigation would be carried out.

"These events, which should never have happened, will be clarified with

total responsibility and transparency," Juan Carlos Muñoz Bravo said.

Regional governor Octavio Guzmán said: "We express our solidarity with the families of those affected by this tragic accident, as well as with our capital city, Popayán." (BBC)



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## Two killed and many injured after car driven into crowd in German city of Leipzig



Two people are dead and several others injured after a car drove into a crowd in the eastern German city of Leipzig on Monday afternoon, local authorities said.

Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung said the suspected perpetrator - who authorities have confirmed is a 33-year-old German citizen - was arrested. Jung added that authorities were not yet clear about a motive.

Police confirmed that a car had struck several people in the central Grimmaische Straße area before driving off. Leipzig's fire chief, Axel Shuh, said 22 people were injured, including two seriously.

Michael Kretschmer, the head of the state of Saxony, of which Leipzig is a part, said the suspect previously suffered from mental illness.

Leipzig police spokesperson, Susanne Luebcke, said that at about 17:35 (15:35 GMT) "a person drove a vehi-

cle across Augustusplatz into Grimmaische Street, continuing on past the market".

"Several people were injured in the incident. Unfortunately, we also have to report two fatalities," she added.

"We are talking about a case of violent rampage here. We are working on the assumption that this was the act of a lone perpetrator and currently have no indications that there is still a threat to public safety."

One eyewitness, Susi, told Radio Leipzig that she was with her friend on a bench on Grimmaische Straße at the time of the incident.

"We heard a loud bang," she said, adding that the driver was going "really fast".

Susi and her friend took refuge in a jewellery shop nearby. When they came out of the store, she said she saw injured people lying on the ground.

Another eyewitness told the same outlet that the car came to a halt at some bollards and a woman fell from the roof of a car. They said passersby went to administer first aid and about 15 people gathered around the car to apprehend the driver and tried to drag him out through an open window.

The eyewitness said the driver tried to escape through a passenger window, but police arrived at the scene and secured his hands with cable ties.

Germany has seen a series of car ramming attacks in recent years.

In December 2024, at least six people were killed and more than 300 were wounded following an attack on a Christmas market in Magdeburg.

In February last year, at least 30 people were injured when a car was driven into a crowd in Munich, more than a week before the country's federal elections. (BBC)

## Scorpions return to second place in First Division league



*The Freemans Village Scorpions football team*

The Freemans Village Scorpions have returned to second place on goal difference in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

The Scorpions moved back into the runners-up spot in the First Division League by recording their 16th win in 24 matches with a 1-0 victory against Bolans FC in their latest outing at the Golden Grove playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Milique London broke the deadlock by scoring the only goal of the match with a strike in the 69th minute to snatch victory for the Scorpions.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to advance to 53 points, the same as leaders, the Greenbay Hoppers, who have also played 24 matches.

It caused the Swetes Vipers FC to drop from second to third place with 51 points from 25 matches.

Bolans FC remains in 12th place and

third from the bottom of the 14-team standings with 17 points after suffering their 14th defeat in 25 matches.

Empire FC consolidated their position in sixth place on goal difference by claiming their 13th win in 24 matches with a 3-1 victory against Parham FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Joshua James scored the opening goal in the fifth minute to give Parham FC a one-nil lead at halftime. But Kamali Looby scored twice after teammate Sydney Samuel Jr. snatched the equalizer for Empire to secure victory.

Looby had conversions in the 68th and 81st minutes, while Samuel scored in the 63rd minute.

The result allows Empire FC to advance to 43 points, the same as fifth-placed Five Islands FC, who have played 25 matches.

Parham FC remains in seventh place with 37 points from 24 matches. Both

Empire and Parham have two matches remaining.

The four teams that finish at the bottom of the 14-team standings will be automatically relegated to compete in the Second Division next season.

The team that finishes in the 10th place position, currently occupied by English Harbour, will compete in a three-team round-robin playoff with the third and fourth-place finishers in the Second Division. The winners of the playoffs will compete in the First Division next season.

Kelton Dalso Real Blizzard and Sea View Farm FC finished in third and fourth places, respectively, in the Second Division, which was won by Guydadli Jets, and the Young Lions of Old Road claimed the runners-up spot.

The Guydadli Jets and the Young Lions gained automatic promotion to compete in the First Division next season.

## Lions stay unbeaten in Super40 Championship

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

The Lions recorded their seventh win in as many matches by claiming a six-wicket victory over Empire Nation at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park on Saturday.

The Empire Nation was dismissed for 170 in 36 overs. Nathan Edward top-scored with 47, and Orandel Boston claimed three for 33.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. hit an unbeaten half century to guide the Lions to victory at 171 for four in 27.4 overs. Williams Jr. slammed 80 not out off 82 balls, including eight fours and two sixes.

All Saints Pythons recorded their third win in six matches with a crushing 110-run victory against Tertiary Institutions and Schools at the Mock Pond playing field in All Saints.

The Pythons made 252 for eight off their allotted 40 overs. Kadeem Josiah slammed 65 off 66 balls, and there was a contribution of 46 extras, including



**Tyrone Williams Jr.**

31 wides. Andra Samuel and Antwone Willock each chipped in with 31. Captain Kaivalya Mishra bagged three for 28.

In reply, Tertiary Institutions and Schools were dismissed for 146 in 30.3 overs. Mishra top-scored with 46, while Justin Robinson grabbed three wickets for nine runs.

The Jennings Tigers notched up their third win in seven matches by pulling off a five-wicket victory over the Bethesda Golden Eagles at Bethesda.

The Golden Eagles were all out for 200 in 28.1 overs. Opener Tron Payne hammered 76 off 35 balls, including seven sixes and seven fours. Fellow opener Shacoy Floyd chipped in with 42.

Left-arm spinner Glenton Williams claimed three for 38, and Zavier Free-land took three for 57.

The Jennings Tigers achieved victory by scoring 204 for six in 30.2 overs. Opener Shane Burton struck 95 off 63 balls, including four sixes and 11 fours. Jahiem Africa gave good support with 42 not out off 61 balls. Mekaili Tonge claimed three for 34.

In other matches, the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks recorded their third win in six matches by being awarded victory via default against the Bolans Blasters, who failed to show up for their encounter at Bolans.

The encounter between WES Spartan Rising Sun and Pigotts Crushers was abandoned due to an unprepared venue at Rising Sun.



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## United stay ahead of Grenades atop of Premier Division

Defending back-to-back champions All Saints United have maintained their lead on goal difference over second-place Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League.

Both teams recorded wins in their penultimate matches of the season during a Premier League double-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday to remain level on points.

All Saints United consolidated their position at the top of the Premier League by recording their 18th win in 21 matches with a 2-1 victory against the Potters Tigers in Sunday's opening game.

Raheem Deterville scored the winner with conversions in the 87th minute. His teammate D'Andre Bishop scored

in the 10th minute to give All Saints United a one-nil lead at halftime.

Ordell Samuel scored an equalizer in the 58th minute to draw the Potters Tigers level at 1-1 before Deterville snatched the winner for All Saints United.

It means the Potters Tigers finished their Premier League campaign in sixth place with 33 points after losing for the seventh time during their quota of 22 matches.

The result allows All Saints United to remain at the top of the 12-team standings by advancing to 56 points, with one game to play.

The Grenades moved level on points with All Saints United by recording their 18th win in 21 matches with a 1-0 victory against the Pigotts Bullets

in Sunday's second encounter.

Following a goalless first half, Troy Jules broke the deadlock by scoring the only goal of the match with a strike in the 89th minute to snatch victory for the Grenades.

It means the Pigotts Bullets finished their Premier League campaign in fourth place with 39 points from their quota of 22 matches.

The result allows the Jennings Grenades to remain in second place on goal difference by advancing to 56 points, the same as leaders All Saints United.

The Grenades and All Saints United will meet on Saturday, May 9, in a rescheduled second-round affair that will determine the Premier League champions this season.



**A starting XI of the All Saints United football team**

## World Cup viewing in doubt for millions of fans in India and China



NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Millions of soccer fans in the world's two most populous nations may not be able to watch the World Cup that starts next month, due to a deadlock over broadcast rights in India and no official decision in China.

In India, a Reliance-Disney joint venture has offered US\$20 million for 2026 World Cup broadcast rights, a fraction of FIFA's ask, which was not acceptable to soccer's global governing body, two sources told Reuters on Monday. Sony held talks but also decided not to make an offer for FIFA rights for India, a third source with direct knowledge said.

There has also been no deal announcement for China, which FIFA says accounted for 49.8% of all hours of viewing on digital and social plat-

forms globally during the 2022 World Cup. FIFA has concluded agreements with broadcasters in over 175 territories globally, it said in a statement to Reuters.

"Discussions in China and India regarding the sale of media rights for the FIFA World Cup 2026 are ongoing and must remain confidential at this stage," the statement said.

Reliance-Disney, a joint venture led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance, did not respond to requests for comment, and neither did Sony. The lack of a confirmed broadcast agreement with India or China is unusual at this stage.

In past World Cups, including 2018 and 2022, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV secured the rights well in advance and began airing promotional content and sponsor-driven advertisements weeks before the tournament.

CCTV, which has extensive reach across television and digital platforms, did not immediately return a request for comment.

China accounted for 17.7% and India 2.9% of the global linear TV reach of the 2022 tournament. The two countries together accounted for 22.6% of total global digital streaming reach for that World Cup.

The 2026 tournament kicks off on June 11, leaving barely five weeks for a deal to be finalised, broadcast infra-

structure to be set up, and advertising inventory to be sold.

For India, FIFA initially sought US\$100 million for broadcast rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups, the sources said, declining to be named because the talks are private.

When the World Cup last aired in India in 2022, Reliance's then-stand-alone media arm secured the rights for about US\$60 million, which was announced around 14 months before the event in Qatar.

"FIFA is looking for a similar amount for this edition of the tournament," a FIFA source told Reuters.

Reliance and Disney have since formed a joint venture to emerge as a dominant force in India's media and streaming landscape, and the US\$20 million FIFA offer underscores the negotiating power the Indian group commands.

FIFA had significantly lowered its ask from the US\$100 million earlier, but has not been keen on the US\$20 million figure Reliance offered, one source said.

Reliance-Disney, which has spent billions on cricket broadcast rights, believes the World Cup will have lower viewership in India as the tournament is being held in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and most matches will air past midnight in India, the sources said.



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## Antiguans fail to medal at ECVA Beach Championships in St. Lucia

The four Antiguan teams failed to win a medal at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Men and Women Beach Championship at the Cul-de-Sac sand courts in St. Lucia.

The two Antiguan women's teams managed to reach the quarter-finals but were unable to advance to the semi-finals, missing out on the chance to win a medal by finishing in the top three positions.

In the quarter-finals, St. Lucia's Denila Prospere and Amalia Louis defeated Antigua and Barbuda's B Team comprising Rayana Regis and Josanne Lewis 2-0 (21-17, 21-7), while Dominica's duo of Joyan Pascal and Adicia Burton overpowered Antigua and Barbuda's A Team of Nyota Peters and Rosemarie Simon 2-0 (27-25, 21-14).

From a field of 12 teams, Regis and Lewis clinched fifth place after being awarded victory via default over fellow Antiguan Peters and Simon, who secured sixth place, in the playoffs.

Regis and Lewis also dispatched the Vincentian pair of Nikita Campbell and Nayelli Fergus 2-0 (21-17, 21-10) in the playoffs, while Peters and Simon prevailed 2-0 (21-19, 21-17) against Shajunee Gumbs and Jontelle Hensley Phillip of St. Kitts and Nevis.

However, the two Antiguan teams failed to advance from the group or pool-play stage in the 13-team men's competition.

The Antigua and Barbuda A-Team of Cairon Davis and George Freeland recorded a win and two losses in their three matches in Pool D. They lost their opening match 2-0 (21-7, 21-9) against St. Lucia's duo of Diallo Albert and Levi Leonce but rebounded to defeat Amani Richardson and Da'Qu-



**The players that represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 2026 ECVA Senior Men and Women Beach Championships in St. Lucia from May 1 to 3. (Photo courtesy of the ABAVA)**

wan Fredericks of Anguilla 2-0 (22-20, 21-16).

Davis and Freeland then suffered a 2-0 (21-16, 21-13) defeat to Shreefkerk Jacob and Rajheem Meulens of St. Maarten in their third encounter.

The Antiguan men's B-Team of Dwight Bonnie and Raenor Sharpe lost both their matches in Pool C. Bermuda's Benjamin Barnett and Sean Tucker prevailed 2-0 (21-11, 21-18) over Bonnie and Sharpe, while the Antiguan B-Team lost 2-0 (21-12, 21-17) against Yahn Florent and Mervin Mingo of Dominica.

St. Kitts and Nevis captured the men's gold medal at the 2026 ECVA Senior Beach Volleyball Championship. In the men's event, St. Kitts and Nevis topped the podium undefeated, with St. Maarten and Dominica also earning medals.

The men's goldmedal match saw Julian Bristol and Elkreen Morton of St. Kitts deliver a commanding performance against Jacob and Meulens,

winning in straight sets 2-0 (21-17 and 21-9).

Dominica's Yahn Florent and Mervin Mingo claimed the bronze medal following a solid 2-0 victory via default over St. Lucia's Joseph Clercent and Sheldon Descartes in the playoffs for third place.

Grenada struck gold and won the women's title. Grenada claimed the top spot on the podium, while hosts St. Lucia and Dominica also secured medals.

The women's goldmedal match delivered a thrilling threeset battle. Grenada's Thornia Mitchell and Renisha Stafford edged Saint Lucia's Clio Phillip and Tenayestlgni Joseph 2-1, prevailing 18-21, 21-19, and 15-10.

Dominica's Joyan Pascal and Adicia Burton secured the bronze medal with a hardfought 2-1 (21-15, 20-22, 15-8) victory over Saint Lucia's Denila Prospere and Amalia Louis in the playoffs for third place.