

New Corporate Structure For Fisheries Complexes

Story on page 2



From left to right: Dwayne Mussington – Member, Annette Aflak – Member, Devon Perry – Member, Yvonne Benjamin – Member, Larissa Barnes – Recording Secretary, Ryan Johnson – Deputy Chairperson, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, KGN, GCMG, KStJ, GCFO, MBBS – Governor General, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul – Chairperson, Terrance Dyett – Member, Okera Lee – Member, Calbert Francis – Member, Anika Davis – Member and Khan Cordice – Member.

New Corporate Structure For Fisheries Complexes



The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has approved a new management structure for the fisheries complexes located in Antigua and Barbuda, aimed at improving operational efficiency, strengthening accountability, and enhancing services provided to fishers and the wider public.

During its meeting, Cabinet reviewed the current condition and management arrangements of the fisheries complexes on both islands. Particular attention was given to the facilities at Point, Parham, and Urlings in Antigua, as well as the fisheries facilities in Barbuda.

Following extensive deliberations, Cabinet agreed that the management of all fisheries complexes should be placed under the responsibility of Antigua Fisheries Limited. The decision is intended to ensure a more coordinated and professional approach to the administration, maintenance, and development of these important facilities.

Cabinet noted that Antigua Fisheries Limited possesses the experience and institutional capacity necessary to oversee the operations of the fisheries complexes and to implement measures that will improve service delivery to fishers, vendors, and other stakeholders within the fishing industry.

As part of the new governance arrangement, Cabinet approved the establishment of a new Board of Directors to provide oversight and strategic direction for Antigua Fisheries

Limited. The Board will be chaired by Hassett Julian and will comprise Rakosha James, Carlene Pryce, Franklin James, Lyndon Greene, and Ziah Fritz.

The Cabinet expressed confidence that the new management structure will contribute significantly to the modernization and sustainable development of the fisheries sector, while ensuring that the fisheries complexes remain well-maintained, financially viable, and responsive to the needs of the fishing communities in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government remains committed to supporting the growth of the fisheries industry as an important contributor to food security, employment, and economic development throughout the nation.

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Cabinet Greenlights Scrap Metal Agreement To Reduce Derelict Materials

An agreement between the Ministry for Health, and the Environment and Atlantic Ship Breakers (Antigua) Limited for the removal, processing, and export of scrap metal from Antigua and Barbuda, particularly the Cooks Landfill has received Cabinet's approval.

The agreement forms part of the Government's ongoing efforts to improve environmental conditions, enhance public safety, and restore lands occupied by accumulated scrap metal and derelict materials. Cabinet was advised that the arrangement will facilitate the efficient clearing and rehabilitation of the site at no direct cost to the Government.

Under the terms of the agreement, Atlantic Ship Breakers will be responsible for mobilizing all equipment, personnel, and resources necessary to undertake the project. The company will carry out the removal, processing, compacting, and loading of all identified scrap metal, maintain certified weighing and record-keeping systems, and arrange for the transportation and export of the materials in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The contractor will also be required to ensure that the project site is cleared, cleaned, and restored to the satisfaction of the Ministry upon completion of the works. All activities will be conducted in compliance with Antigua and Barbuda's environmental, occupational health and safety, and other statutory requirements.

Cabinet noted that the agreement has been structured on a no-cost basis to the Government. The contractor's compensation will be derived solely from the commercial value of the scrap metal recovered and exported from the site. The company will bear all costs associated with the project, including processing, trans-



portation, export permits, trade licences, environmental clearances, and other regulatory requirements.

The project is expected to be completed within twelve months from the commencement date, subject to any approved extensions necessitated by force majeure events or other circumstances beyond the contractor's reasonable control. Upon substantial completion, the Ministry will conduct an inspection to verify that all contractual obligations have been fulfilled before issuing a Certificate of Completion.

Cabinet was informed that the removal of the scrap metal will yield several important benefits, including the elimination of environmental hazards, the improvement of public health and safety conditions, the recovery of

valuable land resources, and the enhancement of the surrounding area.

In approving the agreement, Cabinet emphasized the importance of responsible environmental stewardship and the proper disposal and recycling of scrap materials. The initiative aligns with the Government's broader commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection, and the maintenance of safe and orderly public spaces.

The Government welcomes the partnership with Atlantic Ship Breakers Antigua Limited and looks forward to the successful completion of the project, which will contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more environmentally sustainable Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne Fully Endorses Bottle Caps Mural Initiative



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is fully supporting the environmentally and creative initiative where the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026 logo is being reproduced the form of a mural on the Northern Wall of the Antigua Recre-

ation Grounds using discarded plastic bottle caps.

The initiative is a joint undertaking of the National CHOGM Task Force and the environment advocacy group, Good Humans 268. It was launched on May 30, 2026, by Chair of the Nation-

al Task Force, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene.

Last Friday, Prime Minister Browne was invited to participate in the exercise of placing bottle caps on the mural and immediately he expressed his delight at being able to participate



especially as the mural initiative seeks to achieve two goals; public education on the fact that CHOGM 2026 will be held in Antigua and Barbuda and secondly, it demonstrated at something that discarded bottle caps, which are normally seen as ‘waste’ can be re-purposed into a creative work of art.

Additionally, the prime minister was equally happy because he was able to participate alongside students of the Villa Primary School, his alma mater.

“We believe that there is no such thing as waste; everything has value and this mural shows very clearly that bottle caps which ordinarily would end up in a landfill, we are using them here as a

form of art, a form of creativity, while at the same time ensuring that they do not end up as a threat to the environment. I therefore wish to commend all those who have been involved in this project,” he remarked.

Regarding CHOGM 2026, slated for November 1 – 4, PM Browne said hosting this major gathering gives Antigua and Barbuda a voice in helping to shape decisions on a global scale. Antigua and Barbuda, he added, is justly proud to be hosting a conference of this magnitude.

“Antigua and Barbuda is playing an extremely important role on the global stage by actually providing global

leadership as one of the smallest independent countries in the world. So it’s a credit to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda that we are able to host such as important heads of government gathering. To make sure that it is successful, we are building out the infrastructure for it, which include the establishment of the National Performing Arts Centre. You can also see improvements in the road network of the country,” he emphasized.

But as the government ‘spruce up’ the country in preparation for CHOGM 26, the government leader wants property owners in the city to beautify their surrounds; even to include repainting the externals of their structures.

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Festivals Commission Sworn In For A New Two-year term



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission has officially been sworn in for a new two-year term, ushering in a renewed commitment to advancing the nation's cultural and creative industries and to the continued development of world-class festivals and events.

The swearing-in ceremony marks a significant milestone under the recently enacted Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission legislation, which strengthens the governance framework for managing, promoting, and sustaining the country's festivals and cultural events.

Having served as Chair of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Board for the past three years, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul now assumes the role of Chairperson of the newly established Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission. Her appointment reflects confidence in her leadership, institutional knowledge, and longstanding commitment to strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's festival product. She will be supported by Deputy Chairperson Ryan Johnson and Recording Secretary Larissa Barnes, alongside a dynamic team of professionals and community representatives.

The members of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission are:

► Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul – Chairperson

- Ryan Johnson – Deputy Chairperson
- Larissa Barnes – Recording Secretary
- Annette Aflak – Member
- Khan Cordice – Member
- Yvonne Benjamin – Member
- Dwayne Mussington – Member
- Anika Davis – Member
- Okera Lee – Member
- Terrance Dyett – Member
- Devon Perry – Member
- Calbert Francis – Member

The appointment of the Commission comes at an important time as Antigua and Barbuda continues to enhance its reputation as the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival destination while expanding opportunities within the cultural and creative sectors.

Minister responsible for Sports and the Creative Industries, Dwayne George congratulated the newly appointed Commission and underscored the importance of the new legislative framework. *"Today marks more than the swearing-in of a Commission; it represents a new era for festival development in Antigua and Barbuda. The new legislation provides a stronger foundation for governance, accountability, and strategic growth, ensuring that our festivals continue to deliver*

cultural, social, and economic benefits for our people. I congratulate Chairperson Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul and the entire Commission and look forward to working closely with them as we continue to elevate Antigua Carnival and all national festivals to even greater heights."

Chairperson Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul expressed gratitude for the opportunity to continue serving and outlined the Commission's commitment to building on recent successes. *"I am deeply honored by the confidence placed in me and my fellow Commissioners. We recognize the responsibility entrusted to us and remain committed to strengthening our festivals, supporting our creatives, and creating memorable experiences for patrons and visitors alike. With the support of our stakeholders, sponsors, volunteers, and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, we will continue to build a sustainable and internationally competitive festival product."*

Over the next two years, the Commission will focus on enhancing stakeholder engagement, strengthening festival operations, expanding marketing and tourism opportunities, supporting cultural development initiatives, and ensuring that Antigua and Barbuda's festivals remain authentic, innovative, and economically impactful.

Antigua and Barbuda Joins Regional Civil Aviation Cooperation Agreement



Antigua and Barbuda has joined a number of other Caribbean States and territories in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at promoting cooperation in a wide range of civil aviation focus areas. The signing took place on the occasion of the Fourteenth Meeting of the North

American, Central America and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation held earlier this month at the AUA Conference Centre. The initiative, spearheaded by the Directorate of Civil Aviation of the Republic of France (DGAC), advances high level cooperation in various thematic areas in-

cluding air services, crisis management, sustainable development, and regulatory convergence and sharing of best practices. Speaking at the signing, Sylvain Lefoyer, Director of the French Civil Aviation Safety Directorate for the French West Indies and French Guiana Civil Aviation, welcomed Antigua and Barbuda's participation in the regional cooperation framework. He noted that the MoU established a Regional Technical Cooperation Committee with the French authorities providing the secretariat for the implementation of the MoU with the aim of strengthening communication and coordination among regional civil aviation authorities. Speaking on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Ambassa-

dor Brian Challenger of the Ministry of Civil Aviation expressed his appreciation to the French authorities for their leadership in advancing regional technical cooperation in these practical areas. He noted that the cooperation agreement provided a platform for aviation authorities in Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean countries and territories to enhance both formal and informal contacts in key areas of aviation safety and security. Witnessing the signing were a number of senior aviation officials from the French Antilles and Antigua and Barbuda, as well as Christopher Barks, Director of the Regional Office of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Mexico City.

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Local News



Carolyn Providence Gains PhD From Rutgers University



Antigua and Barbuda's Carolyn Providence, a graduate of Miss Francis School, T.O.R. Memorial, Antigua Girls' High School, and the Antigua State College has been awarded a PhD in Nutritional Science from Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA.

A proud daughter of the soil, Dr. Providence is a descendant of the Mason family from St. John's, the Richard family from Seaview Farm, the Lewis family

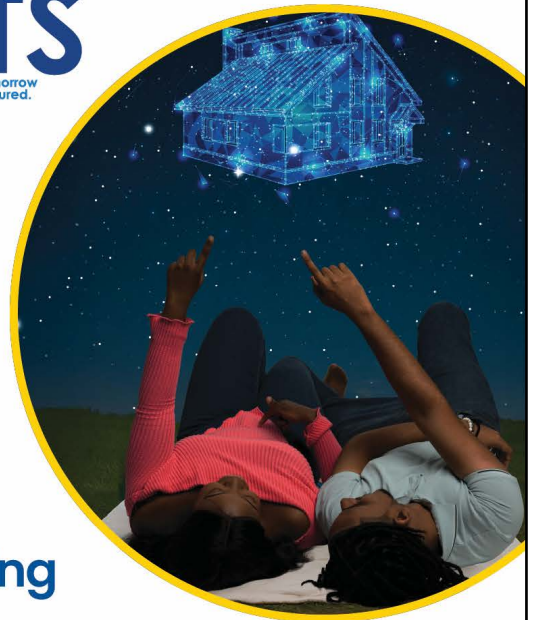
from Potters Village, and the Providence family from All Saints with lineage to St. Vincent. Dr. Providence grew up in Sutherlands and went to Good Shepherd Anglican Church.

Specializing in hunger and food policy, Dr. Providence will continue to work and develop food, nutrition, and public health policies for the United States of America, Antigua and Barbuda, and the Caribbean.



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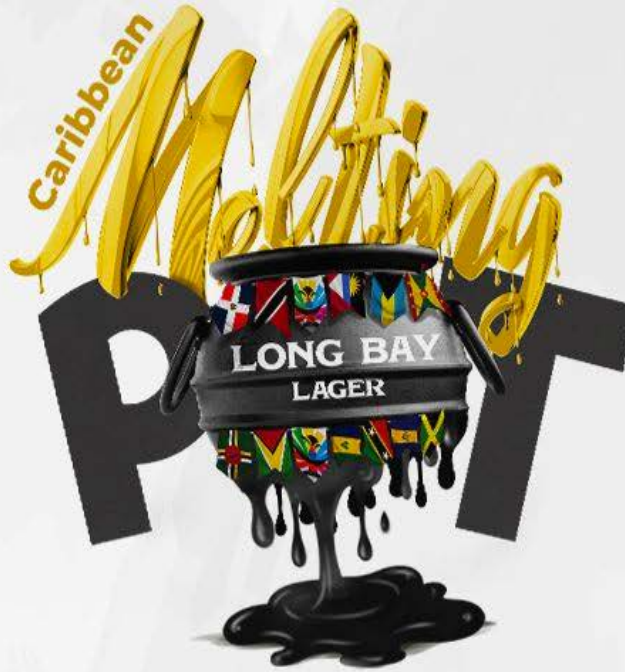




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Sir Aziz Hadeed – A Tribute From A Dear Friend Excerpts of the Eulogy

*By Sir Rodney Williams
Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda*

We gather today with hearts that are heavy, yet filled with gratitude, as we celebrate the life and legacy of a truly remarkable man, Sir Aziz Fares Hadeed.

Sir Aziz was born on 28th February 1947 in Syria to Mr. Fares Hadeed and Mrs. Ramsa Hadeed. He was the fifth of six children, joining his brothers Radwan, Joseph, Ramez and Don, and his sister Laila in a close-knit family whose values of hard work, perseverance, faith and loyalty would shape the course of his life.

As a young boy, he journeyed with his family to Antigua and Barbuda, a country that would become his beloved home and the nation to which he would dedicate the greater part of his life, his talent, his energy and his generosity.

Though born elsewhere, Antigua and Barbuda became the land of his opportunity, his service and his legacy. It was here that he built a remarkable life, established one of the region's most respected business enterprises, forged lifelong friendships, strengthened national institutions and helped shape the development of the country he loved so dearly.

His investments, his service, his philanthropy and his unwavering faith in the future of this nation reflected a profound love for the country that embraced him and his family.

Today, Antigua and Barbuda bids farewell to one of its most distinguished sons.

Yet for me, Aziz was much more than a national figure.

He was my brother and my friend.

The love Sir Aziz shared with the Williams family transcended the boundaries of ordinary friendship; in every way that mattered, he was family. I recall back in 1985, when our father received



a prestigious award from Her Majesty the Queen at Government House. He brought my two brothers, myself, and Aziz along to share in the momentous occasion. Upon presenting the award, the Queen looked at our gathering and curiously inquired about the 'lighter-skinned fellow' among us. Without a single moment of hesitation, our father looked at Her Majesty and proudly declared, 'That is my son too'. To our father, and to all of us, Aziz was never an outsider, he was a true brother and a beloved son.

Whether I was in Antigua and Barbuda or travelling abroad, rarely would three days pass without a telephone call between us. Sometimes we discussed matters of national importance. At other times we spoke about family, business or world affairs.

His advice was practical. His judgment was sound. His humour was refreshing. His friendship was unwavering.

I deeply mourn that our conversations have gone silent and that our friendship has been ended prematurely by the unyielding hand of death. Yet I remain profoundly grateful for the privilege of having shared that friendship for so many years.

After I became a doctor, I had the priv-

ilege of serving as the family physician to Aziz and his family for many years. Through that relationship, I came to know not only the successful businessman whom the nation admired but also the devoted husband, loyal brother, caring uncle, patriot and compassionate friend whom those closest to him cherished.

Like many successful entrepreneurs, Aziz's journey began modestly. While still attending the St. Joseph's Academy he travelled around the country selling material goods. Even as a young man, he displayed remarkable determination, discipline and a willingness to work hard.

Upon leaving St. Joseph's Academy, he entered business and began selling automobiles. He sold Nissan vehicles imported from Puerto Rico and Japan and steadily built what would become one of Antigua and Barbuda's most successful and respected companies.

His success did not come by chance.

It came through vision, persistence, courage and an unwavering belief that challenges were simply opportunities waiting to be discovered.

One of the qualities I most admired about Aziz was his ability to see possibilities where others saw obstacles.



His nephews Andrew and Francis have both shared with me that their Uncle Aziz had an extraordinary gift. Their experiences from childhood repeatedly confirmed that he could always see the value in a deal, but he was extremely perceptive in his business interactions and understood the complexities of interacting with the difficulties woven into the fabric of human nature. In other words, he had an uncanny ability to assess people, situations and proposals with remarkable accuracy. Those qualities made him an exceptional businessman, a trusted advisor and an outstanding negotiator.

When he believed in an idea, he pursued it wholeheartedly.

He was prepared to take risks, invest his own resources and work tirelessly to demonstrate the merit of his convictions. Time and again, history proved him correct

He was not afraid to stand alone if he believed something would ultimately benefit his family, his business or his country.

Our dear friend, Mahasen, Lady Ha-deed, no words can fully ease the pain of this loss.

My wife, Her Excellency Lady Wil-

liams and I, together with the people of Antigua and Barbuda, share in your grief and offer our deepest condolences. Your husband, Sir Aziz, was blessed with your love, companionship and support.

As I reflect on Sir Aziz's life, I cannot speak of him without speaking of you.

You brought energy, warmth, joy, companionship and love into his life.

Together, you created a partnership built on admiration and mutual respect.

Sir Aziz was deeply devoted to his brothers and sister, Radwan, Joseph, Ramez and Laila. Family meant everything to him. Like many strong-minded individuals, there were occasions when he and his brothers differed on business matters. Yet, those differences never diminished the love, loyalty and family camaraderie that bound them together.

Although Sir Aziz had no children of his own, he embraced his great nephews and nieces - Esther, Taylor, Cameron, Freddie, Jayden, Justin, Omar, Raquel, Solomon, Samir, Sylvana, Samuel and Simone - with the affection, concern, guidance and pride of a father.

He took a keen interest in their lives and achievements, investing his time, wisdom, encouragement and love in

helping to shape their futures.

His siblings understood and appreciated the unique role he played in the lives of their children. His nephews and nieces were among his greatest joys, and he celebrated their successes as though they were his own.

Through his example, counsel and unwavering support, he helped instill in them the values that guided his own life, integrity, hard work, loyalty, discipline, perseverance and service.

Family was of great importance to Aziz.

An Enduring Legacy

Yet beyond the honours, titles, positions and accolades, what truly defined Sir Aziz was the quality of his character.

He treated people with dignity and respect regardless of their station in life.

Whether speaking with a head of government, a business executive, a university student, an employee, or the man on the street, he believed that every person deserved courtesy, fairness and respect.

Despite his many accomplishments, he remained approachable, humble and deeply interested in the wellbeing of others.

His advice was sought by many.

His friendship was treasured by many more.

His generosity extended far beyond financial support.

He gave of his time.

He gave of his wisdom.

He gave of his experience.

He gave of himself.

These qualities earned him not merely admiration but genuine affection.

People respected him because of what he achieved.

They loved him because of who he was.

Today, Antigua and Barbuda mourns the loss of a visionary businessman, an outstanding patriot, a gifted diplomat, a devoted supporter of education, a generous philanthropist and a faithful servant of the people.

A Lasting Legacy: The Nation Bids Farewell To Sir Aziz Hadeed



Hundreds of persons turned out on Saturday to bid farewell to Sir Aziz Hadeed KCMG, honouring his memory as much for his remarkable achievements as a businessman as for his humanity and his love for the Antigua and Barbuda and its people.

From the highest offices of the land to the lowliest, they came to show respect and empathy to the family he left behind.

Among the attendees were the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Gaston Browne and Minister Maria Browne, former Prime Minister, Baldwin Spencer, former senior minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, the

President of the Senate, Alincia Williams-Grant, the Speaker of the House of Representatives Osbert Frederick, members of the Cabinet, Senators and other parliamentarians, members of the diplomatic corps, UWI FIC Principal, Dr. R. Justin Robinson, former Principal, Dr. Denzil Williams, Brig. Telbert Benjamin of the ABDF, Police Commissioner, Everton Jeffers representatives of the business community, the Hadeed Family both local and overseas, friends and well-wishers and staff of the several companies within the Hadeed Group.

Sir Rodney, who eulogized Sir Aziz, described him as ‘a brother’ recalling their deep and lasting relations that span most of their lives.

“Whether I was in Antigua and Barbuda or travelling abroad, rarely would three days pass without a telephone call between us. Sometimes we discussed matters of national importance. At other times we spoke about family, business or world affairs. His advice was practical. His judgment was sound. His humour was refreshing. His friendship was unwavering.

“I deeply mourn that our conversations have gone silent and that our friendship has been ended prematurely by the unyielding hand of death,” Sir Rodney observed.

For Prime Minister Browne, Sir Aziz’s passing represented the loss of an extraordinary son of Antigua and



Barbuda, a distinguished businessman, a dedicated public servant, a philanthropist and above all, a man of humility and compassion.

“His Excellency Senator Aziz Hadeed embodied many of the finest qualities to which any society should aspire. He was industrious in enterprise, generous in spirit and steadfast in service to the country,” he stated.

His nephew, Francis Hadeed described Sir Aziz as ‘a mentor’ to both he and his brother Andrew. “No words can adequately express our gratitude for the lessons taught, the values he instilled and the unwavering support he gave us throughout our lives,” he noted declaring that he is committed to maintain the legacy and memory of his dear uncle, Sir Aziz.

Other tributes came from another nephew, Solomon Doumith, great niece, Taylor Hadeed and his brother-in-law Dr. Ghassan Abboud.

At the graveside, the National Flag that draped the casket of Sir Aziz was presented to Francis Hadeed. The body was laid to rest in the Hadeed Family vault at the St. John’s Cemetery.



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Commentary

Elon Musk, SpaceX, Artemis, and the Boundless Potential of Humanity



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim

Part 1

News reports suggesting that Elon Musk could become the world's first trillionaire have captured global attention. For some, the story is about wealth. For others, it is about innovation. Yet perhaps the most important lesson is neither. The real story is about the extraordinary capacity of the human spirit to imagine, create, and achieve what previous generations considered impossible.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with all of Musk's views or methods, few can dispute his influence on the modern world. Through ventures such as Tesla, Starlink, Neuralink, and most notably SpaceX, he has helped reshape industries, accelerate technological advancement, and inspire a renewed sense of possibility about humanity's future.

Congratulations are therefore in order—not simply because of the prospect of unprecedented wealth, but because such an achievement demon-

strates what is possible when vision, determination, innovation, and opportunity converge.

I recognize that admiration for such success may be controversial. Discussions about extreme wealth naturally raise questions about inequality, social priorities, and economic fairness. Those are important conversations.

However, my admiration in this context is rooted not in the accumulation of wealth itself, but in the principle that human potential has no known limits. When individuals challenge accepted boundaries and create new possibilities, they expand the horizon for all humanity.

The company most responsible for Musk's projected path toward trillionaire status is SpaceX, the aerospace enterprise he founded in 2002. Its mission was bold from the outset: to reduce the cost of access to space and make humanity a multi-planetary species.

What began as a seemingly improbable venture has become one of the most important aerospace companies in history. SpaceX pioneered the large-scale reuse of rockets, dramatically reducing launch costs. Its Falcon rockets have become the workhorses of modern spaceflight. Its Dragon spacecraft transports cargo and astronauts. Its Starlink constellation has transformed global communications. Most importantly, its Starship system is being developed as a fully reusable transportation platform capable of carrying people and cargo to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

The strategic significance of SpaceX extends far beyond commercial success. The company now occupies a central role in one of humanity's most ambitious undertakings: the Artemis Program.

Named after the twin sister of Apol-

lo in Greek mythology, Artemis represents NASA's effort to return humans to the Moon for the first time since 1972. Unlike Apollo, which primarily demonstrated that humanity could reach the Moon, Artemis seeks to establish a sustainable human presence on and around the lunar surface while preparing for future missions to Mars.

Today, more than sixty nations have joined the Artemis Accords, making Artemis one of the largest international cooperative ventures ever undertaken in peacetime. The participating nations have committed themselves to principles of peaceful exploration, transparency, interoperability, scientific cooperation, and responsible conduct in space.

The growing coalition supporting lunar exploration highlights a principle that may become increasingly important during the twenty-first century: humanity's future cannot be shaped solely by great powers. While major nations possess substantial resources and technological capabilities, the destiny of our species is a shared enterprise.

Every nation, from the largest alliance to the smallest island developing state, should have a stake in determining the future direction of humanity. The Moon, Mars, and the wider space frontier should not become the exclusive domain of a few powerful actors. Rather, they should evolve into platforms through which all nations can contribute, participate, and benefit.

In many respects, humanity's future in space presents an opportunity to redefine international participation. The measure of a nation's contribution need not be its size, military strength, or economic output. The space age can become an era in which ideas, innovation, diplomacy, scientific excellence, and strategic vision matter just as

Commentary

much as territorial scale. This creates unprecedented opportunities for small island developing states and emerging economies to contribute meaningfully to humanity's future.

NASA selected SpaceX to develop the Human Landing System, a specialized lunar version of Starship that will carry astronauts from lunar orbit to the Moon's surface and back. The current Artemis architecture relies heavily upon this capability. The success of future lunar missions depends significantly upon SpaceX successfully developing and deploying the Starship lunar lander.

This partnership demonstrates something remarkable about modern civilization. Governments, private enterprise, scientists, engineers, investors, and nations are increasingly working together to accomplish objectives that no single institution could achieve alone.

History teaches that humanity's greatest achievements emerge when societies create conditions that encourage innovation, reward productivity, and maintain peace. Great discoveries rarely flourish amid instability and conflict. They thrive in environments characterized by education, freedom,

security, opportunity, and cooperation.

Throughout history, great civilizations have been remembered not for what they consumed, but for what they built. The pyramids of Egypt, the aqueducts of Rome, the great observatories of the Islamic Golden Age, the universities of Europe, and the voyages that connected continents all represented investments in the future. The lunar frontier may become the defining civilizational project of the twenty-first century.

Entrepreneurs should recognize that the emerging space economy represents far more than a commercial opportunity. It is an opportunity to invest in humanity's future direction. The infrastructure being developed today may become the foundation upon which future generations build new industries, new discoveries, and perhaps even new societies beyond Earth.

Marcus Aurelius once observed that "what brings no benefit to the hive brings none to the bee." The future of humanity is ultimately a collective undertaking. If the benefits of space exploration are broadly shared, humanity as a whole will prosper.

Whether or not Elon Musk ultimately becomes the world's first trillion-

aire, his greatest contribution may not be measured in dollars. It may be measured in helping humanity take meaningful steps toward becoming a multi-planetary civilization. His journey reminds us that progress begins with imagination, is sustained by perseverance, and succeeds when vision is transformed into action.

The human spirit has no fixed ceiling. There is no final frontier for imagination. There is no predetermined limit to innovation. There is only the next challenge waiting to be overcome.

Perhaps that is the greatest lesson of all. The future belongs to those courageous enough to imagine it—and disciplined enough to build it.

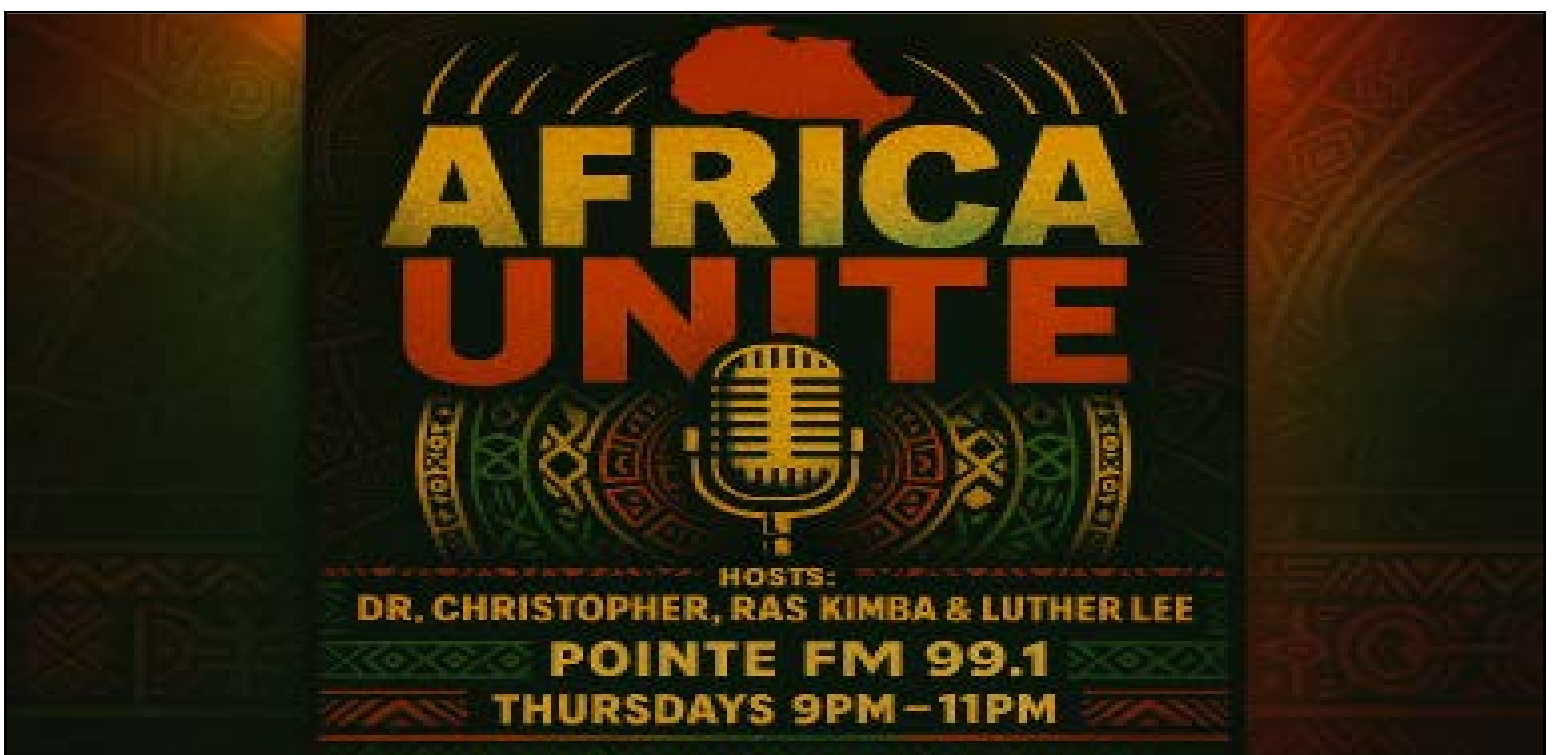
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About the writer :

Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim is an advocate for international peace who writes on global governance, economic development, and the future of international cooperation.

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CUBA: Resistance to American Capitalism



By Lawrence A. Jardine

Jun 8, 2026

Cuba's socialism, embodied in the principles of peace, justice and humanitarian solidarity, is an

egalitarian model as showcased in areas of internationalism, medicinal innovations, education, and health care services for its people and the Caribbean.

If Cuba, with so little, can do so much locally, regionally and internationally for mankind, then one can imagine what Cuba would have done without the American albatross on its neck. Cuba, because of its resistance to America's economic exploitation and its contrasting people-first economic policies, is being strangled by the American albatross with the pressure of an evil, illegal and inhumane financial and economic blockade for over sixty (60) years.

In addition to the incalculable human suffering and hardship, the illegal

American embargo and sanctions on Cuba are estimated to have cost the Cuban economy more than US\$150 billion. The vast majority of the United Nations General Assembly has annually voted against the United States' financial and economic blockage.

At the root of the Cuban and American standoff is the irreconcilable ideological rivalry between their adopted economic and social justice systems. Summarily, it is the American exploitation of the working-class for wealth accumulation by a few elites, as opposed by the Cuban humanitarian socio-economic principles of equitable resources and services accessibility to the masses.

The American capitalists, reaping a fortune from student loans and their 'sickness industries', would celebrate to see the back of the Cuban egalitarian models. To them, among other things, Cuba is a disruptive enlightening example to the Caribbean, and to the vic-

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tims of their profiteering pestilence. They despise the Cuban practice of Commander Fidel Castro's politically and societally embedded directive: "Doctors, not bombs!" And let us be honest: Not withstanding America's great achievements, capabilities and potentials, America perpetuates the brutal characteristics and functionalities of an anti-humane society, especially to its nonwhite inhabitants.

The socio-economic and ideological context in which the Cuban people resist the American hegemony is often muted, lost or unknown to some observers in this period of America's economic decline, and its belligerent desperation to reverse its forecasted imperial collapse. To which, the morally indifferent President Trump appears to be a conspicuous catalyst.

Recent polls have shown that MAGA support for the President has plummeted to less than 39%, as disillusioned

Americans begin to smell his mal-odorous rhetorical brew. And perhaps too, the MAGA exploited working-class has lost faith in the belief system of employing an insider to drain their swamp; akin to Hollywood's 1968 TV series, "It Takes a Thief", starring Robert Wagner.

It is important to be very mindful of America's current economic descent and its leadership's perceived extractive imperial solution to neo-colonize Canada, Greenland, Nigeria, Venezuela, Iran, Cuba and whomever, in any shape or form.

In his books *AMERICAN FASCISTS* and *AMERICA: THE FAREWELL TOUR*, Chris

Hedges chronicles fascist, racial, military, homeless, jobless, economic and other societal indicators of America's irrevocable decline. The key performance indicators include: its decaying and uncompetitive industrial sectors,

collapsing public infrastructures and unaffordable healthcare for the working-class. The decadence is aided and abetted by the millstones of the American colossal military expenditures, national debt and capitalists profiteering.

According to Chris Hedges:

"Trump is not an anomaly. He is the grotesque visage of a collapsed democracy. Trump and his coterie of billionaires, generals, half-wits, Christian fascists, criminals, racists and moral deviants play the role of the Snopes clan in some of William Faulkner's novels. The Snopeses filled the power vacuum of the decayed South and ruthlessly seized control from the former slaveholding aristocratic elites. ... They embody the moral rot unleashed by unfettered capitalism."

It is this predatory and parasitic American capitalist clan that the Cuban Revolution fought, and against whom the Cuban people are perpetually resisting.

And, as the American Chris Hedges wrote:

"Resistance entails suffering. It requires self-sacrifice. It accepts that we may be destroyed. It is not rational. It is not about the pursuit of happiness. It is about the pursuit of freedom. Resistance accepts that even if we fail, there is an inner freedom that comes with defiance and perhaps this is the only freedom and true happiness we will ever know. To resist evil is the highest achievement of human life. It is the supreme act of love."

Victory and eternal life to the Cuban Resistance!



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Yet do we stop to hear its say?
It crashes softly on the shore,
Still asking humans, "Can you do more?"

From coral reefs to waters blue,
The sea gives life to me and you.
It feeds our homes, it cools our skies,
Yet plastic fills its precious tides.



A bottle tossed upon the ground,
May travel where fish once were found.
A wrapper blown by passing breeze,
Can drift for miles across the seas.

Should turtles eat what we discard?
Should dolphins suffer plastic shards?

Should seabirds starve with stomachs full,
Of waste that makes our future dull?



The ocean breathes for every land,
Its waves unite each grain of sand.
It stores our heat, it shapes our rain,
It eases Earth's increasing strain.

For islands like Antigua's shore,
Its waters mean so very much more.
Tourism, fisheries, beaches bright,
Depend upon the ocean's might.

What happens if the reefs all fade?
 If plastics choke the mangrove shade?
 If every storm grows fierce and strong,
 Will we admit that we were wrong?

Climate change and waste collide,
 Sending rubbish with every tide.
 Heavy rainfall floods the drains,
 Carrying bottles after rains.

Every river tells a tale,
 Of careless habits set to sail.
 Every gutter blocked with waste,
 Leaves communities displaced.



But here's the truth we all should know,
 Waste is wealth when systems grow.
 Recycling gives another chance,
 Helping nature heal and dance.

Protect the ocean, save the sea,
 Protect humanity's legacy.
 Protect the reefs, protect the bays,
 Protect tomorrow's brighter days.

One bottle picked up from the sand,
 May never reach another land.
 One child taught to separate waste,
 Can slow pollution's growing pace.

One school recycling every day,
 Can keep thousands of items away.
 One business sorting what they throw,
 Can help a circular economy grow.

One volunteer can spark a flame,
 One community can change the game.
 One island nation, proud and small,
 Can inspire sustainable change for all.

So ask yourself before you part,
 What role will you play? Where will you start?
 Will you recycle? Will you care?
 Will you leave cleaner oceans there?

For every action, great or small,
 Can help protect this planet for all.
 The sea still whispers every day,
 "Protect my waters before they fade away."

Be climate conscious.
 Be ocean wise.
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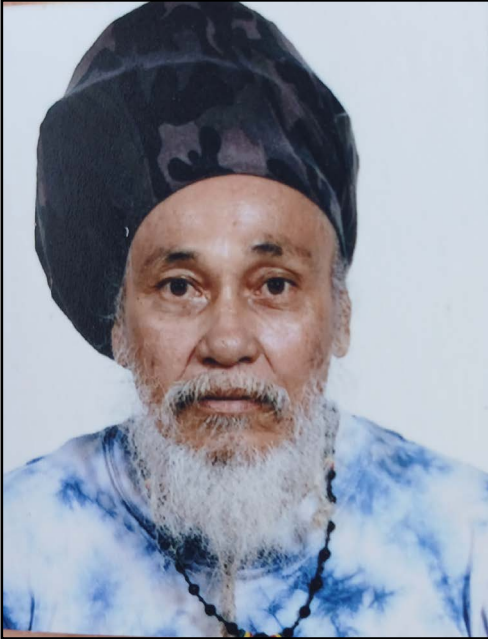


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The Birth of the World Cup



By Ras Wadada

Much credit must be given to the longest serving President of football's World Governing Body FIFA since it was his vision and insistence which were chiefly responsible for the birth and early evolution of World Cup Football.

Frenchman, Jules Rimet was the 3rd elected head of FIFA and served between 1921 and 1954, while he was the first elected President of the French Football Federation which he was pivotal in establishing in 1919. Rimet was also instrumental in creating the first French National Football League in 1910.

At the 1920 FIFA Congress held in Antwerp, Belgium, Rimet shared his dream of the staging an International Football Tournament, inclusive of Professionals who were debarred from playing at the Olympics.

The thought of providing a platform that could serve as a catalyst to unify and reconcile Nations through the Sport was a motivating factor for Rimet who had loyal support from



compatriot and Secretary, Henri Delaunay. Not even the disapproval of the British on the idea of a World Cup Football Tournament and their subsequent withdrawal from FIFA moved Rimet who persevered passionately with his vision.

After years of campaigning by the French duo in their elected top positions of FIFA, they were able to persuade the FIFA Congress held in Amsterdam in 1928 to agree to the hosting of the first World Cup Tournament in two years' time.

The following year when it was time to vote on which country will host the inaugural Tournament and Uruguay was awarded the honor in Barcelona after receiving 25 of the 30 votes, there were immedi-

ate withdrawals from participation among top European Nations: Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden.

Uruguay who were celebrating a hundred years of Independence in 1930, offered to pay travel and accommodation expenses for all the teams. In addition, a brand new Stadium would be built. At that time the South Americans were the reigning 'back-to-back' Olympics Football Champions.

Six weeks before kick-off, no European Team indicated any interest in participating and it took all the diplomatic skills of Rimet to get four countries to make the 2-week boat ride to Uruguay so as to be part of the historic maiden Tournament.

Rimet with the Trophy wrapped and



secured in a bag joined the teams of Belgium, France, Yugoslavia and Romania on board the Italian steamboat, Conte Verde bound for Uruguay's Capital City, Montevideo. On their way they were joined by the Brazilians, while the other Nations who were challenging as well included: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, USA and the host.

On Sunday July 13th, 1930 Mexico confronted France and USA faced Belgium to simultaneously kick start what has grown to become the biggest single sport spectacle that is always eagerly anticipated and followed like no other.

This phenomenal quadrennial experience gifted to the World for over nine decades now, has surely evolved beyond the wildest dreams and expectations of the Godfather, Jules Rimet who handed over the winners' trophy for the last time in 1954. It was the said year he resigned as head of FIFA and subsequently was crowned as the first Honorary Pres-

ident of the world governing body.

The curious minds will question why the World is always deeply engrossed with what happens at a World Cup Football Finals Tournament and some who will query what it is about 'The Beautiful Game' that continues to attract Global participation like no other Sport.

Although there is no conclusive ev-

idence as to the origin of football, there have been many myths and claims as to its birthplace or where the first semblance of the Sport was practiced. There is, however, proof that organized football did indeed originate in England where the first set of Laws of the Game were put together and documented at a Free Mason's Tavern in London in 1863. Those Laws with some modifications over the years, are still being used today.

The root-cause for the love of the 'Beautiful Game' must be in our genes and whether we wish to acknowledge this as fact there is some substantiation. We cannot deny that during our creation within the dark and watery wombs of our mothers we constantly kick, on arrival into the new world we continue to kick as one of our first actions and in like manner when we attempt our first step in life it is led by a kicking action.

As simplified as it has been exemplified we can all agree that we are all off-springs of the 'Beautiful Game' and being attracted to the sport is, perhaps, a natural human behavior since we were all born with the ability to kick.

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More success for Potters Stingers in Village Netball League

The Potters Defante Stingers achieved more success in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Antigua Generators and Cool and Smooth Village League on Saturday evening.

The Potters Stingers made it two wins in as many games with a 43-35 victory over Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers in the female division of the competition at the Seatons Netball Court.

Tashana Bloomfield converted 30 of her 36 attempts, and Most Valuable Player Adina Andre scored 13 of her 21 shots for the Potters Stingers.

Kizzy Hughes sank 20 of her 28 shots, and Krizia Duncan scored 15 of her 21 attempts for the Gray's Green Flyballers, who lost for the first time after winning their opening game against Lamin Newton All Saints United.

The Potters Defante Stingers launched their campaign in the female division of the Village League by pulling off a 45-29 victory over the Seatons Eastsiders in their opening encounter.

Tashana Bloomfield led the Potters' attack by converting 31 of her 39 attempts. In support, Most Valuable Player Adina Andre scored 10 of her 20 shots, and Deniah Henry converted two of her three attempts for the Stingers.

Amey Lake sank 19 of her 25 shots, Shakora Prince converted five of her 11 attempts, Christina Lloyd made three of her eight tries, and Charmaine Wetherill scored two of her three attempts for the Seatons Eastsiders, who lost for the first time after winning their opening game.

The Seatons Eastsiders rebounded to secure their second win in three games with a 54-10 drubbing of St. John's United Talented Youths.

Shakora Prince converted 32 of her 39 attempts, and Most Valuable Player Christina Lloyd scored 22 of her 30



The Potters Defante Stingers

shots for the Seatons Eastsiders.

Trinecia Greenaway sank eight of her 12 attempts, and Reneka Anthony made two of her six tries for St. John's United Talented Youths.

The Under-16 National Team launched their campaign with a commanding 26-6 victory over Willikies, who were also playing their opening match in the female division.

Tina Graham sank 12 of her 28 shots, Shaniya James made 10 of her 19 tries, and Makayla Scott converted four of her five attempts for the Under-16 National Team.

Summer Buckleys scored five of her 14 shots, and N'Zae Williams converted one of her seven attempts for Willikies.

Newfield began their campaign by coasting to a 31-17 victory over the Pares Net Masters in another female division encounter.

Esther Emmanuel sank 18 of her 28

shots, Sophia Wilkins converted seven of her 14 attempts, and Most Valuable Player Tanesha Michael made six of her nine tries for Newfield.

Andrea Benjamin scored nine of her 18 shots, Anika Watson sank six of her 12 attempts, and Nyirah Ralph made two of her seven tries for the Pares Net Masters, who lost for the second time in as many games.

Swetes/Roman Hill started competition in the Mixed Division with a commanding 36-23 victory over Lamin Newton All Saints United in their opening encounter.

Akiel Hazelwood sank 31 of his 38 shots, Everdine Parker-Barnarde made two of her three tries, and Jamila Fitz scored two of her five attempts for Swetes/Roman Hill.

Zhanira Pereira scored eight of her 11 attempts, Rayana Regis sank seven of her nine shots, and Karol Carlton made six of her 10 tries for All Saints United.

Police beat Mahico in Thursday League T20 competition



Police crushed Mahico by 81 runs in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League in their lat-

est outing in the T20 contest.

Police made 157 all out. Deran Benta hit 38, Malik Marcellin struck 26, and Malique Gerald scored 22.

Akes France claimed three for 30, Jayden Charles picked up two for 23, and J’Quan Athanaze captured two for 32.

In reply, Mahico tumbled to 76 all out. Akes France topscored with 18. Off-spinner James Cornelius produced remarkable bowling figures by grabbing four wickets without conceding a run in four overs.

In support, Richie Thomas captured two wickets for eight runs, Kiscean Francis claimed two for 11, and Malique Gerald took two for 16.

Meanwhile, PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks beat reigning back-to-back champions Rising Sun to book their spot in this year’s Thursday League final.

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ABBA announces training squad for CBC tournament in Guyana




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- SIAA ALL CONFERENCE 2ND TEAM 2018-19





The Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) has announced its training squad for next month's Caribbean Basketball Confederation (CBC) Tournament at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown, Guyana, from July 8 to 12.

The 27-member squad, comprising several overseas-based players, will be competing for the opportunity to represent the senior national team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, at the CBC Tournament, which is a pre-qualifying contest for the 2029 FIBA AmeriCup.

Seven overseas-based players have been included in the training squad, which will commence preparation with their first session at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday (today).

Among them are Craig Massiah Jr. of the AB7 Academy High School in the United States of America (USA); Devonte Carter of Nova Southeastern University in the USA; Jabari Wil-

liams of Castill de Gorraiz, Valle de Egues, in Spain; and Jaden Andrew of Emory & Henry College in the USA.

The other overseas-based players selected are Xavier Spencer of Lindenwood University in the USA; Preston Merrick of Harvard University in the USA; Keon Armstrong, who is also based in the USA; Myles Miller of Archbishop Molloy High School in the USA; and Shamo Tonge, who is also based in the USA.

All the other selectees are home-based players who represent various teams in the ABBA domestic league competitions.

The July 8 to 12 competition will see Antigua and Barbuda compete in Group A alongside home team Guyana, Dominica, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Bermuda.

Group B will feature Barbados, Haiti, Grenada, the Cayman Islands, and St.

Vincent and the Grenadines. Each team will face every opponent in its group once in a round-robin format.

At the conclusion of the competition, the top team from each group will advance to the next round of the 2029 FIBA AmeriCup Pre-Qualifiers, scheduled for November 2026.

The senior national team training squad: Adonis Humphreys (EZ Fit Flyers), Kareem Edwards (Cuties Ovals Ojays), Cohen Desouza (JSC Red Hawks), Steven Matthew (Lava Elite Stingerz), Javonte Daley (EZ Fit Flyers), Lopez Adams (JSC Red Hawks), T-Shawn Lewis (Da Project), Jaleyle Joseph (Cuties Ovals Ojays), Takeem Martin (All Saints Slam), Danny Perez (Daryll Matthew Ottos), Daniel Perez (EZ Fit Flyers), Tajahron Davis (Cuties Ovals Ojays), Craig Massiah Jr. (AB7 Academy High School), Sadiq Phillip (Da Project), Daleonte Phillip (Da Project), Devonte Carter (Nova Southeastern University), Raheem Sawyer (Navigators), Alexis Jackson (Lava Elite Stingerz), Jabari Williams Castill de Gorraiz Valle de Egues), Jaden Andrew (Emory & Henley College), Jamine Charles (Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz), Seth Joseph (Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz), Xavier Spencer (Lindenwood University), Preston Merrick (Harvard University), Keon Armstrong, Myles Miller (Archbishop Molloy High School), and Shamo Tonge.

Zverev wins the French Open to finally earn a 1st Grand Slam title



Alexander Zverev of Germany reacts after winning the men's final match against Flavio Cobolli of Italy at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris, Sunday, June 7, 2026. (AP)

PARIS (AP) — Alexander Zverev is no longer one of the best players never to win a major title. He's finally a Grand Slam champion.

In his fourth major final, Zverev beat Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-1 for the French Open title on Sunday.

It was a unique opportunity for Zverev without Jannik Sinner or Carlos Alcaraz across the net and the third-ranked German took full advantage on the red clay of Roland Garros.

When Cobolli missed an overhead on the second championship point after more than four hours of the five-set encounter, Zverev dropped on his back to the clay and covered his face with his hands as he began sobbing. When he got up, with his shirt and arms covered in clay, Zverev put his hands back on his face before he lifted both arms in celebration.

Zverev has now joined an elite group of players that captured their first major in their fourth final: Eight-time major champion Andre Agassi, 2001 Wimbledon winner Goran Ivanisevic and 2020 US Open champion Dominic Thiem.

Zverev had been an overwhelming favorite for the title ever since the top-ranked Sinner struggled in the first week's heat wave and wasted a two set and 5-1 lead against Juan Manuel Cerundolo in the second round. A day later, 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic was also eliminated.

Alcaraz, the two-time reigning champion, withdrew before the tournament with an injured right wrist. It was Zverev's second French Open final, having wasted a lead of two sets to one against Alcaraz in the 2024 championship match.

Zverev had an even bigger advantage — two sets to none — in the

2020 US Open final and lost that one, too, to Thiem. He was also beaten in straight sets by Sinner in the 2025 Australian Open final. It was the 25th title of Zverev's career.

Meanwhile, Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva won the women's singles title at the French Open on Saturday.

Bent over with her hands covering her face, her knees getting dirtied on the red clay court, Mirra Andreeva was celebrating — processing might be the more appropriate word — how she had finally overcome “so many demons inside” that came with being a

teenage tennis phenom.

After bursting onto the scene at 15, Andreeva became a Grand Slam champion at 19 when the Russian ended the run of 114th-ranked Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska with a 6-3, 6-2 victory in the French Open final.

“I've done a lot of visualizations before. Not just this tournament, but I've had dreams, I've had a lot of thoughts on how it's going to happen, if it's going to happen, when it's going to happen, where,” Andreeva said, still hardly breathing as she talked quickly in true teenage style.

“The feeling in real life is so much better than in your dreams. I can call myself a Grand Slam champion,” Andreeva added.

Sports

MONDAY 08TH JUNE 2026



Da Squad and Pytonz retain President's Cup titles



Cool & Smooth & Joma Caribbean Da Squad celebrate with their medals after retaining the ABAVA President's Cup title at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, June 6, 2026.



Zamine Shipping & ABI Insurance Pytonz celebrate with their medals after retaining the ABAVA President's Cup title at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, June 6, 2026. (Photos courtesy of the ABAVA)

Women's champs Cool & Smooth & Joma Caribbean Da Squad and men's winners Zamine Shipping & ABI Insurance Pytonz have retained their respective Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) President's Cup titles.

Both teams accomplished the feats after clinching their respective best-of-three finals 2-1 by winning their deciding Game 3s at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night.

Top seed Da Squad, who won their fifth consecutive round-robin league title this year, maintained their dominance of women's Division 1 club volleyball by completing a hat-trick of titles in the President's Cup with a 3-1 victory over third-seed Theatric Lighting and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville in the deciding third match of the finals.

Da Squad came out with purpose, capturing the opening set 25-17 and setting the tone for the evening. Stoneville

responded by taking the second set 25-20 to level the contest and briefly shift the momentum.

However, Da Squad refused to be denied. Displaying confidence, composure, and championship determination, they regained control by claiming the third set 25-19 before taking the fourth 25-11 to secure the victory and lift the President's Cup trophy for the third time in its three-year history, having won the inaugural event in 2023 and successfully defending the title in 2024 and 2026.

After losing the opening match, the Stoneville women leveled the finals 1-1 by recording a 3-1 win over Da Squad in Game 2.

Facing elimination, Stoneville delivered a composed and determined performance to keep their title hopes alive. After claiming the opening set 25-19, Stoneville saw Da Squad respond emphatically to take the second 25-12.

Undeterred, Stoneville regained control of the contest, using disciplined play and

timely execution to capture the next two sets, 25-12 and 25-19, to force the decisive third match in the finals on Saturday.

In a repeat of the two previous men's President's Cup finals, top seed Pythons won their second successive title by prevailing 2-1 against third seed Theatric Lighting and JOMA Caribbean Stoneville with a 3-1 victory in the deciding Game 3.

The Pytonz wasted no time asserting themselves, claiming the opening two sets, 25-20 and 25-20 with disciplined play and relentless attacking. Stoneville, who won the inaugural President's Cup in 2023, responded with tremendous heart to take the third set 25-16, extending the contest and refusing to let their championship hopes fade quietly.

But champions rise when the pressure is greatest. With the title within reach, Pytonz delivered a composed fourth-set performance to close out the match 25-21 and successfully retain the President's Cup

crown, which they won for the first time in 2024 when they dethroned top-seed and defending champion Stoneville to win their maiden ABAVA championship.

It completed a great comeback after the Pytonz leveled the finals 1-1 by snatching a 3-2 victory against Stoneville in Game 2.

The Pytonz stormed out of the gates with an impressive display to take the first set 25-13, but Stoneville responded to claim the second set 25-22 and then edged a thrilling third-set battle 28-26 to move within touching distance of the series victory. With their backs against the wall, the reigning champions dug deep. Pytonz narrowly captured the fourth set 26-24 before carrying that momentum into a tense deciding set, where they held their nerve to prevail 15-12, completing a dramatic five-set victory and forcing a winner-take-all Game 3 final showdown, which they ultimately won on Saturday night.