

# Browne Calls for Unity and National Renewal at Thanksgiving Service

Story on page 2



Left to right: Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Minister Maria Browne, Apostle Dr Stephen Andrews and Mrs. L Andrews posed for a family photo at the end of the service of thanksgiving at the SJPC House of Restoration on Sunday

## Browne Calls for Unity and National Renewal at Thanksgiving Service

Prime Minister Gaston Browne used a Thanksgiving service on Sunday to deliver a message of gratitude, unity and renewed commitment to governance, saying his administration views its recent election victory not as a reward, but as a responsibility to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda more faithfully.

Speaking before government officials, parliamentarians, religious leaders and supporters, Browne said the administration was humbled by what he described as a “resounding victory,” attributing the outcome to God’s grace, wisdom and favor.

“To God be the glory for the great things He has done,” Browne said as he reflected on the recently concluded election campaign.

The Prime Minister said the campaign period was marked by “misinformation, disinformation, lies and character assassination,” but maintained that his administration endured through faith, perseverance and determination.

He said the victory was not for elected officials, but for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, particularly the nation’s working class.

“We do not see this resounding victory as a gift,” Browne declared. “We do not see it as an opportunity to abuse public resources. We see this as an opportunity to serve you more faithfully, to provide even better governance than we provided during the last approximately 12 years.”

Browne said the government remains focused on its vision of transforming Antigua and Barbuda into a “lifestyle superpower,” insisting the country has the capacity to achieve that goal if citizens unite behind a common purpose.

He also used the platform to issue a call for national harmony, urging citizens not to allow politics to create division.

“I do not expect this victory to divide us. Instead, it should unite us,” he said.

The Prime Minister called on citizens



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

to move beyond political and religious differences and work collectively toward building a stronger nation.

“Let us move forward not as different political institutions or different

religious denominations, but as reborn Antiguans and Barbudans working harmoniously to build this country,” Browne said.

He also encouraged citizens to seize emerging opportunities in education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and ownership, warning against allowing outsiders to benefit from opportunities intended for locals.

“These opportunities are being created exclusively for you — the Antiguans and Barbudans, the citizens and residents of this country,” he said.

Closing his remarks, Browne thanked candidates, supporters and what he described as “prayer warriors,” crediting them with helping strengthen and protect the administration through prayer during the election period.

He urged continued prayers for national development and prosperity.



**Property Insurance**

Secure your largest investment.  
Live in a better **STATE** of mind.



**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED  
Live in a better State of mind

(268) 481-7800/04  
info@sicfinancial.com  
www.sicantigua.com

## Apostle Stephen Andrew: Antigua and Barbuda Has Much To Be Thankful For

Antigua and Barbuda has been able to prosper as a developing nation despite the fact that it one of the most disaster-prone nation on the planet with vulnerabilities from hurricanes, droughts and earthquakes.

And according to Senior Pastor at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration, Apostle Dr. Stephen Andrews, the nation of Antigua and Barbuda has much to be thankful God for as he has extended his blessings and protection on this nation.

These words formed part of the sermon preached at the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday when the leadership and members of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party attended Sunday morning worship at the SJPC to give God thanks for the recent electoral victory.

"Despite being in a disaster zone with an annual 33 percent chance of a direct hit from a major hurricane, several earthquakes each year, including one on Saturday that measured 6.4 on the Richter Scale, and regular prolonged droughts, Antigua and Barbuda has been able to record one of the most impressive economic growth rates of any country in the Caribbean region," he remarked.

Apostle Andrews explained that he had done his research into Antigua and Barbuda's vulnerability to weather systems such as hurricanes noting that storms such as Hugo, Luis, Marilyn, Georges are some of the storms that have had severe impacts on the



**Senior Pastor at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration, Apostle Dr. Stephen Andrews**

country since independence, with Barbuda being almost totally devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Yet after every storm, the senior pastor noted, the country has been able to demonstrate a strong sense of resilience by rebuilding and refocusing with a strong sense of purpose and determination.

On the question of droughts, the Apostle presented the data showing that the country has had 14 drought episodes between the years 2000 and 2020. This is in addition to be located in a highly active seismic zone.

Apostle Andrews called on the leaders of the ABLP and the government to keep the faith in God, to remain united

and to continue to work assiduously for the benefit of Antigua and Barbuda.

He offered a prayer for the prime minister, his Cabinet, the members of the both houses of parliament extolling them that theirs is a noble calling as this was a contract between them, the people and God.

Along with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Works Minister Maria Browne, the ABLP Chairman, E.P Chet Greene, Senior Minister Sir Steadroy Benjamin and all the other elected members of the House of Representatives, the ABLP Senators and other officials were in attendance at the service that was attended by hundreds of party supporters.



268 736 7165

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



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

## 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake Rocks Antigua and Barbuda Saturday Morning

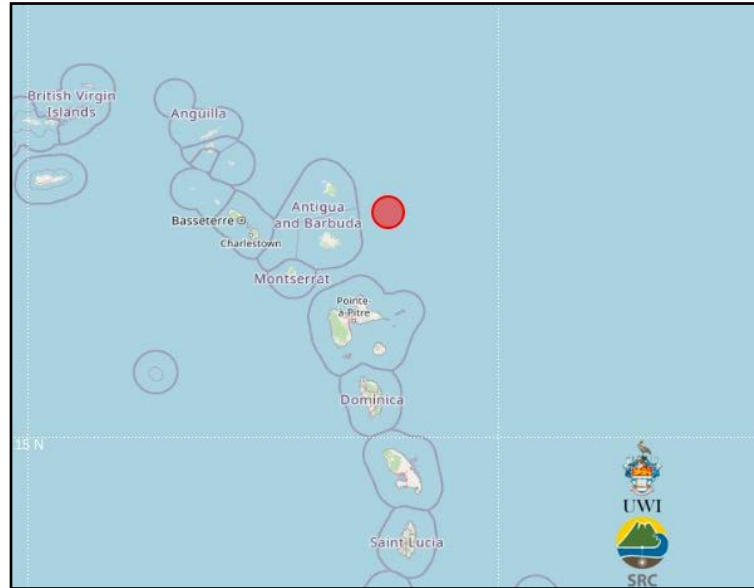
The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is carrying out an assessment to determine the cost associated with last Saturday's earthquake that rocked Antigua and Barbuda and the Leeward Islands.

According to the UWI Seismic Research Centre that monitors earthquake activity in the Eastern Caribbean, the quake occurred at 10:50 am and was also felt in Montserrat, Guadeloupe and as far north as Tortola.

UWI Seismic had initially reported that the earthquake measured 6.5 but has since revised its information and is now reporting it as a magnitude 6.4 incident.

There was no significant tsunami threat.

It further stated that aftershocks could be expected and some of these may be magnitude 3.5 and above and are likely to be felt.



Here in Antigua and Barbuda, there were no reports of injuries and District Disaster Coordinators, who volunteer on behalf of NODS in the various communities, have been on the ground verifying reports of damage.

NODS has been in contact with the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce

to find out how businesses were affected. This information will be provided to the public as soon as it is available. NODS has also been in communication with its sub-regional territories for which Antigua and Barbuda has responsibility. These are St. Kitts/Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla, the BVI and St

Martin.

Up to Sunday, a NODS official said the assessment was still ongoing and a final determination is not expected until Monday. So far, only one home owner – a resident of Potters – had reported that the earthquake caused structural damage to their property. The report from the Chamber of Commerce is expected to provide details of the supermarkets in particular where items may have fallen from shelves and have been damaged.

NODS is encouraging residents or businesses that would have experienced damage from the earthquake to make a report to the office at 462-4206.

The disaster office is also reminding residents to practise the drop, cover and hold whenever there is an earthquake.



**SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE  
PRICES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION**  
*Cradled with care. With safety to spare.*

### Mosquito net

If using a mosquito net, ensure it is securely fitted and kept well away from your baby's face at all times. Avoid loose or hanging nets inside the crib or bassinet, especially once your baby begins to roll or grab, as they may pull the netting into their sleep space.

#### Safe alternatives

- Installing window or door screens
- Using air conditioning or fans to help keep mosquitoes away
- Dressing babies in lightweight clothing that covers the arms and legs
- Using mosquito repellents approved for the baby's age on clothing or surrounding areas — never directly in the sleep space

### CONSUMERS BE AWARE

Choose breathable, non-toxic material like polyester or cotton. Ensure the net is flame-resistant with holes of 1.2 mm - 1.5 mm or less to ensure even tiny insects cannot pass through. The World Health Organization recommends at least 156 holes per square inch.



## Minister of State Freeland Heads to London for International Development Forum

Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Michael Freeland, is making his first major overseas trip this week as he leaves today (Monday) to represent Prime Minister Gaston Browne at the upcoming Global Partnerships Conference in London.

The high-level forum, themed “Global Partnerships Conference: Common Challenges, Collective Action,” is scheduled to take place from May 19–20, 2026, and will convene world leaders, innovators, philanthropists, civil society representatives, and business stakeholders to examine the future of international development partnerships.

The conference is being co-hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom, the Republic of South Africa, the Children’s Investment Fund Founda-



**Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Michael Freeland,**

tion (CIFF), and British International Investment (BII).

Discussions during the two-day conference are expected to focus on

strengthening international collaboration to address urgent global challenges, including climate change, economic instability, humanitarian crises, global health threats, and violence against women and girls.

Minister Freeland’s participation comes just days after assuming duties as Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism following the recent General Elections and subsequent Cabinet appointments.

His attendance at the international forum is expected to provide Antigua and Barbuda with an opportunity to deepen global partnerships, advance discussions on sustainable development, and explore investment and cooperation opportunities that can benefit the country and the wider Caribbean region.

**KFC**

**SAUCY WINGS**

**\$29.99** Combo  
- 5 Wings  
- Fries  
- Medium Dink

**\$15.99** - 5 Wings ONLY

**Citrus Chipotle BBQ**

**Sweet Red Chili**

**KFC**

**KFC**

[f](#) [@](#) [KFCANU](#)

[AllMart](#)

## Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission Celebrates The Release of the ‘Black Pineapple Riddim’

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission has announced the official release of the Black Pineapple Riddim, a groundbreaking musical project born directly out of the *Music Producers’ Masterclass: Audio Essentials* facilitated by internationally acclaimed music producer Kasey Phillips, CEO and Founder of Precision Productions.

The workshop, hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission in 2025, was designed to empower local producers, creatives, and artistes by providing critical insight into music production, sound engineering, songwriting, and the evolving business of Caribbean music. Today, that initiative has blossomed into what is already being hailed as an iconic contribution to the Antiguan and Barbudan soca landscape.

The Black Pineapple Riddim represents an important chapter in the ongoing evolution of the Antiguan sound, a bold and intentional exploration into the identity, rhythm, and spirit of Antigua and Barbuda through music. Drawing inspiration from legendary Antiguan musical influences such as Burning Flames, while incorporating contemporary Caribbean and R&B sonic textures, the riddim captures both tradition and innovation in a single powerful production.



At its core, the project seeks to answer a defining question within the growing Antiguan soca movement: “What is the Antiguan sound?” The result is a dynamic musical experience that fuses

the unmistakable “kang-kang” energy reminiscent of the iconic “Debble Riddim” cowbell with lush synths, modern grooves, and authentic Caribbean storytelling.

The riddim features an exceptional lineup of Antiguan and Barbudan talent, including Tian Winter, Drastic, DmitriB, Arlen Seaton, and Nikki Nooks. Each artiste delivers a unique flavour to the project, creating a musical “pepperpot” that seamlessly reflects the diversity and cultural richness of Antigua and Barbuda.

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, one of the key advocates behind the workshop initiative, praised the project as a testament to the power of investing in creative development and local talent. *“This workshop was always envisioned as more than just a learning experience; it was about creating opportunities, inspiring collaboration, and helping to shape the future sound of Antigua and Barbuda. To now witness the release of the Black Pineapple Riddim as a direct product of that initiative is truly remarkable. It speaks to*

*the incredible talent we have here and the importance of continuing to invest in our creatives and cultural industries,”* stated Ambassador Makhoul.

Produced, mixed, and mastered by Precision Productions, the Black Pineapple Riddim delivers five offerings that blend effortlessly while maintaining the individuality of each artiste and track.

**TRACK LISTING & CREDITS:**

- DmitriB – “So What”  
Written by Dmitri Bernard Erv Baptiste
- Nikki Nooks – “Last Time”  
Written by Nikki Nooks  
Background Vocals: Cleavon “Cjae” Childs & Chestine James
- Arlen Seaton – “Neighbah”  
Written by Charles Arlen Seaton & Blashford Wilkins

• Drastic – “Shalom”  
Written by Art “Drastic” Philip

• Tian Winter – “Want Um”  
Written by Cleavon “Cjae” Childs & Tian Winter  
Background Vocals by Cleavon “Cjae” Childs

Additional Credits:  
Produced, Mixed & Mastered by Precision Productions  
All songs co-written by Kasey Michael Phillips  
Guitar by Kyle Peters  
In collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission

The Black Pineapple Riddim is now available on YouTube and digital streaming platforms.

BREATHTAKING VIEWS  
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Adventure on a guided aerial tour or charter to your next destination in style. Proudly operating the state-of-the-art Airbus EC130, CalvinAir’s flights combine safety, comfort and the highest calibre of service. So soar around Montserrat’s volcano, have lunch in St. Barths, or a picnic in Barbuda. The sky is no longer the limit.

For tours or charters call 268.789.HELICOPTERS or visit [calvinair.com](http://calvinair.com).

**CALVINAIR** HELICOPTERS

## Police Seek Public Assistance In Separate Robbery Investigations

The police are appealing to the public for assistance as investigations continue into two separate robbery incidents reported at Hatton and Bendals.

In the first incident, police officers attached to the Gray's Farm Police Station responded to a report of an alleged armed robbery at Hatton around 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 15.

Preliminary investigations revealed that two masked intruders allegedly entered the home of two occupants and assaulted them with a firearm. The victims were reportedly robbed of several personal items, including a gold chain, two cellular phones, a wallet containing identification documents and bank cards, EC\$245.00 in cash, and a red Honda weed-wacker.

One suspect was described as slimly built, approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall, brown in complexion, and dressed in khaki three-quarter pants and a white vest. The second suspect was described as approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall, dark in complexion, and dressed in a dark-coloured shirt and blue three-quarter jeans pants. Both suspects reportedly fled the area on foot.



Meanwhile, in a separate incident reported to the Bolans Police Station, a 63-year-old woman of Bendals reported that she was robbed at her home around 4:50 a.m. on the same day.

It is alleged that two men dressed in dark clothing entered the woman's property, snatched her jewelry, and fled the area on foot. Both suspects were described as medium built and

approximately 5 feet tall.

Investigations into both incidents remain ongoing.

The Police Administration is urging anyone with information that may assist in identifying or apprehending the suspects involved to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

**AFRICA UNITE**

HOSTS:  
**DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE**

**POINTE FM 99.1**  
**THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM**

## Antigua Yacht Club Sailors Depart for BVI Dinghy Championship

Antigua Yacht Club Optimist sailors Luc Agusti and Ruben Van Hest departed for Tortola Saturday to attend the 2026 BVI Dinghy Championship, held May 16th–17th hosted by the Royal BVI Yacht Club.

To compete in a High-level regional competition featuring top youth talent from across the Caribbean.

The sailors are accompanied by AYC Head Coach and two-time Olympian Karl James MBE. Agusti and Van Hest have undergone rigorous tactical training in Falmouth Harbour as James’s coaching focused on the strong current and shifty wind conditions typical of the Sir Francis Drake Channel.

The championship serves as a critical performance marker for the upcoming summer regatta circuit.




**PDV Caribe**  
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

**THE PDV HOUR**

**MONDAYS**  
**11AM - 12NOON**

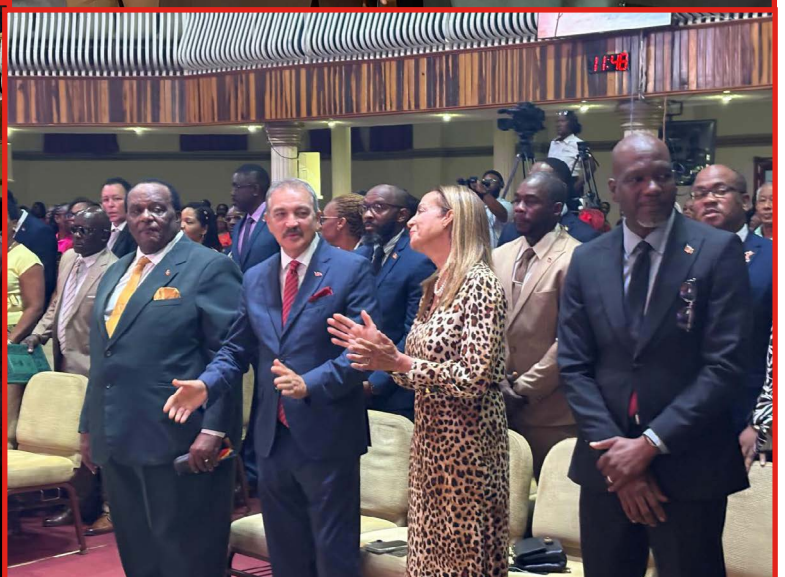
**MRS. JELLETTE RALPH**  
**(JELLY BEANS)**

# Photo Essay

## ABLP's Thanksgiving Service at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration on Sunday



# Photo Essay

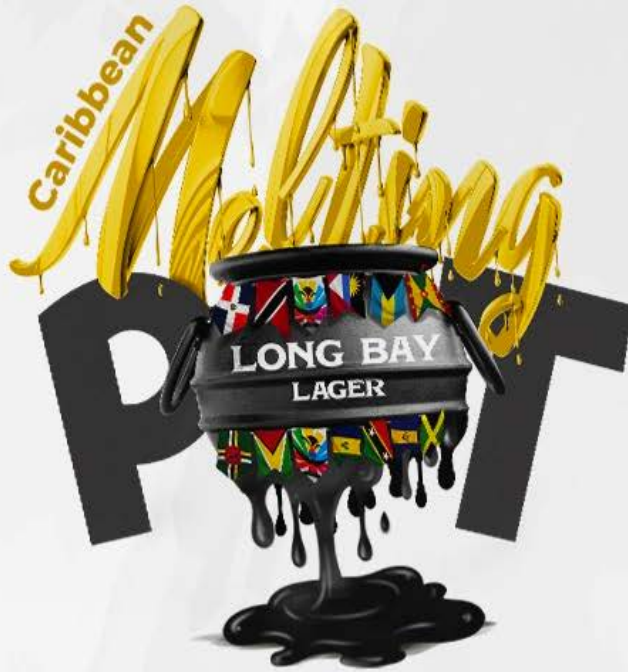




**ANTIGUA**  
*Carnival*  
**2026**

# MACHEL MONTANO

#ENCOREPERFORMANCE



**JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>**

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD GENERAL **\$100** RHYTHM ROOM **\$350**



# 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 DESOUSA 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





HIGH COMMISSION FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 45 Crawford Place, London W1H 4LP  
 Tel: 020 7258 0070 Fax: 020 7258 7486  
 E-mail: HighCommission@antigua-barbuda.com  
 Website: www.antigua-barbuda.com

## Embracing the Bilingual Antigua and Barbudan

By H.E. Karen-Mae Hill, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026...** The British linguist Frank Smith noted: “One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way”. I am among those who applaud the Government for embracing the unparalleled power of learning languages as a deliberate and focused strategy in our onward development as a Nation and as a people. Please allow me to share some personal perspectives on why I commend the decision to recognise Spanish as a second language.

My first foreign trip was to Guadeloupe during my high school days as part of my French studies. This experience stayed with me throughout my life as the reality of a huge and diverse world outside myself was vividly illustrated. Walking alongside a board walk in Basse-Terre, I saw a cat meandering along the path. As an avowed animal lover, I stooped down, stretched out my hand, and said “hey kitty, kitty”. The cat ignored me. Then I remembered this was a French cat and so, I re-oriented my brain into French and pronounced in my best French “Bonsoir, monsieur le Chat!” The cat paused, looked at me and I knew he understood.

Antigua and Barbuda is located in a region which is largely Spanish speaking. Central and South America are among our nearest geographical neighbours yet we have a limited connection with these countries because our history, shaped by our relationship with Britain, has oriented our focus to the English-speaking West. The fact that many Antiguan and Barbudans have relations from the Dominican Republic, has not significantly altered this reality. My grandmother was born in Santo Domingo in the 1920s during that period when Antiguan and Barbudans migrated to that country to find work. I am not unique among Antiguan and Barbudans to have close relatives from the Dominican Republic and yet all our cousins in Antigua and Barbuda do not speak Spanish.

We are members of the Organisation of American States which has 35 member countries 19 of which or 54% are primarily Spanish speaking. We are also members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (“CELAC”), a regional bloc of 33 countries, 18 of which or 55% are primarily Spanish-speaking. We are also members of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) with 19 of which or 58% are Spanish speaking. The Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) has four official languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. With 18 of its 35 member countries being Spanish speaking most of its work programmes and publications are carried out in Spanish.

In attending meetings of these bodies, two things are evident. First is that the Caribbean desks in those organisations seldom include staff from Antigua and Barbuda. Our students and professionals have studied in Cuba and China over the years and many can rise to employment in these types of organisations but we need to develop that national ambition. Second, it is also noteworthy that most of our Spanish speaking colleagues are proficient in English and can navigate these meetings proficiently in either language. Belize is an excellent example of a country located in Spanish-speaking Central America which has English as its official language but a population where Spanish is widely spoken.

Participation and relationships are deepened when language is common. This builds trust, demonstrates understanding and opens up opportunities to engage and conclude agreements over a meal or in a corridor outside the formalities of the meeting and translators. Nelson Mandela captured this important quality of language as follows: "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart".

With deeper relationships, come new possibilities to study and travel. This bilingual policy has the potential to open up the vast and under-tapped opportunities for study and tourism across Central and South America to students in Antigua and Barbuda. In a world where the cost of education is increasing and Western countries are signalling a more inward-looking approach to borders, identifying other credible options for our Antiguans and Barbudans to study in these parts of the world is critical.

It was in learning French that I found my deeper understanding of the grammar of the English language. The exercises of learning tenses from the pluperfect to the future, from adjectives to adverbs, actually taught the grammar and syntax of language in their most detailed form. With this came a passion for reading. I recall as a student studying my Bible and Sabbath school quarterly in French. It was always useful to compare how the French and the English interpretation compared especially in those popular passages such as the Lord's Prayer and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Indeed, I encourage our students who are church goers, to study their Bibles in both English and Spanish or whichever second or third language they are learning and to commit to memory their favourite passages in both languages.

This bilingual policy by our Government will open up enhanced avenues for study, travel, tourism, and business between Antigua and Barbuda and our Spanish speaking neighbours. I envisage more engagement across academic degrees, short courses and internships. Many South American countries are mass exporters of agricultural produce engaging cutting edge technologies to support these industries. Opening dialogue with Peru and Paraguay on courses as well as trade can all be strengthened through stronger language ties. Our engagements at GRULAC and CELAC should progress discussions on student exchanges, joint degree and technical skills programmes and trade promotion activities, connecting businesses and people. Indeed, leaning Spanish makes leaning Portuguese, spoken in Brazil, easier as they are both romance languages and share much of the same vocabulary.

If one were to look at the advertisements for most multilateral jobs in our region of Latin America and the Caribbean, there is usually a requirement for the applicant to possess a working knowledge of Spanish and English. Our people possess the intellect and capacity to secure employment in these organisations. However, the prospects of a successful deployment would be greatly improved with language skills. I look forward to seeing more Antiguans and Barbudans employed at the Organisation of American States, the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF).

The debate around the role that artificial intelligence will play in our present and future lives rages. Each week, there are discussions about AI proof jobs, those jobs which AI would likely never be able to replace. Among these are jobs rooted in language skills as these are jobs which require an intrinsic connection to human emotions such as empathy, cultural nuances and sensitive context. These are not replaceable by a robot.

As we look to the future with a bold and strategic vision, I encourage all Antiguans and Barbudans to embrace the opportunities to grow personally and together as a Nation. We are preparing citizens for the world. People who can champion our uniqueness and our priorities on the global stage. I am committed to supporting our Government, our education officials, our communities, our civil society organisations and our business sector to step into this renaissance anchored in our shared ambition to raise the standard and to raise it boldly.



STATE INSURANCE  
COMPANY LIMITED

BARBUDA  
**Caribana**  
2026



# Classic HORSE RACING

**SUN 24H MAY**

**1PM | CORONATION PARK**



# ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

JUL 25<sup>TH</sup> - AUG 4<sup>TH</sup>

FEEL THE  
RHYTHM



## CIA head meets with Cuban officials during high-level visit to island

A high-level U.S. delegation led by CIA Director John Ratcliffe visited Havana on Thursday, May 14, after the U.S. government requested a meeting with Cuban officials as part of ongoing efforts to maintain political dialogue between the two countries, Cuba said.

According to Cuban authorities, the leadership approved both the visit and a meeting between the U.S. delegation and representatives of Cuba's Ministry of the Interior. The discussions took place amid what officials described as a complex period in relations between Havana and Washington.

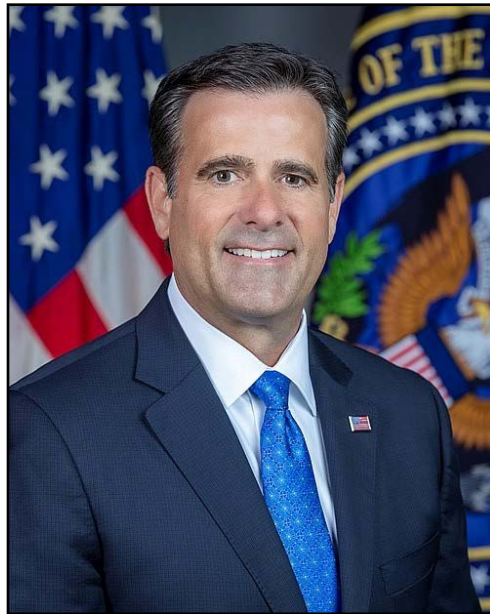
As reported by The Guardian, Cuba's energy minister, Vicente de la O Levy, had taken to state media on Wednesday to announce that the country had "absolutely no fuel [oil] and absolutely no diesel," leading to civilian protests in Havana's streets.

Cuban officials said the exchanges during the meeting allowed them to firmly argue that Cuba poses no threat to U.S. national security and that there is no valid justification for the country's inclusion on the U.S. list of states accused of sponsoring terrorism.

During the talks, the Cuban side reiterated what it described as the country's long-standing and consistent position against terrorism.

Officials pointed to the actions of the Cuban government and relevant national authorities in confronting and condemning terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations."

Cuba also maintained that it does not shelter, assist, finance, or tolerate terrorist or extremist organizations, and stated that no foreign mil-



itary or intelligence bases operate within its territory.

"Cuba has never supported any hostile activity against the United States, nor will it allow actions against another nation to be carried out from Cuban soil," said the statement.

The discussions also underscored what both sides described as a mutual interest in expanding cooperation between security and law enforcement agencies. Officials said such collaboration could contribute to the safety and security of both countries, as well as broader regional and international stability.

***Read the Cuban government's full statement below:***

A delegation led by CIA Director John Ratcliffe visited Cuba

Following the request submitted by the U.S. government for a delegation led by CIA Director John Ratcliffe to be received in Havana, the leadership of the Revolution approved the visit and the meeting

with its counterpart from the Ministry of the Interior.

The meeting took place this Thursday, May 14, in a context marked by the complexity of bilateral relations, with the aim of contributing to political dialogue between both nations as part of efforts to address the current situation.

The elements presented by the Cuban side and the exchanges held with the U.S. delegation made it possible to categorically demonstrate that Cuba does not constitute a threat to U.S. national security, nor are there any legitimate reasons for including it on the list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism.

During the meeting, the consistency and coherence of our country's historic position were reaffirmed through the actions of the Cuban government and its competent authorities in confronting and unequivocally condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Once again, it was demonstrated that the Island does not harbor, support, finance, or permit terrorist or extremist organizations; nor are there any foreign military or intelligence bases on its territory. Cuba has never supported any hostile activity against the United States, nor will it allow actions against another nation to be carried out from Cuban soil.

The meeting also highlighted the interest of both parties in developing bilateral cooperation between law enforcement and security agencies for the benefit of the security of both nations, as well as regional and international security. (Dominica News Online)

## Beyond Boundaries Media Forum brings together Tatyana Ali, Caribbean, and diaspora leaders to grow film co-productions in Africa



With a bold vision to position the Caribbean as a key architect in the evolving global screen economy, the inaugural Beyond Boundaries Media Forum (BBMF) officially announced an expanded leadership and mentorship structure, including actor Tatyana Ali, as the collective sets out to convene “a select group of international producers and executives for five days of strategic engagement in November 2026.”

The Forum was founded and is convened by Trinidad and Tobago-based producer and media executive Lisa Wickham, with over two decades of reported international experience under her belt.

Designed to be a bridge between Africa and its global diaspora, the platform will use formal, treaty-based frameworks to strengthen creative and commercial collaboration, said a BBMF press release.

Presented by Imagine Media International Limited (IMIL) in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPAC), which operates under the Provincial Government of South Africa’s Eastern Cape, the Forum represents the culmination of more than 20 years of Wickham’s work building creative alliances

across the Caribbean, Africa, the UK, Europe, North America, and Asia.

Wickham emphasized that the Caribbean’s role extends far beyond cultural participation.

“The Caribbean is not just a cultural participant; we are a strategic gateway,” she said.

She also noted that the initiative intentionally moves collaboration away from informal arrangements toward structured, treaty-driven production pipelines.

Mechanisms such as the UK–Jamaica Co-production Treaty are examples of how Caribbean and African producers can formally connect with global partners to transform shared heritage into long-term investment opportunities,

Wickham pointed out.

According to the release, a central feature of BBMF is its deliberately built diaspora leadership network.

Internationally recognized actor, producer, and humanitarian Tatyana Ali serves as the Forum’s inaugural Global Ambassador. Known widely for her role as Ashley Banks on *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, Ali has Trinidad and Tobago and Panamanian heritage, is a Harvard graduate, and a five-time NAACP Image Award winner.

She is seen as representing what the Forum describes as the “bridge audience,” identified in global data as a key part in creating appeal for Black-led storytelling.

The Global Advisory Board is chaired

# MAY YOU Save

# MAY YOU Win

**Having trouble keeping up with your bills?**  
Catch up on your past-due balance this May and save.  
Pay your past-due balance in full and benefit from special discounts.

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>Residential Discount</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">10% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Past Due Balances</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>Commercial Discount</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">5% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Past Due Balances</p>
---	---

The existing Early Payment 10% Discount remains applicable to current residential Electricity accounts.

Get up to date and save

Terms & Conditions apply. Offer ends June 1st, 2026.

# Regional News

by Jamaican-born, award-winning producer and screenwriter Jennifer Holness, President of Hungry Eyes Media Group. BBMF says that Holness has played a foundational role in shaping Canada's screen industry infrastructure, including co-founding both the Canadian Black Screen Office and the Canadian Independent Screen Fund, where she served as inaugural board chair for two and three years, respectively.

The organization reports that its wider mentorship cohort brings together figures from across the Caribbean diaspora and global screen industries. This includes Angi Bones, of Puerto Rico, President of Production at Tyler Perry Studios; Jamaica Film Commissioner Jackie Jackson; Dr. Rachel-Ann Charles of Trinidad and Tobago, who works at the intersection of industry and academia; Los Angeles-based Jamaican producer Rob Maylor, known for *Sprinter* and *Marley*; and the award-winning Canadian producer-director duo Jennifer Holness and Sudz Sutherland, as well as international film marketing and festival consultant Joanna Miles, also of Jamaican heritage.

A major forward-looking component of BBMF is its focus on artificial intelligence and its implications for the media sector.

The Forum will include participation from globally recognized AI governance and ethics expert Renée Cummings, a Trinidad and Tobago-born, US-based thought leader featured in outlets such as *Forbes*, *Bloomberg*, and *VentureBeat*. As AI rapidly reshapes production, distribution, and virtual content creation, the goal is to lead conversations around ethical AI governance.

The goal is to ensure African and Caribbean creators can both protect intellectual property and scale content effectively within global streaming ecosystems, claims BBMF.

The initiative is reportedly grounded in recent industry research, including findings from the Next Narrative Af-

rica Fund and Parrot Analytics. As per the release, their study identified a significant "supply gap" for African and diasporan stories, while also highlighting diaspora audiences as important drivers in the global success of content.

As a direct response to this gap, the aim is to link producers across treaty and partner nations, including Jamaica, the UK, Canada, India, Brazil, and South Africa, into structured production pathways designed to strengthen global storytelling channels.

South Africa's Eastern Cape Province will host this South-South joint venture.

Monde Nkasawe, CEO of the Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC), said, "The Eastern Cape is open for collaboration, and BBMF gives us the platform to

demonstrate that at scale."

Co-founder of Imagine Media Africa (Pty), Nozipho Ndiweni, also highlighted the long-standing collaboration behind the Forum's development.

She noted that she and Wickham have worked together in South Africa since 2011, including on a documentary exploring the use of a "Trinidad and Tobago-styled" Carnival as a tool for community economic development in *Bella Bella*, Limpopo.

She explained that the Forum will provide a structured environment for African producers to connect with Caribbean and global counterparts who already recognize the commercial and cultural value of their stories.

The Official Producer Call is now open, and applications are being accepted via the BBMF Portal. (Dominica News Online)



**CHOGM**  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2026

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration invites Antiguans and Barbudans to volunteer for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, taking place 1–4 November 2026.

### WHY VOLUNTEER

- Provide national service
- Sharpen your skills
- Learn about different cultures
- Build professional networks
- Enhance your CV
- Boost confidence
- Forge lasting friendships

### WHO CAN VOLUNTEER

Open to All Antiguans and Barbudans Over the Age of 18.

### FOR INQUIRIES

Contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration at **462-1052**

Be part of history. Volunteer today!



SCAN ME!

## ILO News: Haiti and ILO sign two-year country programme to advance decent work and social dialogue



On 14 May 2026, the Government of Haiti, together with employers' and workers' representatives, signed a two-year country programme with the International Labour Organization to advance decent work through strengthened social dialogue, labour governance, employment creation and social protection.

The agreement was signed at ILO Caribbean Office in Port of Spain by the Honourable Marc Elie Nelson, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour on behalf of the Government of Haiti; Maulik Radia, President of the Association of Industries of Haiti (ADIH), for the employers; Yvel Admetre, Secretary General of the Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers, and Louis Fignole St Cyr, General Secretary of the Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers, for the workers; and Joni Musabayana, Director of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, for the ILO.

The tripartite Haitian delegation, along with colleagues who joined online from Haiti, spent much of Thursday in working sessions with the ILO

team reviewing the programme, discussing final refinements, and reaching consensus on how existing and new project interventions can best advance the priorities they had collectively defined.

The final agreement has received Prime Minister-level approval and defines a shared roadmap for ILO technical cooperation in Haiti for 2026–2027. It is the first country programme developed under the ILO Caribbean Office's expanded mandate covering Haiti.

The ILO country programme for Haiti is organized around four priorities identified through tripartite consultation: Revitalizing social dialogue, including reactivation of national tripartite mechanisms and strengthening fundamental principles and rights at work.

Improving labour governance, including labour administration and inspection systems, dispute resolution, and Labour Code reform through tripartite consultation.

Expanding employment and livelihoods, with support for MSMEs, skills development, and targeted in-

clusion of youth, women, displaced persons and informal economy workers.

Strengthening social protection, including reforms of key social security institutions and progressive expansion of coverage to informal workers.

Gender equality, youth inclusion and conflict sensitivity are mainstreamed across all four pillars, alongside climate and environmental considerations in employment and enterprise development.

Minister Nelson confirmed political endorsement of the programme and its immediate implementation.

"I would like to announce that the Government, through the Prime Minister, has approved the proposal submitted, thereby marking an important milestone in this preparatory process," Nelson said. He acknowledged the collaborative spirit that had characterized the week's discussions, thanking Director Musabayana and all participants for their commitment and the quality of their contributions. "My technical team will immediately continue the work on drafting the first report... in order to ensure the

# Regional News

diligent completion of the next stages and to guarantee effective preparation for the International Labour Conference,” he added.

Director Musabayana welcomed the agreement, highlighting its tripartite foundation. “Haiti’s tripartite constituents have shown real leadership in defining what support they need and on what terms. This programme of work is built on that ownership. Our role as the Caribbean Office is to turn these commitments into results that Haitian workers and enterprises can feel – more productive dialogue, stronger institutions, and more decent jobs,” he said.

Maulik Radia said the agreement reflects unity during crisis conditions and the need for structured cooperation. “Haiti, as everybody knows, is going through a major crisis,” Radia said. “And in a crisis, when we come together as a unity, it is very positive. This brings all sectors of the country together and will allow us to work in a very formal but cooperative way.”

Workers’ representatives underscored the historic nature of the agreement.

“It is extraordinary and it is historic,” said Louis Fignole St Cyr. “The social dialogue championed by the ILO has become a backbone for us, a foundation for the labour movement in Haiti and for trade union organizations to function within tripartism.”

Yvel Admettre called for the momentum to be sustained. “We must build a culture of dialogue,” he said. “Without that culture, you will not always feel the need to come together to talk. With dialogue, we know we can find solutions even in the most difficult situations. I hope this will be a beginning, not an end.”

This agreement opens a new phase in Haiti’s relationship with the ILO. It follows the reassignment of Haiti to the portfolio of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, based in Port of Spain. The transfer,

made in January 2026, is intended to strengthen regional alignment, responsiveness and collaboration with Haiti as part of the ILO’s work across the Caribbean region.

Haiti is a founding member of the ILO, having joined in 1919. It has ratified 25 ILO Conventions, including 8 of the 10 Fundamental Conventions. The ILO country programme for Haiti builds on those normative commitments and sets out how the ILO will work with the tripartite constituents to translate them into concrete results during 2026 and 2027.

The signing also followed a series of peer exchanges during the week-long mission. The Haitian delegation met with labour market counterparts in Trinidad and Tobago, including the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development, the National Trade Union Centre and the Employers Consultative Association,

drawing on good practices and lessons learned from their experiences in social dialogue and labour governance.

Implementation begins immediately. The ILO Caribbean Office will provide technical support through its Decent Work Team and existing projects in Haiti, in coordination with UN partners, bilateral donors and national institutions. A tripartite steering committee will oversee progress, and an annual strategic review will track results.

The Programme of Work is aligned with the Punta Cana Declaration for democracy, peace, decent work and social dialogue (2025), ILO Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Haiti (2023–2028). (Dominica News Online)



## Man drives car into pedestrians in Italy, injuring eight



A man drove his car into pedestrians in the northern Italian city of Modena on Saturday, injuring eight people, four seriously, officials said.

They included a woman who had to have both her legs amputated.

After the car came to a halt against a shop window, the driver emerged holding a knife and injured a passer-by who gave chase, before the suspect was overpowered.

The suspect, 31, has been identified by officials as an Italian national of Moroccan origin.

Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who cancelled a planned trip to Cyprus and described the incident as "extremely serious", visited the injured in hospital with President Sergio Mattarella on Sunday.

She also met Luca Signorelli, the passer-by who intervened, and thanked him for his actions.

"What makes an ordinary person heroic is the moment when the heart chooses to do good, even when that involves a risk," she wrote on X, and

shared an image of them embracing.

The incident occurred around 16:30 (14:30 GMT), when the speeding car hit the pedestrians in Via Emilia next to the iconic cathedral of Modena, south-east of Milan.

The vehicle then veered left before coming to a halt against a shop window.

Signorelli had told Italian media he was trying to help the woman when he noticed the driver trying to run away.

He said he gave chase and the attacker turned on him with a knife in hand. He received a blow to the head and one on his chest before being able to restrain the suspect, with the help of other passers-by.

At a news conference on Saturday evening, the prefect of Modena Fabrizia Triolo said the suspect had been referred to a mental health centre in 2022 for "schizoid disorders", but had then "disappeared without a trace".

An eyewitness said: "We saw the car approaching, it was heading for the kerb.

"It suddenly accelerated - it was going at least 100km/h (62mph)."

"We saw people flying," the witness told Italian media.

Modena's Mayor Massimo Mezzetti said it appeared the driver "deliberately drove on to the pavement, hitting several people and crashing into a shop window".

"He then got out of his car and brandished a knife," Mezzetti said.

Five women and three men were injured.

The mayor said the suspect was born in the province of Bergamo, close to Milan. He lives in the province of Modena.

Italy's far-right Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini, who leads the anti-immigrant League party, named the suspect on X as Salim El Koudri, describing him as a "second-generation criminal".

Italian media say the economics graduate is unemployed and has no criminal record. (BBC)

## WHO declares Ebola outbreak in DR Congo an international emergency



The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo a public health emergency of international concern.

The agency said the outbreak in DR Congo's eastern Ituri province, which has seen around 246 suspected cases and 80 deaths reported, does not meet the criteria of a pandemic emergency.

But it warned it could potentially be "a much larger outbreak" than what is currently being detected and reported, with significant risk of local and regional spread.

The current strain of Ebola is caused by the Bundibugyo virus, the health agency said, for which there are no approved drugs or vaccines.

Early symptoms include fever, muscle pain, fatigue, headache and sore throat, and are followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, a rash and bleeding.

The WHO said there are now eight laboratory-confirmed cases of the virus, with other suspected cases and deaths across three health zones including Bunia the capital of Ituri province, and the gold-mining towns of Mongwalu and Rwampara.

One case of the virus has been confirmed in the capital Kinshasa, believed to be in a patient returning from

Ituri.

The WHO said that the virus has spread beyond DR Congo, with two confirmed cases reported in neighbouring Uganda. Ugandan officials said a 59-year-old man who died on Thursday had tested positive.

In a statement, the Ugandan government said the patient who died was a Congolese citizen whose body has already been returned to DR Congo.

A laboratory has also confirmed an Ebola case in the eastern city of Goma, currently controlled by the M23 rebels, the AFP news agency reported on Sunday.

The WHO said the ongoing security situation and humanitarian crisis in DR Congo, combined with high population mobility, the urban location of the hotspot, and the large number of informal healthcare facilities in the region increased the risk of spread.

Countries bordering the DR Congo are considered high risk due to trade and travel.

The WHO advised that DR Congo and Uganda establish emergency operation centres to monitor, trace, and implement infection-prevention measures.

To minimise spread, the health agency said confirmed cases should be im-

mediately isolated and treated until two Bundibugyo virus-specific tests conducted at least 48 hours apart are negative.

For countries bordering regions with confirmed cases, governments should enhance surveillance and health reporting.

The WHO added that countries outside the affected region should not close their borders or restrict travel and trade as "such measures are usually implemented out of fear and have no basis in science".

WHO director general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned there are currently "significant uncertainties to the true number of infected persons and geographic spread" of the outbreak.

Ebola was first discovered in 1976 in what is now DR Congo, and is thought to have spread from bats. This is the 17th outbreak of the deadly viral disease in the country.

There is no proven cure for Ebola, with the average fatality rate is around 50%, according to the WHO.

Africa CDC previously said it was concerned by the high risk of further spread due to the urban settings of Rwampara and Bunia, and mining activities in Mongwalu.

The health agency's executive director Dr Jean Kaseya added that "significant population movement" between the affected areas and neighbouring countries also meant regional co-ordination was essential.

Around 15,000 people have died from the virus in African countries over the past 50 years.

DR Congo's deadliest outbreak was between 2018 and 2020, during which nearly 2,300 people died.

Last year, 45 people died after an outbreak in a remote region. (BBC)

## Woman gives birth ‘on courtroom bench’ during arraignment in Brooklyn



A woman gave birth in a Brooklyn courtroom late Friday night, just hours after being discharged from a hospital, according to police and witnesses.

Samantha Randazzo, 33, went into labor during her arraignment on a drug charge and delivered her baby “on a courtroom bench without adequate medical care, privacy, or dignity,” according to a joint statement from the Legal Aid Society and multiple public defender organizations whose members witnessed the birth firsthand.

Randazzo’s attorney, Wynton Sharpe, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Sunday. In a separate interview with The New York Times, he praised court officers who rushed to assist Randazzo when her water broke and described the situation as “joyful and sad.”

Randazzo delivered a baby boy, according to her lawyer.

The New York Police Department said Randazzo was arrested Thursday evening after officers allegedly saw two people on a rooftop at a public housing complex with a controlled substance “in plain view.” She was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance and criminal trespass.

“At the time of arrest and when they arrived at the station house, Ms. Randazzo was wearing baggy clothes, did not inform officers she was pregnant, did not indicate any disabilities, and declined medical attention,” the police said.

Early Friday morning, at around 3:30 a.m., Randazzo then informed officers she was pregnant and “experiencing withdrawal from drugs,” according to the police statement. Police say they then took her to a local hospital, which later discharged her. She gave birth in

court just before midnight, roughly four hours after she was discharged, the NYPD said.

The Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Defender Services, New York County Defender Services, the Bronx Defenders and the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem jointly criticized the decisions leading up to Randazzo’s labor. The organizations also took issue with “rumors” that some staff had joked about the incident.

The statement called for an investigation into the incident and a review of protocols governing pregnant people in custody.

“What occurred in that courtroom was not simply a failure of protocol or preparedness,” the statement said. “It was a profound moral failure and a devastating reflection of the cruelty embedded in our carceral system.” (NBC)

**SUNDAYS  
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY  
BEN WEN**

# COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889  
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

**WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**



# FEEL THE RHYTHM

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>FRI 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <b>FACE OFF</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small>	<b>SAT 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <b>OPENING OF CARNIVAL CITY &amp; T-SHIRT MAS</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY &amp; ST. JOHN'S</small>	<b>SUN 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <b>JUNIOR CARNIVAL (PARADE, PRINCE &amp; PRINCESS)</b> <small>ST. JOHN'S &amp; CARNIVAL CITY</small> <b>GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE</b>
<b>MON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <b>RHYTHM COURT</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small> <b>BAND-MEET-BAND (JUNIOR)</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small>	<b>TUE 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <b>PATRICE ROBERTS I AM WOMAN</b> <small>ALWAYS US</small> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small>	<b>THU 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY</b> <b>MELTING POT</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small> <b>DRINK TILL YA WEAK</b>
<b>FRI 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY</b> <b>CALYPSO MONARCH</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small> <b>WATCH NIGHT</b>	<b>SAT 1<sup>ST</sup> AUG</b> <b>PANORAMA</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small> <b>RISE</b> <b>CARNIVAL DREAMZ</b>	<b>SUN 2<sup>ND</sup> AUG</b> <b>PARTY MONARCH</b> <small>CARNIVAL CITY</small> <b>D BREAKFAST FETE</b> <b>WHY NOT ESCAPE</b>
<b>MON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUG</b> <b>J'OUVERT</b> <small>ST. JOHN'S</small> <b>MONDAY MAS</b> <small>ST. JOHN'S</small>	<b>TUE 4<sup>TH</sup> AUG</b> <b>PARADE OF BANDS</b> <small>ST. JOHN'S &amp; CARNIVAL CITY</small> <b>LAST LAP</b> <small>ST. JOHN'S</small>	



## Gunners and Ovals Ojays take leads in semi-finals of ABBA's Division 2 Playoffs

Top-seed and league champions Cedar Grove Gunners and second-seed Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 have taken one-nil leads in their respective best-of-three semi-final series in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 Playoff Championships.

Both teams gained the early advantage by recording contrasting wins in their opening games at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

The Gunners snatched a narrow 72-71 victory over the fourth-seeded Michael Joseph Phoenix in their keenly contested series opener.

Sergio Symister shot a team-high 24 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Olivee Morris produced 11 points, six assists, and six steals; Keady Martin converted 11 points and snatched six rebounds; and Iornie Joseph scored nine points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Gunners.

Adrian Carnegie shot a game-high 25 points and snatched six rebounds; Shamar Joseph sank 18 points and claimed seven assists; Shalom Bloodman converted 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; and Dimetre Leitch scored nine points and secured 15 rebounds for the Phoenix.

The Ovals Ojays 2 prevailed 77-73 over the third-seeded Old Road Daggers in another keenly contested encounter.

Yohhan Nicholas sank 23 points and snatched six rebounds; Orion Seraphine converted 14 points; Dajon George scored 12 points; Theo Blair provided 11 points; Najee Simon had nine points, 16 rebounds, and five steals; and Jaleyle Joseph produced eight points, 15 rebounds, and 10 assists for Ovals Ojays 2.



*The Cedar Grove Gunners*

Kelvin Simon shot a game-high 27 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; Gary Harrison produced 17 points, 16 rebounds, and five blocks; Craig Thomas sank 10 points and claimed 11 rebounds; and Rafiki Harris provided 10 points and five assists for the Old Road Daggers.

Meanwhile, reigning three-peat champions and top seed EZ Fit Flyers and second seed Da Project have taken one-nil leads in their respective best-of-three semi-final series in ABBA's Division 1 Playoff Championships.

Both teams gained the early advantage by recording contrasting wins in their opening games in the series.

The Flyers, who won the league title for the third consecutive year last month, easily soared above fourth seed Daryll Matthew Ottos in securing a commanding 81-57 victory in Game 1.

Kevin Cox sank 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Adonis Humphreys converted 14 points and snapped up 18 rebounds; Xavier Meade had 12 points and six rebounds; and Daniel Perez scored 10

points for the Flyers.

Christian Walker sank 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds; Ziven Clarke had 14 points and five rebounds; Nick Strawter produced 11 points, six rebounds, and five assists; and Danny Perez contributed nine points, 11 rebounds, and six steals for Ottos.

Da Project had to stave off a tough challenge from third-seed Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz to snatch a one-point win, prevailing 85-84 in a keenly contested Game 1 affair.

Malik Moore produced 25 points and five assists; Cornell Greenwood provided 21 points, eight steals, and five rebounds; Terry Dawkins had 19 points, seven rebounds, and five steals; and T-Shawn Lewis sank 12 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Da Project.

Keroi Lee sank 21 points and grabbed 20 rebounds; Joshua Minner converted 17 points and claimed eight rebounds; Alexis Jackson scored 12 points and snatched 13 rebounds; and Daquan Williams had nine points and 10 rebounds for the Stingerz.

## OCS captures schools' cricket Under-15 title



Coach Ian Tittle, left, and the players of the Ottos Comprehensive School celebrate with their trophy after winning the Ministry of Sports Inter-School Under-15 Cricket Championship at the Antigua Recreation Grounds on Friday, May 15, 2026.

The Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) has captured the Ministry of Sports Inter-School Under-15 Cricket Championship.

The Ottos Comprehensive School secured their title by pulling off a 10-wicket win against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) in the final at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Friday.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) made 85 all out in 13.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Kevon Charles made 19 off 19 balls, Ayden Bazil struck 18, Sherwin Martin scored 12, and there was a contribution of 25 extras, including 15 wides.

Akes France snapped up five for 16, Ian Jeremiah claimed two for 15, and Elijah Miller picked up two for 19.

Ondre Peters hit an unbeaten

half-century to lead the Ottos Comprehensive School to victory by scoring 89 without losing any wickets in 14.2 overs.

Peters slammed 56 not out off 45 balls, with nine fours, and Akez France struck 22 not out. Their total also benefited from 11 extras, including seven wides.

Both teams secured their spots in the championship decider by recording victories in their respective semi-finals.

The Ottos Comprehensive School snatched an 11-run victory over Antigua Grammar School at the Antigua Grammar School's playing field in a keenly contested semi-final affair.

The Ottos Comprehensive School made 175 for eight. Ondre Peters hit 44, Jaden Murray struck 26, Akez

France scored 22, and Hershum Ross made 19. Irvin Smith claimed two for 24, and Marc Crawford captured two for 33.

In reply, Antigua Grammar School fought hard but fell short on 165 for eight. Isaiah Harris hit 39, Dante' Oldum cracked 31, and Tiandre Charles scored 17.

Ondre Peters snapped up four wickets for seven runs, Akez France took two for 33, and Ian Jeremiah captured one for 38.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy pulled off a five-wicket victory over Pares Secondary School at the Factory Grounds.

Pares won the toss and batted first, posting 92 all out in 19.1 overs. Endsworth Floyd smashed 35, Deno Jarvis struck 14, and Israel John scored 12.

Kevon Charles grabbed five wickets for 16 runs; Ayden Bazil claimed two wickets for nine runs, while Clayton Joseph, Sherwin Martin, and Rohan John each picked up a wicket.

In reply, Sir Novelle Richards Academy achieved victory by scoring 95 for five in 17.3 overs.

Alister Kirnon hit 32 not out, and Rohan John made 10. Deno Jarvis took two wickets for 12 runs, Javaghn Freeland claimed two wickets for 27 runs, and Endsworth Floyd captured one wicket for 16 runs.

## CWI to host high-performance ODI preparation camp in Antigua

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will host a 10-day high performance training camp for a group of senior men's players in Antigua from May 21 to 31, as preparations begin for a critical stretch of One-Day International (ODI) cricket for the Caribbean team.

The 10-day camp, which will be held at Coolidge Cricket Ground, will serve as the launch pad for the West Indies' upcoming ODI series against Sri Lanka in Jamaica and form a key part of the team's wider strategy to strengthen performance in the format over the next 18 months.

Focused on elevating performance standards across all areas, the camp will feature full-day sessions centered on technical development, tactical execution, match-simulation scenarios, physical conditioning, and strengthening team cohesion.

Players will also work closely with CWI's high-performance unit, including coaching, medical, sports science, and strength and conditioning personnel.

Head Coach Daren Sammy will lead the programme alongside his support staff, while newly appointed fast-bowling consultant Ottis Gibson will officially begin his tenure during the camp.

Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe underscored the significance of the initiative as the West Indies intensify preparations for a demanding international schedule and their pursuit of automatic qualification for the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

"This camp represents far more than preparation for a single series," said Bascombe.

"It is a strategic investment in the identity, culture, and consistency we want this team to build over the next 18 months. Every session is designed to strengthen our white-ball systems, sharpen execution under pressure, and help position the West Indies for automatic qualification to the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup."

One notable inclusion is emerging

West Indies Under-19 talent Vitel Lawes, who has been invited as part of CWI's continued commitment to developing the next generation of regional players.

Pathway coach Nikita Miller will also participate in the camp, continuing his work with the young spinner while supporting the senior team's spin-bowling programme.

Players currently involved in the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be unavailable for the camp due to ongoing franchise commitments. The final squad for the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, commencing June 3rd, will be announced at a later date.

High-Performance Camp Participants: Shai Hope, Jewel Andrew, Ackeem Auguste, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jango, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Vitel Lawes (Development), Gudakesh Motie, Khary Pierre, Jayden Seales, and Shamar Springer.



## Windies women begin preparations in Wales ahead of T20 World Cup

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the arrival of a 16-member contingent of West Indies Women in Newport, Wales, for a high-intensity preparatory camp from May 14 to 23 in the build-up to the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England.

The camp forms a critical phase of the West Indies preparation programme ahead of an important tri-nation T20 series in Ireland featuring the hosts Ireland and Pakistan, which will provide valuable match exposure in conditions similar to those expected at the upcoming global tournament.

The squad will utilise the 10-day camp to sharpen all aspects of their game through technical sessions, tactical planning, match simulations, fitness conditioning, and team-building exercises as they continue preparations for their long-awaited return to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup stage.

The West Indies Women enter this period of preparation determined to make a strong statement and having reached the semi-finals of the 2024 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, the team believes

it has grown significantly in experience, depth, and confidence over the past two years.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, spoke to the value of the location of both the camp and the tri-series, as the regional side seek to repeat the historic triumph of ten years ago when they won the 2016 tournament.

"The opportunity to train in the United Kingdom and then also get the experience of playing competitive matches in Ireland in similar conditions immediately prior to the start of the June 5th tournament is invaluable," said Bascombe.

"This period will be utilized to help the squad gel, cement game-plans and remain connected. We are looking forward to a great showing by several key veterans and the emergence of our future stars, on the back of this extended preparation."

The camp in Wales follows a deliberate preparation pathway designed by CWI and the team management unit, which has already included white-ball

contests against Sri Lanka and Australia earlier this year.

The upcoming tri-series in Ireland is expected to provide another valuable opportunity for the squad to fine-tune combinations and strengthen execution under pressure before the World Cup officially begins.

The West Indies Women begin the tri-nation series on May 28th against Ireland, with their final fixture being against Pakistan on June 3rd, before returning to England for the World Cup and their first encounter against New Zealand on June 13th.

The final squads for the tri-nation series, as well as the World Cup, will be announced later.

West Indies Women Training Camp Participants: Aaliyah Alleyne, Eboni Brathwaite, Shermaine Campbelle, Jahzara Claxton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Jannillea Glasgow, Shawnisha Hector, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Hayley Matthews, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, and Stafanie Taylor.



Players of the West Indies women's team

## Hoppers win First Division football league title

The Greenbay Hoppers FC won the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division title on Saturday and will return to compete in the Premier Division League for the 2026–2027 season.

The Hoppers were confirmed as champions by securing a 2-0 victory over Empire FC in a Gray's Green derby in their final match of the season at the ABFA Technical Center.

Both teams finished the first half goalless, but the Hoppers took control of the match after Empire was reduced to nine men due to the expulsion of two players, who received red cards early in the second half.

Twadadre Jacobs was expelled in the 62nd minute, and teammate Sydney Samuel Jr. was sent off a minute later.

Khimani Cox broke the deadlock with a strike in the 68th minute to put Hoppers ahead, and teammate Tamorley "Ziggy" Thomas doubled their advantage and sealed victory with an 85th-minute conversion.

It means Empire FC wrapped up their First Division campaign in fifth place with 46 points after losing for the eighth time during their quota of 26 matches.

The result ensured that the Greenbay Hoppers will finish at the top of the 14-team standings with an unassailable 59 points from their quota of 26 matches.

The Freemans Village Scorpions



Parliamentary representative of St. John's Rural West, Honourable Michael Joseph, center, holds the trophy with Tamorley 'Ziggy' Thomas while celebrating with the Greenbay Hoppers, who won the 2025-2026 ABFA First Division title at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

will finish in the runners-up position, having already secured the second automatic promotion spot to compete in the Premier Division next season.

The Freemans Village Scorpions, who are in second place with 56 points, can also finish with 59 points with a victory over Five Islands FC in their final encounter. But the Hoppers will still clinch the title by virtue of a superior goal difference to the Scorpions.

Meanwhile, the Swetes Vipers FC clinched third place with a 3-3 draw with SAP FC in their final outing at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

All the goals came in the first half, with Tyrique Tonge scoring twice for SAP FC with strikes in the fifth and 27th minutes. The other goal for SAP FC was converted by Dev-

lyn Williams in the 35th minute.

Makhai Browne also scored twice for the Swetes Vipers with conversions in the 15th and 38th minutes, while the other goal was scored by teammate Jondale Jno-Lewis in the 32nd minute.

The Swetes Vipers wrapped up their campaign with 52 points from their 26 matches, while SAP FC finished in fourth place with 49 points from the same number of games.

Both the Swetes Vipers and SAP FC will contest a three-team round-robin playoff with the eighth-place finisher in the Premier Division, Green City FC.

The winner of the playoffs will earn the rights to compete in the Premier Division next season. Players of the West Indies men's ODI team