

Prime Minister Reminds Legislators of Duty to Constituents and Country

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It was a school field trip like no other as students from the Jennings Secondary School were given an opportunity to pose for a family photo with members of the House of Representatives in the Parliament Chambers on Monday

Prime Minister Reminds Legislators of Duty to Constituents and Country



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has reminded government legislators that their election victories carry a responsibility to serve the people diligently and uphold the standards of Parliament.

Speaking on Monday during the first sitting of the House of Representatives following the swearing-in of Members of Parliament, PM Browne congratulated MPs on the Government side while cautioning them against complacency.

“I would have congratulated you before, those on our side, on your victory, but as I would have said on several occasions, the victory is not a mandate for slothfulness,” the Prime Minister stated.

“If anything, it is actually a mandate

for us to serve more faithfully the people of Antigua and Barbuda, and we expect you to work unrelentingly for the empowerment of the people of Antigua and Barbuda,” he added.

Mr. Browne stressed that Members of Parliament are expected to maintain a strong presence in the Honourable House and should only be absent due to illness, official travel, or other extenuating circumstances.

“What we do not want are individuals who will come to Parliament when they feel like. This is the top decision-making body in the land, and it ought to be respected.”

The Prime Minister also urged MPs to remain committed to the concerns of their constituents, noting that Parliament serves as the collective voice

of the people.

“This is where the voice of the people collectively is heard here in this Honourable Chamber, and you have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that you continue to represent the people with dignity and certainly with professionalism,” the Prime Minister told legislators.

He called on members of the governing side to continue working in the interest of national development.

“Let us continue to work in a united way to continue to advance Antigua and Barbuda as we seek to expand the Renaissance, this new era of progress and development,” he said.

During his remarks, Prime Minister Gaston Browne also extended congratulations to Sir Steadroy Benjamin, the Member for St. John’s City South, who on Monday took the Parliamentary oath for the eighth consecutive time.

Jamale Pringle of the United Progressive Party, and Trevor Walker of the Barbuda People’s Movement were absent from the session due to prior engagements, and will likely take their oaths at the next sitting of the House of Representatives.

The Opposition Leader traveled to the United States last week with his minor daughter for medical reasons, while Trevor Walker is said to be attending to family matters, according to a statement issued by the Office of the Leader of the Opposition on Sunday.



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AG Frowns On Opposition's Absence



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Sir Steadroy Benjamin has expressed his displeasure at the

absence of the opposition members of the House of Representatives from Monday's swearing-in ceremony.

It was the first meeting of the House following the April 30 general elections when all the elected members were to take their oaths as members of the lower house of parliament.

The fifteen members of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, who now form the government of Antigua and Barbuda, were all present for this important exercise that included the election of a Speaker of the House as well as the Deputy Speaker, a key Constitutional provision of the country's system of government.

In contrast, the Leader of the Opposition in the House, Jamale Pringle and the Barbuda People's Movement elected member, Trevor Walker, were noticeably absent, ostensibly for family and other reasons. Both are reported to have traveled overseas.

Whatever the reasons for their absence, Sir Steadroy saw it as a continuation of the behavior of members of the opposition bench and their repeated absence from meetings during the last parliament.

"Mr. Speaker, is not passing strange, that today, of all days, I ask, that an excuse is being made; people being sick or traveling? Is it not strange? I say yes," he observed.

Referring to the members on the government side, Sir Steadroy gave the assurance that despite the absence of the opposition, they intended to 'do the work of the people'.

"We are here to make sure that the people of Antigua and Barbuda benefit from the Renaissance, led by Prime Minister Gaston Browne. We will not be deterred; we shall do what is right, in the interest of all of Antigua and Barbuda," he emphasized.



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Frederick and Benjamin Take up Top Posts in House of Representatives



Osbert Frederick, who was re-elected to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives says he is delighted to continue being in service to Antigua and Barbuda.

Frederick, who succeeded the late King's Counsel Sir Gerald Watt in November, 2024, was returned unopposed to the chair on Monday morning during the first sitting of the House of Representatives since the General Election of 30th April, 2026.

Following his swearing-in, he expressed appreciation to Prime Minister Gaston Browne for the confidence he has reposed in him.

"I do deem it an honour and a privilege, and I pray that God will give me the wisdom and strength necessary to continue to serve the people of this fair land, in this capacity," Osbert Frederick said.

Meantime, Saint Mary's North Member of Parliament Dr. Philmore Benjamin was appointed Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In offering congratulations to both men, City West MP, Prime Minister Gaston Browne outlined his expectations of both men, to be balanced and fair in how they manage the affairs of the Lower House of Parliament.

"You Mr. Speaker, and certainly the Deputy Speaker, whenever he chairs in your absence, have a responsibility to make sure that you operate with wis-

dom, fairness, and certainly firmness. And I emphasise firmness because I know that from time to time in your previous appointment as Speaker, you were actually challenged by members on the other side, but you're always fair and firm," the Prime Minister noted.

He stated that the responsibility was that of both Frederick and Benjamin to ensure that dignity is maintained at all times, and that the chaos not be allowed to prevail.

"I'm confident that both of you will discharge of your responsibilities and duties with distinction, and I certainly want to wish you a more successful tenure as you take up your role for a second time as Speaker of this Honourable House."




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Antigua and Barbuda Building Craft Programme Participants Honoured at Marlborough House



Participants in the Building Craft Programme for Antigua and Barbuda were formally recognised at a certificate presentation held at Marlborough House, the headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The ceremony marked the successful completion of the students' heritage building training programme in the United Kingdom, delivered through The King's Foundation in collaboration with partners including the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event at Marlborough House included a welcome and guided tour of the historic building, followed by remarks and the formal presentation of certificates to the students. Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, presented the certificates and congratulated the students for their successful completion of the programme.

Remarks were also delivered by Jeremy Cross, Associate Director of Championing and Networks of the King's Foundation, Kasia Howard,



Senior Education Manager at The King's Foundation, and Philip Davies OBE, Founder and Consultant Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Heritage Forum. Speakers commended the students for their dedication and highlighted the importance of developing heritage skills that can support preservation, sustainable construction, and local capacity building in Antigua and Barbuda.

During their time in the United Kingdom, the students received practical training in traditional building techniques, including geometry, drawing and design, timber framing, plastering, blacksmithing, lime mortar, stonework and historic brickwork conservation. The training exposed participants to specialist craft knowledge and conservation practices that can be applied to the protection and restoration of historic buildings in Antigua and Barbuda.

Reflecting on the value of the programme, participant Jace Gore said: "This opportunity and guidance from

expert tutors has given us the skills to help preserve our historic buildings and heritage at home in Antigua and Barbuda."

The students have since returned to Antigua and Barbuda, where they are expected to use their newly acquired skills to contribute to heritage restoration, sustainable construction, and national development.

The Building Craft Programme represents an important investment in young Antiguan and Barbudans, helping to equip them with practical skills that preserve the country's built heritage while supporting future opportunities in the constructions and conservation sectors. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pleased to have supported the development of this programme, working alongside the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies and The King's Foundation to create this important opportunity for skills development, heritage preservation and sustainable construction.

Mosquito Awareness Week Focuses On Primary Schools



Young people in the nation's primary schools are the focus of this year's Mosquito Awareness Week with students in Barbuda included in the national outreach programme.

The week started on Monday with officials of the Central Board of Health, the Barbuda Public Health Department, and the staff of Holy Trinity Primary School holding interactive sessions with students in Grade 1. These sessions provided valuable information on the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

"Students from Grade One were actively involved as they learned about the mosquito's life cycle, how it breeds, the dangers it poses, and the importance of keeping our surroundings clean to reduce breeding sites. Through interactive discussions and awareness activities, the children gained valuable knowledge on how small actions can help protect our communities from mosquito-borne illnesses," a CBH official stated.

The Holy Trinity school was one of two primary schools visited by teams from the CBH on Day 1 of Mosquito Week. The second was the Minoah Magnet primary school located in Radio Range.

The activities included the CBH



staff working with groups of students utilizing a mosquito activity and colouring book designed by staff of the department. The workbook covers;

- ▶ identifying diseases associated with mosquitoes
- ▶ potential mosquito breeding sites
- ▶ ways to prevent mosquito breeding sites
- ▶ and, a word search

On Tuesday, the CBH team will conduct similar exercises with students at the Foundation Mix school; on Wednesday, the team travels to the St. Peter's Primary in Belmont; on Thursday, students at TOR Memorial in Paynters will take the spotlight and on Friday, all attention turns to the

Post Millennium primary on the All Saints Road.

Principal Public Health Supervisor, Julienne Mannix-Galloway explained that the department is focusing its message on the 6 to 7 year olds as they are excellent conduits to get information to their parents and guardians. "These young people are very effective in conveying information to the homes and by extension the communities," she declared.

The work to rid the nation of mosquitoes requires an 'all-hands-on-deck' approach with everyone playing his/her role in the exercise. "Together, we continue to promote healthier and safer environments for our future generation," Mannix-Galloway stated.

Antigua and Barbuda Fire Brigade Represented at Fire Chiefs Conference


Assistant Commissioner of Police Vivian Parker, Superintendent of Police Elvis Gordon and Assistant Superintendent of Police Lester Bagot are representing the Antigua and Barbuda Fire Brigade at the 2026 Caribbean Association of Fire Chiefs Conference (CAFC) being held in the Dominican Republic from 17th -24th May, 2026.

The official opening ceremony was held at the Hodelpa Garden Suites, Golf & Convention Center in Playa Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic.

Chief Fire Officers and Senior Fire Fighters from across the Caribbean are attending the conference.

This year's gathering is being held under the theme: "Beyond Borders: Advancing Integrated Emergency Management Across the Caribbean" and will feature a series of plenary sessions, panel discussions, and strategic meetings focused on topics such as Command Presence, Strategic Planning and Leadership, Risk Mitigation, and The Impact of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the Caribbean.

The Antigua and Barbuda Fire Brigade is expected to host the next Caribbean Association of Fire Chiefs Conference, which will be held in 2027.

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Police Seize Firearm, Ammunition And Cannabis During Early Morning Operations



Police officers attached to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Task Force, Gang and Guns Suppression Unit, Special Services Unit, and the K-9 Unit conducted several search operations in the Red Hill community during the early morning hours of Monday, May 18, resulting in the seizure of a firearm, ammunition, and quantities of cannabis.

Around 4:33 a.m., the team of officers executed multiple warrants at several properties, and during one of the operations, they seized one firearm, two magazines, several rounds of ammunition, and a quantity of cannabis.

One male suspect was subsequently taken into police custody on suspicion of Unlawful Possession of Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis.

During a separate search of another property in the said area, officers discovered additional quantities of cannabis. Two individuals were also taken into custody on suspicion of Unlawful Possession of Cannabis.

A search was also carried out in a vehicle and a portion of cannabis was discovered. The items, along with the suspects were taken to the police station, pending further investigations.



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MAY 2026

THURSDAY 21ST

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

FRIDAY 22ND

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

SATURDAY 23RD

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

SUNDAY 24TH

- 1PM | CARIBANA CLASSIC
HORSE RACING

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- 6PM-10PM | LAST LAP

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What is Antigua and Barbuda but not a majority black country?



Written by Franchesca Sterling

“Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law, primarily within refugee and human rights law, prohibiting states from returning (or ‘refouling’) any person to a country where they face a real risk of persecution, torture, cruel or inhuman treatment, or other irreparable harm.”

This may be one of the reasons why the United States is seeking to spread the burden of persons who have illegally entered the United States, rejected asylum seekers, non-immigrants who overstayed their U.S. visas, and others presently residing in the country. This may also explain why President Trump’s Homeland Security Advisor, Stephen Miller’s plan to deport arrested foreigners in the United States to other countries in the Western Hemisphere is viewed as an attractive option.

This is also why I rebuke persons within our region who use phrases such as “import labour” for projects, because in doing so, you are only enabling the harmful situation while remaining mentally enslaved yourselves.

I am not a xenophobic person. I love



all people irrespective of race, ethnicity, nationality, creed, sexual orientation, age, or religion. I vehemently dislike bigotry and persons who treat others with indignity. My natural instinct is to be humanist, and it is why I enjoy working at the Organization of American States. “More rights for more people” was the mantra that former OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro lived by and instituted at the Organization and it is one that I continue to believe in.

On the matter of immigration, I have, for the past eight years, served as a Child Advocate, volunteering my services to the Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, managing cases involving unaccompanied immigrant children in the United States. I work with this population because they are among the most vulnerable, and the objective is to advocate for the best interests of the child, many of whom are completely oblivious to their circumstances (particularly infants between 1–24 months old) and others who possess no understanding of the complex U.S. immigration system.

Notwithstanding this, if we in Antigua and Barbuda accept third country nationals (TCNs) being deported from

the United States, even if they do not have criminal records, and who may not be deemed “bona fide visitors” pursuant to the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, given the historical arrangement of these TCN agreements in recent months throughout the Americas, we too would face the problem of being unable to deport these third country nationals due to the principle of non-refoulement, regardless of any crime they may later commit in Antigua and Barbuda, if that were to happen. Who would take them then? I can assure you, it would not be another country.

However, our laws stipulate that the liability for repatriation rests with the “owner or agent of the vessel in which the person arrived... to the country to which the person belongs or from which the person embarked for Antigua and Barbuda”. Therefore, the Government of the United States of America would have to accept these persons back should any crime be committed on our soil, if we agree to solidify this TCN arrangement.

And is it the intention of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to reclassify these third country nationals as bona fide visitors upon arrival? And if so, who will “be responsible for the



maintenance and accommodation of that bona fide visitor during the period of the stay of the bona fide visitor in Antigua and Barbuda”? This would effectively place the Government of Antigua and Barbuda as the sponsor of the prospective bona fide visitor, particularly as this TCN arrangement is being conducted between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Government of the United States. If reclassification is not being pursued, then what exactly would be their legal status in Antigua and Barbuda?

Pursuant to Section 14(viii) of The Immigration and Passport Act, 2014, which stipulates who has the right of entry into Antigua and Barbuda, it states: “any other persons or class of persons to whom this section may be applied by Order made by the Minister”. As “third country nationals” are not explicitly listed within our laws, will such an Order be issued by the Minister? Does this matter have to proceed before Parliament?

Most immigrants who illegally entered the United States did so without a travel document or passport, many of which may have been destroyed during their journey to the United States. In many cases, it is difficult to obtain birth certificates for illegal immigrants once they are within U.S. territory due to slow bureaucratic processes with foreign consulates and because some births were never formally registered

in their home countries, particularly in rural towns and remote communities.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Immigration and Passport Act, 2014 is very clear that persons without a travel document or passport shall not be permitted to enter Antigua and Barbuda. While discretion may be left to the Minister or the Chief Immigration Officer, we should not be overly lenient on this matter, as such discretion should only be reserved for extraordinary circumstances, particularly humanitarian emergencies. I do not find that persons travelling from the United States under a TCN arrangement are facing any emergency because, as far as the United States is concerned, it is a safe and free country, the land of many opportunities, where our people are starving to gain entry, is it not?

My other concern stems from public health. Will Antigua and Barbuda be as firm in its requirements as the United States is in requiring immigrants to be vaccinated for influenza; Hepatitis A and B, which require administration 3–6 months before departure; rotavirus; polio; measles, mumps, and rubella; tetanus; diphtheria; pertussis, including boosters; meningococcal and pneumococcal diseases; and varicella? Will they also be tested for tuberculosis and HIV/STDs and undergo other wellness checks, including mental health evaluations?

With respect to vaccines, laboratory

evidence of immunity is acceptable for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, and varicella if the migrant lacks acceptable documented history of vaccination for these diseases. If we do end up accepting third country nationals, will they be “examined by a medical practitioner” as our Immigration Act stipulates, to review these medical records and ascertain whether they are up to date? I strongly recommend that this be done.

According to ICE/DHS 2024/2025 data, the top nationalities ordered deported from the United States are individuals from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, and Peru. Mexico dominates due to its proximity to the United States. Then there are individuals from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, China, Jamaica, the Philippines, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Korea, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and others.

Many persons from these countries have already crossed our shores before, whether for adventure, business, or opportunity. Some already reside in Antigua and Barbuda as law-abiding and productive residents (and sometimes now citizens) who consider our sweet 268 their home. Antigua and Barbuda is a small twin-island nation with a population of fewer than 100,000 people spread across 171 square miles. We welcome guests all the time, all year round.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are my own.

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RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

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From Backyard Beginnings to Climate Dreams



In a backyard small in Louisiana land,
 A vision was born by a passionate hand,
 Glass bottles discarded, tossed to the side,
 Were turned into sand with environmental pride.
 What many called waste, they chose to reclaim,
 And slowly the world began hearing their name,
 Glass Half Full rose with purpose and grace,
 Turning discarded materials into hope for a place.
 From less than an acre, their mission grew strong,
 With bigger machines rolling steadily along,
 Now three acres wide with more staff by their side,
 Restoring coastlines with community pride.

And standing there watching their journey unfold,
 Felt like a mirror of stories we've told,
 Because back in Antigua we started the same,
 With four little bins and a powerful aim.
 One school at the start, that was all that we knew,

But dreams have a way of eventually growing through,
 Now eighty schools strong with students involved,
 Showing communities problems can be solved.
 They started with glass, then expanded with care,
 To plastic and cardboard and metals to spare,
 While we started opposite, chasing plastic first,
 Trying to quench our landfill's growing thirst.
 Then came aluminum, steel, and glass too,
 And paper now enters the things we must do,
 Because waste isn't garbage when vision is clear,
 Waste can create jobs and protect what we hold dear.

The landfill is crying, the warning signs show,
 Four fires in one year with destruction below,
 An oil spill added to environmental pain,
 Yet somehow we still manage waste the same.
 How much more evidence do we truly require,
 Before we stop feeding environmental fire?



How many disasters must communities see,
Before legislation changes nationally?
Waste must be sorted from where it begins,
Not mixed all together in trucks and in bins,
Households and businesses all play a role,
Because climate protection requires a whole.

Events must do better, tourism must too,
Because paradise suffers from things that we do,
The beaches, the coastlines, the waters we share,
Depend on the choices and habits we bear.
The future is bigger than bottles alone,
It's building a system our children can own,
A system creating opportunity wide,
With disability inclusion standing beside.
Because climate action must open the door,
For persons with disabilities and so much more,
Jobs in collection, in sorting and trade,
In education campaigns and systems remade.
At Good Humans 268 we firmly believe,
That waste holds value beyond what we perceive,
Waste is worth, wealth, and climate hope too,
If communities unite in the work we must do.

Over EC fifty-three million each year,
Could be generated if systems were clear,
From households and businesses doing their part,
And governments leading with vision and heart.
This is not fantasy, impossible, or strange,

Louisiana itself has become proof of change,
A backyard became a movement so bright,
Because somebody chose to believe in the fight.
And maybe that lesson's the greatest of all,
That massive transformations often start small,
One idea, one school, one bin, one plan,
Can eventually inspire an entire land.
So let us not wait for the perfect day,
To finally decide there must be a better way,
Because climate action begins where we stand,
With courage, with vision, with helping hands.
From Louisiana's coastlines to Antigua's shore,
The message grows louder than ever before,
Protecting our future is everybody's role,
And sustainable communities must become the goal.
The planet is speaking, the signs are all there,
In fires and flooding and polluted air,
Yet solutions exist if we choose to unite,
And turn waste to opportunity, darkness to light.
So here's to the dreamers who started out small,
Who believed transformation was possible for all,
From backyards to movements that communities trust,
Reminding the world that change begins with us.



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Regional News



Over 200 Vincentians to Sue St Vincent Govt



215 Vincentians have been interviewed with reports of discrimination and breach of contract by the State.

Across the country, citizens who obtained contracts for small parcels of land from the previous ULP government have been told since the NDP has come to office that no further payments on their lands will be accepted. The areas span across the country with a concentration in North Windward, South Central Windward, North Central Windward, North Leeward, Central Leeward and the Northern and Southern Grenadines.

While some speculate that it is simply the tardiness of the government to address these contracts, contract holders are becoming very impatient and will be taking legal action against the State for breach of contract.

One villager of the indigent community of Sandy Bay noted that this action by the NDP is a clear reminder that recolonization is alive and well. The Cato, Mitchell, Joshua and Gonsalves administrations had varying levels of land distribution.

There is no evidence that persons who obtained leases and contracts to purchase lands under the Mitchell administration had them withdrawn en masse by the ULP administration.

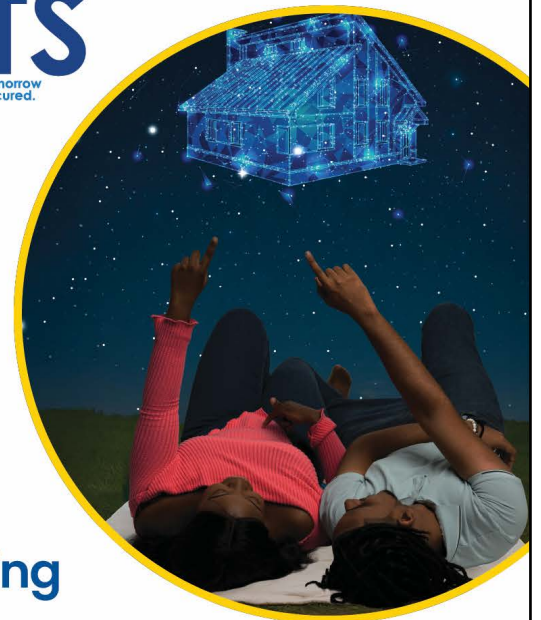
The citizens interviewed have concluded that their only redress is the Court. Several lawyers have been contacted and statements have been taken. These include front-desk persons noting that they were told by "higher ups" not to take any money and that the lands will be taken away. The situation is being monitored and the public will be updated on any developments. In the meantime, citizens holding contracts and offer letters are asked to go to the Department of Lands and Surveys and demand that they be allowed to make their payments.

One farmer took \$7,000.00 cash meant for his first land purchase down payment and was refused. On a subsequent visit, he was told there is no plan as to what will happen to the contracts and offer letters. (St Vincent Times)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Urban planning minister calls for safer practices, policy review in aftermath of Roseau fire



Parliamentary Representative for the Roseau Central Constituency, and Minister for Housing & Urban Development, Melissa Poponne-Skerrit, has advised homeowners and building owners in that constituency to take stock of their surroundings, “removing or replacing any flammable materials where possible, and just to start inspecting your own electrical wiring to mitigate against these [sorts] of fires.”

She made the remarks during a press conference held recently, following a massive fire that occurred in Roseau this month, which damaged several buildings.

This was the second major fire to hit the capital this year, with the first causing extensive damage in early March.

Poponne-Skerrit indicated that a look at the drawing board may be necessary, regarding unplanned settlements and the heightened vulnerability of these areas.

“I’m also suggesting, as the Minister of Urban Development, that we review our policies surrounding

unplanned and ancillary developments,” she said. “In Roseau, what you see at the forefront [is] one building, but there’s like a whole village at the back, and then sometimes you have bars, mechanic shops, other structures without proper planning, people tend to do the things on their own, and so these long-standing issues will pose increased risk.”

The minister assured those affected by the blaze that the government will stand with them and support them, “as we usually do through this difficult time, and we remain committed to helping you to rebuild stronger and safer.” (Dominica News Online)



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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2026

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

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OAS mission recommends major electoral reforms in Bahamas



The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) has recommended a series of reforms aimed at strengthening elections in The Bahamas following the recent general election.

The mission, led by former St Kitts and Nevis diplomat Sherry Tross, called for the establishment of an independent electoral body separate from government control and urged greater financial, technical and human resource support for the Parliamentary Registration Department.

Among the recommendations were the introduction of an electronic results transmission system, expanded use of biometric voter cards, online voter verification tools and stronger cybersecurity protections for electoral data.

The mission also urged reforms to improve transparen-

cy, poll worker training and dispute resolution procedures, while calling for campaign finance legislation, including limits on anonymous and foreign donations.

The OAS delegation further recommended measures to in-

crease women's participation in politics and address gender-based political violence.

The country's Prime Minister Philip Davis was re-elected for a second consecutive term in the May 12 polls. (Jamaica Observer)

NOTICE

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAVERN LICENSE FOR BUSINESS

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I, Bernadine Martin, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday, 5th January, 2027 next ensuing for a (tavern/bottle) license in respect of premises known as "B AND M ROADSIDE SHOP" situated in Cooks New Extension, in the parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to section (11) (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated 13th day of May, 2026

.....
Bernadine Martin
268(788-871

Escaped tiger shot by German police after attacking man



An escaped tiger believed to be owned by Germany's "Tiger Queen" has been shot dead by police after attacking one of its keepers.

Police told the BBC a 72-year-old man was seriously injured after being attacked on Sunday while he was inside the animal's enclosure, located in a privately-owned facility on the outskirts of the German city of Leipzig.

The tiger escaped the enclosure and was found shortly after by armed police, who shot and killed the animal.

The site of the enclosure is believed to be owned by controversial trainer and private owner Carmen Zander, who describes herself as Germany's "Tiger Queen".

The animal was one of eight big cats kept at the industrial site near the German town of Schkeuditz, according to local media.

In a statement to the BBC, police said officers shot the animal, a male tiger, to eliminate any further risk to the

public.

It added that the local police department received the emergency call at around 12:50 local time (11:50 BST) on Sunday, with officers arriving at the scene quickly.

A spokesperson said how the tiger escaped is part of an ongoing investigation.

No other animals have escaped from the site and police have planned a drone search to ensure it is fully secure.

District Mayor Thomas Druskat called for the other animals to be relocated and told local media it was "unthinkable" what could have happened if anyone else had been harmed.

Nearby residents told the Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA) that the incident was "terrible and worrying", with one claiming the animals were not kept in appropriate conditions.

Animal rights charity Peta called on the government to act, telling DPA that

stricter rules needed to be put in place to protect privately-owned animals.

According to a website using Zander's name and nickname, the trainer holds "unforgettable" and "one-of-a-kind" tiger petting events open to the public.

The website says visitors can pay to pet the "250kg powerhouses" at a site near Leipzig.

Another section of the website features the pictures of eight tigers - three which appear to have died in the last nine years. The tigers include 190kg Kiara, 20-year-old Aschanti, and two-year-old cub Imana.

Social media posts appearing to be from the trainer show several pictures of the tigers playing in the enclosures.

It also says the tigers are looked after and kept healthy in an animal-friendly environment.

The BBC has reached out to Zander for comment. (BBC)

Regional News

Cruise ship hit by hantavirus outbreak docks in Rotterdam

MV Hondius, the Dutch cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak, has docked at its final destination in Rotterdam.

Only the ship's crew were aboard for the last leg of the journey, as all passengers docked off the ship in the Canary Islands between 10 and 11 May.

Rotterdam port harbour master René de Vries said 25 mobile homes kitted out with catering and satellite communications would be available for the crew to self-isolate in.

Three people - a Dutch couple and a German woman - died after travelling on the ship, with two of them confirmed to have had the virus. Canadian authorities confirmed another case on Sunday, bringing the number of infections among cruise passengers to 11.

On Friday, the World Health Organization (WHO) had said eight cases were confirmed and a further two were suspected.

Director of GGD Rotterdam-Rijnmond, Yvonne van Duijnhoven, said the ship's doctor and nurse had collected samples aboard. These will be tested on the ship's arrival and further tests will be carried out on Monday afternoon to check if the crew have hantavirus.

Hantavirus is a group of viruses carried by rodents. While most hantaviruses do not pass from person to person, rare instances of human transmission have been documented with the Andes virus strain, which is the strain behind this outbreak.



The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended 42 days of isolation for those leaving the MV Hondius.

Reuters people in protective gear on board the MV Hondius in Rotterdam-Reuters

Workers in protective gear were seen on board the MV Hondius after its arrival in Rotterdam

De Vries said the port received a request to dock the cruise 10 days ago and, after contacting the regional health service, agreed the Dutch-flagged ship would be welcome.

The port collaborated with health and local authorities ahead of MV Hondius' arrival, de Vries said.

Now the ship is moored, "[it] will be properly cleaned and then she can leave again," he added.

The luxury cruise, operated by Ocean-

wide Expeditions, began its journey on 1 April in Ushuaia, Argentina.

About 150 passengers and crew from 28 countries are reported initially to have been aboard the vessel, but dozens disembarked on the island of St Helena on 24 April.

Cape Verde was the vessel's intended final destination, but authorities there prevented passengers from disembarking.

The WHO and the European Union then requested that Spain allow the ship to sail to the Canary Islands and coordinate the repatriation of those on board. On 10 May the ship arrived in Tenerife where passengers still aboard disembarked.

The ship, which has now reached its final destination, set off to the Netherlands on 11 May with crew members and medical staff. (BBC)



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At least 100 dead in Ebola outbreak in DR Congo as six Americans exposed



At least 100 people have died in an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with more than 390 cases suspected, the head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has told the BBC.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak an international emergency.

At least six Americans have been exposed to the Ebola virus during the outbreak in the DR Congo, sources have told CBS News, the BBC's US partner.

One American is believed to have symptoms, with three others said to have faced a high-risk contact or exposure. It is unclear whether any have been infected.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said it was supporting the "safe withdrawal of a small number of Americans who are directly affected", but did not confirm how many.

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

There are also two confirmed cases

and one death in Uganda, according to the CDC.

The US government is reportedly looking to arrange transport for the small group of Americans in DR Congo to a safe quarantine location, a source told health news site STAT.

Quoting a source, the site adds that the group could be taken to a US military base in Germany, though this has not been confirmed.

During a press conference on Sunday, the CDC declined to answer direct questions about the US citizens reportedly affected, adding that the risk to the US remained low.

The US has also issued a Level Four travel advisory - its most severe level - warning against travel to the DR Congo.

WHO declares Ebola outbreak in DR Congo an international emergency

The WHO has said the outbreak in DR Congo's eastern Ituri province is a public health emergency of international concern, but did not meet the criteria of a pandemic.

The agency has also warned it could potentially be "a much larger out-

break" than what is currently being detected and reported, with significant risk of local and regional spread.

More than 28,600 people were infected by Ebola during the 2014-2016 outbreak in West Africa, the largest outbreak of the virus since its discovery in 1976.

The disease spread to a number of countries within and outside of West Africa, including Guinea, Sierra Leone, the United States, the United Kingdom and Italy, killing 11,325 people.

Jean Kaseya, director general of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, warned that in the absence of vaccines and effective medicines people should follow public health measures, including the guidance about handling the funerals of those who have died from the disease.

"We don't want people infected because of funerals," he told the BBC World Service's Newsday programme.

Community funerals, where people helped wash the bodies of their loved ones, contributed to many people becoming infected in the earlier stages of the big outbreak more than a decade ago.

The WHO has advised DR Congo and Uganda, two countries with confirmed cases, to undertake cross-border screenings to avoid the virus spreading.

It has also urged nearby countries to "enhance their preparedness and readiness", including surveillance at health facilities and communities.

Neighbouring Rwanda said it would be tightening screening along its border with DR Congo as a "precautionary measure", while Nigeria said it was "closely monitoring the situation". (BBC)

46 children, adults kidnapped in southern Nigeria schools attack—Christian group

Forty-six people, most of them children, were kidnapped during an attack on three schools in southwest Nigerian last week, the Christian Association of Nigeria said on Monday.

CAN president for Oyo state, Elisha Olukayode Ogundiya, told AFP that “46 persons, mostly children” aged from two to 16 were seized in the attacks in the southwestern state on Friday.

Nigeria is battling a scourge of criminal gangs known as bandits who kidnap for ransom and target rural areas. But most attacks, including school kidnappings, have mostly happened in the north and centre of the country, where the conflict is most prominent.

Gunmen simultaneously raided Baptist Nursery and Primary in Yawota, and two other schools in Esiele, in what police called a “coordinated attack”.

The attackers seized “some pupils, students and staff members” from the

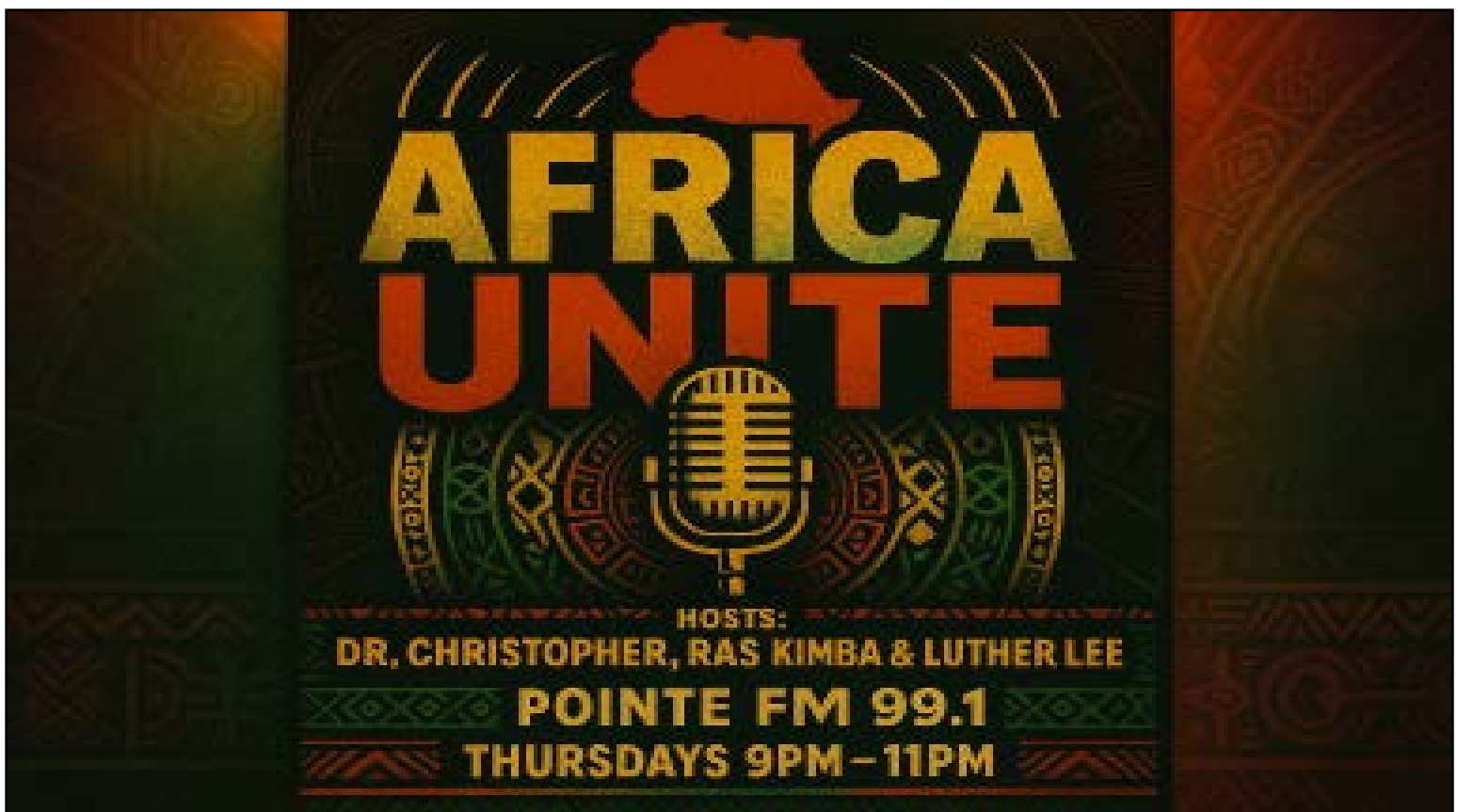


schools, “including the vice principal,” police said in a statement last week.

The attack forced Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board to order the temporary closure of surrounding schools Friday to “prevent any sec-

ondary incidents and to allow security agencies to thoroughly stabilise the area”.

It later said schools should reopen on Monday. (AFP)



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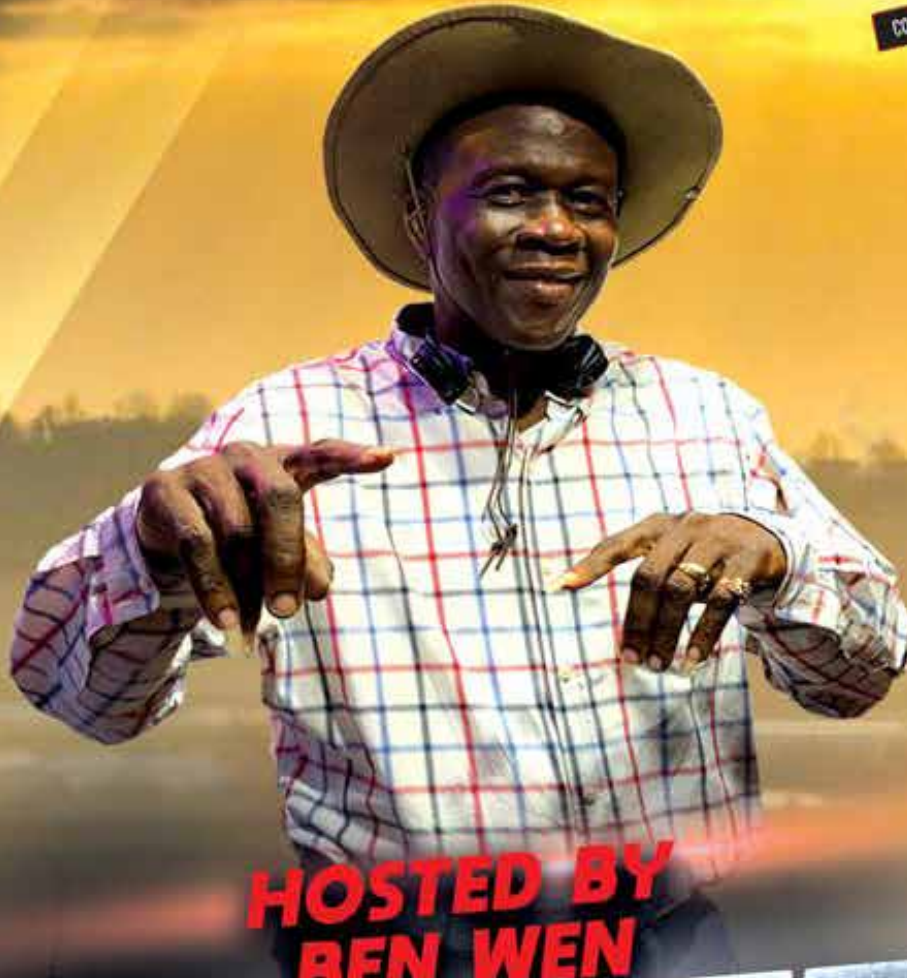


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MON 27TH JULY RHYTHM COURT CARNIVAL CITY BAND-MEET-BAND (JUNIOR) CARNIVAL CITY	TUE 28TH JULY PATRICE ROBERTS I AM WOMAN ALWAYS US CARNIVAL CITY	THU 30TH JULY MELTING POT CARNIVAL CITY DRINK TILL YA WEAK
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MON 3RD AUG J'OUVERT ST. JOHN'S MONDAY MAS ST. JOHN'S	TUE 4TH AUG PARADE OF BANDS ST. JOHN'S & CARNIVAL CITY LAST LAP ST. JOHN'S	



Wins for Police in Curtly Ambrose Parish League contest



Police recorded two wins during the latest round of matches in the ACB Caribbean Parish League Curtly Ambrose Limited Overs Championship over the weekend.

Police crushed Stingray City Seatons by 290 runs at Seatons. Jeron Jones slammed his second century of the season to propel Police to 339 for seven.

Jones hammered 105, Deran Benta struck 79, and Shamar Pereira cracked 52. St. Jean captured three for 25.

In reply, Seatons crashed to 49 all out, with Hector making 15. Malique Gerald grabbed four for 14, Kiscean Francis claimed three for 31, and James Cornelius took two wickets for one run.

Police also pulled off a four-wicket victory over Sea View Farm. Kerry Mentore slammed a century, smashing 101, to guide Sea View Farm to 192 for nine. Lashorne Barnard took four for 26.

Police achieved victory by scoring 194 for six. Kenrick Scott hammered 70, and Shamar Pereira cracked 49. Xavier Freeland claimed four for 31.

Sea View Farm rebounded to pull off a seven-wicket victory over Mahico at Clare Hall. Mahico was dismissed for 78, with JQuan Athanaze scoring 26. Xavier Freeland picked up four for

19. Sea View Farm secured victory by scoring 79 for three.

Freetown also recorded a seven-wicket victory over Mahico at Freetown. Mahico was restricted to 125 for seven in 30 overs. Stephen Fane hit 28, and Mike France scored 20. Dean Williams claimed two for 19.

In reply, Freetown achieved victory by scoring 129 for three in 15 overs. Jamaul Fernandez hit 38, and Akeem Blackman struck 34.

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Scorpions complete First Division campaign in second place

The Freemans Village Scorpions have sealed their second-place finish in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on a winning note in their final outing.

The Scorpions wrapped up their campaign with a 5-0 drubbing of Five Islands FC in their final outing at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday.

Following a goalless first half, five players scored in the second half to secure the 17th win during their quota of 26 matches for the Scorpions.

The goal scorers were Zakeem Michael in the 50th minute, Junior Lee in the 54th, Romar Gidersingh in the 67th, Mekai Lewis in the 72nd, and Roy Gregory in the 88th minute.

It means Five Islands ended their First Division campaign in sixth place with 43 points after suffering their eighth defeat during their quota of 26 matches.

The Freemans Village Scorpions finished with 59 points, the same as First Division winners, Greenbay Hoppers, who secured the title by virtue of a superior goal difference.

By virtue of finishing as the top two sides at the end of the First Division, the Hoppers and Scorpions have attained automatic promotion to compete in the Premier Division next season.

The Swetes Vipers claimed third place with 52 points, while SAP FC secured fourth place with 49 points.

The Swetes Vipers and SAP FC will meet in a playoff with Green City FC, who finished in eighth place in this season's Premier Division, in a three-team round-robin playoff. The winner of the playoffs will compete in the Premier Division next season.

Tenth-place finishers English Harbour will also 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 Police 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.

The four teams that finish at the bottom of the 14-team standings in the current First Division have been automatically relegated to compete in the Second Division next season.

They are Bendals FC, the Cedar Grove Blue Jays, Bolans FC, and FC Masters Ballers.



Players of the Freemans Village Scorpions celebrate after scoring during a game in their 2025-2026 First Division campaign. (File Photo)

CPL and UWI open applications for 2026 internship programme



Fans at a CPL cricket match

The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Faculty of Sport, is proud to announce the return of its acclaimed internship programme for the 2026 tournament.

Now in its tenth year, the initiative continues to offer a unique blend of academic instruction and hands-on professional experience in one of the region's most dynamic sporting events.

Running from July to September 2026, the programme will accept 21 students who will have the option to undertake a fully accredited three-credit Sports Marketing course offered by UWI.

Delivered online by UWI lecturers, the course provides a strong academic

foundation in sports marketing, which students will then apply in real-time as members of the CPL's marketing team during the tournament.

Interns will gain direct experience at CPL matches held across seven host nations. They are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago.

This immersive exposure gives participants a front-row seat to the operations of an international sporting event, while contributing meaningfully to CPL's promotional efforts on the ground.

Over the years, the programme has empowered dozens of young professionals from across the Caribbean, many of whom have gone on to secure

paid roles with CPL and other organisations in the sports and entertainment industries.

Pete Russell, CEO of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League said, "As we enter the tenth year of this programme, it is incredibly rewarding to see how many young Caribbean professionals have used this opportunity as a launch-pad for their careers.

"The internship gives students genuine hands-on experience in a fast-paced international sporting environment, and every year they make an important contribution to the CPL team. With the addition of Jamaica as a host venue for 2026, this year's programme promises to be our biggest and most exciting yet."

Local players confirmed following CPL draft



The Antigua & Barbuda Falcons welcome local star Alzarri Joseph to the squad after his five-season stint with the St. Lucia Kings.

The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) draft has taken place, with the seven teams confirming the West Indian players who will form part of their squads for the 2026 tournament, which runs from August 7 to September 20. Overseas players will be announced over the coming weeks.

The Antigua & Barbuda Falcons welcomed local star Alzarri Joseph to the squad after his five-season stint with the St. Lucia Kings. The Falcons have also signed the hugely experienced Evin Lewis, who leaves the Patriots after more than a decade with the St. Kitts & Nevis franchise.

The Falcons used their Right to Match Options (RMOs) to re-sign Fabian Allen, Jayden Seales and Amir Jango. They have also brought back Shamar Springer, Rahkeem Cornwall and Karima Gore, who were all part of the Falcons squad in 2025. New faces include Anderson Mahase and Anderson Phillip.

The St. Lucia Kings used their RMOs to retain Roston Chase, Matthew Forde

and Keon Gaston. They have brought in exciting Antiguan batter Jewel Andrew, while also welcoming back St. Lucian McKenny Clarke, who was with the Knight Riders in 2025. The Kings have also selected Trinidadian top-order batter Kamil Pooran, along with Damion Joachim, Joshua Bishop and Darron Nedd.

The Barbados Tridents have selected Gudakesh Motie, who leaves the Guyana Amazon Warriors after five years with his home franchise. The Tridents also re-drafted fellow Guyanese player Sherfane Rutherford, who was part of the Barbados squad in 2025.

Barbados used their RMOs to re-sign Brandon King, Kadeem Alleyne, Rivaldo Clarke, Johann Layne and Kofi James. Zishan Motara also returns to the Tridents for 2026.

The Trinbago Knight Riders have used their RMOs to re-sign Sunil Narine, Nicholas Pooran, Kieron Pollard, Akeal Hosein and Terrance Hinds. That hugely experienced core will be vital as the Knight Riders look to defend the title they secured in 2025.

There are also some new faces in the squad, with Barbadians Justin Greaves and Dominic Drakes joining the Trinidad & Tobago franchise for the first time. Jyd Goolie will represent his home team for the first time, having played for the St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots in 2025. He will be joined by newcomers Dexter Sween and Abdul Raheem-Toppin.

The St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots have drafted Johnson Charles, the CPL's all-time leading run-scorer. He is joined by Andre Fletcher, who sits second on the CPL run-scoring charts.

The Patriots used an RMO to re-sign Fletcher, while also right to matching Kyle Mayers, Alick Athanaze and Mikyle Louis. They have drafted Jason Holder back into the squad and secured the services of Kevin Wickham and Obed McCoy, who both join the team for the first time in 2026.

The Guyana Amazon Warriors have used their RMOs to retain Shimron Hetmyer, Romario Shepherd, Shai Hope and Shamar Joseph. While they lost Gudakesh Motie to the Tridents, they have replaced him with fellow left-arm spinner Khary Pierre, who was part of the Kings squad in 2025.

The remainder of the Amazon Warriors squad is made up of Guyanese players, with Ronaldo Alimohamed, Veersammy Permaul, Mavendra Dindyal and Jonathan van Lange all joining the 2026 squad. Of the 12 local players selected by the Warriors, 10 are from Guyana.

The Jamaica Kingsmen have drafted two experienced local players with outstanding T20 records in Rovman Powell and Andre Russell. They have also selected fellow Jamaicans Odean Smith, Vitel Lawes, Jeavor Royal and Kirk McKenzie. The Kingsmen have additionally picked Keemo Paul, Keacy Carty and Shaqkere Parris, all of whom have previous CPL experience.

Flyers and Da Project to clash for ABBA Division 1 playoff title



Players of EZ Fit Flyers



Players of Da Project

Defending champions and top seed EZ Fit Flyers and second seed Da Project will clash in the finals for the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 Playoff Championship.

Both teams advanced to the finals after completing 2-0 wins with victories in Game 2 of their respective best-of-three Division 1 playoff semi-final series at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

It means the Flyers, who retained the Division 1 League title for the third consecutive year last month, also remain on course to complete a hat trick of championship double in a season by recording their 97-64 victory over fourth-seed Daryll Matthew Ottos.

Kevin Cox produced 23 points, seven rebounds, and five steals; Adonis Humphreys converted 15 points and snapped up 11 re-

bounds; Xavier Meade provided 13 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists; and Nick Moore chipped in with 12 points, 13 rebounds, and five assists for the Flyers.

Danny Perez shot a game-high 24 points; Nick Strawter narrowly missed out on achieving a triple-double with 11 points, 10 rebounds, and nine assists; Ziven Clarke had 11 points and six rebounds; and Warren Bogle scored 10 points for Ottos, who suffered a 57-81 loss to the Flyers in Game 1.

The Flyers, who have captured the playoff title for the past three seasons, will be seeking to retain their hold of the championship trophy for the fourth consecutive year with a victory over Da Project in the best-of five finals.

Da Project clinched a 78-73 victory over third-seed Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz to wrap up their

semi-final series win after snatching a narrow 85-84 win over their opponents in their opening game.

Malik Moore produced a game-high 22 points along with eight rebounds and eight assists to lead Da Project to their latest win.

In support, Terry Dawkins had 20 points and six rebounds; Sadiq Phillip sank 13 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; T-Shawn Lewis converted 11 points and snatched eight rebounds; and Cornell Greenwood chipped in with nine points, eight steals, and five rebounds for Da Project.

Keroi Lee sank 21 points and grabbed 18 rebounds; Joshua Minner produced 17 points, seven rebounds, and six assists; Brycen Thomas converted 10 points; and Alexis Jackson scored eight points and claimed 11 rebounds for the Elite Stingerz.