

Fatal Accidents Bill Passed with Higher Bereavement Award for Families

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Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and IICA met on Tuesday to review the organization's accomplishments over the past year

Fatal Accidents Bill Passed with Higher Bereavement Award for Families

The House of Representatives on Tuesday passed the Fatal Accidents Bill 2026 following amendments during the committee stage, including a significant increase in bereavement damages payable to the families of persons killed in road accidents.

The legislation replaces provisions contained in Chapter 166 of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, which Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin noted was enacted on 19th March, 1924—more than a century ago.

Introducing the bill in Parliament, Sir Steadroy said the existing law no longer adequately reflects modern realities and required comprehensive updating. He credited the legislative review to staff within his ministry, who examined the outdated statute and proposed reforms to bring it in line with present-day conditions.

Among the most significant changes introduced by the bill is the inclusion of compensation for bereavement—the grief and emotional suffering experienced by dependents following the death of a loved one in a traffic accident.

The Attorney General expressed dissatisfaction with the original proposal that capped bereavement damages at \$5,000, arguing that the amount was inadequate to compensate grieving families. He cited the example of a recent fatal crash involving Okeem



Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

Lightfoot, an employee of the National Solid Waste Management Authority on All Saints Road, describing the devastating injuries sustained and the trauma endured by surviving relatives.

“It’s called bereavement,” he told Parliament. “\$5,000 clearly cannot be appropriate in a situation like that.”

During the committee stage, lawmakers agreed to increase the maximum bereavement award to \$20,000, with courts retaining the authority to determine the appropriate amount in individual cases.

The Attorney General stressed that the legislation is intended to provide additional support to families of fatal road accident victims and operates independently of insurance compensa-

tion.

“It is something in addition,” he explained, noting that the law seeks to ensure that estates and dependents are adequately cared for following the death of a breadwinner.

The bill also broadens the categories of beneficiaries eligible for bereavement awards. Amendments made during committee stage inserted a new provision explicitly allowing children of deceased persons to qualify for compensation.

Under the revised legislation, spouses, certain parents and children of the deceased may be eligible to receive damages, with the courts empowered to determine how awards are allocated among dependents.

Sir Steadroy argued that children who lose a parent in a fatal accident experience profound emotional and financial hardship.

“You can’t tell me a four, seven, ten-year-old doesn’t suffer pain,” he said, referring to children left behind following fatal road crashes.

The passage of the Fatal Accidents Bill 2026 marks a significant modernisation of Antigua and Barbuda’s legal framework governing compensation for fatal accidents.

The Bill now makes its way to the Senate to be tabled, and for further debate and passage.



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Government Faces Challenges Retaining Public Works Employees



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has rejected suggestions that workers recruited under the government's expanded Public Works employment

programme are being terminated, insisting instead that many participants have voluntarily left their positions.

Speaking during Prime Minister's Questions at the first ordinary sitting of Parliament since the 30th April General Elections, the City West MP said the government had undertaken an unprecedented effort to reduce unemployment by hiring between 700 and 800 individuals through the Public Works Department.

"There's no policy decision of my government to terminate anyone," Browne told Parliament. "They're just dropping out."

According to the Prime Minister, the initiative was designed to absorb remaining unemployment across the country, including individuals who

had struggled to secure work or were considered at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity. He acknowledged, however, that the programme has encountered significant challenges, particularly with worker attendance and consistency.

"We have a problem, and it's a problem that we're trying to fix," he stated, noting that some workers failed to report for duty regularly or gave various reasons for their absences.

The Prime Minister suggested that some individuals sought government employment while already holding other jobs, including in private security, resulting in poor attendance and eventual loss of their positions. According to PM Browne, the government deliberately set a low threshold

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for recruitment in an effort to provide opportunities to as many unemployed persons as possible.

He disclosed that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works managed much of the recruitment process and was instructed to ensure workers remained productively engaged. The Prime Minister expressed concern about youth involvement in crime, particularly among unemployed young men, some of whom he said had been implicated in robberies and other offences.

“What we’re trying to do is to give people like them an opportunity to work.”

He further revealed that government representatives actively recruited individuals from constituencies, including some known to be involved in narcotics use, in an effort to steer them toward employment and productive activity.

Despite acknowledging that many participants have since left the programme, the prime minister said the government remains committed to finding ways to engage them.

“We’re not going to give up on them,” he said. “We have to try again and see how we can find some way for them to be productively engaged, but it’s a struggle.”

Meantime, the Prime Minister has argued that Antigua and Barbuda is operating at or near full employment, though he acknowledged the need for updated labour market data. The last one was carried out approximately a decade ago.


“I will accept that we need to do a current one,” he said. “But we all know, at least anecdotally, that it’s practically full employment in this country.”

Mr. Browne pointed to the steady influx of foreign workers obtaining jobs in Antigua and Barbuda as evidence of strong labour demand, while raising concerns about what he described

as a growing cultural issue regarding workforce participation among some citizens.

He said some Antiguan and Barbudans are not pursuing jobs for which they are qualified, instead seeking positions that may be beyond their credentials. He also cited complaints

from private sector employers about worker reliability and absenteeism. The Prime Minister said businesses have reported instances of employees routinely taking sick leave for non-medical reasons, including attending social events or recovering from late-night activities.



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Pringle Wants To “Turn A New page’, Raise the Level Of Debate

Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, wants parliamentarians to ‘raise the level of debate’ in the House of Representatives as he called for the turning of ‘a new page’ in the manner in which members of parliament behave during parliamentary debates.

Pringle was speaking in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, moments after both he and the MP for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, were officially sworn in as members of the House.

He noted that this was something he heard the prime minister mentioned previously, although he questioned whether the prime minister’s words matched his actions.

“I want us to raise the level at which we debate in this honourable house, and in order for us to do so, we on the Opposition Bench, while we are in the minority, we believe that we can make a significant impact in this country and I’m asking for us to look at a different way forward than the last parliamentary session. I am committed to ensuring that the level of respect that I bring to this honourable house is one that supersedes any other,” he noted.

Going further, the Opposition Leader said it is his intention to respect the ‘chair’ at all times.

It was here that MP Pringle began to raise controversy when he stated that he was of the view that the ‘chair’ or the Speaker oftentimes behaved as though he was another member on the government’s team.

“It is my belief, also, that the ‘chair’ or Speaker should respect and understand that the chair is not another member on the government’s side, but for us to have robust debate and for us to have meaningful discussion with an impartial Speaker,” he declared.

Pringle added that he knows the Speaker to be a man who believed in fairness, although, sometimes it was not shown.



It was here that the Speaker Osbert Frederick interrupted the opposition member and asked him to name at least one occasion when he, the Speaker, had been unfair to the opposition member of parliament.

“I would want you to mention one

occasion when I was not being fair. I have given you, honourable member, countless opportunities in the house, and when you are talking about being disrespectful and things like that, I would want you to take an introspective look; because I have never disrespected you! Never! I am not here for any sides. I have given you opten opportunities and I will continue to do so but if I have to rule by the Standing Order, I will,” he stated categorically.

Speaker Frederick emphasized that he had never ruled outside the Standing Order ‘because that’s the rule that governs this honourable house’.

Pringle responded that he never intended to disrespect the speaker and he was willing to apologise if that speaker felt that way.



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NODS Staff participate in specialized training on DisasterAWARE Platform



Personnel from the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) have strengthened their ability to monitor developing threats, evaluate potential impacts and support informed decision-making during emergency operations.

The staff was involved in a specialized training last week on one

of the world's leading disaster risk reduction and decision support platforms, DisasterAWARE, developed by the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC). PDC is a leading innovator of global risk reduction science and technology at the University of Hawaii.

The virtual training was facilitated by the organization's Liai-

son to US Southern Command (US SOUTHCOM) Alex Carias.

Used by more than 25 thousand professionals worldwide, DisasterAWARE provides real-time monitoring and alerting for 28 natural, biological, manmade and geopolitical hazards.

The platform combines authoritative data sources, advanced impact modelling, artificial intelligence, enhanced analytics and risk intelligence tools to help emergency managers and decision-makers act early to protect lives, property and critical infrastructure.

NODS personnel learnt how to integrate DisasterAWARE into Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activities and utilise data from Antigua and Barbuda's National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment completed in partnership with PDC in 2024 to make informed decisions.

The training emphasized practical applications that support preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities while enhancing national resilience and disaster management capabilities.

NODS remains committed to strengthening national preparedness, enhancing operational readiness and ensuring Antigua and Barbuda remains equipped with the tools and information needed to effectively manage disasters and protect communities across the nation.

US Passport Holder Remanded On Drug Possession Charges



A US Passport holder – Dean Robert Gould – who gave law enforcement a Cedar Grove address, has been remanded to HM Prison when he appeared in the Magistrate’s Court on Tuesday to answer a number of drug related charges.

Gould – 54 – was intercepted at the VC Bird International Airport on Saturday with 59 and a half pounds of cannabis in his possession, faces five counts related to the incident. The drug had a street value in excess of \$350-thousand. These are; (a) concerned with the supply of the controlled drug, (b)

possession of the controlled drug, (c) possession with intent to transfer, (d) importation of the drug and (d) drug trafficking.

Gould described himself as a preacher and a barber. However, the magistrate adjourned the case until June 29, but ordered that Gould be remanded

because he is considered a flight risk. He was unable to satisfy the court of any lasting ties to Antigua and Barbuda even as he had listed Cedar Grove as his address.

He was represented in court by attorney Lawrence Daniel.

NOTICE

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TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
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Dated the 8th day of June 2026
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Sandals Grande Antigua Celebrates Its Own At Annual Prestige Awards



Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa marked another milestone year of exceptional service and team development at its annual Prestige Awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding team members who exemplified excellence throughout 2025.

Held under the inspiring theme “Made of the Caribbean: Hospitality Redefined,” the evening paid tribute to the driving force behind the brand’s success, its people. General Manager David Latchimy addressed attendees, reflecting on a year defined by growth, innovation and an unwavering commitment to Caribbean hospitality.

“Our 2025 achievements are a direct reflection of the passion, pride and professionalism our team brings to work every single day,” said Latchimy. “This year, we doubled down on our commitment to team members’ development because when we empower our people, we elevate every guest experience. They are

truly “Made of the Caribbean”, and they are redefining what world-class hospitality means.”

With a strong focus on team member development in 2025, he recognized managers who participated in cross-regional resort exposure and training opportunities, including Scotty Nelson, executive housekeeper; Carlene Spencer, learning and development manager; Devon Charles and Dale Thomas, restaurant managers; Chrystal Baker, Red Lane Spa manager; Leon Norville, public relations manager; and Leon Greenland, assistant chief engineer.

Reflecting on the impact of the Sandals Corporate University (SCU) in 2025, Latchimy highlighted the achievement of more than 10 supervisors and managers who graduated from the Diploma in Hospitality Leadership programme, a partnership with Accelerating Leaders and Florida International University. He also celebrated the success of SCU

scholarship recipients Ariel Joseph, engineering and maintenance supervisor, who is currently enrolled at Les Roches International School of Hotel Management, and Leon Norville, public relations manager, who is currently pursuing studies at MIU City University of Miami, stating “these are not just achievements; they are investments in the future of our brand.”

2025 Prestige Award Winners □ Diamond Award – Team Member of the Year: Deon Blair, engineering and maintenance □ Platinum Award – Runner-Up Team Member of the Year: Ashel Samuel, butler elite services □ Founder’s Circle Award: Sylvia Joseph, food and beverage □ A-Team – Department of the Year: Red Lane Spa □ MVP – Manager of the Year: Sherlann Barrow, entertainment □ Pacesetter – General Manager’s Award – Adam Powell, entertainment □ Heart of the House – Hotel Manager’s Award – Earl Kitt, engineering and maintenance □ All Rounder – Supervisor of the Year: Cassandra Matthias, housekeeping □ Island Routes Ambassador: Treshawna Fergenson, Island Routes □ People’s Choice: Juleen Rose, kitchen □ Sandals Foundation Sentinel: Natalee Henry, housekeeping □ Legendary – Most Guest Mentioned: Kyannah Joy Corneilus, food and beverage □ Money Maker of the Year Award: – Maura Henry, resort shop □ Standing Ovation Award: – Kelman Bristol, stores □ Sandals Earth Guardian Award: – Kim Casey, engineering and maintenance □ Circle of Joy Smile Award: – Omega Jeffery, EPIX □ Mover and Shaker Most Improved Award: – Priscella George, cost control.

IICA Presents A Report On Its Work In Antigua and Barbuda For 2025



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) used its Annual Accountability Seminar to showcase its work in Antigua and Barbuda in 2025 while outlining plans to further support farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities.

Held on Tuesday at the Sir John E. St. Luce Centre, the event was organized under the theme, *“Agriculture Today: Food Sustainability Tomorrow”*.

The seminar served as a platform for IICA to review its accomplishments in 2025, present priorities for upcoming technical cooperation initiatives, and discuss the growing role of agricultural micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in strengthening the country’s food system and economy.

The event brought together a wide

cross-section of stakeholders, including government representatives, financial institutions, development agencies, farmer organizations, agro-processors, and producers. Discussions focused on the importance of partnerships and coordinated action in advancing Antigua and Barbuda agricultural sector.

Addressing participants, IICA Representative for the Eastern Caribbean States Gregg Rawlins emphasized the Institute’s efforts to building a modern, technology-driven, climate-smart sector that attracts young people and creates sustainable livelihoods throughout the value chain.

A presentation of IICA’s activities in Antigua and Barbuda during 2025 from National Specialist Craig M. Thomas who outlined major achievements and presented proposed tech-

nicol cooperation programmes for the year ahead.

“In 2025, agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda is undergoing a major revitalization, targeting a 5% GDP contribution by 2030, driven by the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, and the Blue Economy. Key 2025 focus areas include reducing food imports through upgraded infrastructure, such as new poultry/livestock abattoirs, heavy-duty machinery for land development, water security initiatives, and a new central marketing facility,” he reported.

The major achievements for 2025 in the Agricultural Extension Division were highlighted as;

- ▶ The Extension Division, with the support of the Statistics Division, continued its Farmer registration



and ID programme. To date close to 500 farmers have been register

- ▶ The Division continued to focus its training programmes on Climate Smart practices and efficient water resource management in agriculture in collaboration with many of its stakeholder agencies inclusive of the Longping Institute.
- ▶ The Division has been actively involved in inter-institutional research projects with CARDI, IICA and FAO, i.e. The Next Gen Sweet Potato and Antigua Black Pineapple Rehab. Projects.

In the Fisheries Division, the successes were listed as;

- ▶ A successful audit in 2024 by the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety allowed Antigua and Barbuda to maintain access to the EU market regarding export of live lobsters.
- ▶ A total of 145 individuals were trained in safety at sea and laws and regulations in accordance with section 35(3e) of the Fisheries Regulation. The training was geared at professionalizing the

industry to enable fishers to better access financing and insurance

- ▶ In 2025, under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions. Antigua & Barbuda secured access to the U.S. market for all of its Fisheries until the 31st December 2026.

One of the major moments of the seminar was the presentation of IICA's 2025 Annual Report to Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, Anthony Smith who expressed the Government's gratitude to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture for its unwavering commitment, technical expertise, and continued support to our nation's agricultural sector.

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to deepening and strengthening this partnership. As we navigate the challenges posed by climate change, market volatility, pests and diseases, and increasing food import dependence, partnerships such as ours with IICA are more critical than ever to achieving sustainable agricultural transformation.

"The accomplishments outlined in

the 2025 Annual Report demonstrate the tangible impact of IICA's technical cooperation across multiple areas of strategic importance," the minister remarked.

The seminar concluded with an open discussion examining the opportunities and challenges facing agricultural sector in Antigua and Barbuda. Representatives from the government. Ministries and producer organizations explored practical ways to strengthen the sector's contribution to food security, job creation and rural development.

IICA stated that it remains committed to working alongside the Government of Antigua and Barbuda local stakeholders to build a more resilient, innovative and competitive agricultural sector through initiatives that promote entrepreneurship, market access, climate resilience and sustainable growth.

The session was chaired by the Director of Agriculture, Gregory Bailey.

Several key stakeholders such as CARDI, GEF SGP UNDP, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture were presented with a copy of the 2025 Annual Report.



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CHOGM 2026: The World Is Coming to Antigua. Are We Ready?

Zoë Carlton

In November 2026, Antigua and Barbuda will host one of the most significant international gatherings ever held on our shores: the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, better known as CHOGM.

For a few days, Antigua and Barbuda will become the centre of a global conversation involving leaders, ministers, business figures, civil society organisations, youth representatives, women's advocates, investors, journalists and observers from across the Commonwealth. For some Antiguan and Barbudans, CHOGM may sound like another high-level diplomatic event, important perhaps, but distant from everyday concerns. In reality, it is far more than a meeting of politicians behind closed doors. It is a rare opportunity for a small island state to speak directly to the world — and to be heard.

The 2026 theme, “Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth”, is especially relevant to Antigua and Barbuda. We are a small country with global challenges: climate change, rising sea levels, hurricane vulnerability, food insecurity, high energy costs, debt pressures, youth opportunity, digital transformation and sustainable tourism. These are not abstract policy issues. They affect whether homes can withstand storms, whether young people can find meaningful work, whether businesses can grow, whether farmers can produce more locally, and whether the country can protect both its coastline and its economy.

The Commonwealth matters because it gives countries like Antigua and Barbuda a seat at a table much larger than our population. It includes some of the world's largest economies and some of its smallest and most climate-vulnerable states.

In an increasingly uncertain world,



that matters more than ever. Small states cannot rely on size, military strength or economic weight to advance their interests. They rely on relationships, partnerships and the ability to work with others. Through the Commonwealth, Antigua and Barbuda can join with countries facing similar challenges, whether climate change, disaster resilience, debt vulnerability or access to international finance. Alone, our voice may be small. Together with others, it becomes much harder to ignore.

The Commonwealth is not perfect, and it carries a complicated history. Yet it remains one of the few international forums where small states can build alliances, press for climate justice, attract investment and argue for fairer treatment in global finance and trade.

Recent CHOGMs show why hosting matters. Rwanda used CHOGM 2022 not only as a diplomatic summit but as a showcase for its tourism, hospitality, conference and investment sectors. Thousands of delegates came to Kigali, bringing immediate economic activity for hotels, transport providers, restaurants and event services, while also giving Rwanda a platform to present

itself as a serious international destination. Samoa, which hosted CHOGM 2024, placed small island concerns at the heart of the Commonwealth agenda. Its summit produced major discussion on climate, oceans, resilience, young people and civil society, while giving Pacific states a stronger voice in global debate.

For Antigua and Barbuda, the opportunity is similar but distinct. CHOGM can strengthen the country's global image as more than a beach destination. It can present Antigua and Barbuda as a serious diplomatic host, a climate-vulnerable nation with something important to say, a Caribbean hub for investment, culture and innovation, and a country capable of welcoming the world with professionalism and warmth.

That matters. Global image is not vanity. It affects tourism, investment, airlift, partnerships, scholarships, cultural opportunities, business confidence and diplomatic influence. When a country hosts well, every taxi driver, hotel worker, restaurant server, volunteer, performer, student, journalist, entrepreneur and community representative becomes part of the national presentation. Visitors remember not only speeches and official communiqués, but the airport welcome, the cleanliness of public spaces, the efficiency of transport, the friendliness of people, the quality of local food, the energy of the culture, and the sense that a country knows who it is.

The CHOGM Fora are particularly important because they widen the conversation beyond government. The Youth Forum gives young people a route into discussions that will shape their future. The Women's Forum brings gender equality, leadership, safety, opportunity and economic participation into focus. The People's Forum allows civil society to raise concerns from the ground up, including health, climate, education, rights,

community development and democratic participation. The Business Forum connects governments and private sector leaders, and for Antigua and Barbuda it could be a crucial platform for investment conversations around tourism, renewable energy, the blue economy, technology, agriculture, infrastructure and creative industries.

These fora matter because they remind us that development is not something done only by ministers. It involves citizens, businesses, churches, schools, NGOs, artists, farmers, fisherfolk, youth leaders, women's groups, entrepreneurs and communities. If Antiguan and Barbudans are given opportunities to volunteer, attend, perform, exhibit, provide services, host side events, share ideas or simply follow the discussions closely, they should take them. Participation is not just about being seen; it is about making sure the national conversation is not left to others.

There should also be honesty. Hosting CHOGM will bring pressure. Roads, venues, security, communications, accommodation, transport and public services will all be tested. There will be inconvenience. There will be costs. Citizens will rightly ask what the country gets in return. The answer depends partly on preparation and partly on follow-through. A successful CHOGM is not measured only by a smooth opening ceremony or a good photo of leaders. It is measured by whether the contacts made turn into partnerships, whether local businesses benefit, whether young people are included, whether the country's priorities are clearly presented, and whether Antigua and Barbuda uses the moment to advance long-term national goals.

The Commonwealth itself is not perfect. No international organisation is. But for small states, it remains a valuable space for coalition-building. On climate change, ocean protection, disaster resilience, debt, trade access and youth opportunity, Antigua and Barbuda has more influence when it speaks with others than when it speaks alone.

CHOGM gives the country a chance to help shape that collective voice.

For Antiguan and Barbudans, then, CHOGM 2026 should not be treated as something happening "up there" among officials. It is happening here. It is an opportunity to show the world our competence, creativity, hospitality and seriousness. It is a chance to tell the Commonwealth what small island states need, but also what they offer: resilience, innovation, culture and practical solutions born from experience.

If Antigua and Barbuda hosts CHOGM well - and we will - the ben-

efits could reach far beyond November 2026. The summit can strengthen national pride, open doors for investment, elevate local voices and place the country more firmly on the global map. But that will only happen if citizens see themselves not as spectators, but as participants.

CHOGM is coming to Antigua and Barbuda. Every volunteer, business owner, student, artist, community group and citizen has a role to play. The question is not only what the Commonwealth will bring to us, but what we are ready to show the Commonwealth about who we are.

From Plans to Action: Why Implementation Is the Hardest Part of Strategy



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

When we hear the word *strategy*, it can sound intimidating — something reserved for CEOs in glass towers or governments drafting national plans. But in reality, strategy is simply about deciding where you want to go and how you will get there. Whether you are running a small shop in St. John’s, a non-profit helping families or a church group, strategy matters. And at the heart of every strategy are **goals and objectives**.

What Are Goals and Objectives?

- **Goals** are the big dreams. They’re broad, long-term, and inspirational. For example, a family-owned restaurant in Antigua might set a goal to “become the island’s favorite spot for authentic local cuisine.”
- **Objectives** are the smaller, measurable steps that make the dream possible. That same restaurant could set objectives like “increase lunchtime customers by 15% in the next three months” or “introduce three new local dishes this year.”

Think of goals as the *destination* and objectives as the *mile markers* along the road.

How For-Profit Companies Use Them

Businesses use goals and objectives

to grow and stay competitive. Take, for example, a local hotel in English Harbour:

- **Goal:** “Be recognized as the top boutique hotel in Antigua.”
- **Objectives:** “Achieve a 90% occupancy rate during peak season” and “earn 200 five-star reviews online by year’s end.”

These objectives give staff clear targets and help management measure progress. Without them, the hotel risks drifting without direction.

How Non-Profits Use Them

Non-profits may not chase profits, but they still need strategy to maximize impact. Imagine a youth mentoring program in St. John’s:

- **Goal:** “Empower young people to succeed in school and life.”
- **Objectives:** “Provide tutoring to 150 students this year” and “launch two new mentorship groups by September.”

These objectives ensure resources are used wisely and donors can see tangible results. Without clear objectives, even the most passionate mission can lose focus.

Even Churches Need Strategy

It may surprise some, but even church organizations benefit from clear goals and objectives. Picture a church in Antigua that wants to strengthen its community outreach:

- **Goal:** “Be a beacon of hope and support in the parish.”
- **Objectives:** “Launch a weekly food program for 50 families” and “increase youth group participation by 40% within a year.”

The hardest part? Implementation. Volunteers may be stretched thin, funding may be uncertain, and balancing spiritual duties with organizational tasks can be tricky. Yet, without a plan, even the most heartfelt mission risks falling short.

Why Organizations Struggle with

Strategy

Many organizations — whether businesses, charities, or churches — face difficulties not only in implementation but also in **strategy development** itself. Here are some common challenges:

- **Lack of clarity:** Leaders sometimes confuse goals with objectives or set vague ambitions like “be the best” without defining what success looks like.
- **Too many priorities:** Trying to do everything at once dilutes focus. A small non-profit may set ten objectives but only have resources for three.
- **Limited resources:** Money, time, and skilled people are often scarce. This makes both planning and execution difficult.
- **Resistance to change:** People are comfortable with the familiar. New strategies often require new habits, which can be met with hesitation.
- **Poor communication:** Even a brilliant plan fails if staff, volunteers, or members don’t understand it.

These difficulties explain why so many strategies look good on paper but fail in practice.

The Hardest Part: Implementation
 Studies often suggest that **70–90% of strategies fail at the execution stage**, not because the ideas are flawed, but because they are never effectively implemented.

Here’s the truth: writing down goals and objectives is easy. The real challenge is **implementation** — turning those words into action. Why is this so hard?

1. **People:** Strategy requires buy-in. Employees, volunteers, and leaders must align their daily work with the objectives. Change is uncomfortable, and not everyone embraces it.
2. **Resources:** Even the best plan

fails without enough money, time, or skilled people. Non-profits and community groups especially struggle with limited budgets.

3. **Consistency:** Goals are long-term, but daily distractions — from urgent customer requests to unexpected crises — can pull organizations off track.
4. **Measurement:** Without tracking progress, it's impossible to know if objectives are being met. Many organizations set goals but fail to measure results, leaving them blind to whether they're succeeding.

Example: A Local Sports Club

Picture a community sports club in Antigua that sets a goal to “promote healthy living through sports.”

- **Objectives:** “Host 12 community events this year” and “increase membership by 30%.”
- **Implementation challenges:** Volunteers may be busy, funding may be tight, and rainy weather could cancel events. Without persistence and creative problem-solving, the strategy stalls.

This is why implementation is often called the “graveyard of strategy.” Plans look perfect on paper, but reality tests them.

Why Implementation Matters

A strategy that isn't implemented is just a wish list. Success comes when leaders:

- Communicate goals clearly.
- Break objectives into manageable tasks.
- Celebrate small wins to keep motivation high.
- Adjust when obstacles arise.

Think of it like sailing: Antigua's sailors know that plotting a course is only the beginning. The real skill lies in adjusting to winds, currents, and storms while keeping the destination in sight.

Call to Action

Whether you run a business, a non-profit, a church, or a community group, remember this: **strategy is**

only as strong as its execution. Take time to define clear goals and objectives but commit even more energy to implementation. Talk with your team, assign responsibilities, and track progress.

Antigua needs organizations that not only dream big but also deliver.

Let's move from plans to action — because the future of our businesses, charities, churches, and communities depends on it.

About the Author

Garfield Joseph is the Executive Di-

rector of a public sector organization in Antigua and Barbuda, where he is responsible for translating government policy and national objectives into operational action. His work spans strategic execution, financial oversight, and stakeholder engagement. He has also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, teaching Business Strategy and Policy and Business, Government and Society. He writes regularly on investment, entrepreneurship, and long-term decision-making

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
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 Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. John's
 Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A RETAIL LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS

“NICK-NUGS-NAS CONVENIENT STORE”

I, Nickiesha Tulloch, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday 6th July 2026, next ensuing for a Club License in respect of premises known as “Nick-Nugs-Nas Convenient Store” situated at York's New Extension, in the parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 16th day of June 2026

Nickiesha Tulloch
 268-772-8565

Missing Baron aircraft enroute to Tobago found



St Vincent Minister of National Security, Major the Honourable St Clair Leacock, has provided a startling update regarding the Dominican Republic-registered aircraft that vanished en route to Tobago, stating that the plane has not crashed and that regional authorities know its current location.

The twin-engine Beechcraft Baron, registration HI-1145, departed Argyle International Airport in St. Vincent at 11:52 a.m. on June 12. Carrying two people, the aircraft was scheduled for a 65-minute flight to the A.N.R. Robinson International Airport in Tobago. However, radio contact was lost after a standard communication transfer approximately 40 nautical miles south of Argyle, and tracking data abruptly ceased over the Southern Caribbean Sea.

Speaking on the “New Times” radio program, Minister Leacock addressed the public’s growing safety and security concerns. “What I can say is that to the best of my knowledge that the aircraft has not crashed and there had not been a loss of life,” Leacock revealed.

He further disclosed that a coalition of national, regional, and international agencies—including CARICOM IM-

PACS and the Regional Security System (RSS)—are actively tracking the situation. “They know where the plane is at,” Leacock stated, adding that authorities also “have names to associate with the planes”.

Rather than a standard search and recovery mission for wreckage, the National Security Minister indicated that the operation is heavily intelligence-driven. He emphasized that authorities are closely monitoring the developments, focusing “not so much on the aircraft because aircraft don’t fly itself [but] the people who fly in that aircraft”.

Citing the “very delicate stage” of the intelligence operations, Leacock firmly declined to provide further specifics. He noted that sharing more detailed information with the public right now would compromise the ongoing work of the security agencies and potentially jeopardize safety.

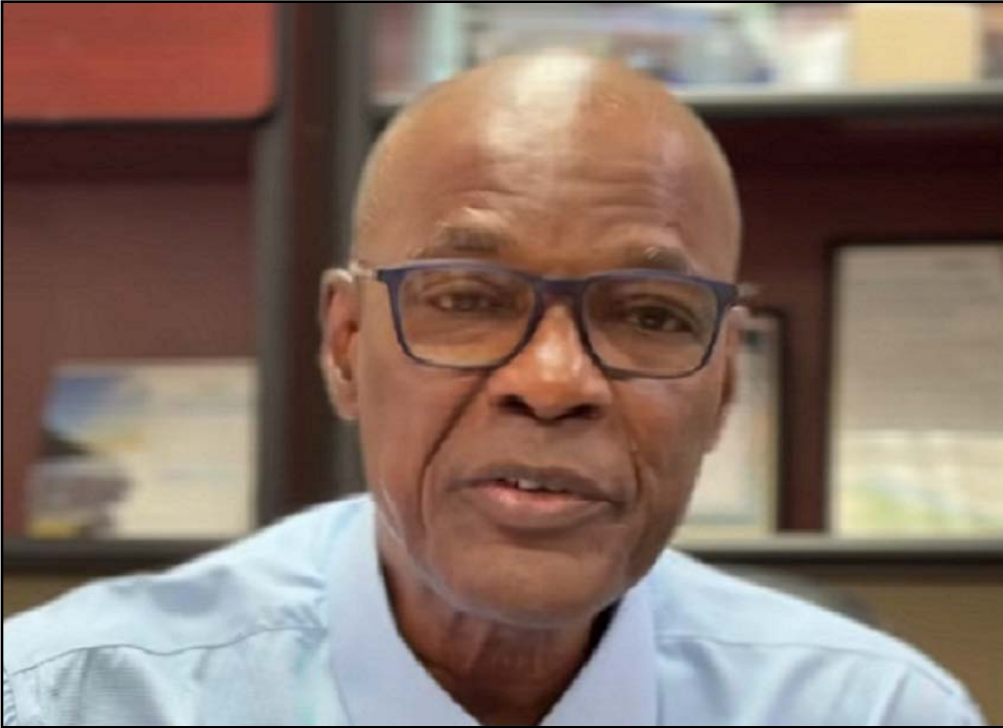
Leacock contextualized the incident within broader regional security challenges. Following recent high-level security meetings in Trinidad and Barbados, he noted that regional bodies are heavily monitoring aerial and marine movements. According to Lea-

cock, increased maritime enforcement by the U.S. government has resulted in “more strange aircraft moving through the region”. He warned that authorities must closely monitor planes that land and depart for other activities, as these shifting routes are sometimes used to traffic illicit cargo, including guns and ammunition.

The disappearance of HI-1145 marks the second aircraft to vanish along a similar flight path recently, following an unresolved disappearance in December 2023. This pattern prompted a radio caller to ask whether Civil Aviation should be shifted from the Ministry of Tourism back to the Ministry of National Security.

Leacock acknowledged the validity of the concern, noting that aviation inherently involves “a huge element of security matters,” including airport security, air safety, and passenger tracking. While he stated that such portfolio assignments are ultimately the Prime Minister’s prerogative, he assured the public that the Ministry of National Security remains deeply involved and retains “dotted lines to that responsibility”. (St Vincent Times)

SVG Launches Digital Blood Bank Initiative



In a pioneering move to address critical healthcare challenges, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) launched a comprehensive digital blood bank initiative on World Blood Donor Day.

The groundbreaking program is designed to transform donor engagement and stabilize the nation's blood supply.

Almost every day, citizens in SVG require blood transfusions due to accidents, complicated childbirths, or vital surgeries. However, persistent shortages at the national blood bank frequently result in delayed surgical procedures and force anxious families to launch desperate appeals for donors

on social media. The primary driver of this shortage is that most individuals only donate in response to an acute emergency and stop thinking about donating once the crisis has passed.

However, officials noted that healthy people between the ages of 18 and 70 can safely donate blood up to four times a year. Regional studies have also revealed a vital, untapped resource: most one-time donors are highly open to giving again, but blood banks have historically lacked the means to effectively reach them.


To bridge this communication gap, SVG introduced the nation's first-ever

dedicated blood bank website: blood-bankvc.org. The platform is designed to provide clear, accurate information about the donation process and dispel persistent myths that prevent people from giving blood.

A core component of this homegrown initiative is a backend communication system referred to as "blood text". This technology allows the blood bank to maintain continuous, personalized contact with donors, delivering timely information to effectively convert one-time volunteers into regular donors.



The initiative also places a heavy emphasis on youth engagement to counter a worldwide decline in blood donation among young adults. The new platform features a unique "two-in-one" design, boasting dedicated sections tailored specifically for younger and older demographics. To ensure young Vincentians take ownership of the initiative from its inception, a competition has been launched for the youth to design the official SVG blood bank logo, with details hosted in the website's under-35 section.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the first to implement this innovative approach to the chronic problem of blood shortages. Health officials are urging the public to visit the blood bank, reminding citizens that a mere 40 minutes of their time can yield an incredible impact. A single voluntary blood donation has the potential to save three lives. (St Vincent Times)



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DEPORTEE DEAL - Jamaica offers to accept non-nationals being booted from US

Kingston and Washington are expected to begin talks on an agreement first pitched by a senior Jamaican government official that could see the island accepting up to 10,000 non-Jamaicans being deported from the United States.

A document from the United States Embassy in Kingston, seen by The Gleaner, outlines the operational framework for the proposed Third-Country Nationals (TCN) agreement, which has triggered controversy in several countries that have entered into similar arrangements with Washington.

The TCN deals came under local scrutiny last year when a Jamaica man, Orville Etoria, was deported from the United States to the African country of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) in July with no ties to that nation. Following intense international scrutiny and diplomatic pushback, the Eswatini government released and repatriated him to Jamaica in late September 2025 and he was reunited with his family.

Under the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU), the US would transfer up to 25 foreign nationals every two weeks to Jamaica for an unspecified period.

This is expected to be a case-by-case arrangement, the draft MOU said, in which the US may use its discretion to propose transfers and the Government may, in its discretion, consider accepting the proposal in whole or in part.

The arrangement would explicitly exclude unaccompanied minors, Jamaicans, and individuals convicted of serious criminal offences – “to the extent known to the US government” – except in cases involving violations of US immigration laws.

Prior to any transfer, each “proposed deportee’s biographical, medical and criminal documentation to the extent available and permitted by law” is to be provided to the Dr Andrew Holness-led Government.

Both countries intend that all actions

taken under the MOU will be in accordance with respective obligations under the Convention Relating to Status of Refugees, also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention, the document said.

Further, the US wants to assure Jamaica that it would treat any deportee in a manner that is in accordance with its international legal obligations and would not be subjected to persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in particular social group, or political opinion or torture.

It said this should not occur in Jamaica or in any other country to which Jamaica may subsequently transfer them.

Public messaging about the agreement would be coordinated by both countries.

Either country would be able to discontinue the arrangement at any time, but a 90-day written notice is required through diplomatic channels.

“Nothing in this MOU is intended to create any rights or obligations under the international or domestic law, including with respect to the disbursement or obligation of funds,” the proposed pact said.

It further outlined that TCNs with a final or expedited order of removal, and individuals who are medically authorised to travel by the US Department of Homeland Security, would be eligible for transfer to Jamaica.

TCNs not admitted by Jamaica would be transferred back to the US.

“The Government of the United States of America intends to propose to the Government of Jamaica to transfer to Jamaica up to 25 individuals every two weeks.

“If at any point, 10 or more individuals transferred by the Government of the United States of America remain in Jamaica for more than 30 days, the Government of the United States of America will pause proposing the transfer of additional individuals un-

til fewer than 10 transferred from the United States under the MOU remain in Jamaica,” the document said.

It said the Jamaican Government may decide to exceed any figure at its discretion and, in such a case, would inform the US.

At the same time, the proposed MOU stated that the agreement does not financially commit either the US or Jamaican governments.

However, it said the US intends to review available foreign assistance funds to support the initiative and plans to pay a qualified international organisation for services it provides to individuals transferred under the MOU.

It document said that 72 hours prior to a removal, the US intends to send to the Jamaican Ministry of National Security and Peace a flight manifest of the individuals expected to be transferred. Jamaica is expected to provide a response within 36 hours of approved cases.

The deportees are expected to arrive via Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston and personnel from the US Department of Homeland Security are expected to accompany them.

The MOU’s purpose, the document said, stems from the need to prevent the abuse of lawful migration systems to deter illegally facilitated and unlawful cross-border migration and to counter the negative effects of unlawful migration.

The US, under its Immigration and Nationality Act, has leveraged bilateral deals, financial packages, and geopolitical pressure to secure agreements with more than 30 countries across Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia to accept non-citizens.

Signed agreements or active operational frameworks exist in several CARICOM countries, including Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Scotland hits back at PM's T&TEC claims



OPPOSITION MP for Port of Spain South Keith Scotland, SC, is calling on Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar to make her claims against him outside the protection of parliamentary privilege regarding the handling of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission's (T&TEC) claim against Flavorite Foods Ltd.

He yesterday described her statements as "very egregious attacks" on his professional character and denied any wrongdoing in the handling of T&TEC's claim against Flavorite. The Prime Minister made the claims in the House of Representatives during the motion to adopt the report of the Standing Finance Committee.

Speaking to reporters outside Parliament in Port of Spain and flanked by Opposition members, Scotland said, "The Prime Minister, in the Parliament chamber under the shield of parliamentary privilege, made some very egregious attacks on my professional character."

He said he reviewed the allegations raised by the Prime Minister in a short space of time and maintained that neither he nor his legal team failed to take the necessary legal steps in the matter.

He said the matter centres on T&TEC's claim against Flavorite Foods and made three assertions.

Firstly, he said there was no document under his hand indicating that

"anything that was filed was not filed".

Secondly, he maintained that the matter was not statute-barred.

"The action is not statute-barred because in 2024, the claim on behalf of T&TEC was refiled and we have a stamped request for entry of judgment in default of appearance," he said.

Scotland explained that while the files were subsequently taken back by the client, what occurred afterwards "is no concern of ours".

He stressed, "Under these circumstances, I invite the Prime Minister to make these claims outside of Parliament," insisting he possessed documentation to support his position.

He reiterated his call for the Prime Minister to repeat those allegations outside Parliament.

"I understand that something may have happened with her favourite blue-eyed boy in Parliament and maybe they want to say I was involved and they think they could come at me. They cannot come at me with this matter," he said.

Insisting that he had documentary evidence, Scotland said the records showed not only that the claim had been refiled but that an application for judgment in default of appearance had also been submitted.

"I have the documentation in my hand, where not only was the claim

refiled, but the judgment in default of appearance was made, supported with all the documents, and we even have a query from the Registrar querying some of the issues that were raised in the judgment," he said.

Scotland this information had not been disclosed to the public.

"I want to set the record straight. What we will not do is that I will not be silenced," he stated.

He said he would stand against injustice meted out against any parliamentary staff, meted out "against people of Trinidad and Tobago".

Scotland also noted that he was no longer actively practising law during part of the period, having suspended his legal practice while serving in Cabinet.

He further contended that the Prime Minister had overlooked legal provisions that suspended limitation periods during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is in time, remembering that two years were suspended for filings due to Covid. That seems to have been the limitation point that seems to have escaped the Prime Minister," he said.

Scotland accused the Government of attempting to damage his reputation but vowed to continue speaking out on issues he considers unjust.

"What we will not do is I will not be silenced," he said. "They will not silence my voice with attacks on my character, attacks on me and, by extension, my family."

Asked whether everything required in the matter had been done before he ceased involvement, Scotland said that, to the best of his knowledge, the initial issues with the claim had been corrected, the matter had been refiled in time, and an application for judgment in default of appearance had subsequently been made.

He said he intends to contact T&TEC regarding the matter. (Trinidad Express)

DR Congo Ebola outbreak yet to peak, could last a year — Red Cross

The deadly Ebola outbreak in the DR Congo has yet to peak and could take a year to contain, the Red Cross warned Tuesday, amid mounting warnings of dangerous gaps in the response.

Since the outbreak was declared on May 15, 808 cases have been confirmed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including 192 deaths, according to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) figures.

While efforts to rein in the outbreak are scaling up, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on Tuesday joined a growing chorus of warnings over the swelling scale of the crisis.

“The peak is, I think, not beyond us, but in front of us,” Bruno Michon, the IFRC’s operations manager for the outbreak, told reporters in Geneva.

“We are afraid that this could last one year” before the epidemic is over, he said, speaking from Bunia, capital of the DRC’s northeastern Ituri province, which is the outbreak’s epicentre.

The response to the epidemic, the 17th to hit the vast central African country, has faced towering challenges.

No approved vaccines or treatments exist for the Bundibugyo strain of the virus responsible for the current outbreak.

The three affected provinces in the northeastern DRC — Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu — have long been gripped by conflict and mass displacement, complicating the response.

And the region has seen conflict casualty figures climb higher since the start of the outbreak, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, placing further pressure on an already fragile health system.

“A sudden geographic expansion of the epidemic is feared if public health measures are not implemented quick-



ly,” the Congolese National Institute of Public Health warned in its daily situation report.

The outbreak has already spread to neighbouring Uganda, which to date counts 19 confirmed cases, including two deaths.

In the DRC, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and Oxfam warned this week that the full extent of Ebola, which is spread by close contact and infected bodily fluids, remained unclear.

“No-one knows the true scale or exactly where the disease is spreading,” Kate White, MSF’s emergency medical coordinator in the DRC, said on Monday, warning that “testing remains one of the most significant weaknesses”.

Michon agreed.

“It’s very difficult to know exactly to what extent the epidemic is spreading,” he said.

Oxfam meanwhile, attributed insufficient contact tracing to “the withdrawal of US funding for disease surveillance and severe funding shortfalls”.

The aid organisation also pointed to a dire lack of clean water in the Ebola-stricken areas, as well as a dearth of basic protective equipment for health workers.

While testing capacity has been significantly ramped up in recent weeks, World Health Organization spokesman Tarik Jasarevic acknowledged Tuesday that “blind spots” remain.

“There may be transmission chains that are not being detected,” he told reporters in Geneva.

The mistrust of the population in a region where the Congolese state has been absent in many areas for decades is another major hurdle, the Red Cross’s Michon said.

Like in past outbreaks, hospitals and medics in the eastern DRC have reported attacks and riots, with some criticising the Congolese government’s response and others denying that Ebola even exists.

“To stop this outbreak, we need to invest not only in medical response, but also in trust, local volunteers, community engagement and operational access,” Michon said.

He pointed out that “in recent days, DRC Red Cross volunteers have faced verbal abuse, threats and even physical attacks while carrying out their work”.

“Trust is central,” he said.

“Without trust, we cannot detect cases early. We cannot ensure safe burials. We cannot protect families. And we cannot stop transmission.” (AFP)

Pizza Hut set for new global owner in US\$2.7-billion deal

Pizza Hut's Jamaican operations are set to come under a new global owner after Yum Brands agreed to sell the struggling restaurant chain as part of a US\$2.7-billion deal.

Private-equity firm LongRange Capital will acquire Pizza Hut's operations outside mainland China for about US\$1.5 billion, a transaction that would include the international brand and franchise network under which Pizza Hut Jamaica operates.

Yum China Holdings will separately purchase the mainland China business for approximately US\$1.2 billion. Both transactions are expected to close during the third quarter of 2026.

It was not immediately clear whether the sale will lead to changes in Jamaica, where the Pizza Hut franchise is operated by Restaurants of Jamaica, or ROJ, which also operates KFC locally.

Franchise restaurants are generally owned and managed by local operators under agreements with the international brand owner. The sale therefore does not automatically mean that Jamaica's restaurants will close or change ownership.

However, LongRange could eventually influence matters such as franchise agreements, brand strategy, menus, restaurant design, technology requirements and expansion plans across Pizza Hut's international markets.

The development comes as ROJ is investing heavily in expanding the brand locally, even as Pizza Hut has struggled in some of its larger overseas markets.



ROJ announced earlier this year that it was spending \$180 million to establish a Pizza Hut restaurant in Cumberland, Portmore. The outlet was expected to become the chain's 16th location in Jamaica and its 11th outside Kingston and St Andrew.

That investment formed part of almost \$500 million being spent by ROJ on new KFC and Pizza Hut restaurants in Jamaica.

Pizza Hut's local expansion contrasts with the chain's weaker performance internationally. Yum began reviewing its options for the business in November 2025 after Pizza Hut fell behind its faster-growing KFC and Taco Bell brands.

The pizza chain has faced intense competition, pressure on consumer spending and concerns about older restaurant formats in some markets. Pizza Hut had also announced plans

to close about 250 underperforming restaurants in the United States during the first half of 2026.

Yum expects to receive approximately US\$2.3 billion in net proceeds from the two sales. The company has also approved an additional US\$4-billion share-repurchase programme.

Yum said the sale would allow it to concentrate more heavily on KFC and Taco Bell, while giving Pizza Hut new ownership focused on reviving the brand.

For Jamaica, the immediate issue will be whether LongRange maintains Pizza Hut's existing franchise and expansion arrangements with ROJ or introduces changes after the acquisition is completed.

There has so far been no indication that the transaction will disrupt service at Pizza Hut restaurants in Jamaica. (Jamaica Observer)


 An advertisement for Curry House restaurant. The top half shows several colorful bowls of Indian curries and rice. The text 'Curry House' is written in a stylized red font. Below the image, it says 'Open Daily - 12:00pm - 10:30pm'. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, along with the address 'ANTIGUA' and the phone number '(268) 736-7165'.

Oil falls below US\$80 as US-Iran deal raises hopes of increased supply



Global oil prices fell below US\$80 a barrel on Tuesday as an unexpected agreement between the United States (US) and Iran raised hopes that more crude could return to the market and ease pressure on fuel-importing countries such as Jamaica.

Brent crude, the international benchmark used to price much of the oil traded worldwide, fell to its lowest level in about three months. US West Texas Intermediate crude also declined as traders assessed the prospects for increased shipments from the Middle East.

The decline followed progress towards a preliminary US-Iran agreement that could lead to the restoration of oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important energy-shipping routes. Roughly one-fifth of global oil shipments normally pass through the strait.

Oil prices have now fallen for four consecutive trading sessions, reversing part of the sharp increase caused by the conflict and disruption to tanker traffic.

For Jamaica, which imports nearly all the petroleum it consumes, a sustained decline in international crude and refined-product prices could eventually reduce the country's fuel-import bill and ease some pressure on petrol, transportation, electricity and inflation.

However, the effect would not necessarily be immediate. Local fuel prices are also influenced by the cost of refined petroleum products, freight, taxes and movements in the Jamaican dollar.

Uncertainty also remains over how quickly normal shipments can resume. Tanker traffic has not yet returned fully to pre-conflict levels, while

mine-clearing, security arrangements and further negotiations between Washington and Tehran could affect the pace at which supplies recover.

Analysts have also warned that depleted inventories and stronger seasonal demand could limit further price declines, even if the proposed agreement is completed.

Major investment banks have nevertheless lowered some of their oil-price forecasts. Goldman Sachs reduced its Brent forecast for the fourth quarter of 2026 to US\$80 a barrel from US\$90, while Morgan Stanley expects production to recover more gradually.

The market will now watch whether the preliminary agreement is signed, whether the Strait of Hormuz fully reopens and how quickly suspended oil production and exports return. (Jamaica Observer)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Successful start for Dredgers in ABSCA men's T20 contest



The Dredgers men's softball cricket team

Fresh from securing the 30-over men's title, Dredgers made an impressive start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5fm and Chet Greene T20 Championships.

The Dredgers launched their campaign in the men's competition with a commanding 10-wicket victory over PMS at Dredgers. PMS was restricted to 91 for eight off their 20 overs. Player of the match Tanez Francis took two for 11.

Francis then slammed an unbeaten 52 to lead the Dredgers to victory at 92 without losing any wickets in 4.5 overs. Shaqan Artenez chipped in with 19 not out.

Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js and Rackaman Construction Strictly Business also won their opening-round matches in the men's T20 contest.

The Buckley's 3Js secured a five-wicket win against Goody's

Advent 300 at Swetes. The 300 were dismissed for 107 in 19.3 overs. Blain Thomas slammed 36, and Molvin James struck 26.

Rodney Williams bagged three for 26, Richie Thomas and Charanlall Ramjohn each picked up two for 13, and Demari Benta claimed two for 16.

The Buckley's 3Js achieved victory by scoring 110 for five in 9.5 overs. Kenrick Scott hit 30, including four sixes, Denley Thomas struck an unbeaten 25, Demari Benta made 23, and player of the match Charanlall Ramjohn scored 18 not out. Bryan Burton bagged three for 24, and Jared Roberts took two for 53.

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business pulled off a four-wicket victory against Mix Up Stars, who were restricted to 116 for five off their 20 overs.

Isiah Viville scored 31, and Peter Bellefonte struck 19 not out. Player of the match Winston Roberts

claimed three for 20, and Kerique Mentore captured two for 32.

Strictly Business coasted to victory at 118 for six in 13 overs. Kim George slammed 34, and Clinton Benjamin made 26. Isiah Viville took two for 33.

Alzarri and Sharon Joseph, North Sails Antigua Female Flyers and Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors got off to a winning start in the women's T20 competition.

The Female Flyers defeated Potters Uprising Cricket Team by seven wickets at Swetes. Potters made 134 for three off their 20 overs. Nolia Elvin smashed 67, and there was a contribution of 29 extras. Valencia Thomas took two for 16.

Player of the match Makada Hector struck a half-century to lead Female Flyers to victory at 135 for three in 12.1 overs. Hector cracked 53, Terez Parker hit 35 not out, and Mauveuhl Simpson scored 25. Carla Weatherhead captured two for 24.

Survivors also recorded a seven-wicket victory over Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Jennings Rockets at Dredgers.

The Rockets were restricted to 131 for seven off their 20 overs. Kushana David hit 43, including five sixes, and Chemique Benjamin struck 32.

Player of the match Sacha Michael struck a half-century to lead Survivors to victory at 133 for three with two balls to spare. Michael smashed 51, Joan Samuel hit 26 not out, and Kimberly Anthony made 24.

Marsh wins ABCF Individual Time Trial race

Veteran Robert Marsh won the latest race staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) during its current 2026 domestic season.

Marsh surged to title honours by winning the ABCF Individual Time Trial on Sunday.

Riding for the East Side Raiders, Marsh won the overall title by winning the elite male division by clocking the fastest time in the race, which started on Sir Sydney Walling Highway in the vicinity of Car Zone.

The route took the competitors on a 10-mile course up to the turnaround point at the turn for Betty's Hope Estate, with Marsh completing the race in 26 minutes and 03.76 seconds.

Abbiel Flemming and Shawn Weathered of Team Pillars Cycling finished in second and third places, respectively, in the elite male category.

Flemming clocked 26 minutes and 56.30 seconds, while Weathered completed the race in 27 minutes and 51.25 seconds.

Lone participant Elite Thomas of Team Viper won the junior male class by clocking 30 minutes and 28.37 seconds.

Independent cyclist Garfield Henry claimed top honours in the masters' division. Henry completed the race in 29 minutes and 20.96 seconds.

Jason Adams of Team Pillars Cycling took second place in 30 minutes and 10.29 seconds, while Vaughn Gomes of Andre Simon Cycling Academy completed the race in 30 minutes and 57.56 seconds to finish in third place.

Eldon Farquharson of Team Street won the sports class in 31 minutes and 49.01 seconds. The other contender, independent cyclist Dexter Simmons, finished in a distant second place in 35 minutes and 54.92 seconds.

A total of 11 cyclists competed in four categories in what could be considered to be a warm-up race for the upcoming National Cycling Championships, which is slated to take place on June 27 and 28.



Overall winner Robert Marsh, center, in flanked on the elite male podium by Abbiel Flemming, left, and Shawn Weathered, right, during the presentation of awards ceremony of the ABCF Individual Time Trial race on Sunday, June 14, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABCF)



CHOGM
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CWI and Jamaica discuss strategic partnership to advance cricket



President of Cricket West Indies Dr. the Hon. Kishore Shallow, right, and Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia 'Babsy' Grange. (CWI Media)

KINGSTON, Jamaica – President of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Dr. the Hon. Kishore Shallow, recently met with Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia "Babsy" Grange, to discuss a range of initiatives aimed at strengthening cricket in Jamaica and contributing to the growth of West Indies cricket.

The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration between Cricket West Indies, the Government of Jamaica, and the Jamaica Cricket Association, with particular emphasis on grassroots development, coaching education, pitch preparation, international hosting opportunities, and the long-term growth of the game across the island.

Minister Grange underscored the importance of a united approach to rebuilding West Indies cricket, noting that governments, territorial boards, and Cricket West Indies all have a critical role to play.

She also highlighted the need to invest in youth development by introducing more children to the game from an early age and creating stronger pathways for talent identification and progression.

Among the key areas discussed were strengthening partnerships to support schools cricket programmes, coach development initiatives, and improved pitch preparation standards throughout Jamaica.

The meeting also explored opportunities surrounding cricket's inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and the potential for Jamaican participation on that historic stage.

The parties further discussed efforts to facilitate the return of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) to Jamaica and reaffirmed a shared commitment to ensuring that Sabina Park remains a desirable host venue for international cricket, including bilateral series featuring the West

Indies.

Dr. Shallow welcomed the discussions and emphasized the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders.

Following the meeting Dr. Shallow shared, "Cricket has always been a powerful unifying force throughout the Caribbean, and the evolution of West Indies cricket to adapt to the ongoing developments in world cricket requires strong partnerships at every level.

"I am encouraged by the commitment demonstrated by Minister Grange and the Government of Jamaica to the development of the game. Together, we can strengthen grassroots programmes, improve our cricketing infrastructure, create greater opportunities for our young people, and ensure that Jamaica continues to play a leading role in the future of West Indies cricket.

"We are particularly excited about the possibilities that lie ahead, from international hosting opportunities to cricket's return to the Olympic stage in Los Angeles in 2028."

The meeting forms part of Cricket West Indies' ongoing engagement with regional governments and stakeholders as the organisation continues its efforts to strengthen the game's foundations and position West Indies cricket for long-term success.

President Shallow will also lead a delegation to engage the CARICOM Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket, chaired by the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Mohamed Irfaan Ali, on Wednesday, June 17.

Serena and Venus Williams to play doubles together at Wimbledon

Serena and Venus Williams won a combined 21 titles on the storied grass of the All England Club in their singles and doubles careers and now they're going for one more.

A doubles wild card invitation for the sisters was announced on Tuesday by organizers of Wimbledon, which starts in less than two weeks.

The move comes after 44-year-old Serena recently returned to competition after nearly four years away from professional tennis. Venus, who has still been competing sporadically, turns 46 on Wednesday.

"I think it's going to be fun. My daughter, Olympia, told me I should play with Venus. She's always right," Serena said after losing a doubles match with another partner, Karolina Muchova, in Berlin on Tuesday. "So I said, 'OK Olympia, we'll see if we can do it.'"

The sisters have won 14 Grand Slam titles together in doubles, including six at Wimbledon — the first of them in 2000 and the last in 2016. Their first two doubles titles at Wimbledon, in 2000 and 2002, came as wild cards.

In all, their records at the All England Club look like this: Seven singles titles for Serena and five singles titles for Venus at Wimbledon; those six Wimbledon doubles titles together; a mixed doubles title for Serena with Max Mirnyi at Wimbledon in 1998; plus a singles gold medal for Serena at the 2012 London Olympics and a doubles gold for the sisters at the same Games. Count 'em up and it makes for 21 trophies and medals — because their powerful serves always did more damage on grass than any other surface.

With their six titles, the Williams sisters share the record for most trophies as a pair in women's doubles at Wimbledon with Suzanne Lenglen and Elizabeth Ryan, who won five consecutive titles from 1919 to 1923 and a sixth in 1925.



Serena Williams, left, and Venus Williams of the USA hold their trophies after winning the women's doubles final against Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan and Timea Babos of Hungary on day thirteen of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, July 9, 2016. (AP)

The Williams sisters last played doubles together at the 2022 US Open, where they lost their opening match. That was the first time they played doubles together in 4 ½ years.

In her first competition since 2022, Serena won her doubles match with partner Victoria Mboko at Queen's Club in London last week and then the pair had to withdraw after Mboko injured her knee in a singles match.

At the Berlin Open on Tuesday, Serena and Muchova were beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Giuliana Olmos and Erin Routliffe.

Serena has not ruled out a return in singles, too, and one of the eight wild card spots for women's singles was left as "to be announced."

Recent French Open finalist Maja Chwalinska received a singles wild card, as did six British women: Harriet Dart, Alicia Dudeney, Hannah Klugman, Mika Stojsavljevic, Katie Swan, and Mimi Xu.

Men's singles wild cards went to Stan Wawrinka and Grigor Dimitrov and four British players: Jacob Fearnley, Arthur Fery, Jack Pinnington Jones

and Toby Samuel.

Wawrinka, a three-time Grand Slam champion whose best result at Wimbledon was reaching the quarterfinals twice, plans to retire at the end of the year.

Dimitrov led eventual champion Jan-nik Sinner two sets to none in the round of 16 last year before having to retire early in the third due to an injured pectoral muscle. Dimitrov is now ranked No. 169.

Two more men's singles wild cards were also left open.

In men's doubles, a wild card went to the pairing of Alexander Bublik and Nick Kyrgios. Kyrgios was a singles finalist in 2022.

Matteo Berrettini, a Wimbledon finalist in 2021, was left off the list despite a quarterfinal appearance at the French Open.

He's ranked No. 49 but was ranked outside the top 100 when Wimbledon's entry list was established. Still, Berrettini could get direct entry into the main draw depending on withdrawals. Wimbledon starts June 29.

Primary School Cup intensify with semi-finals

The battle for supremacy in the Ministry of Sports Cool & Smooth/JOMA Caribbean Girls' Primary School Football Cup Championships will intensify with the staging of the semi-finals in both girls and boys' competitions at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) this week.

The final four teams will converge at the historic ARG to contest the girls' semi-finals on Wednesday (today). Bendals will meet JT. Ambrose in the opening encounter at 3:30 pm, while New Winthorpes and Buckley's primary schools will clash in the second game at 4:30 pm.

JT Ambrose, New Winthorpes, Buckley's, and Bendals secured their spots in the semis after recording wins in their respective matches in the quarter-finals at the Golden Grove playing field on Wednesday, June 10.

Meanwhile, the final four teams will continue their quest for the title in the boys' Primary School Cup in the semi-finals at

The poster features logos for Cool & Smooth, Ministry of Sports, and Joma Caribbean. The main title is 'PRIMARY SCHOOL GIRLS' KNOCKOUT CUP 2026'. Below the title is a photo of a young girl in a white jersey and red shorts kicking a soccer ball. The bottom section is titled 'SEMI-FINALS' and lists two matches: Bendals Primary vs J.T. Ambrose Primary at 3:30 PM, and New Winthorpes Primary vs Buckley's Primary at 4:30 PM. The location is ARG and the date is Wednesday, June 17, 2026. A trophy icon and the text 'Road to the Championship' are at the bottom.

the same venue in St. John's on Friday.

New Winthorpes will tackle T.N. Kirnon Primary, while JT. Ambrose will clash with 2024 champions Five Islands Primary in the boys' semi-finals.

The four teams ad-

vanced to the semis after winning their respective matches in the quarter-finals at Buckley's village on Friday, June 12.

New Winthorpes ousted 2025 champions St. Peter's Academy by prevailing 3-1 in a penalty shootout after both

teams battled to a 2-2 draw at the end of regulation in their keenly contested quarter-final affair.

Jahmeel Honare and Damarie Barton each converted once for New Winthorpes in regulation, while Joquanie Burton and T'Marie Joseph scored for St. Peter's Academy.

In the other boys' quarter-final matches, JT Ambrose defeated Old Road Primary 4-1. J'Den Gordon struck a hat trick, and Lawrenzo Peters scored once for JT. Ambrose Primary. Jordin Murray scored a consolation goal for Old Road Primary.

Lonnie Browne had a double conversion to lead Five Island to a 5-0 victory against Parham Primary. The other goals for Five Islands were converted by Zylen Francis, Tanrique Riley, and Jaquan Jeffery.

A lone conversion by Sean Jackson was sufficient to give T.N. Kirnon Primary a one-nil victory against Villa Primary.