

# Prime Minister Holds Firm on Deportee Numbers from U.S.

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(Left to Right) Patrick Johnson, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Pan Association, Hon. Dwayne George, Minister of Sports and Creative Industries and Aarion Nicholas, Chief Executive Officer of State Insurance Company Limited.

## Prime Minister Holds Firm on Deportee Numbers from U.S.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne remains defiant that his administration will not agree to a third party agreement with the United States for 120 deportees to be sent to Saint John’s annually.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the 78th OECS Authority Meeting held at Royalton Antigua on Sunday, PM Browne likened ongoing discussions and arrangements being made between the U.S. and Caribbean nations on third party nationals as “The deployment of economic coercion as an instrument of foreign policy”.

According to the Chairman of the OECS Authority, while he is aware of the repercussions that arise from resisting such a deal, Antigua and Barbuda, the nation he serves as head of government must be protected at all cost. He explained that the main issue that has resulted in a stalemate is the number of deportees being recommended by the Donald Trump administration. Further, the Prime Minister is adamant that there is no room in the discussions for criminals.

“As I have said to them, as the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, I cannot willingly cooperate with any other power, any country, to destroy our beautiful twin island state. And we

have insisted that we will not accept any criminal elements. At the same time, we want to limit the amount of individuals who they send to this

country.”

Prime Minister Browne emphasised that Antigua and Barbuda will cooperate with the US authorities on the



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subject matter. However, the disagreement on numbers have resulted in a stalemate.

“We are not being uncooperative here, but this idea that they could send us 120 individuals, we have said to

them this is totally unacceptable, and we have sent them a counter-proposal. We said that we’ll accept 10 annually. No more than 10,” the Antiguan and Barbudan leader asserted.

Reflecting on the formation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on 18th June, 1981 through the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre, he acknowledged it is a different world now than it was 45 years ago. One in which “the deployment of economic coercion as an instrument of foreign policy” is being experienced.

Despite the challenges, the prime minister remains optimistic that on the topic of third party nationals, both parties will find common ground.

“I hope that this will not result in any acrimony and further restrictions, but that they’ll respect our position, and respect our sovereign rights to determine how many of those individuals we accept,” the Prime Minister concluded.

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## OECS To Establish Advisory Team As Talks With US On Deportee Issue Loom

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has agreed to set a broad-based advisory team to guide negotiations with the United States on the issue of third-nation deportees which the Trump Administration is coercing them to accept.

Speaking as he handed over the chairmanship of the OECS Authority, the organisation's highest decision-making body, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Godwin Friday said the request from the US comes at a time of 'profound geopolitical' uncertainty.

"We are in a time of profound geopolitical uncertainty, arguably the most consequential our region has faced in a generation. The wider tensions in our hemisphere hold profound implications for our security, our energy supply, the cost of living, our migration flows, and our diplomatic relations," he cautioned.

Against this background, Dr. Friday said the matter requires thoughtful deliberation and unity as it is 'a delicate and serious matter'.

"Very early on in the year, we were required to consider and navigate the delicate and serious matter of the request from our development partner and friend the United States that our Member States (among other countries) assist them by accepting persons deported from the USA who were not our own citizens. We are still working through this matter very carefully because it holds serious implications for our economy, the safety of our people, the utilization of scarce resources and for our sovereignty," he reported.

He explained that in recognizing these implications, the OECS countries agreed to work closely together to fashion the best outcome possible.

"Accordingly, we agreed to establish a broad-based, high-level advisory team drawn from across our Member



Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Godwin Friday



States, to carry on technical discussions amongst themselves that guided our negotiations with the United States--individually and collectively," he indicated.

Dr. Friday observed that small states are more sensitive to external shocks than most, because of their size. "What may be mere tremors for large nations are experienced as earthquakes by us, small island developing states; We,

therefore, suffer the consequences worst and the longest," he added.

Dr. Friday has formally handed over the chairmanship of the OECS Authority, as required by rotation, to Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, at the just-concluded 78th meeting of the Authority at the Royalton Hotel at Deep Bay.

## Prime Minister Browne Calls for Strategic OECS Partnership with Panama

Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne has called on Member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to pursue a bold and proactive partnership with Panama, describing the Central American nation as a natural gateway for expanding trade, enhancing food security, and reducing the cost of living across the sub-region.

Addressing the 78th Meeting of the OECS Authority after assuming the Chairmanship of the regional body, Prime Minister Browne argued that the OECS must look beyond its traditional markets and strengthen economic and commercial relations with its Spanish-speaking neighbours, particularly Panama.

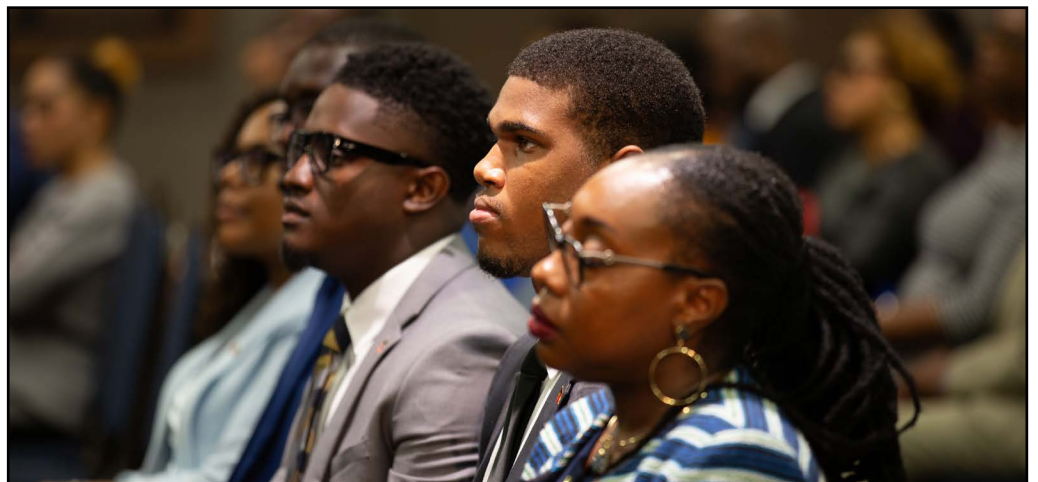
“Stretching to our south and west lies a hemisphere of over 447 million Spanish-speaking neighbours with whom our commercial ties remain frustratingly thin,” Prime Minister Browne stated. “We must develop a far more proactive strategy toward our Latin American neighbourhood, and Panama demands our particular attention.”

The Prime Minister pointed to Panama’s unique position as one of the world’s most important logistics and trading hubs. He noted that the Panama Canal remains a critical artery of global commerce, connecting markets across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and facilitating billions of dollars in trade annually. Recent figures show that the Canal continues to experience strong growth in vessel transits and revenues, underscoring its enduring importance to international trade.

Prime Minister Browne also highlighted the strategic value of the Colón Free Zone, located at the Atlantic entrance of the Panama Canal. Established in 1948, the Colón Free Zone is widely regarded as the largest free-trade zone in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest in the world, serving as a major centre for



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



warehousing, manufacturing, and the re-export of goods to Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Prime Minister emphasized that deeper engagement with Panama could help the OECS diversify its supply chains and reduce its heavy dependence on traditional import markets.

“On food alone, the Caribbean imports between 80 and 90 percent of what it consumes. Central America offers proximity, agricultural complementarity, and established food production chains. An OECS strategy that builds sourcing partnerships with Central American producers, uses Panama as a transshipment point, and develops shared regional emergency stockpiles could fundamentally reduce our cost

of living and transform our resilience,” he said.

Prime Minister Browne warned that the rapidly changing global environment—including geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and climate-related shocks—requires small states to rethink their economic strategies and build stronger regional alliances.

The Prime Minister’s remarks on Panama were delivered as part of his address upon assuming the Chairmanship of the OECS Authority, where he outlined a vision of an “OECS Renaissance” built on deeper regional integration, economic diversification, and strategic partnerships with Latin America.

## ECCB and Law Enforcement Join To Fight Cyber Crime



The recent wave of cyber-crimes that has resulted in scores of Antigua and Barbuda residents losing thousands of dollars from their bank accounts has triggered joint actions by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and law enforcement entities.

In a joint statement, they reported that representatives of the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP), the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, and the ECCB recently collaborated in a regional initiative aimed at strengthening awareness and resilience against cyber-enabled fraud and other emerging financial crime threats.

The initiative formed part of the ECCB's regional webinar, "Click. Call. Drain – Disrupting Cyber Fraud Networks through Intelligence-Led Policing," which brought together compliance professionals, financial institutions, regulators, and law enforcement agencies from across the Eastern

Caribbean Currency Union.

The webinar focused on the growing threat of cyber-enabled fraud and explored strategies to strengthen prevention, detection, reporting, and enforcement measures through enhanced collaboration, information sharing, and intelligence-led approaches.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented through contributions from officers of the ONDCP and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, reflecting the country's commitment to a coordinated national response to financial crime and cyber-enabled fraud.

Representing the ONDCP were Lenique Quashie and Kebra Gardner, while ASP Wilkin Cuffy represented the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, who collectively contributed to discussions on emerging fraud trends, preventative measures, and the importance of effective partnerships among financial institutions, Financial Intelligence Units, law enforcement

agencies, telecommunications providers, and other stakeholders.

The ECCB subsequently expressed its appreciation for the contributions made during the webinar and underscored the importance of continued inter-agency collaboration in strengthening the region's collective response to cyber-enabled fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing, proliferation financing, and other emerging financial crime risks.

Recent reports indicate that cyber criminals have been calling unsuspecting individuals pretending to be representatives of local mobile service providers to seek information pertaining to their email addresses and other pertinent information. They then use this information to access a person's account/s at local banks from which they make illegal withdrawals.

The police announced that several arrests have been made recently in this regard.



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**BACKGROUND**

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) is a full-service retail and commercial bank in Antigua and Barbuda, known for its community focus, commitment to customer service, and community involvement. ECAB emphasizes the importance of indigenous banking in the region.

**JOB SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW**

The Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) is the executive accountable for ECAB's people strategy, organisational culture, talent capability, and administrative operations. Reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer and serving as a member of the Executive Leadership Team, the CHRO ensures the Bank has the people, capabilities, culture, and organisational design required to achieve its strategic objectives and long-term growth ambitions.

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3. Culture, Employee Experience and Change Leadership
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8. Strategic Risk, Governance, and Regulatory Compliance

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

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- Certification in change management (e.g. PROSCI, ACMP or equivalent) desired.
- Minimum of 10 years of senior HR leadership experience with at least 5 years at senior management or executive level in financial services, banking, or a similarly regulated environment.
- Demonstrated experience leading collective bargaining negotiations and managing industrial relations in a unionised workforce environment.
- Proven track record of designing and executing enterprise-wide people strategy, including talent management, performance frameworks, and culture transformation.
- Experience presenting to and advising Board-level committees including HR, and Audit and Risk Committees on people strategy, talent risk, and HR governance.
- Demonstrated technology leadership experience, including working knowledge of Generative AI applications in HR, advanced workforce analytics, and HR technology architecture.
- Demonstrated ability to lead HR transformation and digitisation programmes, including HRIS implementation and HR analytics capability development.
- Proven experience in total rewards design, compensation benchmarking, and executive remuneration governance.
- Comprehensive knowledge of applicable labour legislation, employment law, and industrial relations practice.
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**Closing date for applications is July 6, 2026**

*Whereas we appreciate your interest, and in particular your applications, and we thank all applicants, please note that only those candidates selected for shortlisting will be acknowledged.*

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## Kiz Johnson Makes History as Caribbean's First WPL Country Ambassador

Minister of State within the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, has made history after being appointed Country Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda by Women Political Leaders (WPL).

She becomes the first person from the Caribbean to hold the prestigious position.

The appointment was announced by the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, which hailed the designation as a significant achievement for both MP Johnson and Antigua and Barbuda on the international stage.

WPL is an independent, international, post-partisan and non-profit foundation that brings together women political leaders from around the world to influence policy and drive positive change in their societies. Country Ambassadors serve as the organisation's primary point of contact within their respective countries, facilitating cooperation, conferences and various WPL initiatives.

Minister of State Johnson, who was elected to Parliament in April, said she was humbled by the appointment and viewed it as an opportunity to elevate Antigua and Barbuda's voice in global conversations on gender equality and women's leadership.

"This appointment is more than just personal accolades but a recognition that the Caribbean voice belongs at the table where the future of women in politics is being discussed," she said.

"I accept this role with a clear sense of responsibility to the women and girls of Antigua and Barbuda, and across our region, who are watching and who deserve to see themselves reflected in global leadership."

She added that the role would provide a platform to advocate for greater



*Minister of State within the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson*

representation of women throughout the Caribbean while highlighting the region's contributions to international discussions on leadership and governance.

In a letter welcoming Johnson to the organisation, WPL President and Founder Silvana Koch-Mehrin praised the minister's experience and commitment to the foundation's mission, noting that her contributions would be a valuable asset to the organisation.

The organisation also cited MP Johnson's performance during a high-level engagement at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2024, where she served as the Caribbean's sole representative.

WPL said it was impressed by her dynamism and leadership during the event.



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## Seven Persons with Disabilities Gain Employment Through MSUT Programme

Seven persons with disabilities have secured employment through an initiative supported by the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation (MSUT), a development being hailed as a major milestone in advancing inclusion and economic opportunities for persons with disabilities in Antigua and Barbuda.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities (ABAPD), Bernard Warner, announced the achievement, describing it as the result of more than two decades of advocacy by the organisation for greater employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

According to Warner, shortly after Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Hon. Rawdon Turner was elected to office, the ABAPD wrote to him requesting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through his ministry.

“We really want to thank Minister Turner for lobbying and pushing this for us. Minister Turner wrote to Cabinet and Cabinet approved for eight persons with disabilities to be gainfully employed,” Warner explained.

Although the process took quite some time, Warner said seven individuals



have since taken up employment, and are now earning weekly wages.

“We’re joyful to share this good work with the public. This is really something that we need to celebrate because the work of the ABAPD is not just about social media and edited posts. We have used a strategy of writing, meetings, and negotiations, and we have seen the benefit,” he said.

The employees are engaged in a variety of activities, including seed prop-

agation, landscaping, hydroponics, aquaponics, and horticulture therapy.

Warner said the horticulture therapy programme, one of the association’s flagship initiatives, promotes a soil and plant-based approach to therapy and rehabilitation. The programme encourages participation by elderly individuals and persons facing mobility challenges by engaging them in gardening activities, creating wreaths, and interacting with nature.

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# COBE launches Blue Finance event ahead of CHOGM 2026



**Photo caption: Dr. Branson Belle, Executive Director of the COBE, outlining plans for the Blue Finance and Ocean Innovation Side Event which will take place during CHOGM 2026.**

The Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy (COBE) at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus launched its Blue Finance and Ocean Innovation Side Event, set to take place during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November.

The announcement was made this month on the sidelines of the 11th Our Ocean Conference, during a partner updates segment of the Commonwealth Ocean Ministers Roundtable hosted by the government of Kenya and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Dr. Branson Belle, Executive Director of the COBE, provided background on The UWI Five Islands

Campus and COBE before outlining plans for the Blue Finance and Ocean Innovation Side Event, which will take place during CHOGM.

The event will open with an exhibition of ocean conservation projects from local, regional and international groups. It will then move into a discussion billed as a “beachside chat,” moderated by Charles Goddard of Economist Impact and featuring CEOs and other leaders in blue finance and ocean innovation.

The programme will also include addresses from heads of government before closing with a reception.

Ocean restoration and sustainable use remain priorities for the Commonwealth, which includes nations

holding a third of the world’s ocean under national jurisdiction and 45% of global coral reefs, along with 25 small island developing states. In 2024, Commonwealth countries adopted the Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration, which calls for urgent action to restore and protect the ocean.

The side event aims to draw attention to the ocean’s role in sustaining livelihoods and economies, and to spur new financing for ocean innovation and conservation projects across the Commonwealth.

The side event is being organised by COBE in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

## Antigua and Barbuda reaffirms commitment to United Nations charter at symbolic signing



Antigua and Barbuda has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, the landmark document that has served as the cornerstone of the international rules-based order and cooperation among nations around the globe since 1945.

In observation of the milestone year of the charter and its guiding prin-

ciples, Antigua and Barbuda joined fellow CARICOM member states in a symbolic ceremony last Thursday at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The ceremony served to underscore the importance of the document in advancing multilateralism and collective action as crucial processes in addressing global challenges.

Representing Antigua and Barbuda at the ceremony was the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson, who joined his counterpart ambassadors at the UN in attaching his signature to a symbolic representation of the document.

After the end of the second World War, 50 nations came together to sign the UN charter at a historic conference in San Francisco and Antigua and Barbuda became a signatory shortly after gaining its Independence in 1981. The charter served as a pledge by signatory nations to prevent future global conflicts and to pursue and adopt the spirit of multilateralism in resolving various global challenges.

“This was an important reminder of the role of the United Nations in promoting peace and security and the ideals of sustainable development and international cooperation which are so important to Antigua and Barbuda and other CARICOM States,” stated Ambassador Webson.

“As a committed member of the United Nations, Antigua and Barbuda recognizes that the principles enshrined in the Charter remain as relevant today as they were when the Organization was founded in 1945,” he further added.

By participating in the symbolic signing, Antigua and Barbuda is demonstrating its full support for the United Nations and its mission. Other activities are being held to observe the milestone 80th year of the existence of the United Nations and the Antigua and Barbuda Mission in New York has remained actively and fully engaged in the various initiatives.

## Antigua and Barbuda Youth Business Trust Joins Regional Effort to Support Caribbean Entrepreneurs Through Conecta Caribbean

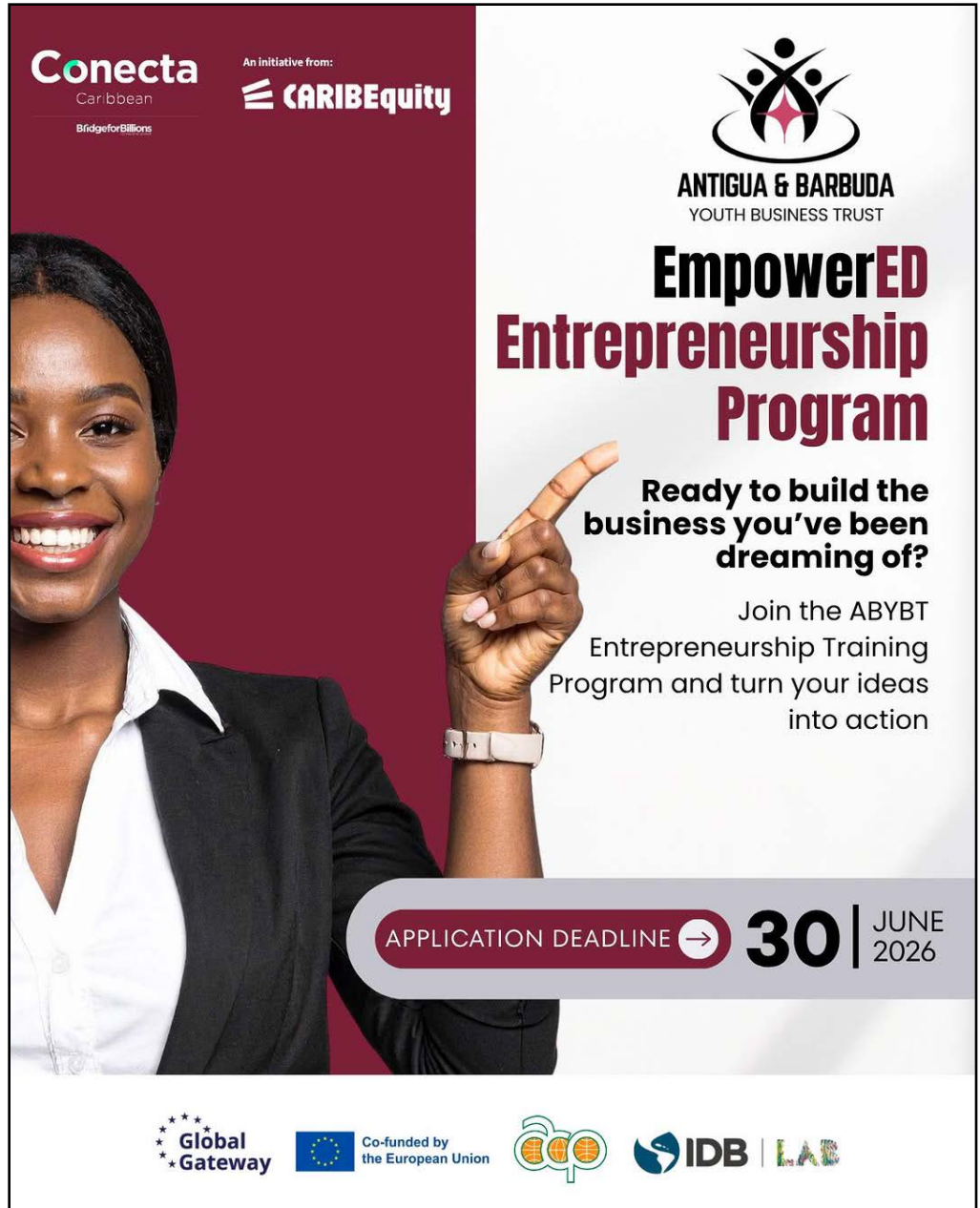
Entrepreneurship is increasingly recognized as a critical driver of innovation, job creation, and economic resilience across the Caribbean. Yet many entrepreneurs continue to face barriers accessing the support, mentorship, networks, and resources needed to transform promising ideas into sustainable businesses.

To address this challenge, Conecta Caribbean, a regional initiative implemented by Bridge for Billions under the CARIBEquity Facility, is strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems across fifteen Caribbean countries. Funded by the European Union and implemented by IDB Lab, CARIBEquity aims to expand opportunities for entrepreneurs while strengthening the organizations that support innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth throughout the region.

As part of this effort, 27 locally-led incubation programs have been launched across the Caribbean, supporting entrepreneurs working in priority sectors including agriculture and natural capital, essential infrastructure services, financial inclusion, education and employment, health, climate action, and gender-inclusive innovation. The programs are designed to help entrepreneurs validate their ideas, strengthen their business models, access mentorship, and build ventures capable of generating long-term economic and social impact.

The Antigua and Barbuda Youth Business Trust (ABYBT) is proud to be one of the selected Entrepreneurship Support Organizations delivering an incubation program under Conecta Caribbean. Through this opportunity, ABYBT will work directly with local entrepreneurs, providing structured business support, access to experienced mentors, practical tools, and connections to a growing regional network of ecosystem partners.

“Entrepreneurs are essential to build-



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ing a more resilient and innovative Caribbean. Through Conecta Caribbean, we have an opportunity to strengthen not only individual businesses, but also the support systems that help entrepreneurs succeed,” said Jerry Blenman, Executive Chairman, Antigua and Barbuda Youth Business Trust.

Unlike traditional regional programs, Conecta Caribbean places local organizations at the center of delivery. Each participating Entrepreneurship Support Organization designs and leads its own incubation program, en-

suring support is tailored to local realities while contributing to a shared regional vision for innovation, job creation, and sustainable development.

Over the coming months, entrepreneurs participating in the 27 programs will join a growing community of founders, mentors, and ecosystem leaders working together to drive innovation and create economic opportunities across the Caribbean.

## Youth Entrepreneur In Barbuda Donates Bottled Water To Hospital



An enterprising young entrepreneur in Barbuda has donated several cases of bottled water to the Hanna Thomas Hospital on the sister isle.

Condoleeza Daniel, 12, of Kandy's Kool Down, has donated the bottled water to Hannah Thomas Hospital using proceeds saved from her summer business venture.

Condoleeza stated that she believes strongly in giving back to the community and chose the hospital as the recipient of her donation. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to support the institution and contribute to the well-being of patients, staff, and visitors.

Her act of generosity highlights the positive impact that young entrepreneurs can have within their communities.

Condoleeza is a student of the Antigua Girls High School and during



summer vacation and other holidays, she sells ice-pop in Codrington, where her mother operates a restaurant. She also prepares and sells waffles and oth-

er items for breakfast at the restaurant in the morning during the break.

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## Panorama 2026 Officially Launched As ABFC Presents \$165,000 To Pan Association



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has officially launched the State Insurance Company Limited Panorama 2026 following the successful staging of *Pan in the City*, which transformed Redcliffe Street into a vibrant celebration of steelpan, culture, and community spirit.

As part of the launch, the ABFC presented a cheque for **\$165,000.00 to the Antigua and Barbuda Pan Association**. The payment forms part of a three-year agreement between the Festivals Commission and the Pan Association, now in its final year, and reflects the Commission's continued commitment to strengthening the nation's steelband movement.

The presentation marks another significant investment in one of Antigua

and Barbuda's most treasured cultural traditions and signals the start of what is set to be an exciting Panorama season.

Addressing the event, **Minister of Sports and Creative Industries, Hon. Dwayne George**, praised State Insurance Company Limited for its longstanding partnership and commitment to cultural development. *"I extend sincere thanks to State Insurance Company Ltd., one of Antigua Carnival's key corporate partners. Their support over the years has gone beyond sponsoring an event; it has been an investment in our people, our communities, and our culture. Today, we celebrate the power of steelpan through nine steel bands representing nine communities across our nation.*

*Every pan yard is a space where talent is nurtured, friendships are formed, and our cultural heritage is preserved for future generations."* Looking ahead, Minister George shared his vision for the continued expansion of the steelband movement. *"My vision is for that number to grow. I look forward to the day when we have ten steel bands, including one from St. Mary's. Mark my words."*

**Chief Executive Officer of State Insurance Company Limited, Aarion Nicholas**, expressed pride in the company's continued partnership with both the Festivals Commission and the Pan Association. *"At State Insurance, we believe in investing in the people, traditions, and institutions that strengthen our nation. Panorama is more than a*



*competition; it is a celebration of discipline, creativity, community pride, and cultural excellence. We are proud to continue our partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission and the Antigua and Barbuda Pan Association as we help preserve and grow the steelpan movement for future generations.”*

*Pan in the City* featured performances from all nine (9) steel bands, filling the streets of St. John’s with the unmistak-

able sounds of steelpan and building anticipation for the highly anticipated State Insurance Company Limited Panorama Finals.

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission extends its appreciation to State Insurance Company Limited, the Antigua and Barbuda Pan Association, participating steelbands, vendors, sponsors, and patrons who contributed to the success of the event.

The State Insurance Company Limited Panorama Finals will take place on **Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Carnival City, starting at 8:00 p.m.** **Tickets are now available** at official ticket outlets islandwide for **\$40.00**.

The nation is encouraged to come out and support the steelbands as they showcase the artistry, passion, and excellence that make Panorama one of Antigua and Barbuda’s most celebrated cultural traditions.

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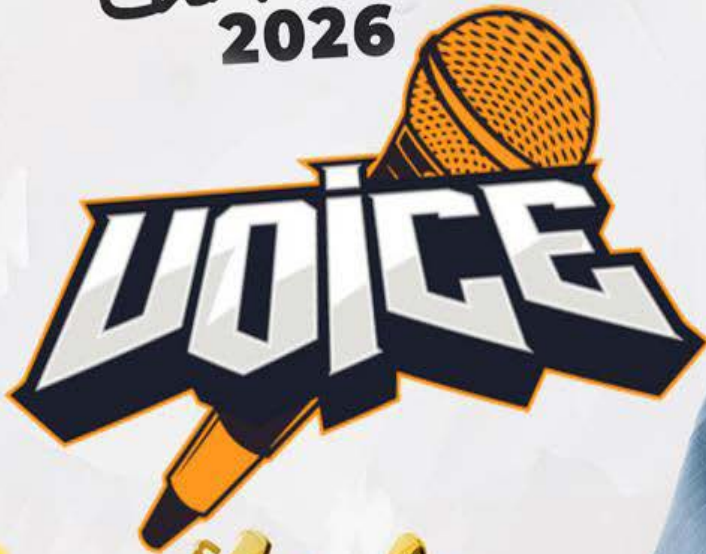
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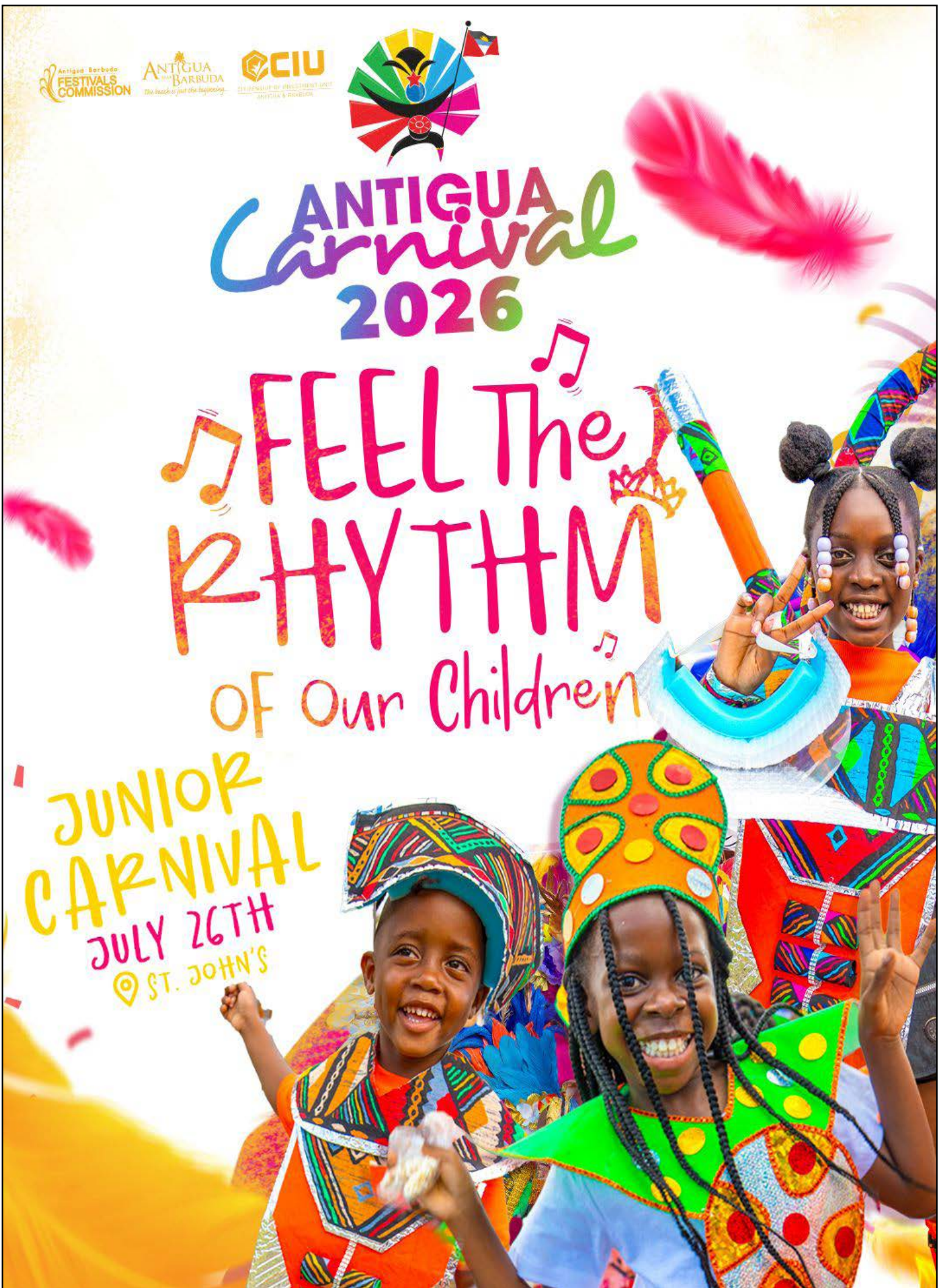




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## OECS at 45: A Caribbean Success Worth Celebrating



By Julian Rogers

As the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States celebrates its 45th anniversary, it is worth asking a simple question: what has the OECS actually achieved?

The answer is quite a lot.

Established under the Treaty of Basseterre on June 18, 1981, the OECS brought together some of the Caribbean's smallest territories around a simple idea. Working together would produce better outcomes than working separately.

Forty-five years later, that idea has been largely vindicated.

Today, the OECS includes Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Collectively, these territories have built one of the most effective examples of regional integration in the developing world.

The creation of the OECS Econom-

ic Union in 2011 stands as one of its landmark achievements. Citizens enjoy greater freedom to move, work, live and establish businesses across participating member states.

In many respects, the OECS has advanced further toward practical integration than larger regional bodies.

Another major success has been the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union. Managed by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the EC dollar has maintained remarkable stability despite hurricanes, global financial crises and the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OECS has also demonstrated leadership in health cooperation, pharmaceutical procurement, education reform and climate resilience.

Its coordinated response to global challenges has shown what can be achieved when small states pool resources and expertise.

The inclusion of Martinique and Guadeloupe has added a new dimension to regional cooperation, helping to bridge historic linguistic and cultural divides within the Caribbean.

This broader vision of Caribbean identity may prove one of the most significant developments in the organization's history.

There are, however, areas where improvement is needed.

Public awareness remains limited. Many citizens benefit from OECS programmes without recognizing the institution behind them.

Private sector integration has also progressed more slowly than governmental cooperation, while younger generations need stronger engagement with the regional project.

These challenges will become increasingly important as the OECS confronts issues such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation, food security, renewable energy and climate adaptation.

Yet the overall assessment remains highly positive.

The OECS has shown that regional integration works best when it focuses on practical results rather than lofty declarations. It has built institutions, delivered services and improved opportunities for citizens across its member states.

At 45, the OECS stands as one of the Caribbean's most successful examples of cooperation in action.

Its experience offers a valuable lesson for the wider region: integration succeeds when it moves beyond rhetoric and delivers tangible benefits for ordinary people.

That may be the OECS's most important contribution to the Caribbean story.

**Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers**

*Building connections, sharing ideas, celebrating Caribbean excellence.*  
 Contact: julian@caribbeanbridges.com

# Commentary



## What Every Parent Should Know Before Sending Their Child to University or a Tertiary Institution.



By Garfield Joseph, MBA

Introduction: Success Is Never Accidental

In business, success is rarely a matter of chance. The most effective organizations—whether global corporations or small enterprises in Antigua and Barbuda—consistently apply what are

known as key success factors (KSFs): the essential elements that must be executed well to achieve sustainable performance.

The same principle applies to students pursuing higher learning at institutions such as the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus, the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT), or other tertiary institutions. While the setting may differ—from boardroom to lecture hall—the fundamentals of success remain strikingly similar.

### Understanding Key Success Factors

In a business context, key success factors include clear strategy and direction, operational efficiency, customer focus, and strong leadership and discipline. When these elements are weak, even the most promising business can struggle.

For students, the “enterprise” is personal. Your academic journey is essen-

tially a self-managed project, where success depends on how effectively you manage your time, energy, skills, and mindset.

### The Transition: A Defining Moment for Students

Each year, many young Antiguan and Barbudans transition from secondary school to higher education. It is a major milestone—one filled with opportunity, but also new responsibility.

In secondary school, structure is provided, teachers closely monitor progress, and schedules are fixed. At university, independence replaces structure, responsibility shifts to the student, and expectations increase significantly. Many students quickly discover that academic success is no longer guaranteed by intelligence alone. It requires a clear strategy.

### From Business to Student Life: The Critical Success Factors

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Successful businesses operate with clarity of purpose, and students must do the same.

Understanding why you are in university—whether to build a professional career, start a business, or support family advancement—provides direction and motivation. In Antigua and Barbuda, where education remains a key pathway to social mobility, students with a strong sense of purpose are more likely to stay focused and overcome obstacles.

Equally important is time management. In business, inefficiency erodes profit; for students, poor time management erodes performance. Effective students plan their schedules, start assignments early, and avoid last-minute cramming. This is especially relevant locally, where many students must balance part-time work, family obligations, and transportation challenges.

Students must also invest in developing strong study skills. University demands more than memorization—it requires critical thinking, structured writing, and the ability to apply knowledge. The approaches that worked in secondary school often need to evolve in order to meet the higher expectations of tertiary education.

Consistency is another defining factor. Just as successful companies maintain daily performance standards, students must commit to consistent habits such as attending lectures, keeping up with readings, and submitting assignments on time. In smaller educational environments like those in Antigua and Barbuda, active participation and engagement can significantly influence outcomes.

Support systems also matter. In busi-

ness, strong relationships drive results, and students must engage their networks—lecturers, tutors, advisors, and peers. While some students may hesitate to ask for help, those who do so early are often more successful. Seeking help is not a weakness; it is a strategy.

Adaptability is equally critical. Businesses that fail to adjust to changing conditions risk becoming irrelevant, and students must embrace the same flexibility. A poor grade should not be seen as a failure, but as feedback—an opportunity to improve and refine one's approach.

Finally, well-being plays a central role in success. Students who neglect their physical and mental health often struggle to perform at their best. In Antigua and Barbuda, where economic pressures and family expectations can be significant, maintaining balance through proper rest, stress management, and self-care is essential.

**The Antiguan Context: Turning Advantage into Opportunity**

Students in Antigua and Barbuda benefit from several unique advantages, including close-knit communities, accessible faculty engagement, and opportunities for internships within both government and the private sector. However, these advantages must be used strategically. Students who actively network, participate in campus life, and build meaningful relationships position themselves far ahead of their peers.

**The Strategic Mindset: Managing Yourself Like a Business**

Perhaps the most powerful insight is this: students should approach their education as if they are managing

a high-performing enterprise. This means setting clear goals, allocating time effectively, building relevant skills, measuring progress, and leveraging available support systems.

When students adopt this mindset, their approach to learning becomes more intentional—and their outcomes improve accordingly.

**Conclusion: Your Success Is a Choice**

For both new and continuing students across Antigua and Barbuda, the message is clear. University success is not random. It is built on mastering a set of key success factors—the same principles that drive high-performing businesses.

Students who define their purpose, manage their time effectively, build strong skills, remain consistent, seek support, and take care of their well-being will not only graduate, but thrive.

Your degree or diploma is more than just a certificate. It is the outcome of how well you managed the most important enterprise of all—yourself.

**About the Author**

Garfield Joseph is the Executive Director 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




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## Woman files lawsuit against Barbados gov't over COVID-19 vaccine

A woman has filed a lawsuit against the Barbados Government alleging that she has suffered serious health complications after receiving two doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in 2021.

The woman, through her attorney, has named the Office of the Attorney General as the defendant in the 2024 claim, in which she alleges that the Health and Wellness Ministry is liable for injuries she sustained as a result of receiving the vaccine.

The woman, who is being represented by constitutional attorney, King's Counsel Larry Smith, alleges that the vaccine administered to her was "defective" and that the Government failed to provide a product that was as safe as she was entitled to expect under the Consumer Protection Act.

According to the court document, the woman received her first dose of the vaccine on or about April 23, 2021, and the second dose in June of that year. About two months later, she noticed that she had developed a "swollen bruise", which was accompanied by "severe pain" below her right knee.

She subsequently visited a doctor on two occasions after experiencing additional symptoms, including severe chest pain and shortness of breath, according to the online publication Barbados TODAY, which said it had seen a copy of the court document.

The document stated that on both occasions, the doctor was unable to determine the cause of her injuries. She said that her symptoms reportedly worsened, with bruising spreading across her body, severe shortness of breath and declining energy levels. As a result, she returned to the doctor who referred her to a specialist for haematology assessments and testing.

She was also placed on sick leave.



The claim states that the pharmacovigilance team of the Barbados Drug Service conducted assessments into what was described as "a suspected drug-induced reaction post vaccination of the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine", associated with the batch of the last dose she had received. Blood samples were also collected and tested at the Barbados Reference Laboratory.

According to the court filing, the results indicated that the symptoms the woman was experiencing were vaccine-induced blood clotting side effects.

The final medical assessment described her condition as "a suspected case of vasculitis following the administration of the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine on June 25, 2021".

The woman alleges that between January 24, 2022 and July 7, 2023, she wrote five letters to the defendant, raising concerns about the Government's liability for her condition. However, according to the claim, the Government has not submitted a "substantive reply".

The court documents state that in early February 2022, the woman received an email from the Prime Minister's Office acknowledging receipt of the January 24, 2022 letter she sent, and advising that the correspondence had been forwarded to the chief medical officer for "attention and follow-up action".

A pre-action letter was subsequently sent to the chief medical officer seeking compensation for the vaccine injury with the lawsuit alleging negligence on the part of the Government, including failure to provide mechanisms to support participants suffering from severe complications from vaccines administered under the Barbados COVID-19 Vaccination Programme as well as failure to respond to the claimant regarding her condition despite sufficient knowledge of her condition.

The woman is seeking general damages for pain, suffering and loss of amenities, special damages including loss of earnings, legal costs with interest of six per cent per annum, and any other relief the court considers appropriate. (CMC)

## ‘We don’t want it’



Growing unease over the controversial third-country nationals (TCN) agreement between Jamaica and the United States (US) has triggered pushback from trade union leaders, amid fears that the island could become a holding ground for undocumented migrants.

Vincent Morrison, veteran trade unionist and president of the Union of Clerical Administrative and Supervisory Employees (UCASE), has called for the Jamaican Government to withdraw the arrangement, while Techa Clarke-Griffiths, president of the Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA), cautioned that the country was ill-prepared to shoulder the spillover of the US’s immigration troubles.

“We have enough prob-

lems of our own here,” Clarke-Griffiths declared, while speaking last Thursday at an awards ceremony for long-serving civil servants in Manchester.

“We may retire with some persons that we don’t want to retire with that will be overnighing in Jamaica in the near future. We don’t want it. We don’t want it,” the JCSA head asserted.

Her comments were backed up by Morrison, who said the agreement lacks transparency and noted that the message from the Government about the issue has so far caused confusion.

“When you hear the different statements coming out from the different government officials, it’s quite apparent that something is

wrong somewhere,” he told *The Gleaner*.

He said the agreement, which National Security Minister Dr Horace Chang confirmed had been signed last week, should be withdrawn.

Morrison argued that the Dr Andrew Holness-led administration should, instead, revisit discussions if, as indicated by Information Minister Dr Dana Morris Dixon, they are seeking skilled workers.

“But skilled workers are not going to leave the United States and come to Jamaica. The persons who they are trying to send to Jamaica under this arrangement are not skilled workers,” he said.

“I don’t know if we can pay skilled workers. Our wage levels are just battering around minimum wage in some industries. The industries that usually pay decent wages, like the sugar industry or the bauxite and aluminium industry, those industries are virtually closed. So it’s a situation that won’t work. It won’t work. It’s a bad agreement and you can’t foist a bad agreement on the people.

“Yes, Government has the right to manage and to run the country, but [if] it’s something that is patently unfair and something that will not work then it must be dealt with,” he said.

Chang last week confirmed a *Gleaner* report that the US will, every two weeks, de-

port 25 TCNs to Jamaica who, he said, will be transiting through the country or may seek asylum.

Where the number of TCNs exceeds 10 in a 30-day window, the US is expected to pause the deportation arrangement.

The US Embassy in Kingston has not publicly commented on the matter that has become a lightning rod for criticism.

A diplomatic note from the embassy to the Government said Cabinet Minister Audrey Marks proposed the deal, but this has since been denied. Morris Dixon said it was a “mis-characterisation” of what her colleague proposed.

She said Marks proposed a skilled-worker arrangement.

Still, Morrison said there was still time for the agreement to be withdrawn and for both governments to “sit down and look at the situation with a view of correcting or totally revamping the agreement”.

“The Jamaican people will not allow that sort of thing to happen, and I think the Government runs a serious political risk if they allow this to happen at this time,” he said.

“If I was advising the Government, I would say to them, ‘What you’ve proposed doesn’t make sense, and since there is time you need to withdraw it,’” he said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

## US military says two alleged 'narco-terrorists' killed in latest strike in Caribbean Sea



The Miami-based United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) said that two alleged male “narco-terrorists” were killed in a “lethal kinetic strike” on a vessel operated by “designated terrorist organisations” in the Caribbean Sea.

SOUTHCOM did not identify the “designated terrorist organisations” but said the strike was given at the direction of its Commander General Francis L Donovan.

SOUTHCOM said Joint Task Force Southern Spear’s intelligence “confirmed the vessel was transiting along known narco-trafficking routes in the Caribbean and was engaged in narco-trafficking operations”.

The United States (US) military said there were six male survivors from the “lethal kinetic strike” and that “following the engagement, US SOUTHCOM immediately notified US Coast Guard to activate the search and rescue system for the survivors”.

“No US military forces were harmed,” it added.

The Trump administration has been criticised by Congressional Democrats and even some Republicans over what they characterised as illegal killings of alleged drug traffickers in the Caribbe-

an Sea.

The legislators have raised serious due process issues. Human rights groups have also described the attacks as “extrajudicial killings”.

In late March, SOUTHCOM said the US military killed four alleged “narco-terrorists” in the Caribbean Sea during a “lethal kinetic strike”.

That strike brought to over 163 the number of so-called “narco-terrorists” killed in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean since the Trump administration began attacking suspected drug vessels in the Caribbean Sea last September.

In April, the United States human rights group, Human Rights Watch, condemned the US military strike on a vessel in the Caribbean Sea that killed four people.

Human Rights Watch said the strike “highlights a sustained pattern of unlawful use of lethal force outside any context of armed conflict, amounting to extrajudicial executions”.

“These strikes aren’t one-off incidents, they’re part of a pattern of using military force where the law does not permit it, over and over again,” said Sarah Yager, Washington director at Human Rights Watch.

Human Rights Watch said “international law draws a clear line between armed conflict and law enforcement”.

“There is no armed conflict in the Caribbean or Pacific between the US and any drug-trafficking organisation. And so, there is no group of people who are a legitimate military target.

“Outside of armed conflict, the deliberate, lethal use of force is only lawful when strictly necessary to protect life,” the group added.

In late January, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said that family members of two Trinidadian men killed in a US missile strike in October were suing the Trump administration for wrongful death and extrajudicial killing.

The ACLU said Chad Joseph, 26, and Rishi Samaroo, 41, were killed in one of the 36 strikes the Trump administration had launched against civilian boats in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean.

The ACLU said that, on October 14, Joseph and Samaroo were returning from Venezuela to their homes in Las Cuevas, Trinidad and Tobago when a missile struck their boat.

Four other people also died in the strike, the ACLU said.

The legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Baher Azmy, said it is absurd and dangerous for any state to just unilaterally proclaim that a “war” exists to deploy lethal military force.

“These are lawless killings in cold blood; killings for sport and killings for theatre, which is why we need a court of law to proclaim what is true and constrain what is lawless. This is a critical step in ensuring accountability, while the individuals responsible may ultimately be answerable criminally for murder and war crimes.” (CMC)

## At least 13 killed and dozens injured after Qatar gas explosion



At least 13 people have been killed and 66 injured after an explosion at Qatar's largest gas facility.

The city's main liquified natural gas (LNG) processing site suffered a "technical accident" in Ras Laffan industrial zone on Sunday night, the interior ministry said, with the city's skyline turning orange because of the explosion.

Qatar's Energy Minister Saad Sherida al-Kaabi said the explosion would not affect the country's exports, adding "this was an accident and not sabotage or hostile in nature".

The Ras Laffan Port is the largest artificial harbour in the world and has the world's largest LNG export facility. It was targeted by Iranian strikes earlier this year.

The blast on Sunday rattled windows and was felt across central Doha, panicking residents more than 70km (43

miles) from Ras Laffan.

Sherida al-Kaabi added the government was working on determining the cause of the blast which occurred at the Barzan local gas supply facility, he added there was no environmental risks.

However, the energy minister said it would be difficult to determine when operations would resume.

"Plant production was intentionally completely stopped since December 2025 due to urgent maintenance requirements, it was first restarted again only two days ago," Sherida al-Kaabi said.

An investigation has begun into the cause of the accident and Sherida al-Kaabi confirmed those killed from the blast were all from India and Pakistan.

On Sunday, QatarEnergy, which is the country's state-owned energy compa-

ny, confirmed the explosion occurred at "Barzan local gas supply facility in the evening hours of Sunday 21 June".

"Emergency response teams were deployed immediately to contain the fire, which is now under control."

The blast occurred as workers were restarting operations that were previously halted in March.

During the US-Israel war with Iran, the Ras Laffan Port suffered "extensive damage" from retaliatory strikes as Qatar is a major supplier of global energy.

QatarEnergy said the required repairs to the facility would reduce output by 12.8m tons of LNG for three to five years.

Qatar had halted production in response to the conflict, pausing a fifth of the world's LNG. Shipments had begun to resume recently. (BBC)

## Kenya health minister in contempt over US Ebola site, says court



Kenya's high court found the country's health minister in contempt on Monday over the continued construction of an Ebola facility for United States (US) patients, despite an earlier court order halting the project.

Kenyans have strongly opposed the plan and there have been deadly protests since the facility was announced in May for potential US citizens evacuated from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is grappling with a major Ebola outbreak.

It has been constructed at Laikipia Air Base, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the capital, Nairobi, with some 50 isolation beds, and is expected to be managed by US medical staff.

A court ordered construction to stop after complaints by rights group Katiba Institute, which argued the centre was being developed secretly and without consultation.

However, Health Minister Aden Duale insisted the facility would proceed, telling Parliament earlier this month: "We will not stop it."

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK), which was also involved in the petition, said the court had found Duale "in contempt of court arising from the continued activities relating to the proposed Ebola quarantine and treatment facility".

"Public authorities are not at liberty to determine which aspects of judicial

directives they will comply with," it said in a statement.

Duale was ordered to appear in court on Tuesday "for mitigation and sentencing".

Contempt of court carries a maximum fine of 200,000 shillings (US\$1,500), and/or six months in jail.

Kenya has never recorded a case of Ebola and many oppose bringing potential carriers of the highly contagious disease into the country.

The United States has also pledged US\$13.5 million to support Kenya's Ebola preparedness efforts, but critics also oppose what they see as colonial overtones in the arrangement. (AFP)

## UK Prime Minister Starmer announces resignation

UK leader Keir Starmer announced his resignation on Monday following months of pressure, kickstarting a process that will see Britain get its seventh prime minister in a decade.

Veteran politician Andy Burnham, who secured a return to parliament just last week, appeared poised to succeed Starmer after would-be rival Wes Streeting offered him his support.

Starmer's voice cracking during an emotional speech outside 10 Downing Street, as he conceded he had lost the support of his Labour party MPs after just two years in office.

He said he had informed head of state King Charles III of his decision to resign so that a new Labour leader, and therefore prime minister, could be elected.

"I will remain in post as prime minister until the contest is complete, and I will do everything I can to ensure an orderly handover of power," Starmer said, choking back tears when he thanked his wife Victoria and two children.

Starmer returned Labour to power after 14 years in opposition with a landslide general election victory over the Conservatives in July 2024.

But his premiership quickly became characterised by policy U-turns, deep public unpopularity, and ministerial resignations.

Labour lawmakers have ultimately decided he is incapable of fighting off the rise of the hard-right anti-immigration Reform UK party, which leads national opinion polls.

Starmer's domestic authority has been waning since Labour endured a drubbing in local and regional elections, including to Reform, in May, with clamour growing for Burnham to replace him.

Starmer had vowed to fight any leadership challenge but several senior ministers reportedly told him the game was up after Burnham won a parliamentary by-election last week, allowing him to run for leader.

Burnham, a former Labour minister



under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown who has been mayor of Greater Manchester since 2017, is due to take up his seat in the House of Commons later on Monday.

"The question my party is asking now is whether I am best placed to lead us into the next general election," Starmer said, as senior ministerial colleagues looked on.

"I have heard the answer of my parliamentary party to that question, and I accept that answer with good grace.

"Every decision I have taken has been about putting the country I love first. That is why I will resign as leader of the Labour Party," he added.

Starmer said he had asked Labour's National Executive Committee to set out a timetable for his replacement, with nominations due to open on July 9.

"This will ensure that a new leader is in place before parliament returns in September" after the summer recess, he explained.

Starmer hugged his wife after finishing his speech, which a prominent anti-Brexit campaigner tried to drown out by playing the European Union anthem "Ode to Joy" from a nearby street.

Burnham called for "orderly and responsible" transition, writing on X: "I will put myself forward as part of this process."

Quickly afterwards, former health sec-

retary Streeting, who previously said he would join a leadership race, instead announced he was backing Burnham, suggesting the latter could become leader without any formal contest.

Streeting said he had spoken to Burnham in recent days and was convinced he "can win the fight of our lives against the forces of nationalism".

Ed Miliband, who UK media said had pressured Starmer to quit, praised the outgoing PM's "great dignity and integrity" and said he could be "immensely proud of his achievements".

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Starmer, widely praised for his handling of international affairs, had made European and Ukrainian security "stronger".

Burnham warned in his by-election victory speech that Labour had a "final chance to change".

If successful in succeeding Starmer, the 56-year-old would become prime minister thanks to Labour's huge parliamentary majority, but would likely face questions about the extent of his mandate.

Reform leader Nigel Farage swiftly called for a snap general election.

Starmer was nearly ousted in March over his ill-fated decision to appoint Peter Mandelson, a known associate of the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as the UK's ambassador to Washington.

A former MP and government minister in the 2000s, Burnham defied national trends by easily beating the hard-right, populist Reform UK party's candidate in Makerfield.

But Burnham, from the so-called soft-left wing of Labour, has provided little detail about his plans for government if he wins power, causing concern among some MPs.

UK media say he intends to replace finance minister Rachel Reeves, while retaining interior minister Shabana Mahmood. (AFP)

## Clive Davis, legendary music mogul who worked with Whitney Houston and Bruce Springsteen, dies at 94



Entertainment icon Clive Davis, who shaped modern music as the founder of Arista Records and president of Columbia Records, died Monday, family members told NBC News.

He was 94.

“To the world, our father was the iconic music legend whose vision, instincts, and relentless pursuit of excellence shaped the soundtrack of countless lives,” according to a family statement.

“He discovered, mentored, and championed the greatest artists in modern music history, leaving an indelible mark on culture that will endure for generations.”

The man with the magic ear had been associated with some of the biggest names in music history.

He fostered the careers of icons and hitmakers such as Whitney Houston, Neil Diamond, Bruce Springsteen, Aretha Franklin and Kelly Clarkson.

His success stories were staggering, with Houston a crowning achievement and devastating tragedy: Davis signed her to his Arista record label when she was just a teen and turned her into America’s reigning pop princess.

Houston racked up multiple No. 1 hits and became one of the top-selling artists in pop history before drug abuse hobbled her career. She died in a Los Angeles hotel room in 2012, just hours before she was to appear at the annual pre-Grammy Awards gala hosted by Davis, who had been convinced she was turning her life around.

“Maybe I should have been more skeptical,” Davis wrote in his 2013 memoir, “The Soundtrack of My Life,” “but I’ve always been optimistic, and I felt hopeful. It felt like old times.”

He also launched the career of multi-platinum, multiple-Grammy winner Alicia Keys — and was quick to note other talents he signed, including Janis Joplin and Billy Joel, Blood

Sweat & Tears and other “all-timers,” as he so often put it.

“I signed Patti Smith, the great Renaissance woman ... I signed Lou Reed ... I signed the Grateful Dead,” he proudly touted in an interview with The Associated Press in 1999.

But Davis didn’t simply have an eye for new talent — he also knew how to keep veterans relevant decades after their first hit. Aretha Franklin, whose legend was made at Atlantic Records, flourished in her later years at Arista, as did Luther Vandross, who made his last albums for another Davis label, J Records.

It was Davis who conceived of the 1999 album “Supernatural,” which paired guitar god Carlos Santana with some of the day’s hottest talents. The record won a record-tying eight Grammys and gave Santana more success than he had ever enjoyed in his decades-long career.

Davis won four Grammy Awards in his long career — in 2000 for best rock album and album of the year (both for Santana's "Supernatural"); in 2006 for best pop vocal album (Clarkson's "Breakaway"); and in 2009 for best R&B album (Jennifer Hudson's self-titled work).

Davis cast a wide shadow over all of American popular culture, with his pre-Grammys party one of the must-attend social events of the year for music movers and shakers.

Jelly Roll, Art Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, Berry Gordy, Brandi Carlile, Pharrell Williams, Diplo, Dave Grohl, Gladys Knight, Lana Del Rey, Shaboozey, Jack Antonoff and Hudson all attended and/or performed at Davis' most recent pre-Grammy's bash on Jan. 31 at the Beverly Hilton.

The bash even included a video message from former President Barack Obama, who reminded partygoers that "Clive's talent has always been seeing and hearing what other people don't."

Bruce Springsteen posted a tribute to Davis on social media, calling him a "great record man and close friend."

"At 22 years old, he changed my life when he signed me to Columbia Records," Springsteen wrote. "He treated me with the same respect and kindness as a 22-year-old nobody as he did after all my success. A great man. All our prayers and love."

Alicia Keys posted to Instagram that Davis was a "visionary who transformed dreams into reality, leaving an indelible mark on music and lives worldwide."

Patti Smith wrote on Instagram: "This is thanking Clive Davis for transforming music, and on a very personal note, for believing in me, shepherding my efforts and a half century of your love and support."

Davis, who was born on April 4, 1932, had four children. In his memoir, he confirmed longtime rumors that he was bisexual and had been living with a man in recent years.

"Do I feel I could have been similarly attracted to a woman?" Davis wrote. "The answer is yes."

Davis' family said the record executive always made time for loved ones no matter how busy he was re-shaping all of pop music.

"To his family, Clive was Dad and Granddaddy, the steady presence at the center of our lives, the source of wisdom, strength, encouragement, and unconditional love. No matter how extraordinary his professional accom-

plishments, he never lost sight of what mattered most: the people he loved," according to the family statement.

"Through every chapter of his remarkable life, family remained Clive's greatest pride and deepest joy. Today, we celebrate not only a towering figure whose influence changed music forever, but the man who led our family with grace, generosity, and kindness. We will miss him greatly, cherish him always, and carry his love with us for the rest of our lives." (NBC)



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**FEATURING**

- WARM UP**
- HIGH-ENERGY SOCAROBICS SESSION**
- COOL DOWN & STRETCH**

**SUNSET SOCAROBICS WITH DANCERBOYSHAN**

**MUSIC BY DJ KAVITY**



# ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

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2026

# TIAN WINTER & ICONIC



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

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GENERAL

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RHYTHM  
ROOM

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## Double wins for Police and Liberta in Dave Joseph Parish League contest



Police and PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks each recorded two wins in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition over the weekend.

Police crushed Stingray City Seatons by 50 runs at Seatons on Saturday. Malik Marcellin and Shamar Pereira both hit half centuries to propel Police to 217 for six off 21 overs.

Marcellin missed out on achieving a century as he fell for 92, and Pereira struck 59. Demari Benta captured four for 18.

In reply, Demari Benta scored a century but could not save Seatons from defeat as they were dismissed for 167 runs. Demari Benta slammed 106, and

Xanden Hobson chipped in with 23.

Off-spinner James Cornelius snapped up five for 20, and pacer Vincent Shadrach Jr. claimed three for 45.

Police also secured a 29-run victory over Mahico at Clare Hall on Sunday. Batting first, Police made 172 for eight. Vincent Shadrach Jr. hammered 63, and Deran Benta scored 27. J'Quan Athanaze picked up two for 34, and Tanez Francis claimed two for 43.

Mahico then fell to 143 all out, with D'hari Francis getting 56. Orandel Boston and Vincent Shadrach Jr. each captured four for 21.

The Liberta Blackhawks soared to a seven-wicket victory over Freetown at Freetown. Batting first, Freetown

crashed to 123 all out. Dillon Willis struck 49. Brent Joseph bagged three for 14, and Vishal Gobin claimed two for 10.

Terek Charles hit an unbeaten 51, and Tron Payne scored 23 as the Liberta Blackhawks wrapped up victory by scoring 124 for three. Left-arm seamer Yanique Watley picked up two for 12.

The Liberta Blackhawks also notched up a nine-wicket win against Seatons at Seatons. Tarik Prince struck 52 in the Seatons' total of 117 all out. Elvis Weaver Jr. grabbed five for 18, and Ondre Peters took three for 56.

The Liberta Blackhawks achieved victory by scoring 118 for one. Tron Payne slammed 39, Brent Joseph cracked 35, and Terek Charles hit 27.



268 736 7165

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



↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am

🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!



## Wings Youth Basketball Unit makes charitable donation

A charitable donation to the Managing Director of Real Paradise Antigua, Eli Richardson, was part of activities at the CPTSA Wings Youth Basketball Unit's pre-Fathers' Day Challenge at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

A donation of EC\$1,000 was made by the Chairperson of the Wings Youth Basketball Unit, Dennise Bascom, to Richardson.

The donation will help toward expenses in the rehabilitation of one of Mr. Richardson's workers who got burnt as he was servicing a jet ski.

At least 12 fathers were present to support their children during the pre-Fathers' Day Challenge and participate in fun competitions, including a Speed Dribble and a Shoot-Out, at the event.

The fathers also prevailed over the children in three 5-on-5 basketball matches.

Presentations were also made to the fathers by the youth players, who made kind remarks to their parents as their heroes and protectors.



*Managing Director of Real Paradise Antigua Eli Richardson, left, accepts a donation from Chairperson of the Wings Youth Basketball Unit Dennise Bascom. (Photo courtesy of the CPTSA Wings)*



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## Egypt beat New Zealand for a first World Cup victory



**Egypt's Mohamed Salah (10) celebrates his goal with teammate Mostafa Zico (11) during the World Cup Group G soccer match in Vancouver, British Columbia, Sunday, June 21, 2026. (AP)**

VANCOUVER (Reuters) - Mohamed Salah inspired Egypt to their first-ever World Cup win as they came from a goal down to beat New Zealand 3-1 with a brilliant second-half display on Sunday, moving top of Group G and boosting their hopes of reaching the knockout stage.

After a relatively quiet first half that saw them go in behind at the break, Egypt and Salah turned up the heat in the second period as the 34-year-old winger showed he is still capable of conjuring magic from his boots.

"It's a great achievement for all the players. It's a great win. It's a great vibe. The next game is very important," Salah said as he took the plaudits amongst his teammates.

Egypt, who drew 1-1 with Belgium in their opener, moved top of the group with four points from two matches. The All Whites, held 2-2 by Iran in their opener, are bottom with one point. Belgium and the Iranians have two points after their 0-0 draw.

New Zealand's first-half gameplan was as simple as it was effective, kick-

ing long when they needed to and keeping possession when they could, and defender Finn Surman broke the deadlock from a corner, losing marker Ahmed Fatouh before steering a powerful header into the net.

Though Callum McCowatt had a glancing header tipped over the bar early on for New Zealand, Egypt piled on the pressure after the break and they levelled through Mostafa Zico, who headed home Mohamed Hany's cross from the right in the 58th minute.

Salah then finally gave the crowd what they wanted nine minutes later, breaking forward down the right and playing a one-two with Zico before slotting the ball into the far corner.

Salah almost scored his second in the 81st minute, cutting in from the right and firing a deflected shot over, but he notched an assist from the resulting corner as substitute Mahmoud Trezeguet dived to head home at the near post.

The New Zealanders gave it all they had to reduce the deficit and Hossam Abdelmaguid had to be replaced late

on with a suspected concussion, his eye swelling up as he left the field.

By the 10th minute of stoppage time, the Egyptian fans were whistling loudly for the referee to end the game.

When he did, an ear-splitting roar went up as Salah and company made history with the country's first World Cup win and coach Hossam Hassan lapped the stadium with an Egyptian flag.

"My feelings are the same as those of the Egyptian people because I am one of them. I am one of them and I love them - those who came here and those who stayed up back in Egypt watching," Hassan said.

New Zealand, after twice being pegged back by Iran in their 2-2 draw, again let a lead slip, and this time it proved more costly as Salah worked his magic.

New Zealand round off the group stage against Belgium in Vancouver, while Egypt will meet Iran in their final game with all to play for in the race for a spot in the Round of 32.

## Joshua Da Silva ready for a second chance



Joshua Da Silva. (CWI Media)

Nearly two years after last donning the maroon to represent the Caribbean, Joshua Da Silva is on the verge of a return to the West Indies playing XI following his selection in the 15-man squad for the upcoming two-Test series against Sri Lanka, starting on Thursday in Antigua.

Da Silva played 33 consecutive Test matches before losing his place to Tevin Imlach ahead of the tour of Pakistan in January 2025. He subsequently missed series against Australia, India and New Zealand.

However, a strong return to form in regional cricket has put the Trinidadian wicketkeeper-batter back in contention. Across the last two West Indies Championship seasons, Da Silva amassed 996 runs, including a maiden double century this year, strengthening the case for his recall.

Now set for a return behind the stumps, the 28-year-old is understandably delighted to be back among his teammates and is relishing the opportunity to once again represent the people of the Caribbean.

“It’s been really good coming back into the team. I’ve been accepted and mingling with everyone like I’ve been here for the last couple of years, so it feels like I have not been away for very long,” Da Silva said.

“I went back to first class cricket, did what I had to do, scored runs and got another opportunity, so I’m trying to make the most of it.”

The 28-year-old, who recently guided Trinidad & Tobago Red Force to their first regional four-day title in two decades, has several short-term goals, including the possibility of celebrating a significant milestone with close friend Jayden Seales, who is on the brink of claiming his 100th Test wicket.

“I just want to start well. I want to get accustomed to playing at the international level again, find my feet, score runs and, of course, keep well.” Da Silva explained.

“My goal is to stay in the team for as long as possible. Last time I had a five-year run, so hopefully, I can make it even longer and set a new personal benchmark.

“Most importantly, it’s about enjoying the experience, having fun and playing alongside my teammates again. I’ve played a lot of cricket with Jayden and he’s very close to 100 Test wickets, so it would be great to celebrate that milestone with him as well,” he added.

There is considerable excitement surrounding the bowling attack with the return of Alzarri Joseph and Shamar Joseph, but Da Silva believes the hosts’ batting will ultimately determine the outcome of the series.

“We know their strengths. They have a very good batting line-up, quality spinners, pace bowlers and a well-rounded team. For us, it’s going to be a fight. It’s going to be a dogfight, depending on what the pitch looks like,” he stated.

“But I know the bowling attack we have is one of the best in the world, and the batsmen just need to back that up. We’re confident we can take 20 wickets. The key is making sure we score more runs than they do and put enough runs on the board.”

With a successful domestic campaign behind him and a fresh opportunity ahead, Da Silva now stands on the cusp of a new chapter in his international career.

As the West Indies prepare for a stern test against Sri Lanka, the Trinidadian will be eager to repay the faith shown in him, cement his place in the side once more, and help guide the regional team to success on home soil.

## Dredgers reap more success in ABSCA men's T20 contest



**The Dredgers men's softball cricket team**

Dredgers continued their winning start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5fm and Chet Greene T20 Championships on Sunday.

After launching their campaign in the men's competition with a commanding 10-wicket victory over PMS, they made it two wins in a row with a crushing 122-run triumph over Goody's Advent 300 at Dredgers.

Player of the match Tyrone Williams Jr. smashed an unbeaten century to lift the Dredgers to 227 for five off their 20 overs.

Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed 120 not out, Javaughn James hit 18, D'ahri Francis scored 15, and J'Quan Athanaze made 13. Jared Roberts claimed two for 34, and Molvin James took two for 49.

In reply, 300 was dismissed for 105 in 14.3 overs. Andra Samuel struck 31, Jared Roberts hit 25, Blain Thomas made 16, and Jamoy Jarvis scored 12. D'ahri Francis snapped up four for 13, and Mervin Higgins took two for 57 to

propel 300 to their second successive defeat.

Mareko Inc. Buckley's 3Js and Rackaman Construction Strictly Business also made it two wins in a row in the men's T20 contest.

The Buckley's 3Js secured a 10-wicket win against Mix-Up Stars at Swetes. Mix-Up Stars were bundled out for 59 in 13.3 overs. Frederick Floyd got 24, and Renick Esprit made 10.

Player of the match Charanlall Ramjohn grabbed three wickets for five runs, and Richie Thomas picked up two for 12.

The Buckley's 3Js wrapped up victory by scoring 64 without losing any wickets in 4.5 overs. Kenrick Scott hit an unbeaten 38, and Randino Turner made 13 not out as the Mix-Up Stars crashed to their second loss.

Strictly Business prevailed by nine wickets against PMS at Rising Sun. The PMS were restricted to 82 for six in 18 overs. Charles James struck 25. Shaquan Reifer claimed two wickets for seven runs, and Kerique Mentore captured two for 16.

Strictly Business coasted to victory at 86 for one in 9.2 overs. Player of the match Jevon Howel hit and unbeaten 40, including five sixes and two fours. Clinton Benjamin cracked 20 not out, and Kim George scored 17 to seal the second loss for PMS.

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

Female Flyers recorded their second win with a nine-wicket victory over Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Jennings Rockets.

The Rockets were restricted to 75 for nine off 20 overs. Chemique Benjamin hit 38. Akeda Francis bagged three for 22, Monique Titus claimed two wickets for eight runs, and player of the match Makada Hector captured two for 10.

Hector then smashed an unbeaten half-century to lead Female Flyers to victory at 80 for one in 7.4 overs. Hector hit 61 not out, and Mauveuhl Simpson scored 10 not out.

Survivors also made it two wins in as many games by pulling off a nine-wicket victory over Potters Uprising Cricket Team. Potters made 78 for nine off their 20 overs.

Gail Jobe hit 18, Carla Weatherhead struck 14, Nolia Elvin got 13, and Liza Edwards chipped in with 12. Player of the match Kimberly Anthony grabbed three for 14, and Sacha Michael took two for 13.

Survivors coasted to victory at 79 for one in 10.3 overs. Kimberly Anthony struck 28, and Grace Persaud hit 25 not out.