

Prime Minister Vows to Protect Sovereignty in U.S. Deportee Talks

Story on page 2



Cordel Josiah (second from left) is congratulated by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams at Tuesday's Investiture ceremony

Prime Minister Vows to Protect Sovereignty in U.S. Deportee Talks



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says Antigua and Barbuda is prepared to endure United States visa restrictions rather than accept an agreement that would allow criminal deportees into the country, insisting his administration will not compromise national security or sovereignty in negotiations with Washington.

Addressing Parliament on Tuesday, PM Browne acknowledged that visa restrictions have already been imposed on Antigua and Barbuda but maintained that protecting the country's interests remains the government's overriding priority.

"We know that the United States could take punitive action, and already there are visa restrictions against Antigua and Barbuda," Browne told legislators. "But if we were faced with an option of not taking criminals and to have visa restrictions, we will go for the visa restrictions because accepting criminals will destroy our country."

The Prime Minister sought to reassure the public that negotiations with the United States over the possible acceptance of third-country nationals remain ongoing and that no agreement has been finalised. He said discussions have been underway for months, dating back to August last year, and not-

ed that Antigua and Barbuda has consistently approached the matter with caution while defending its national interests.

"Our government approach on this issue is neither with hostility nor with haste," Browne said, adding that the administration has carefully examined every proposal to ensure it does not undermine the country's security or quality of life.

PM Browne stressed that Antigua and Barbuda values its longstanding relationship with the United States and will be cooperative, while safeguarding its interests.

"It is not in our interest to have any acrimonious relationship with the United States," he said. "We have to continue to be a very friendly and cooperative nation, but not to the extent where it undermines our own development."

Responding to public concerns, Prime Minister Browne insisted that the current negotiations do not require Antigua and Barbuda to accept violent offenders or hardened criminals. According to him, the principal disagreement has centered on language within the draft agreement. He explained that the government requested an explicit provision stating that criminal offenders would not be transferred to Anti-

gua and Barbuda. But U.S. officials reportedly responded that such wording could create complications because immigration or visa violations are technically criminal offences under American law.

The head of government stated that his administration has since proposed revised language that would permit only individuals whose offences relate solely to immigration or visa violations while excluding serious criminal elements.

"We don't want criminal elements," he declared.

The Prime Minister also rejected opposition claims that the government has already signed a binding agreement with the United States. He explained that what has been executed is only a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which does not obligate Antigua and Barbuda to receive anyone. According to the Prime Minister, the MOU grants no automatic right of entry into the country and does not diminish the government's sovereign authority to determine who may enter, remain in, or be removed from Antigua and Barbuda.

To promote transparency, PM Browne announced that all relevant documents relating to the negotiations will be filed in Parliament and deposited with the national archives, allowing citizens to review the information for themselves.

He said the move is intended to counter what he described as misinformation surrounding the negotiations and to ensure an accurate public record of the government's position.

According to the Prime Minister, while Antigua and Barbuda recognises the diplomatic imbalance between itself and the world's largest economy, the government will continue to negotiate respectfully but firmly in defence of the nation's sovereignty and the safety of its people.

A&B's Foreign Minister Names the Five Principles That Guide Ongoing Talks With the US



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene

Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene has identified five clear principles that have guided ongoing negotiations with the United States on the issue of this country's accepting third-country nationals who have been deported from the US.

Minister Greene was speaking in the House of Representative on Tuesday on a government's resolution that seeks to provide a framework for the talks with the US on this sensitive matter.

The minister, who also has portfolio responsibility for immigration, said from the very beginning, the Government approached this matter with five clear principles which have never changed but which have guided every discussion, every drift and every decision that was made.

"First, Antigua and Barbuda would never agree to a standing programme under which people could routinely be transferred to our country. That was never acceptable. It is not acceptable today. And it will not become acceptable tomorrow.

"Second, every proposed case had to remain entirely within the sovereign discretion of Antigua and Barbuda. No country, however friendly, could decide who comes into our territory.

That decision belongs to Antigua and Barbuda. It belongs to no one else," he declared.

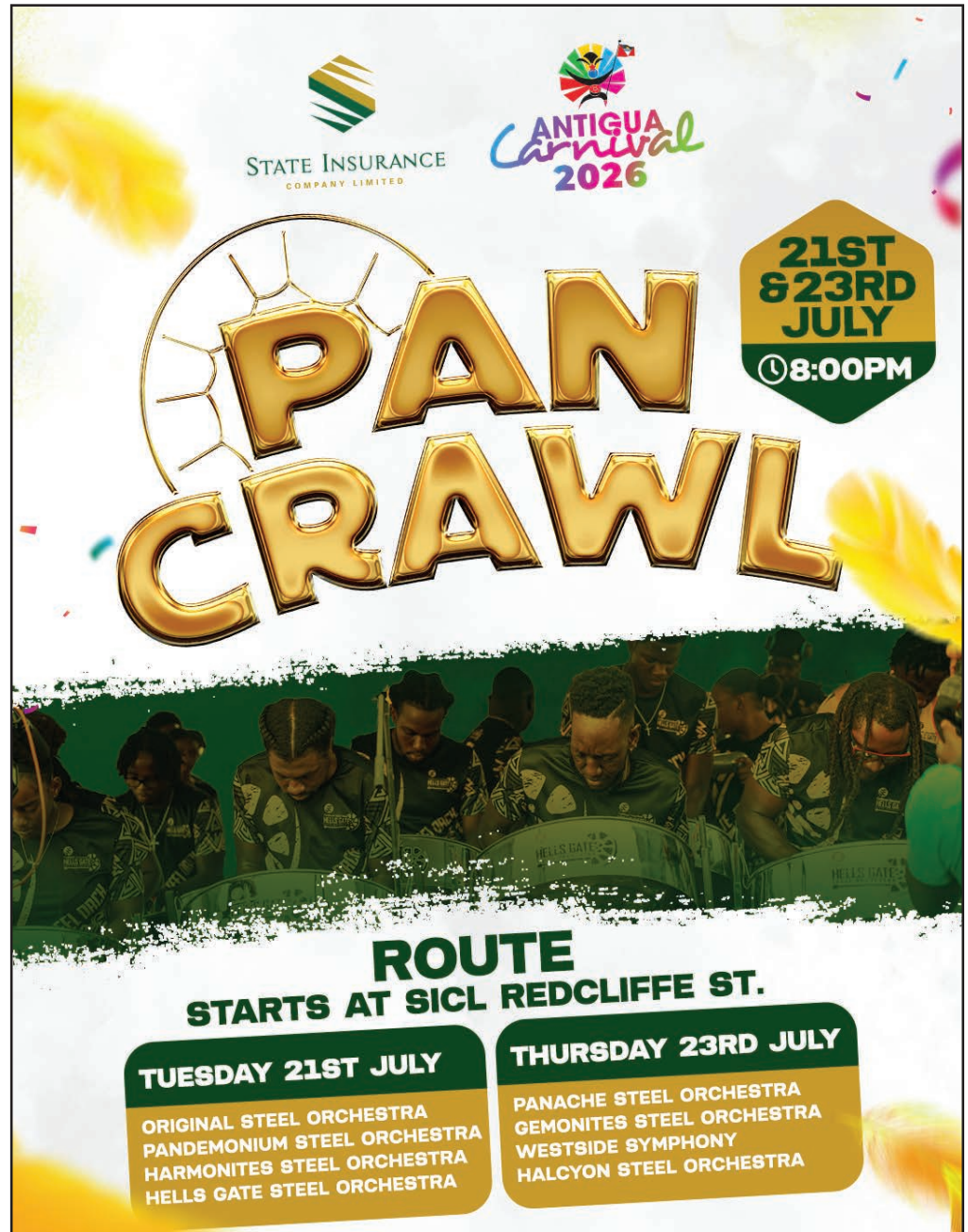
Thirdly, according to the minister, the government would not expose the people of Antigua and Barbuda to unknown legal, financial or security risks.

"If there were doubts, they had to be resolved first. If there were gaps, they had to be closed. If adequate protections could not be achieved, there could be no agreement.

"Fourth, Antigua and Barbuda would not become responsible for the financial consequences of another country's immigration policy. Our taxpayers should not be asked to carry that burden," he cautioned.

For the fifth and final principle, Minister Greene noted that any cooperation had to produce a fair outcome for Antigua and Barbuda.

"Friendship requires respect. Respect requires reciprocity," he urged.



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THURSDAY 23RD JULY
 PANACHE STEEL ORCHESTRA
 GEMONITES STEEL ORCHESTRA
 WESTSIDE SYMPHONY
 HALCYON STEEL ORCHESTRA

Minister Turner Rejects Attempt to Link Deportee Resolution to CIP Criticism

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner says attempts to link the Citizenship by Investment Programme with discussions on a proposed arrangements between the Antigua and Barbuda government and the United States over 3rd country nationals...are simply wrong.

Minister Turner made the point on Tuesday as the House of Representatives debated a government resolution setting out the principles that will govern any arrangement for the possible transfer of third-country nationals removed from the United States.

The Minister was particularly critical of the Member for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, who he accused of attempting to mislead the public by suggesting the two matters were connected. He informed the House that 33 countries around the world, including Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Rwanda, Uganda and Poland, have been approached by the United States on the same issue; that of accepting third-country nationals.

“You spin every issue to deceive the people into believing that the sole reason for us being asked to accept third party nationals is because of our CIP units,” Minister Turner said. “How many of those countries are engaged in the CIP? Y’all must stop deceiving the people.”



The Minister said the resolution reflects a carefully negotiated position that places the country’s safety first, and that any agreement would require government’s approval of each individual case, including review of criminal records, before any transfer could occur.

“The safety of this country is paramount,” Minister Turner said, adding that accepting individuals with criminal records could damage the country’s standing with the United States. “It will be the same United States that will turn around and say Antigua is an unsafe place so tourists should not go there.”

Minister Turner, who represents the

St Peter constituency, said he would not support any arrangement that risked bringing people with criminal records into his own community.

“I can’t go back to the people of St Peter and tell them that I’m going to accept criminal elements to be deported to this country,” Minister Turner said.

Closing his contribution, Minister Turner called for unity across the political divide in handling the ongoing negotiations with Washington.

“Beat us on any other thing you want but we must show a united front on this matter because it is a national issue,” Minister Turner declared.


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APUA Says Water Distribution Is Affected By Falling Water Levels At Bendals Valley

The Water Business Unit advises that surface water levels at Bendals Valley have fallen below the level required for extraction. As a result, communities normally supplied by the Bendals Water Treatment Plant will now receive water from the Ffryes Reverse Osmosis Plant and available well sources within the Bendals Valley.

Communities normally served by the Bendals Water Treatment Plant include Bendals Village, Bendals Road, Bathlodge, Cashew Hill, Whenner Road, Brownes Avenue, Martins Village, DeSouza Road, Tindale Road, Golden Grove Eastern Section and Golden Grove Extension.

The Ffryes R.O. Plant also directly serves Big Creek, Ebenezer, Jennings, Bolans, Crab Hill, Johnsons Point, Urlings, Cades Bay and Old Road.

With the Ffryes R.O. Plant now supplying a wider customer base, customers in communities served by both the Bendals Water Treatment Plant and



the Ffryes R.O. Plant may experience lower water pressure, shorter service periods and longer intervals between scheduled distribution days.

Water service will be rotated among the affected communities. Customers are encouraged to store water respon-

sibly when service is available and to continue practicing water conservation.

The Water Business Unit thanks customers for their patience and understanding as it continues to manage the available water supply



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Fernandez Rebukes Barbuda MP Over Criticism of CIP

Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez has mounted a strong defence of Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP), dismissing suggestions that the initiative is responsible for recent visa restrictions imposed by the United States.

Speaking in Parliament on Tuesday where a white paper on the negotiations with the United States on third-party nationals was laid before the House of Representatives, Fernandez said he was disappointed by comments made by Barbuda MP Trevor Walker, who he accused of unfairly criticising the country's flagship investment programme and attempting to link it to the ongoing diplomatic discussions with the United States.

Fernandez argued that Antigua and Barbuda's CIP remains one of the most rigorously managed programmes in the region, featuring some of the strictest due diligence requirements among member states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

According to Fernandez, one of the most common complaints from citizenship agents is the length of time required to process applications. However, he said those delays are a direct result of the government's commitment to ensuring every applicant undergoes extensive background checks before citizenship is granted. He recounted a recent conversation with a Citizenship by Investment recipient who praised Antigua and Barbuda's vetting procedures, describing them as among the most comprehensive he had ever encountered.

The minister maintained that the



government's careful approach is designed to protect the integrity of the programme and preserve the country's international reputation. Fernandez also rejected claims that the Citizenship by Investment Unit lacks accountability, noting that Parliament receives regular updates on the nationalities of individuals who obtain citizenship through the programme.

He further pointed out that the Office of the Auditor General has full authority to review CIP operations and access relevant information whenever necessary.

Fernandez said allegations suggesting otherwise were inaccurate and risked undermining public confidence in a programme that has contributed significantly to national development.

Highlighting the programme's economic impact, he said Citizenship by Investment funds have helped attract hundreds of millions of dollars in investment projects across Antigua and Barbuda. He cited several developments, including the Nobu project in Barbuda, the Marriott development at Yep-tons, the Elite property re-development and the Moongate project, as

examples of investments linked to the programme.

According to Fernandez, CIP-supported projects currently represent between US\$500 million and US\$1 billion in investment activity throughout the country.

"There is so much investment in Antigua right now as a result of that CIP," he said.

The minister warned that negative commentary about the programme, particularly on social media, can damage Antigua and Barbuda's reputation internationally and discourage potential investors.

Fernandez also challenged assertions that the country's CIP programme is connected to the current discussions with the United States regarding third-country nationals. As part of his argument, he pointed to Jamaica, which does not operate a Citizenship by Investment Programme but has nevertheless agreed to accept third-country nationals.

"Jamaica doesn't have a CIP programme, but Jamaica is accepting third-country nationals. How do you explain that then?" Fernandez asked.

He said the example demonstrates that efforts to link Antigua and Barbuda's CIP programme to the U.S. immigration discussions are misplaced and unsupported by the facts. Fernandez maintained that while constructive criticism is important, public officials should avoid making statements that could unfairly tarnish programmes that have generated significant economic benefits and contributed to the country's development.

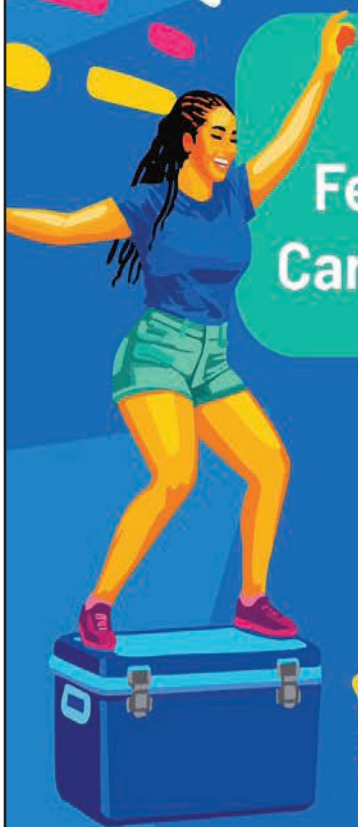
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Local News

LOCAL ARTISTS SHOWCASED AT TORONTO POLO CHARITY EVENT



Five pieces by local artists were on display at Polo for Heart charity fundraiser in Toronto, Canada last weekend (Photo courtesy of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority).

Five artists from Antigua and Barbuda, members of the QBG (Quay and Barracks Art Galleries) Collective, introduced Canadian audiences to the destination's vibrant and creative culture this past weekend, with their work featured at the annual Polo for Heart fundraiser in Toronto, Canada, sponsored by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA).

The collection, by Glenroy Aaron, Heather Doram, Kelly Hull, Stephen Murphy and Dylan Phillips, featured a diverse range of contemporary works inspired by Antigua and Barbuda's landscapes, people and everyday life, offering guests an authentic glimpse into the nation's thriving artistic community.

"What we intended to do with this event was to highlight the depths of talent in these two beautiful islands," said Tameka Wharton, Director of Tourism for Canada. "Our artists are among Antigua and Barbuda's great-



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SATURDAY
18 JULY
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Canadian professional wrestler, WWE Hall of Famer and fitness model Trish Stratus was among the attendees at the Polo for Heart fundraiser picnic on Sunday.

est representatives and by bringing their work to spaces like Polo for Heart, we give international audiences an opportunity to connect with the cultural tapestry which makes our destination so unique.”

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority’s Canadian office hosted a destination-themed experience, “Polo in Paradise,” during the multi-day Polo for Heart fundraiser. Guests enjoyed Antigua and Barbuda specialty cocktails, authentic cuisine from the twin-island nation including the national dish fungee and pepperpot, saltfish and fried dumplings, music by local artistes, colourful carnival costumes and immersive destination branding that transformed the venue into a celebration of culture. A couple’s stay at the boutique Curtain Bluff Resort, was also donated for the silent auction.

The ABTA used the opportunity to promote Antigua and Barbuda Art Week, the fourth edition of which will be held November 11 to 18 this



Polo players compete at the Polo for Heart charity game last weekend at the Toronto Polo Club



Authentic Antigua and Barbuda cuisine, including johnny cakes and saltfish, were on the menu for Polo in Heart.

year. Over a dozen experiences and exhibitions will be taking place that week, spanning, visual arts, music, fashion, open galleries, special exhibits and public art experiences.

Polo For Heart is Canada’s largest and longest-running charity polo event, dedicated to raising funds

for important healthcare initiatives while delivering unforgettable polo experiences and entertainment. Over the years, the event has raised significant funds for hospitals and charitable organizations while becoming a beloved summer tradition.



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17TH JULY 2026 **ADM: \$20**

GUEST ARTISTE SOCA VILLAN



Local News

Ministry of Works Is Actively Addressing Recently Raised Worker Concerns

The Ministry of Works wishes to provide an update on concerns raised by some members of staff on the morning of Tuesday, 14th July 2026.

Upon notification of the workers' inquiries, the Ministry's Management team swiftly and constructively engaged with the affected staff to reassure them of ongoing processes that actively address their concerns. The affected team members subsequently resumed their work.

The Ministry reiterates its sincere appreciation for its hardworking team members and its continued commitment to fully supporting



them as together they advance the mission to transform infrastructure in Antigua and Barbuda.



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‘Building Titans’ Launches Accessible 1-Week Youth Leadership Summer Programme

A new youth leadership summer initiative focused on building critical thinking, public speaking skills and ethical leadership has started registration ahead of welcoming its inaugural cohort in August. Designed as an intensive 1-week training programme open to adolescents aged 12-17 and young adults 18-24, the Building Titans: Young Leaders Summer Academy 2026 (BTYLSA 2026) will push participants to rigorously challenge ideas, analyse important current issues, master oral communication, and understand what makes a good leader.

BTYLSA 2026 will take place at the Eustace Hill Campus of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) in Coolidge (formerly ABIIT) from Monday, August 17, 2026, to Friday, August 21, 2026. Participants can expect a daily lineup of powerful guest speakers, theory sessions designed to build their analytical and delivery skills, daily activities to promote teamwork and knowledge-building, and opportunities to practice public speaking and debate in a constructive environment.

Director of BTYLSA 2026, Kieron Murdoch, states that the summer programme was initially planned for two weeks around mid-August but was redesigned as a compact, 5-day, pre-back-to-school summer intensive given several factors such as the Carnival season and various competing initiatives which are hosted for young people in the summer.

“We’ve curated a high-impact, five-day intensive focusing on three essential pillars: leadership, public speaking, and debate,” Murdoch stated. “The best leaders must be able to clearly articulate their ideas, making public speaking a natural component of our curriculum. While the word ‘debate’ can sometimes frighten youth, mastering it is critical in today’s world. It builds rapid reasoning, research skills, active listening, and the rare ability to think critically on your feet under



pressure.”

Murdoch further emphasised the core philosophy of the 5-day summer programme, noting: “When it comes to leadership, young people are often taught that it is merely about climbing the social ladder or building a resume.

We want to remind our participants that true leaders are not just position holders. They are ethical leaders. They have to possess the moral courage to stand up for others, defend the causes they believe in, and choose what is right over what is popular.”



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 **STUDENT SAFETY POLICY**

Police Investigate Shooting Incident In Mount Joy; Suspect in Custody



Police are investigating a shooting incident that left a 66-year-old Villa resident nursing a gunshot injury on Monday evening.

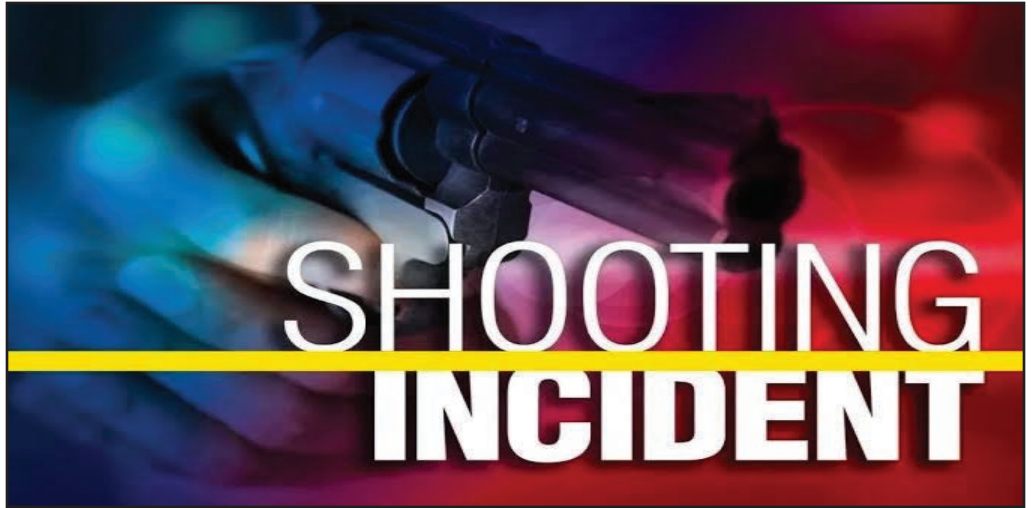
Around 6:45 p.m. on Monday, July 13, a 40-year-old man of Mount Joy went to the Parham Police Station and reported that he was involved in a shooting incident.

The man was subsequently taken into custody, along with a firearm.

The victim was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre with a single gunshot wound to the right side of his chest. He remains in stable condition and is receiving medical treatment.

The suspect remains in police custody on suspicion of Shooting with Intent, while investigations into the circumstances surrounding the incident continue.

The police are appealing to anyone with information that may assist the investigation to contact the Parham Police Station at 463-2060, the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/3914, or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).




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CBH Appeals For Family Members to Claim Bodies

The Central Board of Health is again making an appeal for family members of deceased individuals to claim the bodies and to make arrangements for burial.

In a statement, the CBH revealed that currently there are six bodies are being kept in storage at the Barnes Funeral Home (2) and Straffie's Funeral Home (4).

Names of the deceased whose bodies are being kept at Barnes Funeral Home are as follows;

1. Mr. Karl Lashley -Date of Death- June 3, 2026
2. Mr. Isaac Watson -Date of Death- June 24, 2026

Family member(s) can contact Ms. Jessica Barnes, Managing Director of Barnes Funeral Home Limited, located on Irwing Barnes Close, American Road, at 462-1037 to arrange for private burial.

The names of those that are at Straffie's Funeral Home are;

1. Gintaras Lokocikas -Date received into care- May 16, 2025
2. Kelvin Anthony -Date received into care - June 10, 2025
3. Vernon Hippolyte -Date received into care- April 6, 2026
4. George Phillis -Date received into care- April 24, 2026

Family member(s) can contact Straffies Funeral Home, located on St. John's Street, at 462-0575 to arrange for private burial.

The statement said failure to do so within fourteen (14) days of the appearance of this announcement will result in the government taking the appropriate action to have the



Cemetery without any further notice.

It noted that under these circumstances legal action after burial would not be an option as it appeals for the cooperation of all families so affected.

The issue of unclaimed bodies at funeral homes has been a worrying matter for the CBH as often it has had to resort to burying the bodies itself because family members have refused to claim the bodies themselves and to arrange for burial.

deceased body interred at a Public



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Every Friday, No Excuses

Rotary Club of Antigua Installs 2026–2027 Board of Directors

The Rotary Club of Antigua officially ushered in a new year of service with the installation of its 2026–2027 Board of Directors during its Handover Ceremony and Awards Dinner held on Saturday at Blue Waters Hotel.

The ceremony celebrated the achievements of the outgoing Board while formally welcoming a new leadership team committed to advancing Rotary's mission of service throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

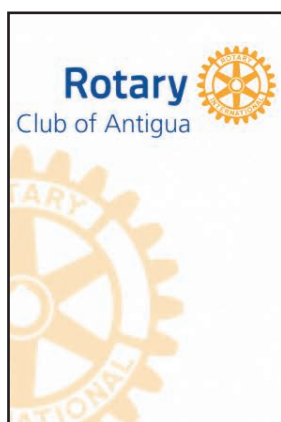
Incoming President Anastasia Wilson assumes leadership under Rotary International's 2026–2027 theme, "Create Lasting Impact," which calls on Rotary members worldwide to strengthen communities through sustainable service, meaningful partnerships, and lasting change. Guided by this vision, the Club will continue to build on decades of community service while expanding initiatives that support education, youth development, environmental sustainability, health, and humanitarian outreach.

During the ceremony, outgoing President Elisa Graham reflected on a successful Rotary year under the theme "Unite for Good," highlighting the Club's accomplishments in service projects, youth initiatives, support for The Rotary Foundation, membership growth, leadership development, and public image. She expressed gratitude to the Board of Directors, committee chairs, members, sponsors, and community partners whose dedication helped strengthen Rotary's impact across Antigua and Barbuda.

In her message to members, President Graham congratulated President Wilson and the incoming Board, expressing confidence that the Club would continue to build on the strong foundation established over the past year while inspiring even greater service and fellowship.

2026–2027 Board of Directors

· President: Rtn. Anastasia Wilson



MEET the BOARD

2026 - 27

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· Public Image Chair: Rtn. Dwayne Simon

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· President Elect: Rtn. T. Samoya Kirby

· Club Administrator: PP Evangeline Allen

· Sergeant-at-Arms: Rtn. Barbara Hesse-Merchant

COP Jeffers, Cordel Josiah Receive Awards At Investiture Ceremony



The Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers, and humanitarian, Cordel Josiah were presented with medals they were awarded during the King's New Year's Day Honours in 2025.

The ceremony took place at Government House on Tuesday with the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams officiating.

Commissioner Jeffers was awarded the King's Police Award in recognition of his more than four decades as a police officer in Antigua and Barbuda who was confirmed in the post of commissioner a year ago. Josiah, already an OBE recipient, was made an Officer of the Most Order of the British Empire (MBE).

"The King's Police Medal is one of the highest distinctions that may be awarded to a police officer. It recognises not simply length of service, but service of exceptional quality, marked by professionalism, integrity, leadership and devotion to duty.

"Commissioner Jeffers, your career has spanned more than four decades. During that time, you have



accepted responsibilities in several demanding areas of policing and have risen steadily through the ranks to the highest office within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda," Sir Rodney stated.

Sir Rodney observed that policing is among the most demanding forms of public service. It requires courage, restraint, fairness and a willingness to place the safety and wellbeing of others above personal convenience. It also requires officers to make difficult decisions, often under pressure and frequently without public recognition.

Cordel Josiah was named a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for his many years involved in charitable work in Antigua and Barbuda.

"You were first recognised as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 2010. Yet, rather than regarding that distinction as the culmination of your

service, you continued to give generously of your time, experience, leadership and energy. That continued commitment is worthy of particular commendation.

"True service is rarely confined to one organisation or one period of a person's life. It is reflected in a willingness to respond whenever and wherever there is a need.

"Throughout the years, you have responded to many such needs. You have supported national institutions, humanitarian initiatives, educational development, healthcare programmes, youth organisations and cultural activities," Sir Rodney noted.

He said Josiah has also demonstrated an ability to bring people together, mobilise resources and transform worthwhile ideas into practical action.



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CARNIVAL CITY - 4:30PM
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Antigua Carnival



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SEMI-FINALS
COOLER FETE

17TH JULY 2026
CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00PM

ADM: \$20



ORDER OF APPEARANCE JUMPY

ARTISTE	SONG
1. Dior	Dat Bun You
2. Romel	Cruel
3. Dan Knowledge	Shake It Off
4. VICIOUS	Pressure Dem
5. Kid Fresh	Dutty Mas
6. Lyrical Reds	Working Girl
7. Da Wizz	Monster Jam
8. Peetron	Wadadli Superhero
9. Ballo	Bang E Line
10. Island Prince	Gyal Siddung
11. Chapo-Gad	Soca Obsession
12. Menace XL	Jam Hard
13. Zamoni	What We Drinking
14. Young Lyrics	Mine Yah Yiy
15. King Young Vice	In Dey







CALYPSO MONARCH

SEMI-FINALS

16th JULY 2026
CARNIVAL CITY | 7:30PM

GUEST ARTISTE - QUEEN GE' EVE
AND 3 CYLINDER BAND

ADM: \$20

CALYPSO SEMI-FINALIST ORDER OF APPEARANCE

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. KING FIAH | A WA U WANT |
| 2. DA WIZZ | STEELPAN TING |
| 3. DR. SOLO | FRIENDS OF ALL, ENEMIES OF NONE |
| 4. QUEEN SINGING JULIE | LIFE IS UNFAIR |
| 5. KING ZACARI | CULTURAL ASSASSINS |
| 6. KING YOUNG DESTROYER | SNAP ELECTION |
| 7. DI DACTA | LETTER TO DE PUPPET MASTER |
| 8. FAITHFUL | MY COUNTRY A PARADISE |
| 9. MONA LISA | CALYPSO |
| 10. TRINITY | WANT ME CULTURE FOR CARNIVAL |
| 11. QUEEN THALIA | A SONG OF HOPE |
| 12. BANDIT | OF OUR CULTURE |
| 13. RUEZ | TV IN YOUR HAND |
| 14. LADY MELODY | UPGRADE DE CURRICULUM |
| 15. MIGHTY ROVER | SING SOMETHING NEW |
| 16. ZOCIO | A WUK ME A WUK |
| 17. QUEEN GEE BEE | LIFE'S A MISSION, NOT COMPETITION |
| 18. RAS KANTU | WAR |
| 19. ABUMBA | CELEBRATION IN DE PAN YARD |
| 20. CALYPSO LILY | IN THIS SMALL WORLD |
| 21. MELYPNOSTICK | TEK DE MONEY |
| 22. SUPA D | ONE FAMILY |
| 23. DESTINY | WOMAN |
| 24. ROCKY DAN | ALL INCLUSIVE V.I.P |
| 25. WILLIE WAWA | OH ME, OH MY, I CRY |
| 26. LYRICAL HENRY | KING KLASS |
| 27. LYRICAL REDS | ANALYSIS |
| 28. RICHIE FRANCIS | AH LOVE MEH COUNTRY |
| 29. THE INSTRUCTOR | LEAVE WEAPON HOME |
| 30. PEETRON | EMANCIPATE YOUR MIND |
| 31. THE ALCHEMIST | KEEP GOING ON |
| 32. DR. PAUL | MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME |
| 33. REDDING | CALYPSO LEGEND |
| 34. APOSTLE ROBBY | CONFIRMED TROUBLEMAKER |
| 35. EPIC BYKE | GIVE THANKS |
| 36. SPIDER | BUY LOCAL |
| 37. RATSO | NOT GOING DOWN |





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION

EMANCIPATION OBSERVANCES



JULY 24TH
AFRICA DRESS DAY



JULY 29TH
UHURU – TV PROGRAMME
Spiritual awakening



JULY 31ST
WATCHNIGHT GATHERING
"A Night of Reflection, Remembrance and Renewal"



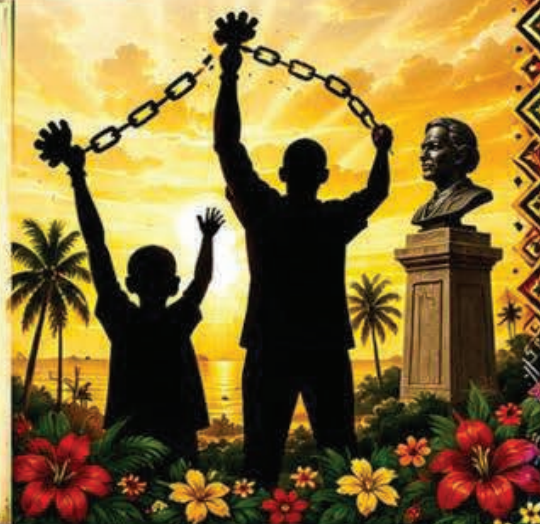
AUGUST 1ST
EMANCIPATION DAY



• EMANCIPATION BREAKFAST SERVICE –
GREENBAY MORAVIAN CHURCH **6:00 AM**



EMANCIPATION VILLAGE –
VC BIRD BUST **10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**



HONOURING OUR PAST • CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM • BUILDING OUR FUTURE

The Caribbean Identity Crisis: Why English-Speaking Islands Are Losing Their Cultural Soul due to pan-Africanism

By Estheban Lugo Feliz

The title of this article might be enough to get me hung, drawn, and quartered in certain sects of Caribbean society, but it must be said. I want to make it abundantly clear that I believe white supremacy is still a plague to Caribbean society and Western consciousness in general. I am not denying that historical reality—nor the ongoing structural inequalities that persist across our islands. This article, however, focuses on a different, equally pressing concern: the paradoxical erosion of Caribbean cultural identity happening simultaneously within movements meant to strengthen our communities.

The Protestant English-speaking Caribbean faces a peculiar crisis of belonging. Walk through Kingston, Port of Spain, or Bridgetown, and you'll witness something striking: a generation increasingly uncertain whether they are Caribbean first or African first—and increasingly convinced that asking this question is itself a betrayal.

The Data Behind the Drift

Recent surveys paint a revealing picture. A 2022 Caribbean Youth Survey conducted across Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados found that 67% of respondents aged 18-35 identified primarily as "African diaspora" rather than "Caribbean," compared to just 31% of their parents' generation.

Meanwhile, participation in traditional Caribbean cultural practices has declined measurably. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission reported a 43% drop in quadrille participation between 2010 and 2023. Sweet bread baking competitions in Barbados have seen entries decline from 287 in 2005 to 89 in 2023. Madras fabric sales in Trinidad have fallen 58% over the same period.

This isn't nostalgia talking—it's



documented cultural contraction.

The problem isn't Pan-Africanism itself, which has offered genuine historical reclamation and spiritual grounding for many. Rather, it's the replacement of Caribbean identity with a monolithic African identity, often performed without deep knowledge or connection. I've observed—and documented in community interviews—individuals wearing kente cloth or dashikis to Caribbean festivals while unable to name the Ghanaian ethnic groups these garments represent. More troublingly, I've witnessed heated social media disputes where Jamaicans of lighter complexions are publicly shamed for not being "pro-Black enough," while simultaneously, those same critics wear African attire divorced from any specific cultural lineage or understanding.

This performative identity politics has created what sociologist Dr. Patricia Mohammed of the University of the West Indies calls "identity tourism"—adopting cultural markers without the accompanying knowledge or commitment. It's become a form of cultural consumption rather than cultural continuity.

The Hispanic Caribbean Paradox

Here lies the uncomfortable comparison that demands examination. In Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic, something different has occurred. Yes, white supremacy is vibrantly alive in these societies—the Dominican Republic's ongoing anti-Haitian sentiment and colorism, Cuba's pre-revolutionary racial hierarchies, Puerto Rico's persistent wealth gaps along racial lines all testify to this reality. The mestizaje ideology promoted during Spanish colonization was explicitly designed to "whiten" these populations, and its legacy remains toxic.

Yet paradoxically, Caribbean identity in these contexts has remained robust.

A 2023 study by the Inter-American Development Bank found that 78% of Puerto Ricans identify primarily as "Puerto Rican" regardless of racial background, compared to 41% of Jamaicans identifying primarily as "Jamaican." Dominican cultural practices—from merengue to bachata to carnival traditions—remain central to daily life across socioeconomic and racial lines. When I interviewed cultural practitioners in Santo Domingo, Santiago, and San Juan, they spoke of their traditions as living practices, not

historical artifacts to be recovered.

Why? Several factors emerge from comparative analysis:

First, religious continuity. The Catholic Church, despite its colonial origins, embedded itself into daily cultural practice in ways that transcended racial categories. Patron saint festivals, Christmas traditions, and life rituals became Caribbean Catholic practices rather than “white” practices. The Protestant English-speaking Caribbean, by contrast, inherited a more austere religious framework that didn’t embed itself as thoroughly into vernacular culture. When decolonization movements arrived, there was less cultural infrastructure to defend.

Second, linguistic and cultural specificity. Spanish remained a living language of power and daily use across all classes in the Hispanic Caribbean. This meant that Spanish cultural forms—music, food, celebration—couldn’t be easily dismissed as “colonial” because they were also the language of resistance and commerce. English, by contrast, became the language of the colonizer and remained so, creating a sharper psychological break between “colonial” (English) and “authentic” (African).

Third, and most significantly, *mestizaje* ideology—despite its racist underpinnings—created legal and social space for racial mixture to be celebrated as Caribbean identity. This is deeply problematic from an anti-racist perspective; *mestizaje* was designed to dilute Blackness. But it had an unintended consequence: it allowed people of all racial backgrounds to claim Caribbean identity without it being coded as “Black identity” or “white identity.” A light-skinned Puerto Rican could be fully Puerto Rican without that being a statement about their racial authenticity.

The Cost of Replacement Rather Than Addition

The English-speaking Caribbean inherited a different colonial framework.

Protestant work ethic, individualism, and a sharper racial binary meant that “Caribbean” identity was often coded as working-class and implicitly Black, while “European” identity was coded as elite and white. When decolonization arrived, the psychological break was sharper.

Pan-Africanism offered something genuinely valuable: a way to reclaim dignity, history, and connection that colonialism had severed. The problem is that it has increasingly functioned as a replacement rather than an addition.

Consider the practical implications. A young woman in Barbados who wants to wear traditional madras to a festival now faces social media scrutiny: “Why aren’t you wearing African print?” A Jamaican man who wants to learn traditional folk dances risks being asked, “Are you embracing your African roots?” The message, however unintended, is clear: Caribbean cultural practices are insufficient, even embarrassing—a reminder of slavery rather than a celebration of survival and creativity.

This has real consequences. The Jamaican Folk Preservation Society reported that their youth programs have seen a 52% decline in enrollment since 2015, with participants citing social pressure to engage with “more authentic” African practices instead. The Trinidadian Steelband Association has struggled with similar recruitment challenges among younger musicians, many of whom view steelpan as a “colonial” instrument rather than a uniquely Caribbean innovation born from resistance and ingenuity.

Conclusion: Toward an Inclusive Caribbean Identity

The path forward requires neither abandoning Pan-Africanism nor erasing our connection to the African diaspora. Rather, it demands a more mature, intellectually honest approach to identity—one that recognizes complexity rather than demanding ideological purity.

Caribbean identity and African identity need not be in competition. We can honor our ancestral connections to Africa while simultaneously celebrating the unique cultures that emerged from Caribbean soil. A Jamaican can wear both kente cloth and madras. A Trinidad citizen can appreciate both Yoruba spirituality and steelband music. These are not contradictions; they are the natural expressions of a people shaped by multiple histories.

The Hispanic Caribbean offers us not a model to copy—their societies carry their own racial pathologies and contradictions—but a mirror. They demonstrate that it is possible to maintain vibrant cultural specificity while acknowledging historical trauma. They show us that identity need not be a zero-sum game where choosing one means rejecting another.

What the English-speaking Caribbean needs is a reclamation project that works in addition to, not instead of, our Pan-African consciousness. We need to ask ourselves difficult questions: Why should our children feel ashamed of quadrille? Why should sweet bread baking be considered less “authentic” than wearing un-researched African attire? Why have we allowed external pressures—whether colonial or contemporary—to dictate which parts of ourselves are worth preserving?

The conversation surrounding identity is undeniably complex. But it is also undeniably crucial. By engaging in this dialogue—honestly, without accusations of betrayal, and with genuine intellectual humility—we can work toward a more inclusive Caribbean identity. One that honors our African heritage without denying our Caribbean specificity. One that fights white supremacy without erasing ourselves in the process.

Our islands deserve nothing less than a people who know who they are—fully, completely, and without apology.

#9



Our future, Our bank
ecab
EASTERN CARIBBEAN AMALGAMATED BANK

MR & MISS
Teenage
PAGEANT

SARAH
WILLIAMS

PARES SECONDARY
SCHOOL

CARNIVAL CITY
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY
18
2026

#8



Our future, Our bank
ecab
EASTERN CARIBBEAN AMALGAMATED BANK

MR & MISS
Teenage
PAGEANT

KAREEM
AMEDEE

PARES SECONDARY
SCHOOL

CARNIVAL CITY
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY
18
2026



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



JULY

THU 16TH JULY

**CAVALIER RUM
CALYPSO MONARCH
SEMI-FINALS 7:30PM**
CARNIVAL CITY - \$20

FRI 17TH JULY

**INET PARTY MONARCH
SEMI-FINALS 8:00PM**
CARNIVAL CITY - \$20

SAT 18TH JULY

**ECAB MR & MISS
TEENAGE PAGEANT 7:00PM**
CARNIVAL CITY - \$20

SUN 19TH JULY

**UWI FIVE ISLANDS
CAMPUS JUNIOR
CALYPSO 4:30PM**
CARNIVAL CITY - FREE
**KOSCAB JUNIOR
PARTY MONARCH 6:30PM**
CARNIVAL CITY - FREE

TUE 21ST JULY

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL 8:00PM
CARNIVAL CITY - \$30 (STANDS)
- \$50 (RESERVED)

FRI 24TH JULY

FACE OFF
CARNIVAL CITY

SAT 25TH JULY

**LIAT AIR OPENING
OF CARNIVAL 2:00PM
& T-SHIRT MAS**
ST. JOHN'S

SUN 26TH JULY

**GOOD MORNING
D'INCLUSIVE**
COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND
**SMALTA JUNIOR 2:00PM
CARNIVAL & PARADE**
ST. JOHN'S & CARNIVAL CITY

MON 27TH JULY

**RHYTHM
COURT VIBE**
CARNIVAL CITY

TUE 28TH JULY

**PATRICE ROBERTS
I AM WOMAN**
ALWAYS US
CARNIVAL CITY

THU 30TH JULY

DRINK TILL YA WEAK
(BOAT CRUISE)
LONG BAY LAGER 8:00PM
CARIBBEAN MELTING POT
CARNIVAL CITY - \$100 (GENERAL)
- \$350 (RHYTHM ROOM)

FRI 31ST JULY

**CAVALIER RUM 8:00PM
CALYPSO MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY - \$40

WATCH NIGHT
CARNIVAL CITY & BOTANICAL
GARDENS

AUGUST

SAT 1ST AUG

RISE
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM

CARNIVAL DREAMZ
HODGES BAY

**STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LTD.
PANORAMA 8:00PM**
CARNIVAL CITY - \$40

SUN 2ND AUG

D BREAKFAST FETE
RYAN'S LAWN, ANCHORAGE ROAD

**INET PARTY
MONARCH 8:00PM**
CARNIVAL CITY - \$40

MON 3RD AUG

J'OUVERT 3:00AM
ST. JOHN'S

**JULEES J'OUVERT
JAM SESSION**
CORNER OF CROSS AND TANNER
STREET

MONDAY MAS 2:00PM
ST. JOHN'S

TUE 4TH AUG

PARADE OF BANDS 12:00PM
ST. JOHN'S & CARNIVAL CITY

LAST LAP 7:00PM
ST. JOHN'S

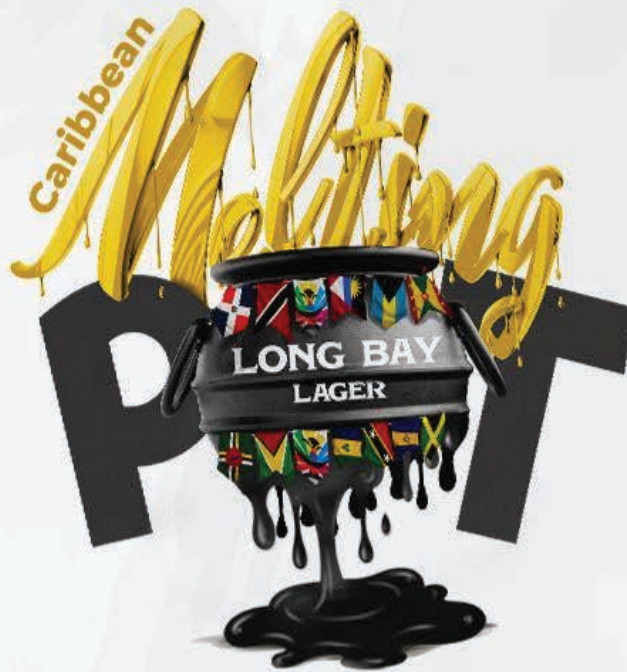




ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

MACHEL
MONTANO

#ENCOREPERFORMANCE



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



Regional News

TCI Bar Council sits with Jamaican legal bodies for talks on bolstering partnerships

The Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Council is exploring opportunities for greater collaboration with Jamaica's legal fraternity as part of efforts to strengthen regional partnerships and advance the legal profession across the Caribbean.

President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Council Mark Fulford highlighted the importance of closer cooperation between Caribbean legal communities during a courtesy call on the leadership of the Jamaican Bar Association (JBA) and the Advocates Association of Jamaica (AAJ) during a visit to Jamaica.

Fulford said Jamaica's legal profession has long made an important contribution to Caribbean jurisprudence, advocacy, and legal education.

"Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos Islands share deep historical, professional, and personal ties, and there is real value in strengthening cooperation between our legal communities," Fulford said.

"As president of the TCI Bar Council, I believe Caribbean Bar associations must continue to build relationships, share experiences, and support one another in strengthening the rule of law, professional standards, and opportunities for young lawyers," he added.

Fulford said Caribbean legal associations face many shared challenges and must continue working together to uphold professional standards and expand opportunities for emerging lawyers.

During the courtesy call last week at the AC Hotel in St Andrew, Fulford met with JBA President Tenneshia Watkins, Vice President Malike Kellier, and AAJ President Tamika Harris.

The discussions focused on strengthening professional ties between Jamai-



ca and the Turks and Caicos Islands, with attention given to Bar governance, continuing legal education, junior lawyer development, advocacy training, ethics, access to justice, and the responsible use of technology and artificial intelligence in legal practice.

Watkins said while the JBA differs from many of its Caribbean counterparts, particularly as disciplinary matters in Jamaica fall under the jurisdiction of the General Legal Council, the difference does not limit the association's commitment to regional collaboration.

Nonetheless, she said, "We remain ready to share our experience, support our colleagues, and work together to advance Continuing Legal Professional Development and strengthen the legal profession across the Caribbean."

Harris, for her part, agreed that stronger regional partnerships are essential

to the continued growth of the profession and reaffirmed the AAJ's commitment to regional cooperation.

"The Caribbean is strongest when we work together. Meaningful partnerships allow us to learn from each other, share best practices, and grow together for the benefit of our profession and the people we serve," Harris said.

The meeting also explored possible future initiatives, including joint continuing professional development sessions, advocacy training, junior Bar engagement, and professional exchanges between Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Fulford expressed appreciation for the reception extended by Jamaica's legal community and said he looked forward to continued dialogue and practical cooperation between the two jurisdictions. (Jamaica Gleaner)

OECS Air to boost regional connectivity



The establishment of a regional airline, OECS Air, is viewed as a strategic move to address current barriers to economic expansion within the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU). According to the sources, the airline is expected to support growth in the following ways:

Improving Connectivity: Currently, sub-optimal air connectivity and high transportation costs act as constraints on intraregional travel. OECS Air is intended to bridge these gaps, which the Monetary Council identifies as essential for trade, tourism, and labour mobility.

Driving Sustained Prosperity: The Council emphasizes that improved connectivity is one of the pillars required for sustained prosperity and deeper regional integration.

Supporting the Tourism Sector: While the tourism sector has shown strong performance—with visitor arrivals increasing by 9.0 per cent in the first quarter of 2026—the lack of reliable regional air links remains a challenge that the new airline could help mitigate.

Overall, the initiative is part of a broader push for collective regional action to navigate global uncertainty and advance shared prosperity by making the movement of people and goods more efficient and affordable. (St Vincent Times)

VACANCY NOTICE

A reputable import/distribution organization with over 25 years of experience is seeking skilled and motivated individuals to join our dynamic team.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Responsibilities

- ▶ Coordinate staff assignments and schedules to meet customer requirements and event needs.
- ▶ Ensure employees follow company cleaning procedures, equipment use, and safety protocols.
- ▶ Manage cleaning supplies, maintain asset records, and oversee proper equipment maintenance.
- ▶ Conduct site assessments, measure facilities, and identify surfaces to determine appropriate cleaning methods and pricing.
- ▶ Prepare accurate service quotes, document findings, and flag health and safety concerns requiring escalation.
- ▶ Train new employees in cleaning techniques, demonstrate proper use of chemicals/equipment, and maintain organized records of site visits and reports.
- ▶ Experience operating commercial cleaning equipment will be considered an asset.

Qualifications

- ▶ A high school diploma or equivalent is required
- ▶ 3–5 years of experience in janitorial services, cleaning, maintenance, or facilities inspection is an asset.
- ▶ Must be a holder of a valid class D3 driver's license or willing and able to upgrade to a D3.

Interested candidates should send their resume and cover letter to: The Human Resource Manager, St John's, Antigua by email: humanresources.ntw@gmail.com by July 24, 2026. Only those short-listed candidates will be contacted.

SCAM ALERT FOR GANJA GROWERS



Traditional cannabis cultivators and prospective investors are being warned to guard against scams, misinformation and false promises as Jamaica's regulated medicinal cannabis industry continues to expand.

Delano Seiveright, the state minister in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, gave the stern warning on Friday at the official launch of the Cannabis Licensing Authority's (CLA) Special Cannabis Permit Road Tour at the Newell High School in St Elizabeth. "As the industry grows, so, too, will misinformation, confusion and people looking to take advantage of others," said Seiveright.

He explained that the CLA's Special Cannabis Permit Road Tour initiative is intended to increase public awareness of the Special Cannabis Permit process, which is designed to promote transparency and encourage lawful participation in Jamaica's regulated medicinal cannabis industry.

Referencing the popular Jamaica saying "tek sleep and mark death", Seiveright urged cultivators not to rely on rumours, fake WhatsApp messages, social media posts or individuals making unrealistic promises about permits or investment opportunities.

"Before you hand over your money, commit your land or sign documents,

verify first. Ask questions. Get the facts directly from the Cannabis Licensing Authority," he said.

Seiveright said the Government is deliberately taking the regulator directly into communities so cultivators can receive accurate information first-hand, understand the permit process, and to avoid being misled by rumours or fraudulent schemes.

He said the national outreach programme is designed to educate cultivators, simplify the licensing process and create greater opportunities for entrepreneurship, investment, job creation and rural economic development.

According to Seiveright, the Government's objective is to bring more Jamaicans into the legitimate economy through a modern, well-regulated medicinal cannabis industry, noting that the road tour follows the introduction of two new permit categories – the Cultivator's (Transitional) Special Permit and the Special Community Permit – which are designed to reduce barriers to entry and provide practical pathways for experienced growers and organised community groups to transition into the legal industry.

Seiveright said the reforms recognise the knowledge and experience of traditional, while supporting their journey towards full compliance with Jamaica's

regulatory framework. He said Jamaica has now issued approximately 200 licences across cultivation, retail, processing, transport and research, reflecting the continued growth and maturity of the country's medicinal cannabis sector.

He further noted said the industry has significant potential to attract investment, create jobs, strengthen agriculture, expand value-added manufacturing, increase exports and generate greater economic opportunities for rural communities.

Seiveright also acknowledged the input of CLA CEO Farrah Blake and the authority's team on the road tour. He also credited Senator Aubyn Hill, minister of industry, investment and commerce, for his leadership in steering a package of cannabis reforms to completion.

In addition to the two new permit categories, the reforms include longer permit tenures for cultivators, a standardised permit extension process, employee identification provisions, and a legal framework for cannabis delivery services. The measures are intended to reduce unnecessary barriers, improve regulatory efficiency and expand lawful participation in the industry, while maintaining Jamaica's high regulatory standards.

Agriculture Minister Floyd Green, who also spoke at the event, pledged his ministry's full support for the initiative.

"Agriculture and medicinal cannabis are natural partners. Our ministry is fully committed to working alongside the Ministry of Industry and the Cannabis Licensing Authority to ensure that our farmers can access these new opportunities, understand the requirements, and participate confidently in the regulated industry," he said.

Having started in St Elizabeth, the Cannabis Licensing Authority's Special Cannabis Permit Road Tour will move to other key cultivation communities across the island, where officers will explain the new permit categories, provide technical guidance, and assist prospective applicants through the legal application process. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Days after Govt proposes construction of AI data centres...8,500 sign petition against

DAYS after the Government announced proposals to construct artificial intelligence (AI) data centres in Trinidad and Tobago, growing public concern over the possible environmental cost and strain on the country's utilities saw thousands supporting a petition to suspend the projects pending consultation.

Within 24 hours of its launch, the change.org petition, which seeks to halt approvals for the proposed construction of a 300MW data centre to be developed by Ernst & Young LLP and a proposed 150MW artificial intelligence infrastructure and data-centre facility with potential expansion to 500MW by Hummingbird AI Holdings LLC, garnered at least 8,500 signatures yesterday.

The Government over the weekend announced two Memoranda of Understanding on the development of these data centres, at a time when international tech companies continue to spend on AI-related spending globally as part of a development boom, despite backlash on data-centre construction.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley estimate that tech companies, governments and their partners will spend nearly US\$3 trillion on data centres by 2028, some in pursuit of Artificial General Intelligence (machines that match or exceed human cognitive abilities) and improved user experiences.

According to a Government release over the weekend, the proposed data centres to be built in Trinidad and Tobago could possibly create 5,000 jobs.

Bioacoustician and conservation researcher Syam Nath, who started the petition, questioned the construction of hyperscalers (data centres operating in excess of 20MW) and known to consume vast amounts of fresh water as part of their cooling systems.

The petition asks for the suspension of development, until "comprehensive

environmental, water resource, and infrastructure assessments have been completed, independently reviewed, and made available for public consultation".

Nath told the Express yesterday that in light of the state of emergency and corresponding protest restrictions he felt it was important to document the concerns among the population.

"A lot of people were upset and there was a reaction from people not knowing what the next step was. I am very glad that I did this, and for it to get this response," Nath said. "Everybody is really riled up. We need to try something and at least we have these names. I don't know if we will call for a public meeting where we can go and ask questions but this is the first thing we can do."

He added: "The Government may underestimate the people but we have a few thousand names and they may see that we are not going to be taken for fools."

Nath, who has done underwater research, said the development was a cause for concern for both humans and marine life who depend on water to survive.

Particularly, he said, endangered fresh water species, animals that use echo-location and whose habitat could potentially be compromised by loud or heated data-centres, ought to be considered.

"I do know our dolphins already have fungal infection only found in dolphins and humans. In the Gulf (of Paria) they already have this and everything washes off into the water. My main concern is the environmental effects from chemicals and pollution. The liquid that cools these centres is possibly going to wash off into the ocean," he argued.

"What we do know about data centres

is that they do make a lot of noise. If they are close to the ocean they are going to radiate a lot of noise and radiate into the ocean and may cause issues for fishes, bats and birds who communicate with each other via echolocation. It may affect the quality of life for the people who may have to live there," he added.

Nath continued: "We are very concerned about the manatees...the river systems are all connected and it can impact this already endangered population, of which we have about three dozen still holding on by a thread," he said.

He called for proper analysis to be done.

"We need to look at the bigger picture of the environment and assess what's happening. We need to know everything about where the water is going to go and where it is going to come from. I saw people speak about using sewage water but it's going to take a lot of energy to do. Is it going to be recycled?" he asked.

Minister of Public Utilities Barry Padarath said yesterday the country is able to meet the demands and produce more in the utility sector without disrupting water supply to citizens.

Asked by the Express yesterday if any further information could be given on the potential water and electricity demands of these centres, Padarath said a cluster of ministries had been established by Cabinet months ago to identify the requirements for these projects.

Padarath, who said he was not aware of public backlash on the matter, added, "We have identified short-term and long-term provisions for these data centres in the utility sector." (Trinidad Express)

DRC Ebola outbreak two to four times bigger than official scale—WHO



The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday that a deadly Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo could be four times bigger than official figures suggest.

According to the DR Congo's latest official figures, the haemorrhagic fever has infected more than 1,960 people and killed over 700 since it was detected two months ago.

But WHO emergencies director Chikwe Ihekweazu told reporters in Geneva that its modelling indicated "the scale of the outbreak is at least two to four times the number of cases that we have found".

According to official numbers, this is already one of the largest Ebola outbreaks recorded, with the virus spreading faster than ever seen before.

"This is now the third-largest Ebola outbreak ever, and we've seen the fastest growth in a single month since the outbreak started, and of all the Ebola outbreaks that we've managed," Ihe-

kweazu said.

The DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak was declared on May 15 after several deaths in Ituri, a mineral-rich northeastern province plagued by armed groups.

Cases of Ebola, which spreads through close contact and infected bodily fluids, have so far been found in five DRC provinces, as well as in neighbouring Uganda.

But more than 90 percent of cases are still being detected in Ituri, Ihekweazu said.

Just back from a week-long trip to the region, the doctor said the crisis remained "deeply concerning".

The outbreak, which is caused by the rare Bundibugyo species of Ebola, for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment, "continues to outpace the response efforts by the national authorities, international partners, including WHO, and the communities

most affected", he said.

"Perhaps the most alarming finding is that many newly reported cases are individuals who died in their communities, without ever reaching a health facility and receiving care."

Ihekweazu nonetheless said he was encouraged to see a ramping up of the response.

"Treatment capacity now exceeds 700 beds and continues to increase each week; laboratory capacity has expanded dramatically... and contact follow-up rates are approaching 80 percent," he pointed out.

He noted that "over the last few days, we've seen some of the highest numbers of new infections in a single day".

"A few days ago, we saw over 80 cases confirmed in a single day," he said, adding though that this is actually "good news", as it shows that fewer cases are escaping detection. "It's a sign of a maturing response". (AFP)

PPE failures left NHS staff poorly protected and wasted £10bn, Covid inquiry finds



The lives of NHS staff and patients were put at risk in the pandemic because of a lack of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), with almost £10bn of taxpayers money wasted in a scramble to buy more, the Covid inquiry has said.

The chair Baroness Hallett described the “vast” waste in pandemic procurement, amounting to £9.9bn – two-thirds of the £14.9bn the UK and devolved governments spent on PPE.

The country entered the pandemic with its stockpile of masks, gowns and gloves in a “perilous state” and was “simply not ready to compete” in the global race to secure new supplies, added the chair.

She criticised the controversial “VIP lane”, which prioritised offers of PPE from those with political connections, as a “misguided” policy which undermined public confidence.

But she said there was “no evidence of cronyism or corruption” by ministers or other officials when awarding

the final contracts.

When the cost of home testing kits and other equipment, such as ventilators, was included, the total amount spent by the government between January 2020 and June 2022 exceeded £42bn, the inquiry found.

The UK’s emergency stockpile of PPE, meant to last at least 15 weeks before being replenished, was running out by the end of March 2020 as demand from hospitals soared.

Only a third of the masks in England’s pandemic stockpile were usable, the inquiry found, while Scotland had no supplies of high-grade respiratory masks used in hospitals.

At the time, care homes, GP surgeries and pharmacies were all expected to source their own PPE, something the report described as a “major failure in planning”.

In total the UK government was forced to write off £9.9bn worth of PPE that was either unused or out of date, as well as £157m for unused

healthcare equipment.

The “ventilator challenge” programme, where suppliers were asked to develop breathing equipment at short notice, led to another £143m charge for designs that never made it into production.

In Scotland approximately £8mn of healthcare equipment, including PPE and testing kits, was written off.

In Wales £18m was spent on unused PPE and in Northern Ireland £43m of masks, gowns and gloves were at risk of expiry before they could be used.

The inquiry said that, although it was better to have purchased too much PPE in a pandemic than too little, it would “clearly have been better if supply had been calibrated more closely with demand”.

“Better planning would have resulted in fairer, faster and less costly procurement decisions,” the report concluded.

Government contingency plans had “never been stress tested” and officials and ministers were “forced to impro-

International

AROUND THE WORLD



wise, establishing new emergency procurement and distribution systems within days”.

In England, a so-called “VIP lane” – officially known as the high priority lane – was set up in the pandemic to award government PPE contracts.

Introduced in April 2020, the idea was to treat offers to supply PPE with greater urgency if they came with a recommendation from ministers, MPs, members of the House of Lords, or other senior officials.

At the time, the government said there was a “desperate need” to protect health and social care staff, and argued swift action was required to secure healthcare equipment.

The inquiry criticised that policy as a “misguided attempt at prioritisation” that “embedded unfairness in emergency procurement”.

Some suppliers received favourable treatment because they had connections to the then Conservative government which “undermined trust at a moment when it needed it most”.

“The high priority lane should not have been established and must not be

repeated,” the report concluded.

But Baroness Hallett said she had not identified cronyism or corruption on the part of ministers and officials when PPE contracts were finally awarded.

In February 2025, the inquiry spent a day taking evidence about PPE Medpro, the firm linked to the businessman Doug Barrowman and his wife Baroness Michelle Mone.

Both Barrowman and Mone have denied any wrongdoing in relation to those contracts that were worth more than £200m.

Baroness Hallett ordered that testimony from senior government officials had to be heard behind closed doors so as not to prejudice an ongoing criminal investigation by the National Crime Agency (NCA).

A section of the inquiry’s findings related to PPE Medpro was also removed from the final report and will only be published “following the conclusion of any criminal proceedings”.

No criminal charges have been brought to date with the NCA saying that its “ongoing investigation remains a priority for the agency”.

In total, 48 witnesses gave oral evidence for this part of the inquiry in February and March 2025, including former health secretary Matt Hancock and cabinet minister Michael Gove.

The recommendations made include: a “radical overhaul” of the emergency system for buying PPE and distributing it before the next pandemic

drawing up a “domestic industry strategy” which treats key healthcare equipment as a strategic national asset”

improving the state of the pandemic stockpile which is held in a giant warehouse in Merseyside

The Prime Minister’s Spokeswoman said the report made for difficult reading

“The pandemic had a profound and lasting impact across our society and this government is committed to learning the lessons of the Covid inquiry so that we are protected and prepared for the future.

“And we will of course carefully consider the inquiry’s recommendations in detail and we will respond in due course.” (BBC)

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Hungary parliament votes to remove president from office



The Hungarian parliament has voted to remove President Tamás Sulyok from office, who was widely seen as a loyalist of former prime minister Viktor Orbán who lost power in April after 16 years.

Prime Minister Péter Magyar's Tisza party used its two thirds majority to steamroll through the 17th amendment to the constitution, ending the term of Sulyok and the head of the Constitutional Court Péter Polt.

It was the most dramatic day in parliament since the new government took office in early May, after its surprise landslide victory against Orbán's Fidesz party on 12 April.

Sulyok now has five days to sign the amendment - his own political death warrant - or refer it to the Constitutional Court.

If Sulyok refers it to the court, Magyar has said he will launch impeachment proceedings against him, which would suspend him from office automatically.

Another option would be to simply resign to avoid a constitutional crisis in the interest of the country, as the new government has been urging

him to do.

Deputies of the now opposition Fidesz party walked out of parliament before Monday's vote, accusing the Tisza party of building a tyranny.

Fidesz argues that the amendment grants the government the arbitrary power to dismiss any public official from office, with immediate effect.

"The great irony of the situation is that Fidesz have fallen foul of their own concept of power," Péter Rona - a former opposition presidential candidate - told the BBC.

The 2011 constitution, written by Orbán's government, enshrined the principle that "the winner takes all".

In office from 2010 until 2026, Fidesz reshaped the Hungarian state to its own will, and filled supposedly independent state positions with party loyalists - using its own two-thirds majority.

The 141 Tisza deputies in parliament gave a standing ovation as the results of the vote were announced.

The amendment also removes Constitutional Court judges who are over the age of 70, and forbids deputies who have served three terms

in parliament from standing again - which applies to more than half the current Fidesz deputies.

"I quite agree with the removal of the president," András Baka, former head of the Supreme Court, told the BBC.

Hungary was governed by the rule of law from 1989 to 2010, he argued. After that, Fidesz captured state institutions and created an authoritarian state.

"And it is now very difficult to break up a sophisticated authoritarian regime... which was designed to survive even after electoral defeat," Baka said.

The 17th amendment is in fact a package of many laws, intended to guide the country until a new constitution can be adopted in two or three years' time.

The only part of the package he disagrees with, Baka said, is the section which prevents parliamentary deputies who have served three terms from running again.

"This limits the right of the public to vote for whom they wish," he argued.

Since the April election, Orbán's party has been in free fall, reeling from the shock defeat.

Orbán himself has hardly been seen in public, and refused to take his seat in parliament. On Monday, he left Hungary to watch the finals of the football World Cup in the US.

There is growing anger with Orbán within what is left of Fidesz. Many feel bewildered by his absence.

Gergely Gulyás, the party number two, resigned as head of the parliamentary group of the party on Monday, adding to its woes. (BBC)

US attacks Iran and Tehran retaliates across the Middle East, threatening a return to all-out war

The U.S. launched strikes on Iran early Tuesday, hours after President Donald Trump vowed to reinstate an American blockade of Iranian ports and charge ships for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran responded with attacks on Middle East allies of the U.S.

The latest exchange of fire leaves in tatters an interim deal meant to pause the fighting, reopen a waterway that is key to world energy supplies and give negotiators time to hammer out a permanent end to the war. Instead, fighting has once again engulfed the region, threatened the global economy and brought warnings to commercial airlines. Unless a diplomatic solution is found quickly, it could intensify into all-out war.

The focus of the conflict now is the strait, through which a fifth of all traded crude oil and natural gas passed in peacetime. Iran effectively shut the passage during the war by attacking and threatening ships — a tactic that proved its greatest strategic advantage. It sent the price of oil, fertilizer and other goods soaring at a time when world leaders were already struggling to address rising costs.

The interim deal was supposed to reopen the waterway, but Iran has attacked ships moving through the strait on a route overseen by the U.S. military that is outside Tehran's control.

The U.S. has now threatened to reopen the strait by force — but experts say that will require a much bigger armada if not tens of thousands of American ground troops. It's possible Trump will back down, as he has previously.

The U.S. military's Central Command said it struck several areas in Iran, targeting "coastal defense systems, missile and drone sites and maritime capabilities." Iran acknowledged



the strikes but provided no immediate casualty or damage assessments.

"These strikes will continue imposing a heavy cost on Iranian forces and degrade their ability to attack innocent civilians and commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz," the U.S. military said.

Iran responded with attacks targeting Bahrain, Jordan and three tankers that traveled through the strait.

Two of the ships were associated with the United Arab Emirates and were set ablaze for a time. The Emirati Defense Ministry said the attack on the tankers Mombasa and Al Bahiyah killed one mariner and wounded eight others. The Emirates threatened to retaliate.

Dutch shipping firm Stolt Tankers said that one of its ships came under attack. The attack on the Stolt Magnusen off Oman sparked a fire in the engine room, but the company said all the mariners were safe.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said the Mombasa and Al Bahiyah "ignored repeated warnings." Iran has targeted ships that use a route through the strait that passes near Oman outside of its territorial waters.

Hours after the U.S. said it ended its campaign of strikes, the Iranian city of Bushehr on the Persian Gulf was hit in at least four locations, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. It again raised the possibility that Gulf Arab states were attacking Iran in retaliation.

Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, sounded its missile alert sirens three times early Tuesday. Jordan's military said it intercepted four missiles from Iran. Jordan hosts U.S. forces and has come under attack by Tehran in recent days.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency warned airlines against operating in the airspace of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as over the Gulf of Oman.

It said in a bulletin that "unpredictable military developments, combined with the possible use of missiles, drones, combat aircraft and air-defense systems, create a high risk to civil flights."

Exchanges of fire in recent days had already cast doubt on the interim peace deal — now almost halfway through the 60-day period in which negotiators were supposed to agree to

a final accord, which also was meant to address Iran's disputed nuclear program and other issues.

But Trump's vow to impose a blockade further imperils it. Washington lifted a blockade it imposed in mid-April as part of the deal. The U.S. military said it will resume it at midnight Wednesday in Dubai.

"We are reinstating the THE IRANIAN BLOCKADE," Trump said on social media Monday.

He said the U.S. would impose a fee for protecting other ships: 20% of the value of cargo to help cover "any and all costs necessary to do the job of providing safety and security."

That's a change to longstanding U.S. policy. The U.S. Navy has fought for freedom of navigation on the seas since the Barbary Wars in the early 19th century and the War of 1812. It's also a departure from recent U.S. promises that the strait would remain open to all without tolls — recently offered by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on a trip to the region.

Under the interim deal, Iran agreed that passage through the strait would remain free of charge for 60 days — but the agreement left open what would happen after. Iran asserts it has the right to manage traffic through the strait and potentially charge fees. The U.S. has disputed that.

Any attempt by the U.S. or Iran to charge fees would violate global norms on freedom of navigation and raise tensions, likely causing further economic disruption far beyond the region.

The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose to a one-month high of over \$87 in trading Tuesday, still well below the nearly \$120 reached at the height of the war but threatening to raise costs everywhere.

Regional mediators are still trying to get the United States and Iran back to the negotiating table, according to two regional officials.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the delicate diplomatic process, said Pakistan-led mediation was working around the clock to reactivate the ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Lebanese and Israeli delegations were expected to meet in Rome on Tuesday to continue U.S.-mediated negotiations. Shortly after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28, the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah joined the conflict in support of its ally, Iran, and began attacking Israel. Israel responded with a

ground invasion of Lebanon.

Last month, Lebanon and Israel announced a "framework agreement" outlining the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in exchange for the disarmament of Hezbollah. Implementation has stalled.

Before the fighting around the strait intensified, Israel's war against Hezbollah in Lebanon repeatedly threatened to derail the interim deal. A truce now exists in Lebanon, but it remains unclear whether it will hold if the U.S. and Iran return to full-scale war. (AP)



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July 14, 2026

National Solid Waste Management Authority Launches Pre-Carnival Clean-Up of St. John's City

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), in collaboration with the Central Board of Health, has commenced an intensive Pre-Carnival Clean-Up Initiative throughout St. John's City as part of preparations for Antigua Carnival 2026 hags tag *#Feeltherthym*.

The operation is being carried out daily from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. until completion, allowing crews to undertake extensive cleaning activities with minimal disruption to businesses, residents, and motorists.

Since the initiative began, significant progress has been made to the following areas.

- 12th –13th July: Newgate Street and Church Street
- 13th-14th July: Long Street, High Street, and St. Mary's Street
- 14th – 15th July: Crews will continue works along Tanner Street and Redcliffe Street.

The clean-up operation includes a range of activities aimed at improving the city's appearance and safeguarding public health, including cleaning and washing of drains, removal of debris and accumulated waste, grass cutting and vegetation management and general street and public space cleaning.

Upon completion of each cleaning activities, the Central Board of Health (CBH) will conduct fogging and disinfecting of drains and surrounding areas as part of its ongoing mosquito control and public health programme.

This collaborative initiative demonstrates the shared commitment of both NSWMA and the CBH with ensuring that St. John's City is clean, safe, and welcoming for residents and visitors during the Carnival festivities.

The NSWMA encourages the public to support this initiative by disposing of waste responsibly, refraining from littering, and helping to keep streets, drains, and public spaces clean. Every individual's contribution plays an important role in maintaining a healthy environment and preserving the improvements being made throughout the city.

As the initiative progresses, the National Solid Waste Management Authority will continue to provide updates on completed areas, upcoming locations, and the overall progress of the clean-up on our Facebook page. We look forward to sharing this journey with the public as we work together toward a cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful St. John's City in preparation for Antigua Carnival.

Leewards lose to Barbados in CWI Under-19 tournament

Barbados captain Gadson Bowens slammed a magnificent double-century to set up a commanding win by 258 runs over Leeward Islands in the second round of matches in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Men's Under-19 50-over Championship at Ball Beef in Liberta on Monday.

Bowens made 209 off 122 balls with 22 fours and 13 sixes in a record total of 439 for eight off 50 overs after the defending champions were sent in to bat.

Bowens added 194 in 28.5 overs for the first wicket with fellow left-hander Damarko Wiggins, who score 53 off 95 balls, including five fours and one six. Bowens was third out with the score 317 in the 41st over.

There were whirlwind knocks of 53 not out off of only 19 balls, with two fours and five sixes by medium-pace bowling all-rounder Jahidi Hinds, and 40 off 17 deliveries, including three fours and three sixes, from West Indies Youth team fast bowler R'Jai Gittens.

Antiguan and Leeward Islands captain Matthew Miller took four for 68 off eight overs.

Hinds returned to grab four for 39 off six overs as the Leeward Islands were bowled out for 181 in 23.5 overs.

Leg-spinning all-rounder Justin Parris picked up two for three off 1.5 overs, and fast bowler Zarell Harding claimed two for 60 off five overs. The last eight wickets for the Leeward Islands tumbled for 59 runs in 13.5 overs.



Players of the Leeward Islands Tropical Wave under-19 team. (LICB)

Kunal Tilokani hit the top-score of 59 off 21 balls, with eight fours and three sixes at No. 3, and Antiguan opener and wicketkeeper Tanez Francis made 55 off 38 balls, including six fours and two sixes.

Trinidad and Tobago Under-19s produced another disciplined all-round display to make it two wins in as many matches by defeating the Windward Islands by three wickets at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG).

All-rounder Brendan Boodoo starred with two wickets before top-scoring with a composed 67 as T&T chased down 183 with 11.1 overs to spare.

After restricting the Windwards to a modest 183 for nine, T&T overcame a few anxious moments in the chase before reaching 184 for seven in 38.5 overs, thanks largely to Boodoo, Tariq Richards, who scored 43, and Christiano Ramanan, who finished the job

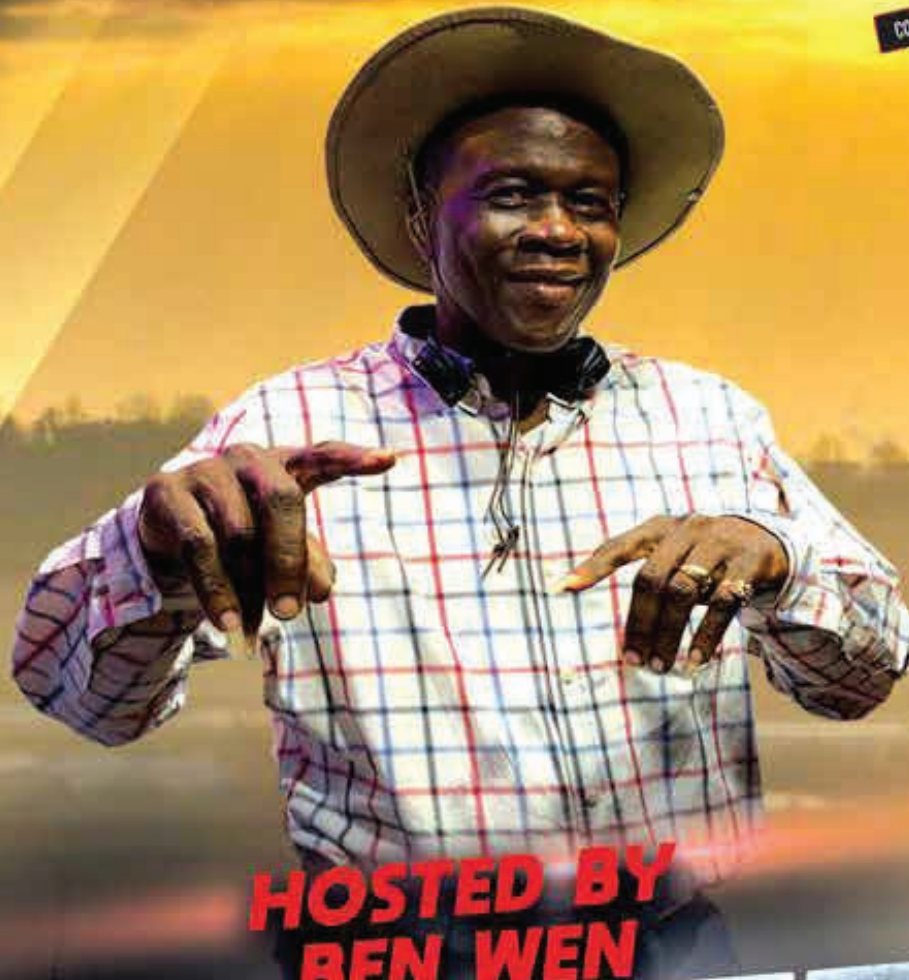
with an unbeaten 23 off 46 balls.

Summarised scores: Windward Islands U-19s 182-9 (50 overs) (Tyler Venner 62, Johnathan Daniel 27; Daniel Holder 3/28, Brendan Boodoo 2/18, Daron Dhanraj 2/26) vs T&T U-19s 184-7 (38.5 overs) (Brendan Boodoo 67, Tariq Richards 43, Christiano Ramanan 23 not out.; Aravinda Bishop 3/38).

In the other match, Jamaica openers Odane Binns (104 not out) and Tyson Gordon Jr (83 not out) shared an unbroken stand to chase down Guyana's 225 without losing a wicket, sealing a commanding 10-wicket victory in Bethesda.

Summarised scores: Guyana U-19s 225 (44.4 overs) (Parmeshwar Ram 78, Shamar Apple 50, Khush Seegobin 38; Jahdae Moore 5/36, Perico Henry 2/51) vs Jamaica U-19s 229-0 (37 overs) (Odane Binns 104 not out., Tyson Gordon Jr. 83 not out).

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New Zealand beat West Indies in 2nd ODI to level the series

PROVIDENCE, Guyana (AP) — Left-arm spinner Jayden Lennox took five for 19 as West Indies collapsed from 63 without loss to be all out for 138 and New Zealand went on to win the second One-Day International (ODI) by five wickets at the Guyana National Stadium on Monday.

New Zealand faced a difficult chase on a sharply turning pitch and was 96 for five before Tom Latham made 37 in an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership with Mark Bracewell to guide New Zealand to their victory target with 104 balls remaining.

New Zealand's 400th win in One-Day Internationals leveled the five-match series at 1-1 after West Indies won the first match by seven wickets at the same venue on Saturday.

Lennox claimed his first five-wicket total in his seventh One-Day International after a belated international debut at 31 and his figures from eight overs were the third-best by a New Zealand spinner in ODIs.

He set in motion a collapse which saw the West Indies lose all 10 wickets for 65 runs after a solid opening stand between John Campbell (43) and Akeem August (18).

Lennox shared with Mitchell Santner the key wickets of Keacy Carty, who made 95, and captain Shai Hope, who made an unbeaten 87, in a third-wicket partnership of 131 runs in the first match on Saturday.

Santner bowled Carty for 18 with a ball, which pitched on middle and



New Zealand's Jayden Lennox, left, celebrates the wicket of West Indies captain Shai Hope during the second ODI at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, Monday, July 13, 2026. (Getty Images)

turned sharply to beat the bat, while Lennox bowled Hope for 7 with a ball that pitched on middle and leg and straightened past the inside edge.

Amir Jangoo's 24 was the only other major contribution for West Indies, which lost their last five wickets in 10 overs.

Henry Nicholls (17) and Will Young (28) gave New Zealand a brisk start, putting on 35 for the first wicket at almost five runs per over.

In a double setback, New Zealand lost both Young and Mark Chapman (0) in quick succession. Chapman was run out second ball, taking a chancy run from a push to cover only to be beaten by Vitel Lawes' quick and ac-

curate throw.

Nicholls was out with the total on 52 for three before Daryl Mitchell and Latham combined to put on 42 for the fourth wicket. Mitchell made 28 and seemed likely to be in at the close but made a rash decision to charge a ball from Khary Pierre and was stumped.

Dean Foxcroft was bowled by Pierre shortly afterwards, raising the pressure on New Zealand, but Latham and Bracewell (18) held out until the end. Bracewell passed 1,000 runs in One-Day Internationals.

The third match in the five-match series is scheduled for Thursday, also in Guyana.



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Sports News

NPMT stay unbeaten in Gray's Green Football League



Nat Pan My Team

Nat Pan My Team (NPMT) Up-setters have maintained their unbeaten run in the Gray's Green Community Football League during the latest round of matches at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Robert Jeffrey scored the only goal of the match as Nat Pan My Team claimed their third win in as many games by snatching a 1-0 victory over FC Hollywood in their latest encounter.

It was the first loss suffered by FC Hollywood after winning their previous two matches.

Xclusive Ballaz battled to a 1-1 draw with Jennings United in their latest outing. Raheem Deterville scored for Xclusive Ballaz to salvage their second draw in four encounters, having won their other two matches.

Daryl Massicot scored for Jennings United, who recorded their second successive draw after winning their previous two matches.

West Side FC of Five Islands remain unbeaten but are still

searching for their first win in three matches. The men from Five Islands recorded their third successive draw with a 1-1 result against Wings FC in their latest outing.

Shakeem Joseph scored for West Side FC, while Amauri Anthony scored for Wings FC, who picked up their first point and a draw after losing their two previous matches.

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Antigua Schools off to winning start in Garfield Sobers Tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda Schools team made a successful start to their campaign in the annual Sir Garfield Sobers International Under-19 Cricket Tournament in Barbados on Monday.

The young Antiguan cricketers launched their campaign by pulling off a 27-run victory over Combermere School of Barbados in a 30-over one-day match at Foundation School Ground

in Bridgetown.

The Antiguan were dismissed for 178 in 29.4 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Opener Keno Goodwin hit a top score of 66 off 74 balls, including four fours and three sixes. Goodwin shared in a 73-run opening stand with captain Hosea Roberts, who struck 35 off 40 balls, including four fours and a six.

But only two other Antiguan batsmen managed to reach double figures. Nazair Williams cracked 25 off 22 balls, and Anthony Pierre scored 12 off 10 balls.

Azarique Butcher-Lewis bagged three for 21, and captain Javed Worrell claimed two for 40.

Chasing 179 to win, Combermere School was restricted to 151 for nine off their allotted 30 overs.

Josh Reid hit a top score of 47 off 51 balls, including three fours and a six. Omari Daniel-Hood struck 34 off 36 balls, including four fours and a six.

Khalik Forte made 25 off 44 balls, including three boundaries, and captain Javed Worrell chipped in with 11.

Hosea Roberts grabbed four for 23, and Jayden Charles captured two for 24.

Con't from page 44

The ABAVA congratulates Coach Braulio Estrada López, who successfully completed the ECVA Beach Volleyball Coaches Course, further strengthening the country's coaching capacity and long-term athlete development.

It also extends congratulations to Randy St. Jean and Josanne Lewis, who successfully completed the ECVA National Beach Volleyball Referee Course, marking another important step in expanding Antigua and Barbuda's pool of internationally qualified volleyball officials.

The ABAVA also recognizes the outstanding contributions of men's coach Jamarie James and women's coach Rosemarie Simon, whose leadership,

preparation, and commitment guided the national teams throughout the championship and played an integral role in the athletes' performances both on and off the court.

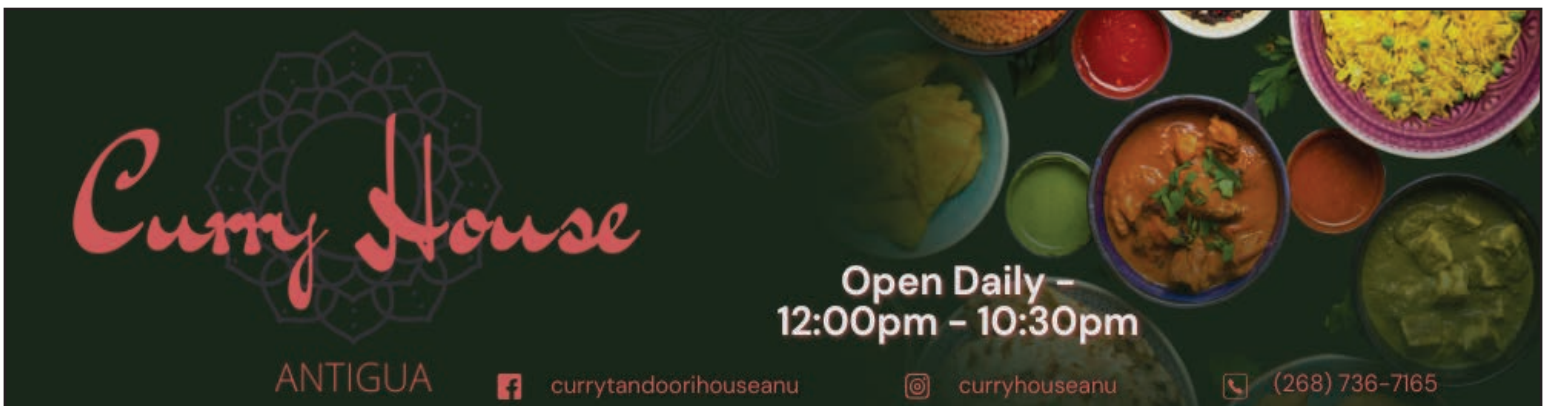
The ABAVA extends its sincere appreciation to the ECVA for its continued commitment to volleyball development across the region through competitions and educational programmes.

The ABAVA also gratefully acknowledges the Association of National Olympic Committees of the Eastern Caribbean (ANOCES), whose support helped make Antigua and Barbuda's participation in the championship possible, and the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) for its continued partnership and unwavering support of volleyball

development nationally.

The ABAVA states, "The conclusion of the 2026 ECVA U20 Beach Volleyball Championship represents far more than final standings. It reflects the steady growth of volleyball in Antigua and Barbuda, with our athletes competing courageously, our coaches enhancing their knowledge, and our officials expanding their expertise through regional certification.

"Every match played, every course completed, and every milestone achieved strengthens the foundation for the future of the sport. The ABAVA remains committed to creating opportunities for athletes, coaches, and officials to continue developing and proudly representing Antigua and Barbuda on the regional stage."



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Commendable performances by Antiguan teams at ECVA Beach tourney

Both Antigua and Barbuda's men's and women's teams produced commendable performances at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Under-20 Beach Championships at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, Frigate Bay, from July 10 to 12.

The Antigua and Barbuda team of George Freeland and Miguel Peña-Lugo finished fourth in the men's competition, which was won by St. Lucia with Dominica taking second place.

The Antiguan men's team lost to host St. Kitts and Nevis in the playoff for third place, with the Kittitians prevailing 21-19, 21-15.

The pair lost an exciting three-set semifinal 2-1 against Dominica, winning the opening set 21-18 before losing the last two sets 15-21, 7-15.

The Antiguan team of Faith Gibson and Philisha Burnette finished in fifth place in the women's competition, which was won by Bermuda with St. Kitts and Nevis clinching the runners-up spot and St. Lucia claiming third place.

The Antiguan women's team earned a hard-fought 2-1 (14-21, 22-20, 15-9) victory over St. Vincent and the Grenadines and prevailed 2-1 (21-13, 17-21, 20-18) against St. Eustatius in their opening round matches.

The beach tournament concluded a full week of beach volleyball development activities, which were hosted by the ECVA in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts, from July 6 to 12.

In collaboration with regional and international partners, the ECVA also hosted a beach volleyball coaches course, a national referee course, an international continental referee course,



Members of the Antigua and Barbuda contingent that participated in a full week of beach volleyball development activities, which were hosted by the ECVA in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts, from July 6 to 12. (Photo courtesy of the ABAVA)

and a training camp and athletes' development forum prior to staging the tournament.

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) proudly celebrates the successful conclusion of the 2026 Eastern Caribbean ECVA Under-20 Beach Volleyball Championship.

According to a media release, the ABAVA said team Antigua and Barbuda delivered spirited performances while the nation's coaches and officials achieved significant milestones in regional volleyball development during the events.

"The championship saw Antigua and Barbuda's young athletes compete with determination, resilience, and national pride against some of the region's best emerging talent," the ABA-

VA stated.

"The women's pairing of Faith Gibson and Philisha Burnette demonstrated remarkable composure throughout the tournament to secure fifth place overall.

"On the men's side, George Freeland and Miguel Peña-Lugo showcased tremendous grit and fighting spirit to finish in an impressive fourth place.

While the results reflect a competitive showing, the experience gained throughout the championship will prove invaluable as Antigua and Barbuda continue to build the future of beach volleyball."

Beyond the competition, Antigua and Barbuda also celebrated significant achievements in technical development.

Con.t on page 43