

Government of Antigua and Barbuda Responds To EU's Communication On CBI

Story on page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (left) shares a moment with his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart, Kamla Persad-Bissessar at the CARICOM summit in St. Lucia

Government of Antigua and Barbuda Responds To EU's Communication On CBI

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda informs the public of a formal communication received from the European Union (EU) regarding the country's Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programme.

In a letter dated 25 June 2026, signed by Commissioner Magnus Brunner and addressed to Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne, the European Commission formally requested that Antigua and Barbuda phase out its CBI Programme by 1 June 2028.

The EU grounded its request in a revised Visa Suspension Mechanism adopted by the Union on 31 December 2025. Under this new framework, the mere operation of a CBI programme — regardless of how well it is managed — is now a self-standing ground for suspending visa-free access.

The Commission's letter offers a 24-month transition period and proposes the implementation of specific interim measures. These measures include the full exclusion of individuals subject to EU restrictive measures as well as reinforced vetting procedures for all nationalities, to be in place no later than September 2026.

The EU has also indicated it will reflect Antigua and Barbuda's response in its Visa Suspension Mechanism Report planned for December 2026.

Prime Minister Browne advises the public that this development does not come as a surprise. As he communicated to the nation on Saturday, 20 June 2026, the Government had advance knowledge that such letters were forthcoming and had already begun consultations at the regional level. He further points out that this EU decision is not directed at Antigua and Barbuda alone, but to all OECS member states with active CBI programmes. The other 4 countries, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis and St Lucia have received similar correspondence from the European Commission.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



Commissioner Magnus Brunne

The Antigua and Barbuda Government's position is clear: the CBI Programme is a critical pillar of Antigua and Barbuda's non-tax revenue base, and it cannot simply be abandoned without viable, concrete, and credible replacement revenues being made available. Prime Minister Browne has stated unequivocally that the CBI Programme will continue, and the Government will not be pressured into a unilateral phase-out that would cause irreparable harm to the national economy and the welfare of our citizens.

In this connection, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will continue to engage the European Commission in a principled and constructive dialogue, consistent with the spirit of our long-standing partnership under the Samoa Agreement. We welcome the EU's expressed commitment to supporting Antigua and Barbuda's sustainable development through the Global Gateway Investment Agenda and other mechanisms. However, the Government notes that none of these offers from the EU are quantified, binding, or explicitly framed as replacement revenues for the CBI income stream.

Over the years, the CBI Programme has funded hospitals, schools, infrastructure, and disaster recovery efforts. It represents necessary income for

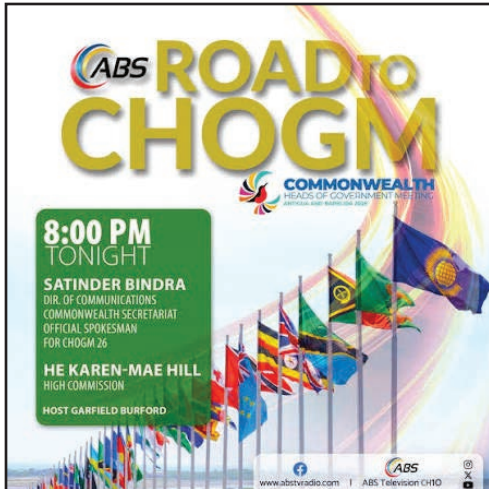
a small island developing state with limited fiscal space and acute vulnerability to climate change and external economic shocks.

Consequently, the Government will reiterate to the European Commission that any agreed path forward must include tangible EU assistance in generating equivalent replacement revenues to offset the economic impact of any transition. The government will exercise its sovereign right to pursue economic development strategies that serve the best interests of its people while continuing to give full regard to the security of all other countries. In the latter context, as an act of good faith towards the EU, the Government will continue to exclude from its CBI Programme any individuals subject to EU restrictive measures; reinforce vetting for all other nationalities applying to the programme; and give full attention to any additional safeguards which may be required to satisfy EU security standards.

The public is reassured that the Government is pursuing all available diplomatic avenues — bilaterally and through OECS and other channels — to protect Antigua and Barbuda's national interests.

Further updates will be provided as discussions with the European Commission progress.

CHOGM 2026 Forums and Side Events to Spotlight Climate, Health and Economic Growth



Antigua and Barbuda continues to strategically advance preparations for the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), with several key forums and side events expected to drive discussions on major Commonwealth initiatives.

Recent episodes of Road to CHOGM on ABS Television/Radio, officials outlined two of the forums and two major side events for CHOGM 2026, focusing on climate resilience, economic growth, public health and social inclusion.

The upcoming events form part of the broader CHOGM programme and are intended to position Antigua and Barbuda as a leader in strategic dialogue and global partnership-building. Organisers say the initiatives will create opportunities for meaningful policy discussions while delivering long-term benefits for the nation and wider region.

Among the featured events is the Blue Finance and Innovation Side Event, to be hosted by the Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy (COBE). The forum will focus on environmental and financial challenges affecting island states, particularly climate vulnerability and sustainable ocean management. Antigua and Barbuda, alongside Kenya, currently co-leads the Commonwealth's Blue

Economy agenda.


The Commonwealth Business Forum, scheduled for November 2–4, will bring together investors, policy-makers and business leaders to explore trade, investment and technological innovation. The forum is expected to promote strategic partnerships while highlighting investment opportunities within Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Eastern Caribbean region. An investment summit involving the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union will also form part of the programme.

Another landmark event will be the Global Eye Health Summit, the first international summit dedicated entirely to eye health. Discussions will address access to eye care, policy reform and healthcare equity, with global stakeholders expected to examine

strategies to reduce preventable vision impairment worldwide.

Meanwhile, the People's Forum will also serve as a key platform for civil society engagement, bringing together advocacy groups, creatives and policy-makers to discuss freedom of expression, economic inclusion and climate justice. Organisers say the forum will strengthen collaboration across sectors while ensuring community voices remain central to CHOGM discussions.


Officials maintain that these events will help ensure CHOGM 2026 delivers lasting value beyond the summit itself, strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's global profile while fostering partnerships capable of driving sustainable development across the Commonwealth.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

COVERAGE FOR ALL STAGES OF LIFE



ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04
BARBUDA (268) 727-7422
info@sicantigua.com
www.sicantigua.com

Ministry of Education Opens Limited Review of Grade Six Placements

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is currently accepting letters from parents seeking Grade Six school placement reviews, but Director of Education Clare Browne has made it clear that transfers will only be considered if the ministry made an error during the placement process.

Speaking following the release of the Grade Six placement results last Friday, Browne said the ministry had already started receiving transfer requests even before the official announcements were made. He stressed that parents should not expect placements to be changed simply because they prefer one school over another.

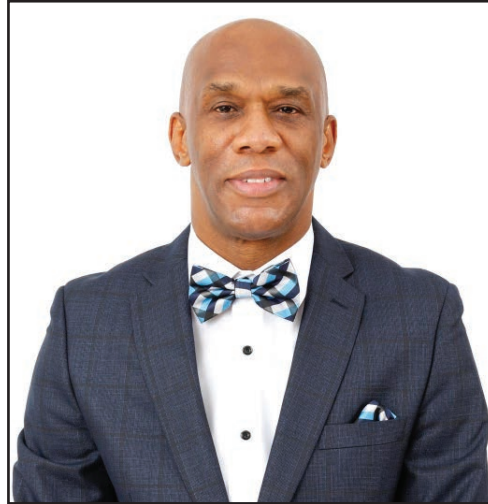
“We don’t want a trailer load of letters coming to the Ministry of Education because people just think they are not wanting to go to School X and they want to go to School Y,” Browne said. “All our schools offer quality education.”

Director Browne urged parents to have confidence in the education system, noting that students can succeed regardless of the school they attend. Using the analogy of a flower blooming wherever it is planted, he said every school provides opportunities for children to excel.

The director made clear that transfers will only be approved in cases where the ministry determines that a genuine placement error has occurred.

Parents who believe such an error was made have until this Friday to submit a written request addressed to the Director of Education. Before the letter is delivered to the ministry, it must first be presented to the principal of the primary school the child attended, or an authorised representative, for acknowledgement.

According to the Director of Education, this step is intended to verify the information being submitted and prevent false claims from being made



during the review process.

Meanwhile, Director Browne told

principals of the state-run schools last week, of his concerns regarding the level of assistance some students receive in preparing their School-Based Assessment (SBA) reports.

“We cannot ignore the growing concerns surrounding School-Based Assessments. Assessment must remain a true reflection of student learning and integrity. When authenticity is compromised, it is our children who pay the greatest price. As educators, we are called not only to pursue excellence but also to safeguard it. Let us recommit ourselves to fairness, honesty, and the highest professional standards, so that every result earned reflects genuine achievement.”



KFC

SAUCY WINGS

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

\$15.99 - 5 Wings ONLY

Citrus Chipotle BBQ

Sweet Red Chili

KFC

KEEP IT HOT

@KFCANU

AllMart

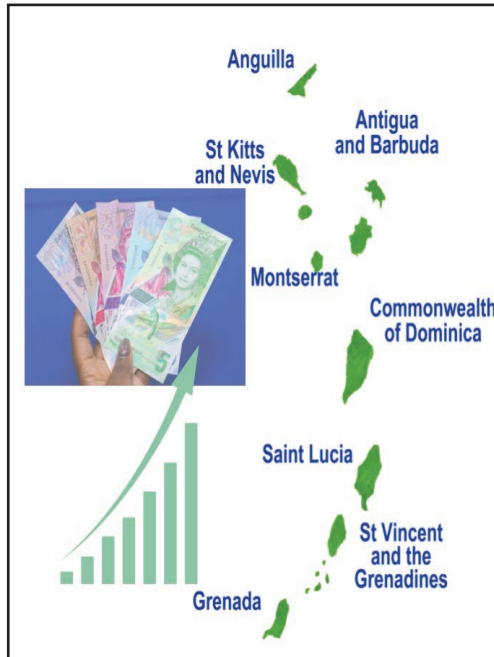
ECCB sets sights on 'Big Push' to double regional economy



The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has officially released its 2025–2026 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, revealing a year of robust financial growth and the launch of an ambitious strategic plan to transform the regional economy. In a sit-down interview, Governor Timothy Antoine characterized the report as a “report card” on the health of the currency union, highlighting the bank’s role in improving the lives of citizens through monetary and financial stability.

The ECCB recorded a significant net profit of \$121.6 million for the financial year ending March 31, 2026. The bank’s total assets increased from 6.1 billion to 6.7 billion, a growth driven largely by foreign reserves, which rose to \$6 billion. Governor Antoine noted that these results reflect “prudent management” and “demonstrated confidence” in the bank’s leadership.

On the regional front, the ECCU economy grew by an estimated 2.5% in 2025. While growth has slowed compared to the immediate post-pandemic rebound, it remains



on a positive trajectory, fueled primarily by tourism and construction. However, the Governor acknowledged that many citizens continue to face challenges with high prices for food and fuel, exacerbated by global developments such as oil shocks in the Middle East.

The report indicates that the regional banking system remains stable and resilient, with banks being well-capitalized and non-performing loans in decline. To further protect consumers and enhance access to services, the ECCB is advancing several key initiatives:

Office of Financial Conduct: Soon to be launched to ensure fair treatment of customers and transparent pricing.

◆ **Regional Credit Bureau:** Advancing work on “Every Data ECCU Limited” to provide credit data that will help banks make lending decisions more efficiently and potentially lower interest

rates for borrowers.

◆ **Financial Inclusion:** The bank is promoting the “First Step Account,” a basic, interest-bearing bank account requiring no minimum deposit and simplified ID requirements to ensure the financial system works for everyone except illicit actors.

◆ A central theme of the report is the “Big Push” strategic plan, which challenges the region to double the size of the ECCU economy over the next decade. Out of seven strategic priorities, Governor Antoine identified human capital and skills as the most critical for long-term competitiveness. Other priorities, such as food and nutrition security, energy resilience, and digital transformation, are aimed at reducing the cost of living and increasing regional self-reliance.

The Governor also looked ahead to several historic events scheduled for July 2026:

◆ **July 7:** The 50th anniversary of the EC dollar’s peg to the US dollar (at a rate of 2.7 to 1).

◆ **July 9:** The unveiling of new banknotes and coins in Dominica, which will feature images of national heroes for the first time in the bank’s history.

Governor Antoine concluded by emphasizing that the ECCB cannot achieve these transformative goals alone, calling for collective action from residents, citizens, and development partners to “accelerate and elevate” the region’s development trajectory.

Police Investigate Sudden Death of Swetes Resident



is immediate danger, call 911 for emergency medical assistance or go to the nearest emergency room.

You can also reach out to a trusted family member, friend, doctor, counsellor, pastor, or local health clinic. Mental health care is available through the public health system, including Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital.

For persons affected by abuse, violence, or related crisis situations, the Support and Referral Centre crisis hotline is available at 1 (268) 463-5555. They can also be reached by WhatsApp at 1 (268) 734-4555.

The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the sudden death of a 24-year-old male of Swetes. Police officers attached to the All Saints Police Station responded to a report at the man's residence early Monday morning. A family member made the discovery sometime between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m., and immediately alerted the police.

The man was pronounced dead at approximately 7:45 a.m. Investigations into the circumstances surrounding the incident remain ongoing.

The Police Administration extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased as they mourn this tragic loss. The public is respectfully urged to allow the family the privacy, compassion, and respect they deserve during this difficult time.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/3914 or anonymously call Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Editor's Note: In line with responsible reporting guidelines, Pointe Express withholds identifying details in cases of suspected suicides.

Support: For anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts, severe emotional distress, or a mental health crisis, please seek help immediately. If there

Brew
CAFE • BAR • LOUNGE

CARNIVAL CORNER

The Count Down to Carnival Is On at the Brew

<p>Live DJ's Every Friday from July 3rd – August 7, 2026 6:00 PM until</p>	<p>\$75</p> <p>Unlimited drinks on select brands</p>	<p>ENJOY UNLIMITED SELECTIONS FROM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Daniel's • Hennessy • Rude Boy *Bucket of 10 • Absolut Vodka • Angostura 7 Year
---	---	---

ABSOLUT. Hennessy JACK DANIEL'S
Premier Beverages

Brew
CAFE • BAR • LOUNGE

Every Friday, No Excuses



Our future, Our bank



MR. AND MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT

JULY 18TH
CARNIVAL CITY

Ticket \$20

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



FEEL The RHYTHM OF Youth

Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

MACHEL MONTANO

#ENCOREPERFORMANCE



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE



CULTURAL CHARACTERS WORKSHOP

MOKO JUMBIE • JOHN BULL • WHIP
CONCH SHELL & CARIBBEAN CLOWN TRAINING



8TH - 24TH
JULY,
2026



3:30 -
7:00 PM



COMPOUND OF
NATIONAL
ARCHIVES



AGES 8-50

LEARN. PRESERVE. CELEBRATE.
OUR CULTURE, OUR IDENTITY, OUR PRIDE.



MOKO JUMBIE



JOHN BULL



WHIP



CONCH SHELL



CARIBBEAN CLOWN



REGISTRATION:
AT MINISTRY OF
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
(OLD PARHAM ROAD)
OR AT VENUE.



PARTICIPATION IS
FREE!



KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Local News



WISH Extends Condolences Following the Sudden Death of 24-Year-Old Cody Gomes



The Wadadli Initiative for Self-care and Healing extends heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and wider community of a 24-year-old male, whose sudden death is currently under investigation by the police.

According to police reports, the victim was found unresponsive at his home early on Monday morning. Officers from the All Saints Police Station responded to the scene, and he was later pronounced dead. The circumstances surrounding his death are not yet known, and investigations are ongoing.

WISH joins the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda in urging the

public to allow the family privacy, compassion, and respect during this extremely difficult time.

This is a painful moment for all who knew and loved the victim. Behind every sudden loss is a grieving family, a circle of friends, and a community left to process shock, sadness, and unanswered questions.

We encourage members of the public to refrain from speculation, harmful commentary, or the sharing of sensitive details. Instead, let us lead with kindness, check in on those around us, and offer support without judgment.

Moments like these remind us of the

urgent need to continue creating safe spaces for honest conversations about mental health, emotional distress, grief, and community care. If someone you know appears withdrawn, overwhelmed, hopeless, unusually quiet, or emotionally distressed, do not dismiss it. Reach out. Listen. Stay connected. Encourage them to speak with someone they trust, including a family member, friend, counsellor, pastor, doctor, teacher, or mental health professional. If there is an immediate concern for someone's safety, seek emergency assistance right away.

Anyone with information that may assist the police investigation is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914. Anonymous information can also be provided through Crime Stoppers by calling 800-TIPS (8477).

To the victim's family, loved ones, and the Swetes community, WISH offers its deepest sympathy. We hold you in our thoughts during this incredibly difficult time.

WISH remains committed to mental health education, suicide prevention awareness, and building a culture in Antigua and Barbuda where people feel safe enough to say when they are not okay.

POINTE ON THE STREETZ
HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

PBN
TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM
CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991
f POINT FM99.1

UWI Cave Hill Campus Signs MOU with CTU

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) have formally strengthened their longstanding collaboration with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Sagcor Cave Hill School of Business and Management, UWI Cave Hill Campus on May 28, 2026.

The agreement brings together two regional institutions established to serve the collective interests of the Caribbean and reflects a shared commitment to more deliberate, coordinated and strategic collaboration in addressing the region's digital development, policy, and resilience priorities.

The MoU provides a framework for longterm cooperation in areas including digital policy and regulation, research and evidencebased decisionmaking, capacity development, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, resource mobilization and the translation of regional digital strategies into implementation. It builds on a history of UWI expertise contributing to CTU-led policy development and capacitybuilding initiatives, including more recent collaboration on artificial intelligence policy and regional digital harmonisation efforts.

Commenting on the signing, Ms. Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs at The University of the West Indies, stated *"This Memorandum of Understanding reflects our shared recognition that the Caribbean's digital challenges—and opportunities—require coordinated regional leadership. Through this partnership, UWI and CTU are committing to work more intentionally to strengthen policy coherence, build regional capacity, and ensure that Caribbean perspectives are meaningfully represented in global digital and data governance conversations. This collaboration is about advancing development, resilience, and agency for the region."*

CTU Secretary General, Mr. Rodney Taylor, highlighting the importance



of the partnership and its implications for regional digital policy and cooperation, stated *"This partnership brings together The UWI's academic excellence and the CTU's regional policy leadership to strengthen digital transformation across the Caribbean. As we navigate emerging issues such as artificial intelligence, data governance, cybersecurity, and digital resilience, this collaboration will help ensure that the region not only responds to global developments but actively shapes them. Most importantly, this MoU moves us from dialogue to action, delivering tangible outcomes that advance sustainable development and benefit Caribbean people."*

The signing takes place at a critical moment for the Caribbean, as digital transformation increasingly shapes economic growth, public service delivery, climate resilience, and regional competitiveness. By aligning academic expertise with regional policy leadership, the UWI-CTU partnership seeks to help ensure that digital transformation delivers inclusive and sustainable benefits for Caribbean people.

As a regional university with campuses across the Caribbean, UWI is uniquely positioned to support CTU's mandate through research, training,

policy support and global engagement. The MoU marks a transition from ad hoc collaboration to a more structured, future-focused partnership aimed at shaping—not merely responding to—the evolving digital landscape.

As the partners move immediately to implementation, initial priorities include the joint hosting of a Regional AI Forum in Trinidad (July 23–24), advancing regional digital governance and policy harmonisation during CTU ICT Week 2026 in French Guiana (September 20–24), operationalising The UWI Institute for Intelligent Systems, Governance and Human-Centred Technology (INSIGHT), and addressing regional capacity development needs through The UWI-ITU Academy Training Centre, UWI's collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union. Together, these actions signal a clear transition from agreement to delivery, anchored in shared regional priorities and tangible outcomes.

For further information contact Ms. Lois St Brice, Office of Global Affairs, The University of the West Indies, pvcglobal@uwi.edu.

Lion's Club Elects New Board

The Antigua Lions Club has inaugurated a new Board of Directors under the theme; 'Service on the Foundation of Excellence'.

The new board comprises; President, Gail Henry Lewis MJF, Immediate Past President, Ileana Cabral MJF, Secretary, Roslyn Zachariah MJF, Treasurer, Samantha Malone MJF, 1st Vice President, Jacintha Pringle, 2nd Vice President, Cathia Christopher MJF, Membership Director, Franklin Maynard MJF, Marketing Chairperson, Kaiwana Ramsey, Service Chairperson, Valerie Gonsalves Barriero MJF, Tail Twister, Reginald Peterson MJF, and Lion Tamer, Shivawn Ellis Richards.

Lion Vijay Tewani was the recipient of the Melvin Fellow Jones (MJF) award in recognition of his dedicated service in Lionism.

'Unsung Heroes' award was presented also to Lion Vijay MJF and Lion Kevin Hosam.

Lion Alan Hosam was granted a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow (PMJF) award for his commitment in service.

Trevor and Loveness Ngorosha were awarded 'Lions of the Year' in appreciation for consistent outstanding work to club services.

The Antigua Lion's Club was chartered in 1968. It is a non-profitable service organization. Some of the Club's signature service projects include the Annual Prostate Screening with approximately 800 men registered annually, weekly hot meals delivery to the less fortunate people in the community, monetary medical assistance and vision screening at various schools, for



which fundraising events are held such as the annual Wine & Tapas and the annual Golf Tournament.

Senior Hoggs
TEQUILA BAR

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

268 736 7165

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

Liberty Caribbean Returns as Headline Sponsor of CANTO's 41st Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition

Liberty Caribbean has announced its return as Headline Sponsor of the 41st CANTO Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition, marking the fifth consecutive year the company has served as the event's principal sponsor. The conference will be held from August 9–12, 2026, at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

Under the theme “Elevate the Caribbean – From Connectivity to Global Competitiveness,” this year’s conference will bring together government leaders, regulators, policymakers, technology innovators, and telecommunications providers to explore how the region can accelerate digital transformation, strengthen competitiveness, and unlock sustainable economic growth.

As one of the Caribbean’s leading communications and technology providers, Liberty Caribbean will play a central role in the conference through executive participation in keynote sessions, roundtable discussions, fireside chats, and expert panels examining the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly AI-driven digital economy.



“The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence is redefining how economies compete, businesses grow, and societies connect. For the Caribbean, this presents an unprecedented opportunity to leap forward,” said Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean.

“Liberty Caribbean is committed to investing in the networks, partnerships, and digital capabilities that will enable our region to em-

brace these opportunities with confidence. CANTO provides the ideal platform for the conversations and collaboration that will help shape the Caribbean’s next chapter of digital growth.”

Throughout the conference, Liberty Caribbean will champion discussions around expanding connectivity, advancing digital inclusion, shaping progressive policy and regulatory frameworks, and strength-

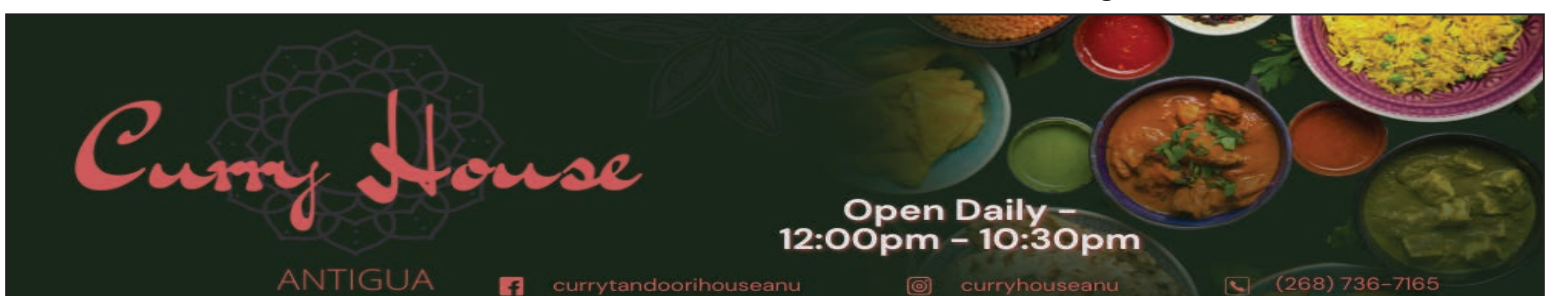
ening collaboration across the region to accelerate innovation.

Liberty Caribbean’s continued investment in CANTO reflects the company’s commitment to partnering with governments, regulators, businesses, and industry stakeholders to help build a more connected, resilient, and globally competitive Caribbean.

As Headline Sponsor, Liberty Caribbean will engage with regional Ministers, regulators, ICT leaders, and private sector representatives to help shape the future of digital development across the Caribbean.

The conference provides a valuable platform to strengthen strategic partnerships, contribute to regional policy discussions, and reinforce the company’s position as a trusted industry leader in advancing digital transformation and sustainable growth.

The conference programme will feature keynote presentations, expert-led discussions, technology showcases, and networking opportunities designed to advance the Caribbean’s digital agenda and foster greater regional collaboration.



Curry House

ANTIGUA

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

currytandoorhouseanu

curryhouseanu

(268) 736-7165

OUR POINTE: Why We Don't Tell You Their Names

Two families in this country are grieving right now. Somewhere, a mother is trying to explain to a younger sibling why a chair at the dinner table is empty. Somewhere, a coworker is staring at an unfinished project, wondering if there was a sign they missed. And somewhere, a reporter, maybe one of ours, has the name, the details, the photograph. The kind of material that, in the wrong hands, becomes a headline built to be shared, clicked, and argued over in comment sections long after the family has buried their dead.

We are not going to give it to you. That's Our Pointe.

It would be easy to publish it. Easier, certainly, than what we do instead, which is to report that a death has occurred, to withhold the name, to leave out the method, and to say plainly that a family is grieving and deserves to do so without an audience. Easy is not the same as right, and a newspaper's job is not only to satisfy curiosity. It is to weigh what the public needs to know against what it costs a family to know it publicly.

Here is what the evidence tells us, and it is worth being direct about: detailed or sensational coverage of a suicide, the method, the location, the note, the "why" reduced to a single cause, can make death by suicide feel more thinkable to someone already struggling. Researchers call this contagion, and it is one of the most consistently replicated findings in public health communication. Responsible reporting, by contrast, has been shown to do the opposite: to lower risk, to point people



toward help, and to treat suicide the way it actually is, not a single decision with a single cause, but the outcome of pressures, illness, and pain that are rarely visible from the outside.

So when Pointe Express declines to publish a name or a method, it is not because we are hiding the truth. The truth is that someone died, that their family is in pain, and that this pain deserves privacy rather than an audience. We say that plainly. What we withhold is the material that turns a private tragedy into public spectacle, the details that serve no one's understanding and can, for a reader silently carrying the same weight, serve as a script.

This is not a policy we are announcing quietly. We want it known, and we want it to be the standard our readers hold us to. Every time you see our Editor's Note beneath a report of this kind, know that it reflects the same commitment: no name, no method, no

speculation dressed up as fact, and always, a way to reach help.

We would like this to be more than our own habit. Antigua and Barbuda is a small place, and small places carry grief loudly, everyone hears, everyone speculates, and stigma finds room to grow in the silence that follows. We believe the region's newsrooms can do better collectively, and we are glad to compare notes with any editor who wants to build the same standard into their own newsroom.

If you are struggling, or worried about someone who might be, you don't have to carry it alone. Contact the Support and Referral Centre for 24-hour support, speak to your doctor, or call 911 in an emergency. Reaching out is not weakness. It is very often what saves a life.

That is Our Pointe. We hope, in time, it becomes everyone's.

— *The Editors*

Automotive Service Manager - Summary

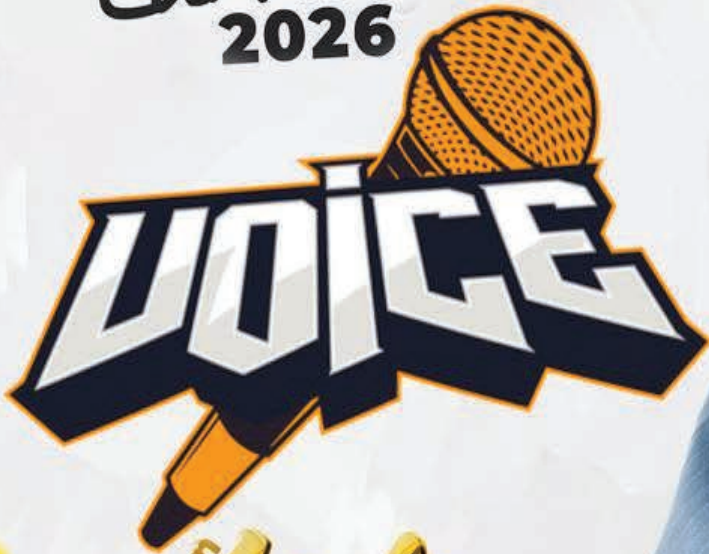
An automotive dealership in Antigua is seeking a Service Manager who has in depth knowledge of the automotive industry. The successful candidate should have hands on technical experience working with premium brands and be able to efficiently manage a service center. The manager should be able to adapt to the client - centric culture of the company by enhancing customer satisfaction, through the delivery of first-class service.

Essential Duties

- Responsible for managing the service department operations, staff and other resources
- Ensuring the efficient and profitable operation of the department to achieve both high levels of customer satisfaction, retention and profitability
- Controlling resources at a level commensurate with profit requirements and enhanced customer relations
- Monitoring and improvement of internal control procedures and systems
- Overseeing and supervising the work technicians to ensure that customers receive consistent and accurate service.
- Managing customer satisfaction levels by ensuring fix-it-right the first-time policy is adhered to.
- Advise staff on mechanical issues or be able to resolve mechanical issues in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- Motivating and coaching staff members to ensure high levels of productivity
- Keeping track of the status of vehicle repair and notify customer about same
- Managing the work in progress
- Authorizing and managing leave for all service department personnel
- Planning and managing training needs for all departmental personnel by keeping abreast of what is trending globally for each brand.
- Monitor productivity through hours sold on daily basis
- Making sure that hours sold per RO are in-line with benchmark
- Making sure that workshop parts sales are in-line with bench mark
- Making sure that the average labour rate is above the minimum rate
- Carry-out capacity studies for the workshop
- Monitor utilization and efficiency of Technicians (Units reports) and take suitable actions to improve levels
- Ensure the utilization of workshop resources and assets for excellent rates of productivity and efficiency
- Reviewing monthly sales(hours) and profit performance (Net profit vs gross)
- Any other duties assigned



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350





REGISTER NOW

TWEEN MAS

THEME: WACKY TACKY

12-17 YEARS OLD

PRIZES FOR THE BEST GROUP OUTFITS INSPIRED BY THIS YEAR'S THEME "FEEL THE RYTHM"

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 26 JUNE 2026
CALL 727 9201 OR EMAIL INFO.NFO@AB.GOV.AG TO REGISTER

FOOD • DRINKS • PRIZES & MORE
(REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY FOR PARTICIPATION)





TICKET OUTLETS

ROTI KING ST. MARY'S STREET & CORN ALLEY

COOL & SMOOTH LOWER ALL SAINTS ROAD

APUA INET OLD PARHAM ROAD

EXOTIC ANTIGUA REDCLIFFE STREET

SIPS & TIPS CEDAR GROVE MAIN ROAD



CASHLESS PAYMENTS AVAILABLE CARNIVAL CITY





COME FOR THE
FETE
STAY FOR THE
MATCH

PARTY STAND



TICKET OUTLETS
SRVS TICKET OUTLET
RUBIS SERVICE STATIONS
THE STREET TEAM



VS

**20
AUG**



**22
AUG**



**23
AUG**



**25
AUG**



NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT

\$65

**INCL. \$25 IN
DRINK CHITS**

7 PM

**SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM**



Strengthen integration for future generations, outgoing CARICOM chair charges

Dr Terrance Drew, Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis and outgoing Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has called for a stronger and more effective regional integration movement for future generations.

He said that this requires modernising governance, improving the implementation of decisions, making the community safer, more prosperous and more relevant to the lives of its people.

Prime Minister Drew issued the calls in his remarks on Sunday at the opening ceremony of the 51st Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in Saint Lucia as he passed the baton of chairman to Philip J. Pierre, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia.

The meeting is being held under the theme 'CARICOM: From Resilience to Renewal in a Changing World' as the community observes its 53rd anniversary.

Drew told the packed Jefferson Clinton Ballroom at Sandals Grande St Lucia that the community must improve, and modernise, but never lose sight of its immense value to the people of the region.

Reflecting on his tenure as chair, he commended his fellow heads of government for their strong commitment to unity, democracy, good governance, and the rule of law, in the face of global uncertainty and regional challenges.

"Yet, throughout these challenges, CARICOM chose engagement over isolation. Together, we reaffirmed our commitment to a fair and rules-based international trading system,



and ensured that the interests of small developing states continued to be heard. We strengthened engagement with traditional partners, while expanding cooperation with other new partners in different regions, including strengthening our relationship with the African Union. Guided always by one principle, every partnership must advance the interests of all who are involved," Prime Minister Drew said.

"Within our community, we continued strengthening the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, improving trade cooperation, labour mobility, and the foundations of future economic growth."

He expressed gratitude to CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr Carla Barnett, for her professionalism, integrity and commitment to the community. He also thanked the team she leads at the CARICOM Secretariat for its support and contribu-

tion to regional integration.

"Throughout my tenure, whenever I called, you answered. Whenever support was required, you and your team responded with diligence, competence, and excellence. You have served and continue to serve CARICOM with distinction. You have understood the importance of preserving the impartiality of the Secretariat while faithfully implementing the decisions of heads of government. That balance has strengthened this community, and for this, I offer, on behalf of all of us, our sincerest gratitude," the CARICOM chair said.

"I therefore ask that you extend my appreciation as the outgoing chair to every member of the Secretariat, whose commitment and professionalism continue to strengthen regional integration every single day." (Jamaica Gleaner)

CARICOM secretary-general urges regional leaders to take decisive action

Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Dr Carla Barnett, urged leaders of the region to seize the current period of global volatility as an opportunity for “decisive action” to reaffirm commitment to the regional integration movement.

She was addressing the opening ceremony of the 51st Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, on Sunday.

“In the interest of the people we serve now, and for future generations, we should see the prevailing volatility and disruption not as a barrier to progress, but as an opportunity to reaffirm, through decisive action, our commitment to the ideals and aspirations of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas,” she said, referencing the agreement that established the Caribbean Community, including the CARICOM single Market and Economy (CSME).

Reflecting on the community’s progress, Dr Barnett pointed to the strengthened operations of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, including the commencement of full free movement among four member states in October 2025, and continued increased agriculture production under the 25 by 2025+5 strategy, now extended to 2030.

She also highlighted CARICOM’s work with Haiti, the expansion of associate membership and deepening partnerships with Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Dr Barnett also saluted the national football teams of Haiti and Curaçao for their “dynamic representation” at the FIFA World Cup 2026.



Acknowledging the challenges before the region, the secretary-general recalled that 53 years ago when CARICOM was established, a global fuel crisis, the Cold War and limited markets demanded that “collective action be employed towards the greater good”.

“Then, as now, external factors and influences put at risk the vision of regional integration. However, the expected benefits to our economies and wider societies at that time, as now, far outweigh the risks,” she said.

The secretary-general cautioned that these challenges “call us to redouble our efforts”, pointing to out-

standing aspects of the CSME, such as capital market institutions and payments and settlement systems.

“To move ‘from resilience to renewal’, as this meeting’s theme urges, requires active recognition that as architects of this region’s future, we should work, in unison, to shape our own destiny, on our own terms,” said Dr Barnett.

She reminded leaders that, “this sense of purpose is what our people expect, require and deserve, if they are to see a positive difference in their lives from the work that we do here.” (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News



Cuba suffers new nationwide blackout, third in six months

Cuba on Monday suffered its third nationwide power outage since the start of the year, the state electricity company said.

The impoverished island was already struggling to keep the lights on before US President Donald Trump in January imposed an oil blockade, which has depleted the already dwindling supply of fuel for Cuba's power plants.

"There has been a total disconnection from the national electricity generation system," the UNE power utility wrote on X, adding that it was "investigating the causes."

The blackout is the eighth on the island of 9.6 million people since late 2024.

It comes as the state im-

poses increasingly draconian power cuts across the country — over 24 hours at a stretch in parts of Havana and over 70 hours in some rural areas — in an increasingly desperate attempt to conserve fuel.

Power outages have been a feature of life for years on the communist-run island, where the electricity generation system, composed mainly of ageing Soviet-era plants, is in shambles.

The pace of blackouts has accelerated since the fuel blockade began, however, with authorities citing a lack of fuel to run the generators that support the creaking national grid.

Since January, Washington has only allowed one oil tanker, from Russia, to dock



in Cuba.

The blockade, coupled with a flurry of sanctions on the Cuban state and foreign companies that do business with it, have tipped the country closer to the brink of collapse.

Food, drinking water and medicine are in increasingly

short supply, prompting the United Nations to warn of a humanitarian emergency.

The government has invested heavily in solar energy to try alleviate the electricity shortages, but solar power, while increasing, still represents just 10 percent of the energy mix. (AFP)

QUEEN OF GARNIVAL
ANTIGUA Carnival
Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

RHYTHM OF A QUEEN

The Beat of Her Journey

Denesha Samuel
Liat Air
Rhythm of Resilience

Kenesha James
AllMart
Rhythm of Purpose

Queenela Williams
Antigua Port Authority
Rhythm of Leadership

Christine Powell
ACB Caribbean
Rhythm of Strength

Shaveesa Gasper
Exotic Antigua
Rhythm of Culture

Laine Frederick
Furniture Gallery
Rhythm of Elegance

Aaliyah Taylor
Cool & Smooth
Rhythm of Transformation

21ST JULY 2026
8:00 PM
ARG (ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS)
TICKETS
RESERVED SEATING – EC\$50
GENERAL ADMISSION – EC\$30

'Logistical issues' as PM misses Caricom leaders line-up



Logistical issues delayed Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar's arrival at the opening of the 51st Regular Meeting of the Conference of Caricom Heads of Government in St Lucia yesterday, causing her to miss the traditional line-up of regional leaders on stage.

This according to Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister Nicholas Morris. He told the Express, however, via WhatsApp message from St Lucia that she arrived before St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister and immediate former Caricom chairman Dr Terrance Drew delivered his address at the opening ceremony.

Persad-Bissessar later posted photographs on her social media pages showing her attending the meeting alongside members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation.

During her absence from Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister of Works and Infrastructure Jearlean John will again act as Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister departed Trinidad and Tobago yesterday with a delegation that included Minister of Foreign and Caricom Affairs Sean Sobers, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister Nicholas Morris, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister Darrell Allahar, and Head of the Foreign Service Randall Karim.

Last week, Persad-Bissessar also reaffirmed that Trinidad and Tobago maintains its objection to the reappointment of Caricom Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett. The Persad-Bissessar administration has previously stated that it will not recognise Barnett after the expiry of her current term in August.

The Prime Minister previously told the Express that her government maintains the process used to secure Barnett's reappointment was inconsistent with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and Caricom's established governance procedures.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on Sunday evening, Caricom

Secretary General Dr Carla Barnett said regional leaders would focus on advancing the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), including implementing full free movement among four member states from October 2025, while continuing efforts to strengthen food security, climate resilience and governance support for Haiti.

Barnett also announced that Martinique had joined the meeting as an associate member, while French Guiana was expected to formally sign its accession agreement during the summit.

At the Fiftieth (50th) Regular Meeting of the Conference of Caricom Heads of Government in St Kitts and Nevis in February, Persad-Bissessar used her speech to criticise the Caricom Secretariat for its silence in 2022 when Trinidad and Tobago national Brent Thomas was "kidnapped" from Barbados, describing the matter as deeply "unsettling".

As then-opposition leader, the Prime Minister said she wrote to the Caricom Secretariat seeking answers but, to date, has received no response. Barnett was seated in the audience when Persad-Bissessar made her remarks.

The Prime Minister had also clashed with the regional body last year with her vocal support of the US lethal strikes on alleged narco-traffickers in the Caribbean while Caricom reaffirmed the principle of maintaining the region as a Zone of Peace. She also criticised Caricom as an "unreliable partner" over its collective silence when the former Maduro administration threatened T&T. (Trinidad Express)

Microsoft cuts 4,800 jobs and shrinks Xbox in 'significant restructure'

Microsoft has announced it has cut 4,800 jobs - roughly 2.1% of its workforce - with Xbox to bear a large number of its latest layoffs.

Amy Coleman, executive vice president at Microsoft, told employees in a memo that the tech giant needed to focus on areas that can deliver for customers amid a "fast-changing industry".

The sweeping layoffs will see more than 1,600 roles immediately axed at Xbox.

Asha Sharma, who recently took over as Xbox's chief executive, said in a note to staff it was "beginning the most significant restructure in Xbox history".

Another 1,600 jobs will be lost in the coming year, Sharma said in the note, shared on X.

Four Xbox game development studios - Compulsion Games, Double Fine Productions, Ninja Theory and Undead Lab - would also be spun off as part of the changes, she added.

"These changes are about a bigger future for Xbox, not a smaller one," Sharma said.

"History is full of companies that mistake longevity for inevitability. We will not be one of them."

Coleman meanwhile pointed to a changing customer needs in announcing Microsoft's company-wide cuts.

"Companies don't get to choose whether their industry changes; they only get to choose whether they change with it," she said.

She noted that while the company would not replace the lost roles with AI, "what is true is that AI is changing how work gets done".

The announcement comes at an already difficult time in the gaming industry, with many studios still reeling from brutal layoffs in recent years.

In 2024, Xbox culled more than 2,000 staff and shuttered four studios bought prior to its bumper acquisition of Call of Duty maker Activision-Blizzard.



Little more than a year later, Microsoft said it would lay off as many as 9,000 workers after setting out plans to double down on its multi-billion-dollar AI spending.

The spiralling costs of hardware have also prompted firms including Microsoft to hike the price of years-old consoles and similar consumer gadgets - with many blaming AI data centres for pushing up demand too quickly for supply to catch up.

Sharma said on Monday that while she knew the cuts were "painful", there was a "reset" needed across Xbox's entire content portfolio, platform and operations.

Tech analyst Paolo Pescatore told the BBC the changes indeed marked a "major reset" for the company, which has further trials ahead.

"The challenge is not just cutting costs; it is defining what Xbox stands for in a world where games are moving across console, PC, cloud and subscription platforms," he said.

As part of Xbox's sweeping changes, Minecraft developer Mojang and Candy Crush developer King will now report directly to Sharma.

Piers Harding-Rolls of Ampere Analysis said this restructuring "underlines Xbox's vision for its studios and content, which will be more heavily fo-

cused on the biggest IP and audiences".

He said the company had previously bought a plethora of studios to boost offerings on its subscription service Game Pass.

"But the company has now decided that some of these teams and the games they are building would be better suited to sit outside the Xbox organisation," he said - adding that its decision not close them was "positive news during a difficult time".

Double Fine and Compulsion will both return to independent management.

Double Fine, acquired by Microsoft in 2019, wrote on X that it was "thankful to everyone at Xbox for seven great years together".

The Psychonauts developer added it was grateful to have been able to reach an outcome "which preserves our history and culture, and returns ownership of our games to us".

Both itself and Compulsion, which developed action-adventure title South of Midnight, will depart with their intellectual property (IP).

"Our immediate priority is to support our team throughout this transition period," Compulsion said on X - adding it was confident in its future. (BBC)

Ebola deaths in Congo top 500 as health workers threaten to strike



At least 500 people have died out of over 1,500 confirmed cases in Congo's Ebola outbreak, authorities said, as frontline workers threatened to go on strike on Monday over unpaid benefits and poor working conditions.

The outbreak has recorded 1,561 cases, including 506 deaths, since it was declared on May 15 as the spread continues to outpace response, Congo's Ministry of Health said in its latest update on Sunday night.

Frontline workers deployed in Ituri province, the epicenter of the outbreak, issued a 24-hour notice on Sunday threatening to strike if authorities fail to pay them and improve their working conditions.

The workers include mostly health professionals who have been laboring with little rest as they battle attacks

from angry residents and widespread skepticism about the virus.

In the notice to the government, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press, the workers both in and outside hospitals said they had not been paid benefits since the outbreak began and they do not have adequate supplies for their work.

They also complained of poor salaries, the "arrogance" of teams sent from Congo's capital of Kinshasa, and the "excessive" use of labor from other provinces without prioritizing local labor in Ituri, as well as the lack of adequate equipment.

The strike threats come just days after enrollment for clinical trials started, raising concerns in the epicenter about its possible impact. Any strike could also hamper efforts to slow the

spread of the outbreak, which is now confirmed in three eastern provinces including North Kivu and South Kivu.

The lack of approved vaccines or treatments for the Bundibugyo virus, which is responsible for the latest Ebola outbreak, has complicated response efforts. The more common Zaire virus, for which there is a vaccine, was responsible for most of Congo's past 16 outbreaks of the disease.

Officials are yet to identify the outbreak's patient zero and still need to trace possibly tens of thousands of people who have come in contact with infected individuals.

The first month of this Ebola outbreak was already the worst on record, the World Health Organization has said. (AP)

More than 1,000 arrested as part of global human trafficking crackdown



More than 1,000 people have been arrested as part of a global crackdown on human trafficking spanning 59 countries.

Coordinated by Interpol, Operation Global Chain saw officers target trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour and criminality, and coerced begging.

A network that was trafficking victims into online scamming in Cambodia, and a network forcing underage girls recruited via social media into sex work in Europe were dismantled as part of the operation, authorities said.

In total, 2,070 victims or potential victims were identified, the vast majority of whom authorities said were women. Of the arrests, 334 were for human trafficking and 690 for associated crimes.

Interpol, which coordinated the effort alongside the EU's agency for law enforcement cooperation Europol and

European border agency Frontex, said the operation's findings had exposed evolving trafficking routes and methods.

It found an emerging trend of Latin American victims being trafficked for forced labour in Europe, with about 10% of identified victims being minors from the Americas who were subjected to sexual exploitation.

As part of the operation, authorities in Colombia launched an airport prevention campaign to raise awareness about the risks of fraudulent job offers abroad.

Interpol said Brazil's Federal Police had identified 406 victims - 83 Brazilians and 323 foreign nationals - of a transnational network trafficking victims to Cambodia where they were forced into online scamming.

Interpol notices have been issued targeting wanted suspects and persons of interest.

It also said two Bolivian child victims

who were forced to work in a grocery store were rescued by Argentinian police, with arrests made.

Separately, Belgian authorities arrested 17 suspects after dismantling a trafficking network that allegedly held victims recruited via social media captive, and forced them into prostitution rings across Belgium and France.

The operation, which took place between 8 and 12 June, was conducted by 40,000 officers across countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.

It found that most of the victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, while 20% were forced into criminality, 11% were forced into labour and 2% into forced begging.

Interpol said victims identified during the operation had been referred to national protection and support services, while 465 investigations had been launched as a result.

An additional 201 suspects were also identified in the operation. Countries including the UK, the US, France, Germany, Spain, Nigeria, Thailand and Vietnam took part in the operation.

Interpol Secretary Valdecy Urquiza said human trafficking remained "one of the most profitable and pervasive forms" of organised crimes, generating billions in illicit revenue each year.

He added that the crime caused "severe and lasting harm to victims", saying the operation's results "demonstrate what can be achieved when countries work together to disrupt criminal networks and strengthen cooperation across regions". (BBC)



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!



Second-place finish for Antiguans at ANOCES championships

Antigua and Barbuda's athletes finished second overall at the 2026 Association of National Olympic Committees of the Eastern Caribbean (ANOCES) Track and Field Championships in St. Kitts over the weekend.

Antigua and Barbuda claimed the runners-up spot in the nine-team competition with a total of 171 points. Host St. Kitts and Nevis won the title by amassing 180 points during the two-day competition.

The British Virgin Islands took third place with 130 points, while St. Vincent and the Grenadines clinched fourth place with 123 points.

Antigua and Barbuda topped the women's standings with 70.5 points. St. Vincent and the Grenadines took second place with 61.5 points, and Grenada came third with 60.5 points.

Antigua and Barbuda finished third in the men's competition with a total of 100.5 points. St. Kitts and Nevis topped the men's division standings with 122.5 points, while the British Virgin Islands claimed second place with 106 points.

Several of Antigua and Barbuda's athletes achieved success on the second and final day of competitions at the Kim Collins Stadium in Basseterre.

Maliek Francis established two records in winning gold and capturing the title in the men's javelin contest.

Francis threw a distance of 66.11 meters to break the former national record of 65.70 meters by Oraine Brown, which was set at the NACAC Under-23 Championships in Mexico on July 6, 2012.

In setting the record, Francis also established a new stadium record for the Kim Collins athletics facility. The previous distance was 60.40 meters, which was set by Abijah Nemdhari on June 21, 2026.

Antigua and Barbuda claimed silver and bronze medals in the women's



Team Antigua and Barbuda in St. Kitts



Maliek Francis

100-meter sprint final.

Antiguan sprinter Geolyna Dowdye, who established a new Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) record to claim gold in winning the women's 200-meter final in a time of 23.28 seconds, secured second place in the 100-meter final by clocking 11.47 seconds.

Compatriot Soniya Jones came third in 11.65 seconds in the race, which was won by Jady Emmanuel of St. Lucia in a time of 11.39 seconds.

Antiguan Craig Prendergast claimed bronze in the men's 400-meter hurdles final. After falling on the last hurdle, Prendergast showed true strength and determination to get up and finished third in the one-lap race in one minute and 21 seconds.

The event was won by Akanye Samuel-Francis in 53.26 seconds, and compatriot Niran Warde took second place in 53.55 seconds.

Antigua and Barbuda's 15-year-old athlete Shawn'zee Joseph captured a bronze medal by finishing third in the men's 1500-meter open race in a time of four minutes and 29.96 seconds.

But Antiguan Devon James missed out on a medal in the same race by finishing fourth in a time of four minutes and 36.27 seconds.

Athletes from St. Kitts and Nevis claimed the top two positions in the race, which was won by Alexander Caines in four minutes and 17.84 seconds ahead of Najeeb Kelly in four minutes and 25.62 seconds.

Sports News



Lion Cub among winners in Antigua Cup Tournament



Lion Cub's goal scorers in their opening match against Parham in the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament at the Buckley's Primary School Playing Field on Sunday, July 5. From left to right: Gergon Rodney, Garrett Isaac, and Curdyson Harper. (Photo courtesy of the Young Warriors FC)

Lion Cub was among the winners on the opening day of matches during the third edition of the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament, which commenced at the Buckley's Primary School Playing Field on Sunday.

The Lion Cub launched their campaign with a three-nil victory over Parham in one of four matches in the under-13 Division on the opening day.

The goals were scored by Garrett Isaac, Gergon Rodney, and Curdyson Harper.

Host Young Warriors FC, visiting Bath United of Nevis, and Bassa also made winning starts to their campaigns with success in their opening encounters.

The Young Warriors launched their campaign with a 5-0 drubbing of Future Nation Academy. The goals were converted by Kirvin Marcellin, Tevez Bowen, Tayvon Samuel, Deshawn Whyte, and Leonard Francis.

Bath United pulled off a 3-1 victory against the Young Warriors in their opening encounter. Zachary Claxton converted a penalty kick, while the other goals for Bath United were

scored by Zander Nesbitt and Terique Roberts.

Tayvon Samuel scored a consolation goal for the Young Warriors. Bassa snatched a 2-1 victory against SAP FC in their opening game.

Lawrenzo Peters converted both goals for Bassa, while Dwayne Byers, the son of former national striker Peter Byers, scored for SAP FC.

Participating teams are competing in five age categories: under-9, under-11, under-13, under-15, and under-17 in the Antigua Cup, which will conclude on Sunday, July 12.

BACKYARD BOYS
PROMOTION PRESENTS
FIFA STREETS

5-A-SIDE UNLIMITED SUBS!

CASH PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS!

SAT & SUN
18TH & 19TH
JULY
2026

BLACKBURN BASKETBALL COURT

5:00 PM UNTIL LATE

DEADLINE JULY 5TH 2026

CALL JP TO REGISTER
721-3559

1ST PRIZE \$1500

2ND PRIZE \$500

1 GOALKEEPER
4 OUTFIELD PLAYERS

PLAYERS PER SQUAD:
MAX 10 PLAYERS

REGISTRATION:
\$10 PER PLAYER

BRING YOUR GAME.
OWN THE STREETS.

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

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

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Sports News

More success for UWIFIC and Cedar Grove in New Winthropes league

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) and Cedar Grove CG kept up their winning forms in the New Winthropes Community Football League over the weekend.

The UWIFIC notched up their second win in as many games by snatching a 1-0 victory against Wile Syde FC in the eight-team round-robin community league at the New Winthropes playing field.

Mali Johnson scored the only goal of the match with a 37th-minute conversion to inflict the second defeat in as many games for Wile Syde FC.

Keshorn Hamilton struck a hat trick as the Cedar Grove CG made it two wins in a row with a 5-2 victory over The Palace in their second outing.

Hamilton had conversions in the 32nd, 49th, and 66th minutes. The other goals for Cedar Grove were converted by Shamari Frett in the 30th minute and Javere Joseph in the 47th minute.

Mario Christian scored in the 60th minute, and Dahvia Hughes had a 61st-minute conversion for The Palace, who lost for the first time in two matches.

Javid Maynard scored in the 20th minute to snatch a 1-0 victory for Cedar Grove CG against North Side Juvies in their opening game.

The Palace won their opening game by pulling off a 3-2 victory over New Level Unlocked. The goals for The Palace were converted by Kwame Kirby in the 18th minute, Deondre Harrigan in the 43rd minute, and Jalarni Barzey in the 48th minute.

Isaac Hughes scored in the fifth minute, and Danny Collins had a 68th-minute conversion for New Level Unlocked.

Isaiah Hughes and Isaac Hughes both scored twice to lead New Level Unlocked to their first win in two matches with a 5-0 drubbing of North Side Juvies.



Isaiah Hughes had conversions in the 11th and 15th minutes, while Isaac Hughes scored in the 47th and 55th minutes. The other goal was converted by Obas Mahevene in the 45th minute.

Strike Force rebounded from a 2-1 loss to UWIFIC in their opening match to record their first win with a 2-1 victory over Enforcers in their second encounter.

Tahari James had a 24th-minute conversion, and Millique London scored in the 67th minute for Strike Force. Dimitri Scotland produced a 64th-minute conversion for Enforcers, who suffered their first defeat after beating Wile Side 3-1 in their opening game.

Eight teams, which are equally divided into two groups, are contesting the league. The re-birth of the New Winthropes Community Football League is a collaborative venture by Nat Pan My Team and Real Blizzard FC.

Meanwhile, there were opening game wins for FC Hollywood and Nat Pan My Team (NPMT) Upsetters and Jen-

nings United in the latest round of matches in the Gray's Green Community Football League at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

FC Hollywood launched their campaign by snatching a 1-0 victory over West Side FC of Five Islands in the opening game.

Ammiel Joseph-Greenaway scored the only goal of the match to secure victory for FC Hollywood.

Goals by Michael Robin, Jhamaree Phillip, Kelly Roberts, and Shemaiah Andrew propelled NPMY Upsetters to a 4-0 drubbing of Herberts FC in their opening encounter.

Twelve teams, divided into three groups, are contesting the Gray's Green Community League, which is organized by the Empire Football Club.

The league is sponsored by parliamentary representative for St. John's Rural West, Honourable Michael Joseph; Top Speed Construction; and I Love Electrics.

CWI Explores partnership with China to advance high-performance campus vision



The CWI delegation comprising Chief Executive Officer Chris Dehring, second left, Chief Operating Officer Lynford Inverary, right, and General Manager of Coolidge Cricket Ground, Nelecia Yeates, second right and two officials of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda.(CWI Media)

Cricket West Indies (CWI) recently met with Her Excellency Jiang Wei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda, to explore opportunities for collaboration in support of the organisation's long-term infrastructure and high-performance ambitions.

Central to the discussions was CWI's plan to develop a world-class High-Performance Center at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG), which will serve as the organisation's administrative headquarters and premier high-performance training centre, providing a modern, integrated environment for player development, coaching, sports science, education and cricket operations.

Among the areas discussed were opportunities for Chinese enterprises' participation in the design and construction of the facility, including the engagement of Chinese contractors and equipment suppliers, the procurement of construction materials, and the potential use of the campus by

Chinese cricket stakeholders to support the continued growth and development of the sport in China.

The meeting reflects CWI's commitment to building strategic partnerships aimed at strengthening cricket across the Caribbean while fostering greater global collaboration and investment in the game.

CWI Chief Executive Officer Chris Dehring said the discussions represented an important step in advancing one of the organisation's most transformative initiatives.

"The development of our High-Performance Center and other facets of the Cricket West Indies Campus represents one of the most significant strategic investments in the future of West Indies cricket. We are committed to creating a world-class environment where our players, coaches and administrators can excel while positioning the West Indies as a hemispheric centre for cricket excellence.

"Our discussions with Her Excel-

lency Ambassador Jiang Wei demonstrate the value of international partnerships in helping us realise this vision. We look forward to exploring opportunities that can benefit both West Indies cricket and the continued global growth of the game," Dehring said.

Her Excellency Jiang Wei welcomed the opportunity for dialogue and expressed that the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium built with Chinese assistance has played a positive role in advancing the development of sports in Antigua and Barbuda and enriching the lives of locals.

"We are pleased to see that Chinese enterprises and Chinese equipment have opportunities to participate in the construction of the CCG high-performance center, and we look forward to expanding cooperation with the CWI," said the Ambassador.

The proposed High-Performance Campus is a flagship initiative under CWI's 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, "The Long Run", supporting the organisation's commitment to developing a fully integrated, world-class high-performance system while modernising the infrastructure needed to sustain long-term cricket excellence throughout the Caribbean.

The CWI delegation included Chief Executive Officer Chris Dehring, Chief Operating Officer Lynford Inverary, and General Manager of Coolidge Cricket Ground, Nelecia Yeates.

As planning for the campus continues, CWI will continue engaging governments, development partners and private-sector stakeholders to help deliver a facility that strengthens the future of West Indies cricket while creating new opportunities for international cooperation and the expansion of cricket worldwide.

ABBA names squad for CBC tournament in Guyana



The senior national team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, at the V.C. Bird International Airport before departing to Guyana on Monday, July 6, 2026. (Photo courtesy of ABBA)

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

The 12-member squad, comprising three United States-based players, will represent the senior national team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, at the CBC Tournament, which is a pre-qualifying contest for the 2029 FIBA AmeriCup.

The overseas-based players that have been included in the squad that left Antigua for Guyana on Monday are Preston Merrick of Harvard University, Xavier Spencer of Lindenwood University, and Jaden Andrew of Emory & Henley College.

The rest of the squad comprised home-based players who participated in the national domestic leagues. Among them are Jamine "Muff" Charles, Alexis Jackson, Darnell Azille, and Seth

Joseph of Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz.

The other players are Kareem Edwards of Cuties Ovals Ojays, Cohen Desouza of JSC Red Hawks, T-Shawn Lewis of Da Project, Danny Perez of Daryll Matthew Ottos, and Javonte Daley of EZ Fit Flyers.

The squad will be accompanied by a coaching and support staff. They are Head Coach George Hughes, assistant coaches Bradbury Browne and Cedric "Supa" David, Team Operations Manager Inga Francis, Player Manager Christopher Khoully, Media Relations Officer Jnai Spencer, physiotherapist/trainer Natrecia Mussington, Equipment Manager Marlon "Buju" Charles, and Head of Delegation Vere Cornelius.

Antigua and Barbuda will compete in Group A of the 10-team tournament. The Antiguan players are grouped with host Guyana, Dominica, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Bermuda.

Contesting Group B are Barbados, Haiti, Grenada, the Cayman Islands,

and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Each team will face every opponent in its group once in a round-robin format. At the conclusion of the competition, the top team from each group will advance to the next round of the 2029 FIBA AmeriCup Pre-Qualifiers, scheduled for November 2026.

The Wadadli Bulldogs will open their campaign against Bermuda on July 8. A day later, it will be a rematch of the 2018 Caribbean Qualifiers finals with Antigua and Barbuda facing the home team, Guyana.

On July 11, the Wadadli Bulldogs will play Dominica and will wrap up their campaign with their final match against the Turks and Caicos Islands on July 12.

The Wadadli Bulldogs squad: Kareem Edwards, Cohen Desouza, Javonte Daley, T-Shawn Lewis, Danny Perez, Alexis Jackson, Jaden Andrew, Jamine Charles, Seth Joseph, Xavier Spencer, Darnell Azille, and Preston Merrick.