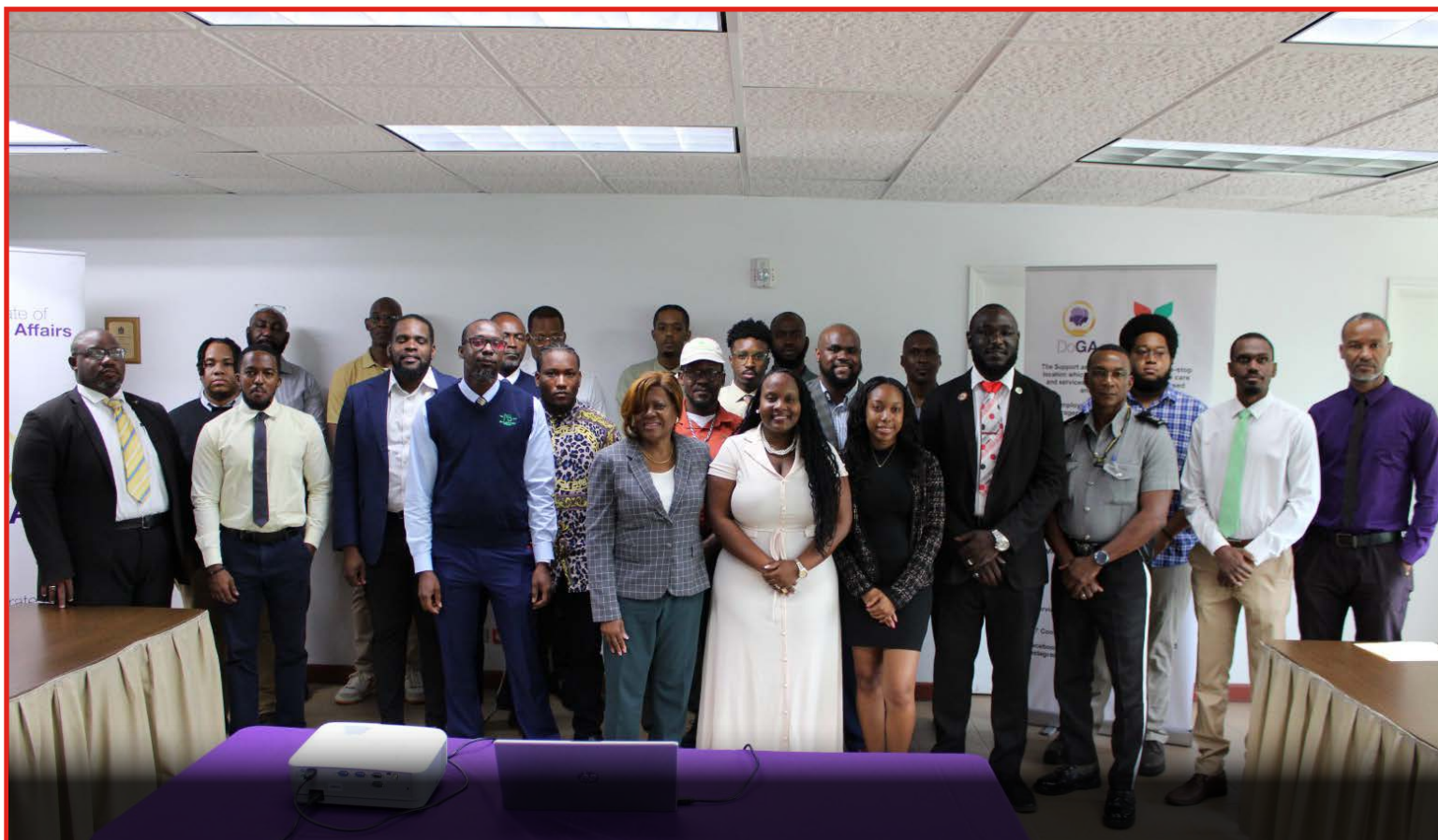


Prime Minister Browne Pens Letter to ECSCC Chief Justice

Story on page 2



Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson (center) with the participants of The Mirror Men's Forum.

Prime Minister Browne Pens Letter to ECSC Chief Justice

Prime Minister, Gaston Browne has penned a letter to the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Madam Margaret Price Findlay on an issue that he is passionate about; the sentencing meted out to offenders convicted of gun-related crimes.

In the letter, the Prime Minister is proposing the establishment of an Independent Committee to Review Firearm Sentencing, Repeat Offenders and Criminal Justice Coordination to look into the matter.

According to PM Browne studies have shown that there has been a sharp rise in the number of murders in the sub-region with more than eighty percent involving firearms.

He pointed out that Antigua and Barbuda has not been immune from the regional trend. For example, he noted that available published data place the homicide rate at approximately 2.4 per 100-thousand in 2019; 10.8 per 100-thousand in 2022; 10.7 per 100-thousand in 2023 and 12.8 per 100-thousand in 2024.

“The pattern is not a straight line increase, but the level has remained materially above 2019. Current briefings from security agencies also point to an unacceptable incidence of gun-related violence,” he wrote.

On Monday, the prime minister summoned the security agencies to an emergency meeting of the Cabinet to discuss the rise in gun crimes in recent weeks. He has also been critical of the sentences meted out to persons convicted of gun crimes when they appear before the courts.

The full text of the letter from the Prime Minister to the Chief Justice is published elsewhere in this paper.

See full letter on page 18 - 21



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



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Men Attend Forum Where The Spotlight Shun On Their Issues



Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson (center) with the participants of The Mirror Men's Forum.

More than 20 men participated in the “Man in the Mirror Men’s Forum” on Wednesday, engaging in candid discussions about masculinity, mental wellness, violence, relationships, stigma, and other critical issues affecting men and boys in Antigua and Barbuda.

The forum was hosted by the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, through its Directorate of Gender Affairs, at the Inland Revenue Department. It formed part of the Directorate’s Men’s Critical Issues Series under its Masculinity Portfolio and attracted participants from organisations across the country.

Programme Officer for Men’s and Mental Health, Rafiq Martin, opened the session by describing it as “an honest, respectful and courageous conversation” about gender-based violence and masculinity.

“Today is not about blaming men or women. It is about understanding how gender-based violence affects all of us,” Martin said.

He noted that society’s ideas about masculinity influence men’s behaviour and relationships, adding that individuals must consider what they can do to

create safer homes, healthier relationships and stronger communities.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, highlighted the pressures men often carry in silence. She pointed to global data showing that men die by suicide at higher rates than women and are more likely to use lethal methods.

“Strength is not the absence of emotion. Crying does not make you weak. Asking for help does not make you less of a man,” Johnson told participants.

The Minister also addressed changing expectations surrounding gender roles and

relationships, acknowledging that some men may feel uncertain about their place as women increasingly embrace independence and empowerment.

However, she stressed that the advancement of women should not be viewed as a threat to men.

“Women’s empowerment must not be interpreted as men’s displacement,” Johnson said.



Directorate of Gender Affairs, Jamie Saunders

“Gender equality is not a contest in which one side must lose for the other to win.”

She said equality should instead contribute to stronger partnerships, healthier families and a society in which every person is respected.

Johnson also called for greater recognition of men and boys who experience abuse, noting that their experiences are sometimes overlooked in conversations about gender-based violence.

Meanwhile, the Executive Director of the Directorate of Gender Affairs, Jamie Saunders, said it is important to create safe spaces where men and boys can speak openly about the issues affecting them.

He explained that the discussions generated during the forum would extend beyond the event and could help inform future policies, advocacy and legislation.

“It will be used to shape policies, it will be used to advocate for legislation, to ensure that men and boys are included in the conversation and they understand gender equality,” Saunders said.

Minister Kiz Johnson: Women's Empowerment Must Not Be Viewed as Men's Displacement

Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, is calling for a more balanced national conversation on gender equality, one that supports the advancement of women while recognising the struggles, contributions and emotional needs of men and boys.

Johnson made the appeal while addressing the "Man in the Mirror Men's Forum" held at the Inland Revenue Department on Wednesday, August 12. The event was organised by the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, through its Directorate of Gender Affairs.

Speaking to more than 20 men gathered for the forum, Johnson acknowledged that changing expectations surrounding gender and relationships have left some men uncertain about their roles in families and society.

She said that as women embrace greater independence, leadership and economic empowerment, some men may feel displaced or unsure about where they fit. However, she stressed that the empowerment of one gender should never be interpreted as the diminishing of another.

"Women's empowerment must not be interpreted as men's displacement," Johnson declared.

"Gender equality is not a contest in which one side must lose for the other to win," she added, explaining that equality should help to create stronger partnerships, healthier families and a society in which every person is valued and respected.

Johnson also used her address to challenge traditional beliefs that men must remain silent about their emotions and personal struggles.

She pointed to global data showing that men die by suicide at higher rates



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

than women and tend to use more lethal methods. The Minister said this reality must prompt more open and honest conversations about men's mental health.

"Strength is not the absence of emo-

tion. Crying does not make you weak. Asking for help does not make you less of a man," she told participants.

Johnson said many men carry significant pressures in silence, including financial responsibilities, relationship difficulties, parenting challenges, social expectations and the fear of being judged if they admit they are struggling.

She encouraged men to reject the idea that vulnerability is a sign of weakness and instead view seeking assistance as an act of courage and responsibility.

The Minister also called for greater recognition and support for men and boys who experience domestic or gender-based violence. She noted that their experiences can sometimes be dismissed or overlooked because of long-held assumptions that males must always be strong and capable of defending themselves.

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EXAMINATION begins at 8:00 a.m.

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Prime Minister Browne Warns Increased Crime and Violence Could Trigger Tougher US Measures



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has warned that rising levels of crime and violence across the Caribbean could have serious consequences for the region's tourism and international reputation as developed countries move to tighten immigration controls.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne Show last Saturday, Mr. Browne said Caribbean governments must recognise that changing immigration policies in the United States and other developed countries are likely to affect more countries across the region.

"If, within the Caribbean region as a whole, we're going to be known as a region that is riddled with crime and violence, high levels of crime and violence, people are not going to want us to come to their country," he said.

He added that signs of tighter controls were already evident and could become more widespread.

Prime Minister Browne pointed to the United States' introduction of visa bonds for certain applicants as evidence of the changing immigra-

tion environment.

He said the bonds could range from US\$10,000 to as much as US\$20,000, depending on an applicant's perceived risk, while stressing that the measure does not apply to every person seeking a US visa. According to the Prime Minister, applicants considered at risk of overstaying or failing to return to their home countries could face the additional financial requirement.

He also noted that Grenada had recently been added to the list of countries affected by the US measure, following Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is urging urged Caribbean nations not to assume that immigration measures introduced against individual countries would remain limited to them.

He maintained that Antigua and Barbuda should not interpret the US measures as being specifically targeted at his administration, arguing that his government had not engaged in conduct that would jus-

tify punitive action by Washington.

"I would have said repeatedly that certainly in terms of my personal conduct and the conduct of my administration, we have not done anything illegal, anything immoral, that the United States can frown on and take any punitive action against us," he said.

The Prime Minister suggested that Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica may have been among the first countries used by the United States to test elements of its evolving immigration policies, and cautioned that Caribbean governments should therefore prepare for a broader tightening of US immigration policies rather than viewing the measures as isolated developments.

He also discussed the ongoing US debate over birthright citizenship and the Trump administration's efforts to restrict the practice.

Prime Minister Browne stated that the United States was closing what he described as loopholes that had previously been used by some foreign nationals.

He maintained that the Trump administration has broad authority over its immigration policies and stressed that visitors should recognise that entry into the country is not an automatic entitlement.

"They have made it abundantly clear that no one has a right to visit the United States. They have full control over it," he said.

"Those who may believe that it's just going to be Antigua, Grenada and Dominica, as I said to you, when your neighbour's house is burning, wet yours." Prime Minister Browne stated

New York Offices' second outreach initiative taps into literary talents in the US

The Consulate General in New York is leading another diaspora outreach initiative as part of its ongoing thrust to strengthen ties with first and second generation Antiguan and Barbudans living in the United States.

This will be the second in a series of activities that the Consulate has organized. This one will take the form of an evening of spoken word called Wadadli Speaks - Louder than Words. The event takes place this Sunday August 16th at CUP 1107 Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn.

It will showcase the literary and creative talents of young Antiguan and Barbudans. The occasion promises to be an evening of inspiring poetry, storytelling and spoken word performances drawing on the very cultural and human experiences of the talented artists.

It's the vision of Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Walton Webson to foster a deeper connection with Antiguan and Barbudans in the diaspora and as such build new personal and professional networks across generations. The outreach initiatives therefore have been welcomed as useful and meaningful opportunities to achieve his objectives.

The first one, which took the form of a Diaspora Mixer in March, was deemed a success as it created a platform for the older members of the diaspora to engage with the new generation of Antiguan and Barbudans.

"We are hoping to build something positive from these activities," noted Consular Officer Michelle Lightfoot, who has been spearheading the arrangements on behalf of the New York Offices.

"Our nationals overseas are an integral part of our story. By creating



Offices of Antigua and Barbuda

DADLI SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Artists - Lyricists - Poets - Authors
ADMISSION - FREE
 Light Refreshments - Live Bar

CUP - 1107 Bedford Ave, Bklyn, NY 11216
Sun, Aug 16, 3:30PM - 7:00PM
LIVE DJ

opportunities for people to come together, share experiences and celebrate their heritage, we are strengthening the bonds that unite us all as Antiguan and Barbudans," Lightfoot noted. As the US' Diaspora Liaison, Dave Ray, is also working in tandem with Lightfoot and the Consulate to help ensure the success of these events.

Wadadli Speaks is also timely as

it comes only a few months before the celebration of Art Week from November 11 – 18 in Antigua and Barbuda. "Knowing that our artistic impression plays a fundamental role in shaping and preserving our identity, this could be an opportunity to identify some of our talents to showcase their creativity in events like Art Week back home," Lightfoot continued.

ABHTA Launches Enhanced Customer Service and Cultural Awareness Training for CHOGM

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to welcome Heads of Government, delegates, media, business leaders and visitors from across the 56 Commonwealth countries, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) is preparing the nation's hospitality and frontline professionals to deliver an exceptional standard of service through its enhanced E.A.S.E. Customer Service Excellence Programme.

Under the theme “E.A.S.E. into CHOGM: Preparing Antigua and Barbuda to Welcome the Commonwealth,” the programme combines customer service excellence with specialised Commonwealth Cultural Awareness and Intelligence training, giving participants practical tools to confidently serve guests from diverse cultural backgrounds.

E.A.S.E. — Exceeding All Service Expectations — is designed to strengthen the skills of those who directly influence the visitor experience. For CHOGM, the programme has been enhanced to ensure that participants are not only prepared to provide excellent service, but also understand the cultural nuances, customs, communication styles and expectations of visitors arriving from across the Commonwealth.

Whether working in a hotel, restaurant, villa, taxi, attraction, marina, tour operation, airport, volunteer role or any other customer-facing position, participants will gain practical skills to communicate effectively, demonstrate cultural sensitivity, exceed guest expectations and confidently manage challenging situations.

Through the programme, participants will learn how to:



ABHTA
ANTIGUA BARBUDA HOTELS & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

CHOGM
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2026

E.A.S.E. into CHOGM

Exceeding All Service Expectations
Training Our People. • Elevating Our Service.
Showcasing Our Nation.

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Customer Service Excellence

- EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES
- EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
- EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION & SERVICE RECOVERY

DAY 2
Commonwealth Cultural Sensitivity

- CULTURAL CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS
- CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION
- RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS
- GUEST EXPECTATIONS, SERVICE DO'S & DON'TS

Facilitated by
Shirlene Nibbs
Customer Service & Leadership Consultant

TWO-DAY PROGRAMME

- 3 HOURS EACH DAY**
ONLINE VIA ZOOM
- MORNING SESSION**
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON
- AFTERNOON SESSION**
2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
- FIRST TRAINING DATES**
SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 9 & 11, 2026
- EC\$100 PER PARTICIPANT FOR BOTH DAYS**
- REGISTRATION CLOSES**
AUGUST 28, 2026

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
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Register today and E.A.S.E. into CHOGM!

SCAN TO REGISTER

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- ▶ Deliver exceptional customer experiences with confidence
- ▶ Understand the cultural expectations of guests from across the Commonwealth
- ▶ Communicate effectively with visitors from different backgrounds
- ▶ Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and respect
- ▶ Manage conflict and recover service

failures professionally

- ▶ Build customer loyalty through memorable service
- ▶ Apply emotional intelligence to enhance guest interactions
- ▶ Represent Antigua and Barbuda as a world-class tourism destination

A key feature of the enhanced E.A.S.E. Programme is its focus on Common-

Local News



wealth Cultural Awareness and Intelligence.

Participants will gain practical knowledge of:

- ▶ Cultural customs and traditions
- ▶ Cross-cultural communication styles
- ▶ Religious and cultural considerations
- ▶ Diverse guest expectations by region
- ▶ Hospitality do's and don'ts
- ▶ Real-world service scenarios and case studies

The training is intended to help participants recognise that exceptional service is not always one-size-fits-all. Understanding and respecting cultural differences can significantly influence how visitors experience Antigua and Barbuda and how they remember the destination long after their departure.

The E.A.S.E. Customer Service Excellence Programme will be delivered over **two days online, comprising a total of six hours of training.**

Training Sessions

Participants will have access to morning and afternoon training sessions:

Morning: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Afternoon: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Via Online Zoom

The first training cohorts will commence **September 7, 8, 9 & 11, 2026**, with additional dates to be made available based on demand.

Registrants will be assigned to their respective training sessions once the registration process has been completed.

Earn Your E.A.S.E. Pin

Every participant who successfully completes the programme will receive an official **E.A.S.E. Pin** to wear

proudly — a visible symbol of their commitment to Exceeding All Service Expectations and delivering world-class service.

The investment is EC\$100 per participant, covering both days of training.

Registration Link Here: <https://form.jotform.com/251693394649876>

Organisations registering more than 25 employees are asked to contact the ABHTA directly at abhta@anti-guahotels.org or 462-0374 / 462-4928 to coordinate their participation.

Registration closes Friday, August 28, 2026.

Through E.A.S.E. into CHOGM, the ABHTA is encouraging tourism businesses, organisations and other customer-facing sectors to invest in their teams and help ensure that Antigua and Barbuda is ready to provide an exceptional welcome to the Commonwealth.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

**-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99**



**-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
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\$17.99**





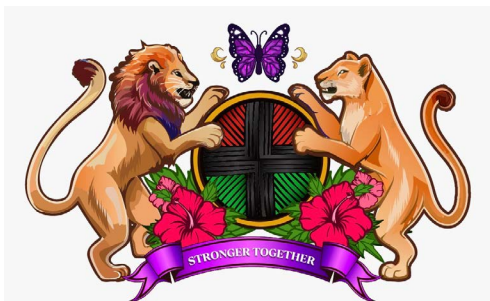
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JET Foundation and UWI Five Islands Campus Partner to Host the Wadadli Healing Symposium



The Jane E. Toussaint (JET) Foundation and The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI-FIC) have announced their partnership for the hosting of the **Wadadli Healing Symposium**, with UWI-FIC serving as the venue for the two-day event on 6 and 7 October 2026.

Designed as a national and regional response to historic injury and present-day social challenges, the Symposium will bring together local and international voices, including Dr. Joy DeGruy, to deliver data-informed, culturally grounded healing strategies at no cost to the public.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing community well-being, strengthening public access to knowledge, and creating a platform for meaningful dialogue across Antigua and Barbuda. By hosting the Symposium at UWI Five Islands Campus, the collaboration positions the institution as a central convening space for timely research, public education, and practical solutions that address both intergenerational harm and current social realities.



The Wadadli Healing Symposium will focus on four critical domains that emerged as priority areas through pre-symposium research and community inquiry:

- **Mental Health and Healing**
- **Parent Engagement**
- **Youth Development**
- **Male Engagement**

These areas reflect pressing concerns affecting families, communities, and future generations. The Symposium is intended to move beyond conversation by offering actionable, data-informed strategies that practitioners, families, educators, civil society groups, faith-based organisations, and members of the public can apply in real-world settings.

Dr. Joy DeGruy's participation will bring internationally recognised in-

sight to the event's exploration of multigenerational trauma, healing, and social recovery. Her work will sit alongside contributions from local and international professionals, creating a high-value forum for learning, reflection, and practical engagement. Together, these perspectives will support a stronger regional conversation on healing frameworks that are relevant to Caribbean realities.

A core goal of the Symposium is to ensure broad and inclusive participation. By offering the event at no cost to attendees, the JET Foundation is working to remove barriers to access and make high-quality programming available to parents, youth, students, educators, mental health professionals, NGOs, faith-based organisations, and the general public.

On the topic of the importance of the initiative, Joan H. Underwood, Director, Jane E. Toussaint Foundation, said:

"My grandmother always told us that education was the one thing no one could ever take from you," said Joan H Underwood, Director of the Jane E. Toussaint Foundation. "I carry that with me every day — because when we combine what our elders taught us with real research and practical knowledge, we create genuine opportunities for people to build better lives, no matter where they're starting from."


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- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

Caribbean Must Turn Connectivity into Global Competitiveness



The Caribbean has reached a pivotal moment in its digital development and must now translate advances in connectivity into greater innovation, productivity and global competitiveness.

In delivering the keynote address on the opening day of CANTO's 41st Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition, Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean, highlighted the opportunity to build on the region's increasingly connected environment.

"Connectivity has transformed the Caribbean, but our ambition cannot stop there. We now have an opportunity to build on the digital foundations we have created and use them to drive innovation, strengthen our economies and position the Caribbean to compete more effectively on the global stage," she said.

Smidts delivered the address as Liberty Caribbean returns for the fifth consecutive year as headline sponsor of the region's leading telecommunications and ICT gathering, taking place August 9 to 12 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana under the theme 'Elevate the Caribbean: From Connectivity to Global Competitiveness'.

"We cannot build a globally competitive digital Caribbean in isolation. It will take governments, regulators, technology companies, businesses and communities working together, along with the courage to invest, the willingness to innovate and the urgency to turn ambition into action," she said.

"The Caribbean has the talent, creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and resilience to compete. Our responsibility is to give that potential the infrastructure, technology and opportunity it needs to thrive."

The address set the tone for Liberty Caribbean's broader participation



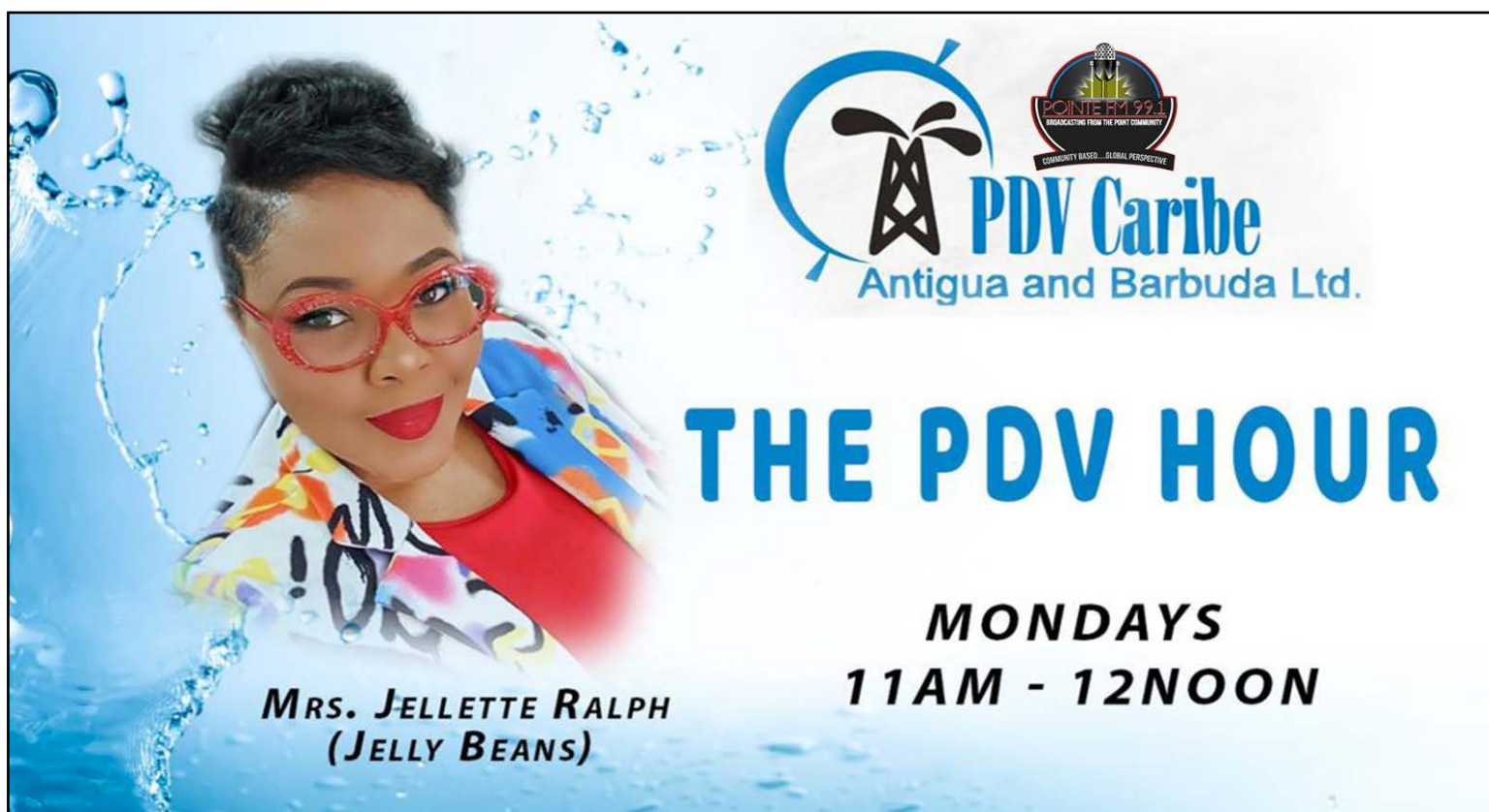
Local News

in the conference, with the company contributing to discussions on the issues shaping the region's digital future.

Smidts also joined the 'CEO Dialogue: Powering Caribbean Competitiveness' with John Gomez, CEO, Aliv; Ray Collins, CEO, Liberty Networks; Marcelo Cateldo, CEO, DigiCel Group; and Naji Khoury, CEO, ATN International, for a discussion on the role of industry leaders in building the digital capabilities and enabling environment needed to strengthen Caribbean competitiveness.

CANTO's 41st Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition brings together more than 800 delegates from across the Caribbean and beyond for four days of dialogue, knowledge-sharing, networking and collaboration focused on advancing the region's ICT sector.

CANTO is a non-profit association made up of operators, organisations, companies and individuals primarily focused on advancing the information and communications technology (ICT) sector across the Caribbean region and the Americas.

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SEPTEMBER 2026



SUNDAY

06

SEPTEMBER

CHURCH SERVICE



Spring Garden Moravian
St. John's Street



8am



WEDNESDAY

09

SEPTEMBER

SICK AND SHUT IN



Police Head Quarters



10am



FRIDAY

11

SEPTEMBER

CULTURAL FOOD FAIR



Rising Sun



10 am Until



SATURDAY

12

SEPTEMBER

COMMUNITY DAY



Most Villages



10am



*One Force. One Community.
Stronger Together.*

Minister George to Advance Samory Christopher's Creative Ambassador Proposal



International fashion model Samory Christopher wants to serve as a Creative Ambassador on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda. This is a desire he expressed during a courtesy call on Tuesday with Creative Industries Minister, Hon Dwayne George.

Christopher, who is domiciled in New York City, has walked the runways of New York Fashion Week for a number of international brands as he continues to build his portfolio.

As the only male Antiguan and Barbudan national currently making his mark in the fashion industry abroad, while being the country's standard bearer, Christopher told Minister George it will be an honour if his request is given consideration and approval.

The Minister of Sports and Creative Industries applauded Samory on his accomplishments thus far, noting, "anyone who wishes to use their work



and platform to promote Antigua and Barbuda is an ambassador in their own right".

He informed him that his request to become a Creative Ambassador must be tabled and discussed at the Cabinet level before any decision is made.

Minister Dwayne George assured Christopher that this will be advanced at the earliest opportunity and extended best wishes to him in his future endeavours.

Samory Christopher departed Antigua and Barbuda on Tuesday after participating in Carnival festivities.



MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AND URBAN
TRANSFORMATION

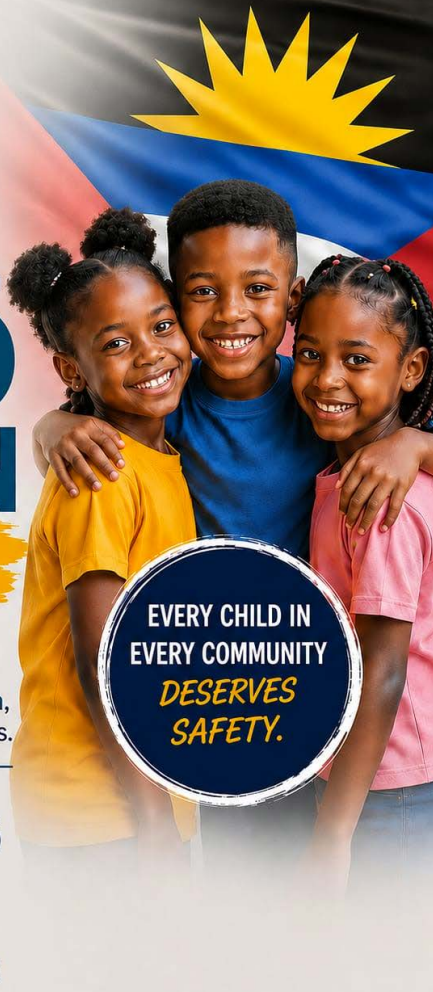
NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION

TOWN HALL MEETING

A national conversation to **protect our children**,
strengthen families and build safer communities.

TUESDAY
25TH AUGUST 2026
6:30 PM

 **JOHN E. ST. LUCE**
FINANCE & CONFERENCE CENTRE



EVERY CHILD IN
EVERY COMMUNITY
**DESERVES
SAFETY.**

Renaming of the New Airport in Barbuda Set For November 1



The official renaming of the new international airport in Barbuda will take place on November 1 as part of the 45th anniversary of political Independence for Antigua and Barbuda.

The airport was opened nearly two

years and was named in honour of two outstanding Barbudans, the late Sir Eric Burton, and former member of parliament for the island-constituency, Arthur Nibbs. It will be named the Nibbs Burton International Airport.

tional Airport.

In addition to the renaming of the airport, several streets in Barbuda will be given formal names during the independence festivities.



Senaki Isaac Pleads Guilty In the Magistrate's Court

Clare Hall resident, Senaki Isaac, whose age has been given now as 20-years, pleaded guilty when he appeared in the magistrate's court on Wednesday to answer gun-related charges.

Isaac was unrepresented by counsel, but his father addressed the court on his behalf asking for leniency.

The Clare Hall man has been remanded in prison until August 26 when he will re-appear for sentencing.

Isaac appeared in court with bloody bandage on his left hand from what was reported as a self-inflicted wound.

The court heard that he had accidentally shot himself with the illegal firearm and he complained that the wound was still bleeding and that he was in much pain. The magistrate ordered immediate medical attention for Isaac.

On August 8, Isaac was arrested and charged by the police on a count of having in his possession a modified flare gun as well one round of ammunition.



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Office of the Prime Minister

Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
Antigua and Barbuda

Tel. (268) 460-5100
Fax. (268) 462-322
pmsecretariat@ab.gov.ag

13 August 2026

Her Ladyship, the Honourable Madam Margaret Price Findlay
Chief Justice
Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1093
Castries
Saint Lucia, West Indies

Dear Chief Justice,

**RE: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW
FIREARM SENTENCING, REPEAT OFFENDING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COORDINATION**

I write following a recent meeting of the National Security Council and senior security and law-enforcement officials to raise a matter of grave and urgent national concern. I propose that an independent committee be constituted without delay to examine sentencing for firearm and other serious violent offences, repeat offending, and the operation of the wider criminal justice system in Antigua and Barbuda.

The regional evidence is sobering. The December 2025 joint report, *Pathway to Policy: Firearms Trafficking and Public Health in the Caribbean*, published by the Small Arms Survey, CARICOM IMPACS, the Caribbean Public Health Agency and the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre at The University of the West Indies, reports that the aggregate homicide rate across CARICOM Member States and Associate Members more than doubled in 2023–2024 when compared with the 2016–2019 baseline. It also estimates that firearms were used in 86 per cent of homicides in 2023–2024. Importantly, the report makes clear that national patterns vary and must be examined separately.

In Antigua and Barbuda, available published data place the homicide rate at approximately 2.4 per 100,000 in 2019, 10.8 in 2022, 10.7 in 2023 and 12.8 in 2024. The pattern is not a straight-line increase, but the level has remained materially above 2019. Current briefings from our security agencies also point to an unacceptable incidence of firearm-related violence.

Officials further advised that approximately 250 persons with previous convictions have subsequently been arrested and charged in relation to further serious offences. That figure is not advanced as a finding of guilt in any pending matter. It is, however, a powerful warning of a repeat-offending problem which the State must examine across the full criminal justice chain. It places a heavy burden on the police, erodes public confidence and demands a coordinated response from every responsible institution.

My Government has not been passive. Parliament has enacted legislation under which certain firearm offences carry maximum custodial penalties of up to fifteen years. Government has also continued to invest in policing, border protection, intelligence, prosecution capacity and rehabilitation. The public is entitled to expect that the legal and institutional framework as a whole will operate with equal seriousness and effectiveness.

Public concern has intensified where custodial sentences in some firearm and serious violent offence cases appear low when compared with statutory maxima and the gravity of the offending. A maximum sentence is not a mandatory sentence, and no responsible assessment can ignore the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Sentencing Guidelines, guilty plea discounts, aggravating and mitigating factors, antecedents, time spent on remand, the totality principle or appellate decisions. The proper response is not to trade generalisations. It is to subject the record to rigorous independent scrutiny and determine whether legislative policy, sentencing practice and criminal justice administration are operating coherently.

Let me be equally clear. Judicial independence does not require the elected Government to remain silent when sentencing outcomes give rise to grave public-safety concerns, nor does it relieve any arm of the State of accountability for the effective discharge of its responsibilities. My Government derives its authority from the people and commands a substantial majority in Parliament. That mandate imposes a duty to protect the country, uphold order and speak plainly when the public interest demands it. I will continue to discharge that duty.

Equally, constitutional government requires that concerns affecting judicial administration be pursued through the institutions and procedures established by the Constitution and the law. Where any question touches the tenure, assignment or conduct of a judicial officer, it must be addressed through those constitutionally prescribed arrangements. This proposal is therefore neither an apology for, nor a retreat from, the concerns I have expressed. It is the firm and constitutionally proper means of converting those concerns into an authoritative review and practical action.

To that end, I respectfully request that Your Ladyship appoint, or otherwise facilitate the constitution of, a committee of three suitably qualified and independent persons. Its immediate mandate should concern Antigua and Barbuda. If Your Ladyship and the relevant Member States and Territories consider a wider Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court review useful, the scope could be enlarged by agreement. The Antigua and Barbuda work should not await that broader decision.

In considering the form and leadership of the Committee, I have consulted the Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron and the Honourable Mr Justice Godfrey Smith, SC, CARICOM High-Level Representative on Law and Criminal Justice. Both are prepared to assist the Committee, including by making available the considerable body of work already undertaken by the High-Level Representative, including the strategic plan, model legislation, policy papers and the outcomes of the dialogue between CARICOM Heads of Government and Heads of Judiciary. The Committee should draw on this work and avoid unnecessary duplication.

Against this background, I respectfully suggest that Your Ladyship invite the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, to chair the Committee, subject to his willingness. His service in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, including as acting Chief Justice, his later presidency of the Caribbean Court of Justice, and his role in co-facilitating the July 2025 dialogue give him the experience, regional standing and familiarity with the work already undertaken to lead this review.

I propose that the Committee's terms of reference require it to:

- collect and analyse sentencing outcomes for firearm and other serious violent offences over a defined five-year period, using anonymised and aggregated data where appropriate;
- assess those outcomes against the governing legislation, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Sentencing Guidelines and relevant appellate decisions, including the operation of guilty plea discounts, aggravating and mitigating factors, antecedents, remand credit and totality;
- identify any material divergence between legislative policy and sentencing outcomes, and the legal, evidential or administrative reasons for it;
- examine the wider criminal justice chain, including charging and prosecution practice, the timely availability of criminal histories and pre-sentence information, bail and remand processes, prison release, supervision and rehabilitation;
- quantify repeat offending as far as reliable data permit and assess whether present arrangements adequately reduce the risk of reoffending; and
- recommend any legislative, guideline, procedural, data or inter-agency reforms required to protect the public while preserving judicial independence and the separation of powers.

The timetable must reflect the urgency. I would welcome Your Ladyship's initial response by 20 August 2026. I propose that the membership and terms of reference be settled by 31 August 2026, that the Committee provide interim observations within thirty days of its appointment, and that it submit a final report within ninety days. My Government will designate a senior focal point and provide the data, logistical support and access to relevant agencies reasonably required for the work.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda are entitled to expect their elected Government, the Judiciary and law-enforcement agencies to meet this challenge with urgency, discipline and unity of purpose. My Government will continue to respect the independence of the Judiciary, just as it will continue to discharge its democratic mandate to protect the public. I trust that Your Ladyship will give this proposal urgent consideration.

Please accept, Your Ladyship, the assurances of my highest consideration and continued respect.

Yours sincerely,



The Right Honourable Gaston Browne
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

Calls for justice after murder of LGBTQIA activist

The murder of LGBTQIA activist Kwasi Dion Gill has triggered calls for justice from the national community.

Gill's popularity as an activist and community member was evident following the discovery of his body on the Lady Young Road on Sunday, hours after the Beetham resident failed to turn up at an event and was reported missing.

Among those paying tribute were PrideTT, the CAISO, and the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago, where Gill worked as a Gender-Based Violence Case Manager.

In a statement on Monday, PrideTT said "it is with profound heartbreak, devastation and anger that Pride TT extends our deepest condolences to the family, friends, loved ones and entire community mourning the brutal and senseless killing of Kwasi Dion Gill".

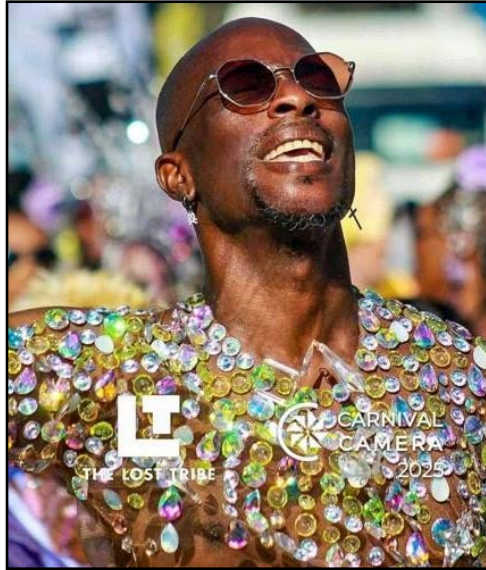
The organisation said Gill "was so much more than a familiar face within our community. He was a friend, mentor, an incredible dancer and performer, a visionary and someone who created spaces where others could be seen, celebrated and uplifted".

PrideTT noted that Gill was the founder of The King Initiative and DragBrunch TT, into which he "poured his creativity, energy and passion into building community".

Gill was also a dedicated supporter of not just Pride TT, but empowering and supporting those within the community who could not stand on their own, PrideTT said. "His presence, talent and contribution to our movement will never be forgotten. We are grieving. We are devastated. And we are angry," the organisation said.

PrideTT went on to state that "there must be justice" for Gill, adding:

"We call upon the relevant authorities to leave no stone unturned in investigating his murder and bringing those responsible to justice. Dion deserves answers. His family deserves answers. His friends deserve answers. Our community deserves answers."



PrideTT said "we cannot continue becoming accustomed to murder", and "cannot allow another name, another photograph, another candle and another funeral to become simply another statistic".

As it joined in mourning Gill's "tragic" death, the Family Planning Association recalled that he joined the organisation in January 2017 as a Peer Navigator/Educator.

Over seven years of service, Gill went on to serve as Youth Officer, Gender-Based Violence Case Liaison and ultimately Gender-Based Violence Case Manager.

FPATT said during this time, Gill was "known for his profound empathy, compassion and dedication to advancing the well-being, protection and dignity of vulnerable individuals and communities".

"His service touched the lives of young people, survivors, colleagues and communities, and his contribution to FPATT will be remembered," FPATT stated.

FPATT also extended heartfelt condolences to Gill's family, loved ones, friends, former colleagues and all those mourning his loss.

In a statement, CAISO expressed devastation at Gill's death and "by the loss of a light in our community".

The organisation called Gill a "pillar in our community, someone who worked alongside countless people and organisations, always creating space for others to feel seen, heard, and supported". "He was someone who showed up when it mattered, especially in times of need, offering his time, care, and presence without hesitation," CAISO stated.

The United Caribbean Trans Persons Network (UCTRANS) also joined in calling for "justice, accountability, and a full investigation into the killing of Kwasi Gill in Trinidad and Tobago".

"A human life has been lost. A family is grieving. A community is demanding answers," UCTRANS said in a statement.

It went on to "call on the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to ensure that this case receives a prompt, thorough, transparent, and impartial investigation and that anyone responsible is held accountable through due process".

The organisation said Gill's death must compel Caribbean governments to confront a broader reality - violence, discrimination, and hate against marginalized people cannot be treated as ordinary or inevitable.

UCTRANS called on the T&T Government for a transparent investigation into Gill's death, accountability for those responsible and stronger protections for people who face violence because of their identity or perceived identity.

It also urged meaningful engagement with LGBTQIA organisations and human rights defenders.

The organisation said Caribbean governments must move beyond statements of concern and take legislative action.

"We call on governments across the region to adopt comprehensive hate-crime legislation that recognizes violence motivated by sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics, and other forms of prejudice," UCTRANS stated. (Trinidad Express)

CARPHA opens lab in Jamaica



The region's capacity to track, test and respond to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been bolstered with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) establishing its new regional reference referral laboratory in Kingston.

Speaking at the recent official opening ceremony at CARPHA's Hope Gardens location in St Andrew, Minister of Health and Wellness Dr Christopher Tufton said that the facility will strengthen surveillance, improve clinical decision-making, and reduce the Caribbean's dependence on overseas testing.

"The establishment of the lab will significantly strengthen our ability to identify resistant organisms more quickly, improve surveillance, guide appropriate treatment decisions, and provide valuable evidence supporting national policy and clinical practice," he noted.

"It also reduces dependence on overseas referral testing, while improving access to high-quality laboratory services across the Caribbean," he added.

Tufton said the facility com-

plements the work of Jamaica's National Public Health Laboratory, hospital laboratories, infection prevention and control teams, and clinicians and pharmacists, while supporting the country's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

He noted that Jamaica has already been strengthening surveillance systems, promoting responsible antibiotic prescribing, advancing antimicrobial stewardship, and increasing public awareness about the appropriate use of antibiotics. "We are not sitting down and doing nothing. What this does is add capacity, and it also allows us to do even more," Tufton added.

The AMR Regional Reference Referral Laboratory will serve as a regional hub for advanced testing, surveillance and technical support, enhancing the Caribbean's ability to detect and respond to drug-resistant infections, while supporting evidence-based public health decision-making across CARPHA member states. (Jamaica Gleaner)



Regional News

\$75m seized, wholesale owners charged in fake goods sting

More than \$75 million in cash and thousands of pieces of counterfeit merchandise carrying the labels of globally recognised brands were seized by law-enforcement authorities during multiple operations on the weekend.

The counterfeit merchandise, which includes more than 300 pairs of 'Nike Air Force One' sneakers as well as 'Gucci', 'Polo', 'Reebok', 'Crocs', and 'Jordan' apparel, has an estimated value of \$4 million.

The five-hour operations targeted a wholesale located on Orange Street in downtown Kingston, along with its Jamaican proprietors, law-enforcement sources told The Gleaner on Tuesday.

The husband-and-wife proprietors of the wholesale were arrested and charged with possession of criminal property, unauthorised use of trademark, and misleading the public, the police confirmed yesterday.

The police have not released their names, citing "concerns for their safety".

The two have since been released on bail, each in the amount of \$1.5 million.

The operations began on Friday when a joint team from the police Special Investigations Branch and the Financial Investigations Division showed up at the business place.

Investigators allegedly found millions of dollars in cash as well as hundreds of pairs of counterfeit Nike and Reebok sneakers, along with other items of clothing, sources disclosed.



It is alleged that millions of dollars in cash were also found inside a motor vehicle owned by one of the proprietors of the wholesale.

The investigators allegedly found over \$40 million in cash during a subsequent search of the couple's St Andrew home.

"Money was found at the Orange Street location, at the premises in Red Hills [St Andrew] shared by both suspects, and also cash was seized in a bus owned by one of the suspects," a police spokesperson said yesterday.

The couple is scheduled to appear in the Corporate Area Criminal Court on September 10.

Experts believe that the value of Jamaica's underground counterfeit market exceeds \$2 billion.

Approximately \$3.35 billion worth of counterfeit goods were seized in Jamaica between 2022 and 2024, according to statistics compiled by the police Intellectual Property Unit.

Arising from these operations, a total of 14 persons were convicted for breaches of the Trademark Act, resulting in fines totalling over \$10 million being imposed by the courts.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the police destroyed more than \$3 billion worth of counterfeit goods. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Trinidad jolted by 5.1 magnitude earthquake

Trinidad and Tobago was rocked by a strong earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 on Wednesday, the Seismic Research Centre (SRC) of the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) reported.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The SRC said the quake, which occurred at 4:14 a.m. (local time), was located at Latitude 10.67N, Longitude 62.53W, at a depth of 75 kilometres.

It was felt 113 km west of the capital, Port of Spain, as well as 77 km east of Carúpano and 124 km northeast of Maturín in Venezuela, the South American country where the death toll from the powerful twin earthquakes that struck in late June has risen to 6,301. (CMC)




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Earthquake response strains Colombia's new government and rescuers as they race against the clock

The search for survivors in the rubble of Colombia's powerful earthquake grew more desperate on Wednesday, two days after the quake brought down buildings, buckled roads and crushed cars.

The devastation has tested Colombia's new President Abelardo de la Espriella and his government as it scrambles to respond to the natural disaster and civil society as it pushes to provide aid to the vulnerable communities most affected by the quake.

By Tuesday, de la Espriella said the 7.4 magnitude earthquake had killed at least 181 people and left 2,595 more injured in the west of the country. He said at least 195 remained missing, but civilian-run databases put that number at more than 4,000 Wednesday morning.

Teams continued to pick through the rubble overnight in the hardest-hit cities of Cali, Pereira, Manizales and Quibdo, as time ticked away for victims to be found — and rescued — alive.

Aid agencies consider the first 48 to 72 hours crucial for retrieving survivors, though that threshold can be extended if those trapped have access to food and water.

In hard-hit Pereira, rescuers pulled Daniela Largo alive from the rubble late Tuesday, capping a complex 12-hour rescue in which crews carved a small opening through the debris to free her pinned arm and a doctor administered IV fluids to stabilize her. Wrapped in a blue blanket, the young woman was carried to a waiting ambulance as firefighters embraced and onlookers erupted in cheers.

Across the coffee-growing region, among the areas worst affected by the quake, authorities have converted sports arenas, schools and other public buildings into temporary shelters

for thousands of displaced Colombians. In Pereira and Cali, families have been sleeping in parks — some fearing aftershocks or the collapse of their damaged homes, others without homes to return to.

"We have the most important things: a roof over our heads, food, water and, in my case, medical care," said Edith Penagos, 48, who was staying with her teenage son in one of the white tents set up in a Pereira park after the earthquake forced them from their apartment.

In many areas, the official response to the disaster has been complicated by the ongoing crises of deep poverty and civil warfare that has created waves of forced displacement for decades.

"This earthquake compounds an already severe humanitarian situation, and there is a need for increased support for the humanitarian response," said Giovanni Rizzo, Colombia director for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Many aid organizations were already on the ground at the epicenter of the quake in Colombia, supporting a 2016 peace accord between the government and leftist rebels, and responding to violence involving other armed groups that has persisted since

then, particularly in Choco.

That presence allowed humanitarian workers to quickly pivot to disaster relief, said María José Torres, the U.N. resident coordinator in Colombia.

"We have a presence on the ground. Therefore, our ability to be there, present with the people, I think, has increased exponentially," Torres said in a statement Tuesday.

At the same time, aid from other countries and nonprofits abroad continued to roll in.

On Wednesday, the State Department said it would send two search and rescue teams to Colombia that helped with rescue efforts in Venezuela just weeks before. The U.S. has also offered over \$15 million in aid.

Mexico's president has said she is prepared to send hundreds of search and health workers, tons of health supplies and other equipment.

On Tuesday afternoon, Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele said his country would send two planes loaded with 100 tons of aid.

"Our prayers are with the families of the victims, the wounded and all the Colombian people," Bukele wrote on X. (AP)

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Woman pulled alive from rubble 36 hours after Colombia quake

A 32-year-old woman, who had been trapped under rubble for 36 hours following the 7.4-magnitude quake which shook western Colombia, has been rescued alive.

Daniela Largo was pulled from beneath a collapsed building in the city of Pereira after a 10-hour-long rescue operation.

Firefighters finally managed to reach her via a tunnel they dug below four concrete slabs under which she had been buried.

At least 188 have died in the quake, according to official figures, and hundreds remain missing.

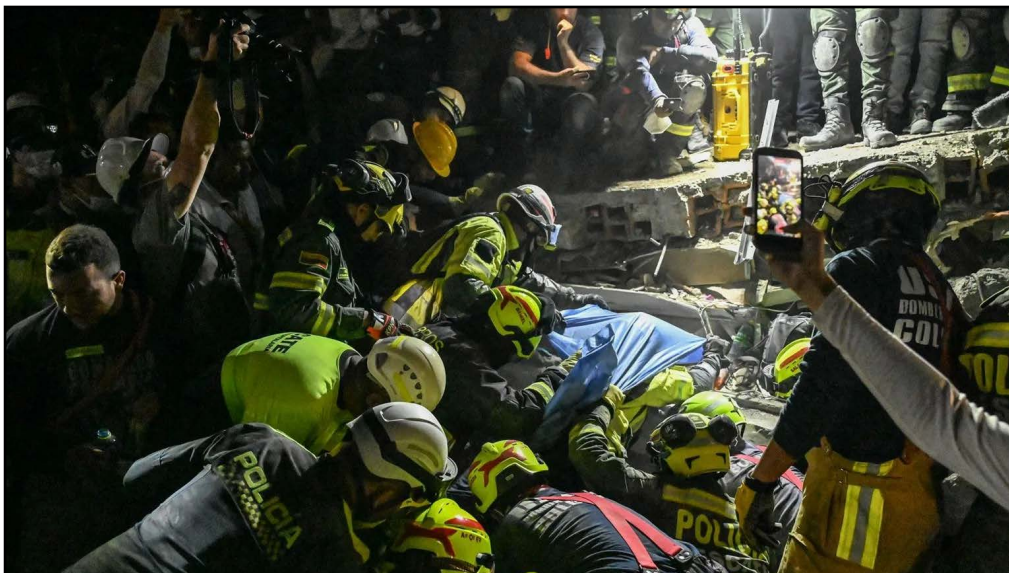
In Pereira, a city in Colombia's coffee-growing region, 79 people are confirmed to have died, the second-highest number after Cali, where 95 are dead, according to figures by the Association of Colombian Capital Cities (Asocapitales).

Largo's mother told AFP news agency that a local resident had heard her daughter cry out for help from beneath the rubble.

Once emergency workers had arrived at the site, they were able to locate Largo with the help of a small camera.

However, her rescue was complicated by the fact that four heavy concrete slabs were blocking the way.

Local firefighters aided by colleagues deployed from the capital, Bogotá, and the disaster response team of the national police force had to dig two tunnels to reach her.



Through one opening, dug from above, they were able to provide Largo with oxygen. But it was only through a second tunnel, dug from below, that they were able to free her.

Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella celebrated her rescue on social media, describing it as "news which fills us with hope".

Largo's mother said that "at home, her 12-year-old son is waiting for her".

In Pereira, at least 92 buildings collapsed. Fifteen people are known to be trapped and another 37 have been reported missing, according to Asocapitales.

In Cali, Colombia's third most populous city, more than 200 people remained trapped as of 16:00 local time on Tuesday.

The city's mayor declared a nighttime curfew and said that soldiers

would be on patrol in the worst-hit areas of Cali.

"We need to ensure that the rescue work can be carried out safely," he said, adding that there was still hope of finding more people alive and everyone would do their utmost to free those trapped.

Eighty-seven people have been rescued in the city so far.

The 7.4-magnitude quake struck at 07:34 local time (12:34 GMT) on Monday.

It had its epicentre near the village of San José del Palmar, in Chocó province, but could be felt across a vast area.

Seismometers nearest the epicentre registered shaking lasting between 90 seconds and two minutes.

There have been more than 100 aftershocks since. (BBC)



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WHO says Congo's Ebola outbreak is on track to surpass the deadliest one in history



The ongoing Ebola outbreak in Congo is on track to surpass the deadliest one in history that killed over 11,000 people out of more than 28,000 cases, the head of the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

“At its current pace, it’s on track to eclipse the West African Ebola outbreak of 2014 to 2016,” Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters. That outbreak horrified the world and jolted efforts to develop a vaccine.

The outbreak in eastern Congo, considered the fastest-growing in history, has killed over 2,000 people out of more than 4,300 cases. The outbreak was declared on May 15, but health authorities now say sequencing showed

it began months earlier, in February.

It is unlike most previous Ebola outbreaks because the rare Bundibugyo virus responsible for it has no approved vaccines or treatments, though efforts to address that are underway.

Experts say this outbreak is moving faster than efforts to track and manage it in a remote part of eastern Congo facing ongoing conflict, near the borders with South Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda.

Most of the new cases and deaths are still being reported in communities outside the reach of health workers in a region of poor infrastructure and ill-equipped health centers. Some health

workers have gone on strike over lack of pay. Misinformation about the virus continues to circulate in communities where some are wary of outsiders, keeping some people from clinics.

“The outbreak had a big head start, still way ahead of us. and we’re playing catch-up,” Tedros said.

Dr. Abdirahman Mahamud, WHO’s director for health emergency alert and response operations, said the agency expects the peak of the outbreak to be reached in six months.

“But ... that’s the moderate scenario,” Mahamud added. “There is a one-case scenario where this outbreak may last nine months to 12 months.” (AP)

Lebanon passes long-sought amnesty law, a day after death penalty repeal



Lebanon's parliament has approved a general amnesty law that is expected to benefit thousands of convicted prisoners, detainees and wanted people.

The legislation passed Wednesday in a "show-of-hands vote", reported Lebanon's official National News Agency. It is the first law of its kind since 1991.

The office of the country's parliament speaker said the law would "exceptionally" reduce certain prison terms.

Long demanded by numerous Lebanese political factions, the amnesty law aims to reduce overcrowding in prisons, where many inmates await trial for years.

However, it has faced backlash from some family members of Lebanese soldiers and servicemen killed in attacks, who fear the perpetrators could receive undue leniency.

Lebanese authorities did not immediately announce the number of people who would be freed or re-

ceive reduced sentences under the law, which comes a day after Lebanon's parliament also formally abolished the death penalty.

According to Imad al-Hout, one of the lawmakers in favour of the bill, the law reduced the sentences of those facing death and life imprisonment to 17 "prison years".

That is equivalent to 12 years and nine months of actual imprisonment in Lebanon, where a prison year is calculated as nine months.

The law also calls for the release of inmates in ongoing trials who have been detained for more than 12 prison years without charges.

In its 2025 report, the country's National Human Rights Commission said that prisons had an overcrowding rate of 300 percent, with prison authorities reporting at least 6,268 inmates by the end of March.

A push for general amnesty grew after the 2024 fall of longtime Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, as Lebanon jailed many prisoners over

events linked to the Syrian civil war.

Most of those prisoners hail from northern Lebanon's Sunni-majority city Tripoli and are accused of crimes that include attacking the Lebanese army, participating in clashes and planning bombings.

Other political forces, including the Iran-backed Shia movement Hezbollah, have been demanding amnesty for their communities.

Thousands of families from the eastern Baalbek and Hermel regions, bastions of Hezbollah and its ally Amal, where illicit cannabis cultivation is widespread, have been demanding amnesty for drug-related offences and car theft for years.

Christian parties, meanwhile, pushed for an amnesty law to include the families of those who joined an Israeli-backed group and fled to Israel after its withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, fearing reprisals, particularly from Hezbollah and its supporters.

Deputy Walid Baarini praised the "long-awaited passage" of the amnesty law and expressed hope it would mark "a new chapter" that brings justice "to those who deserve it".

"Amnesty is not forgetting a right, but rather prioritising mercy and wisdom when they align with the requirements of justice and the national interest," he wrote in a post on X.

Lebanon previously passed a general amnesty law in the wake of its 1975-90 civil war. (Al Jazeera)



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SUN 9 AUG	ABF		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
TUE 11 AUG	JKM		v		BR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 12 AUG	SLK		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 13 AUG	JKM		v		GAW	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
FRI 14 AUG	SLK		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 15 AUG	JKM		v		TKR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
SUN 16 AUG	SLK		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
TUE 18 AUG	JKM		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 19 AUG	SLK		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 20 AUG	ABF		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
FRI 21 AUG	SLK		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 22 AUG	ABF		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
SUN 23 AUG	ABF		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
TUE 25 AUG	ABF		v		BR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
WED 26 AUG	TKR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 27 AUG	SKNP		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 28 AUG	TKR		v		BR	8:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SAT 29 AUG	TKR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SUN 30 AUG	SKNP		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
MON 31 AUG	TKR		v		JKM	5:00 PM	TRINIDAD
TUE 1 SEP	SKNP		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
WED 2 SEP	TKR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 3 SEP	SKNP		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 4 SEP	GAW		v		JKM	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 5 SEP	BR		v		TKR	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 6 SEP	GAW		v		SKNP	10:00 AM	GUYANA
SUN 6 SEP	BR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
TUE 8 SEP	GAW		v		ABF	7:00 PM	GUYANA
WED 9 SEP	GAW		v		SLK	7:00 PM	GUYANA
THU 10 SEP	BR		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 11 SEP	GAW		v		TKR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 12 SEP	BR		v		JKM	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 13 SEP	BR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
WED 16 SEP	ELIMINATOR - 3 RD v 4 TH					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
THU 17 SEP	QUALIFIER - 1 ST v 2 ND					8:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 18 SEP	QUALIFIER 2 - WINNER ELIMINATOR v LOSER QUALIFIER 1					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 20 SEP	FINAL					7:00 PM	BARBADOS

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THU 10 SEP **TKR**  **V**  **JE** 10:00 AM

SAT 12 SEP **TKR**  **V**  **GAW** 10:00 AM

SAT 12 SEP **BT**  **V**  **JE** 3:00 PM

SUN 13 SEP **GAW**  **V**  **BT** 2:00 PM

WED 16 SEP **PLAYOFF** **2ND V 3RD** 10:00 AM

THU 17 SEP **FINAL** 2:00 PM



WCPL





Second loss for Leeward Islands in regional under-19 women's championship

The Leeward Islands crashed to their second loss in three matches in a 90-run defeat to defending champions Barbados in the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Championship at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua on Tuesday.

The Barbadians posted a record-breaking 206 for two from their allotted 20 overs, led by Eboni Brathwaite's brilliant unbeaten 135, the highest in the tournament's history.

The 17-year-old's sensational innings came from just 76 balls and included 17 fours and seven sixes, showcasing an outstanding display of power hitting and stroke play.

Brathwaite, who has already represented the West Indies senior women's team in two T20 Internationals, shared an unbeaten third-wicket partnership of 108 with Zanyiah Bruce, who contributed 20.

The right-handed opener also played the dominant role in Barbados' 55-run opening partnership with Jadaeya Holder, who made five.

Barbados then expertly defended their imposing total, restricting the Leeward Islands to 116 for three to

claim their second victory of the tournament to remain second in the points standings on 10 points. They also recorded a no-result against Guyana in the opening round on August 8.

Faced with a daunting target, Zara Skerri hit an unbeaten 37 and Innka Wilson 28, but the Leeward Islands were always well adrift of the required run rate.

Trinidad and Tobago continued their dominant march through the CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Championship, securing their third consecutive victory with a crushing 10-wicket victory over the Windward Islands at Ball Beef in Liberta.

In a display of sheer bowling prowess, T&T dismissed the Windwards for a paltry 52 runs in just 19.4 overs. The star of the show was Samara Ramnath, who produced a sensational spell to claim four for 10, including a hat trick, as she ripped through the middle order.

Jaeda Tyrell 16 and Kaela George 12 offered the only notable resistance for the Windwards.

Any hopes of a miraculous defence were quickly extinguished as Ramnath returned with the bat to smash an un-

beaten 27, sharing an unbroken 53-run opening stand with Amrita Ramtahal, who hit 18 not out, to chase down the target of 53 in a mere 6.3 overs. The win keeps T&T perfect at the top of the standings.

Jamaica bounced back from a mid-innings wobble to secure their second straight win, snatching a 21-run victory over Guyana in a tense affair at the Coolidge Cricket Ground.

Batting first, the Jamaicans posted 103 all out in 19.4 overs. Sashane Ricketts top-scored with 22, while Shamara Hall (retired hurt) and Zariah Blair contributed 13 runs each. Danelle Manns was the pick of the Guyanese bowlers, finishing with tidy figures of two for 11.

In reply, Guyana's chase never quite gained the required momentum, despite a decent start. Akeela Stephen fought valiantly with 18, and Sarah Bheir added 12, but the Jamaican attack proved too disciplined.

Neveah Webley led the wicket-takers with three for 19, ensuring Guyana were restricted to 82 all out in 17.2 overs.

Tridents close out CPL thriller against Kingsmen in Jamaica

The Barbados Tridents survived an Andre Russell inspired fightback to snatch a five-run victory over the Jamaica Kingsmen to win their first game of 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Tuesday night.

Led by Brandon King's 73 off 51 balls, the Tridents made 206 for three off their 20 overs after being sent in to bat. In reply, the Jamaica Kingsmen just fell short after being restricted to 201 for nine off their 20 overs.

On a night where a Jamaican side played a home game for the first time since 2019, it was home town hero Russell, who nearly got them over the line.

Russell put on a clinic in six hitting, as he smashed the Jamaica Kingsmen back into the game with 68 off 38 deliveries, including nine sixes, from a position of total peril.

Australian duo Daniel Sams, who snapped up four for 20, and Chris Green with two for 27, combined to wreak havoc early in the Kingsmen's innings.

Green removed Shayan Jahangir (0) with the third ball of the innings, before Sams ripped through the defences of Reeza Hendricks (2) and Kirk McKenzie (0) within his first three balls, leaving Jamaica reeling at eight for three after two overs.

After a horrendous start to their chase, captain Rovman Powell and Keacy Carty shared a 50-run fourth-wicket partnership to breathe some life into the Sabina Park crowd.

Powell hit a quickfire 38 off 24 before being dismissed by Gudakesh Motie, while Carty struck 45 off 27 balls, including four sixes and a four.

Russell then continued the Kingsmen revival. He smashed the Tridents bowlers to all parts, reaching



Jamaica Kingsmen's Andre Russell goes on the attack against the Barbados Tridents in their CPL match at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. (CPLT20)

50 in 27 balls. Vitel Lawes, just 19 years old, followed in Russell's example, hitting four sixes of his own in a 69-run eight-wicket partnership with Russell.

After looking dead and buried for most of the game, the pair took it to the last over. However, the Kingsmen were unable to achieve the 15 runs needed off the last over, which was bowled by left-arm pacer Ramon Simmonds.

After two wides and single, Russell smashed Simmonds down the ground for a maximum, taking the required total to six from three balls.

A shift in the field drew a slice from Russell and his brilliant effort was over as he was caught by Rivaldo Clarke. A run out on the subsequent ball removed Lawes and put the final nail in the Kingsmen's coffin.

Earlier, a superb 93 run third-wicket partnership between West Indies duo Brandon King and Sherfane Rutherford, who slammed 50 not out off 28 balls, led Barbados to their

match-winning total.

The Tridents came out firing, with 19-year-old Zachary Carter taking Sabina Park by storm on his CPL debut. The teenager hit 27 off 15 balls. Although the run rate had slowed, Carter's thrashing still had the Tridents at 67 for one at the end of the Powerplay.

Quinton de Kock started his fourth CPL campaign with a controlled and measured 42 before being brilliantly caught and bowled by Hassan Khan.

That brought out Rutherford, who got going immediately with King hitting a bit of a lull at the other end.

King soon found his timing shortly after and he and Rutherford managed to string together multiple 10 plus run overs after the strategic timeout.

King smashed four sixes and five fours, while Rutherford struck three sixes and four fours as the Kingsmen suffered their second loss in as many games thus far in the current CPL.

Sports News

A blockbuster US\$12.5B deal as Kushner and Iger agree to buy the Lakers, AP source says

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers are being sold for the second time in a year, going to businessmen Josh Kushner and Bob Iger for a record-breaking price.

This sale agreement is US\$12.5 billion, according to a person familiar with the terms who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday because neither side revealed specific details of the latest stunning development with one of North America's marquee sports teams.

ESPN first reported that Kushner and Iger are buying the NBA's most valuable franchise. The Lakers were valued last year at US\$10 billion — a record for a pro sports team — when Mark Walter purchased a controlling stake from the Buss family, which had owned the team since 1979.

"As lifelong NBA fans, we are deeply honoured for the opportunity to become stewards of the Los Angeles Lakers, one of the most iconic sports franchises in the world," Iger and Kushner said in a statement.

"We have immense respect for the leadership and vision of Jerry and Jeanie Buss. Our long-term commitment is to build on that foundation, compete at the highest level, and serve this extraordinary team, its fans, and the city of Los Angeles."

Kushner, a venture capitalist, and former Walt Disney Company CEO Iger had been working together on landing a possible NBA expansion team for Las Vegas. By buying the Lakers, they don't have to wait until the possibility of expansion in the 2028-29 season at the earliest.

Lakers icon Magic Johnson, a partner in Walter's ownership of baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers, praised the deal on social media.

"Laker fans, you couldn't have two better owners," Johnson wrote. "I've



Crypto Arena is viewed before a Los Angeles Lakers NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies, Jan. 4, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP)

known Bob personally for over 40 years — he has always loved the Lakers and basketball and he will bring championships back to LA."

The sale still will need approval from the NBA's board of governors, and that process can take several weeks. The next board meeting is set for September in New York.

The US\$12.5 billion price tag is not only a record for US pro sports but a new summit in skyrocketing NBA franchise values. Only three years ago, Michael Jordan sold his majority stake in the Charlotte Hornets for a US\$3 billion valuation, while the Boston Celtics were sold last year to private equity mogul Bill Chisholm at a valuation of just over US\$6 billion.

Walter's agreement to purchase a controlling stake in the Lakers at the US\$10 billion valuation last summer obliterated that mark, and now Iger and Kushner have pushed the bar even higher.

The 66-year-old Walter's shocking decision to sell after just 10 months of official ownership is reverberating throughout the team's massive fan base, which appeared to be uniformly excited about the purchase last year.

Walter has stewarded the Dodgers into the most successful stretch in

franchise history, with three World Series championships in the past six seasons as the most aggressive spenders in baseball.

Multiple media outlets last month reported that Walter's business empire is under scrutiny from both federal prosecutors and the Securities and Exchange Commission in tax fraud investigations.

The Lakers are 17-time NBA champions who won their most recent title in 2020. They've made the playoffs in each of the past four seasons, and their current roster is built around NBA scoring champion Luka Doncic, who is signed through the 2028-29 season.

The Slovenian superstar has become passionate about Los Angeles and the Lakers less than two years after his arrival.

"Being a Laker means everything to me, and I'm excited to get back on the court and bring a championship to LA," Doncic wrote on social media after hearing of the sale.

"I've gotten used to big changes over these last few years, but I know that no matter what, there is no limit to the potential of this iconic franchise. I look forward to meeting Josh and Bob so we can get to work building something special in LA together."

FIFA members should decide Infantino's future at 2027 election, says CAF president



Gianni Infantino

LONDON (Reuters) - Under pressure FIFA president Gianni Infantino's fate should be decided by the organisation's 211 member associations at next March's elections, Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe said.

Infantino, who is seeking re-election, has faced open revolt after three confederations -- UEFA, AFC and CONCACAF -- attacked his conduct and called for him to quit, following his aborted bid to bring private investment into FIFA competitions, including the World Cup.

But Motsepe believes it should be up to all FIFA members to decide whether Infantino remains president at the organisation's 77th Congress in Rabat, Morocco on March 18.

"Elections are taking place next year. We should allow that process to continue and let the 211 members decide," Motsepe told Sky News on Wednesday.

"If there are candidates who want to stand against him, put up their names. That's the right thing.

"What I like to focus on is the unity, the cooperation. How do we continue to develop and grow football in the midst of the challenges we have? We must deal with those challenges, resolve them and move on."

Motsepe believes leaders should be open to scrutiny, but says FIFA has processes in place to deal with complaints.

"If I, as a president, behave in a man-

ner that does not reflect due process or governance, I should be subject to interrogation and have those questions asked of me," he said.

"If anyone has got a problem against anybody, whether it's Gianni or anybody else, follow the FIFA process. And if you want to take him out, go for elections. Simple as that.

"Let the 211 member associations decide. The vote will express whether they have confidence in him or not. Everybody is entitled to fair judgement and fair treatment. Everybody should be heard. Due process, governance and legality are non-negotiable."

Motsepe confirmed Infantino still has the support of CAF. "He's been loyal to African football. He enjoys the support of Africa," he said.

Winning start for Antiguan Ballers in defense of youth basketball title

Defending champions Antiguan Ballers made a winning start in defense of their title on the opening day of competition in the 3rd Annual Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) Youth Summer Splash Tournament on Tuesday evening.

The Antigua Ballers launched their title defense by coming from behind to snatch a hard-fought 69-60 victory over the Wadadli Elites in the third match on the opening day of the five-team tournament at the JSC Sports Complex.

Yohan Nicholas led the Antigua Ballers with 22 points, teammate Nathan Matthew contributed 13 points, and Raheem Sawyer chipped in with 12 points.

The Wadadli Elites were led once again by Elijah Charles with 18 points. Eli Harris sank 14 points, and Nkosi James scored 11 points for the Wadadli Elites.

The victory gave the Antigua Ballers an important early result and showcased their ability to respond under pressure against a dangerous Elites squad.

After struggling offensively early, the Ballers flipped the script with relentless pressure defense, slowly



cutting the deficit to single digits before taking control. Antigua Ballers Coach Bradberry Browne credited his players for staying disciplined and refusing to panic.

"Defense leads to offense. We started chipping away, chipping away, chipping away," Browne stated.

Once the Ballers got the game within striking distance, their confidence surged. Browne also felt fatigue among key Wadadli Elites players, who were playing their second match

of the day, helped his team to seize momentum down the stretch.

Still, the coach knows there is work to do. Turnovers, poor decisions, and inconsistent offensive execution remain concerns, but Browne believes the pieces are there when his team runs its offense with discipline.

The Wadadli Elites wasted little time making their presence felt, producing a dominant performance to trounce Junior Spanish Lava 119-33 in the opening

game of the MDBA Youth Summer Splash Tournament.

Elijah Charles led the offensive explosion with a tournament-opening 47-point performance, while Eli Harris added 23 points, and Nkosi James contributed 17 for the Wadadli Elites.

David Reyes converted 10 points, and Joel Montilla scored eight points for Junior Spanish Lava.

A winning start as well for Dadli Ballers, who held off the KCBA Knights out of Grenada to secure a seven-point win in the second game of the day. The Dadli Ballers prevailed 70-63 victory over the Grenadians.

Derek Perez was the difference-maker for Dadli Ballers, pouring in 31 points to lead all scorers. Noah Massiah chipped in 12, and Levi Richards sank 10 points for the Dadli Ballers.

The Grenadians were able to stay within striking distance behind the scoring of Thaj Marshall, who converted 23 points, and Troy Phillips with 21 points. Teammate Paul Mitchell chipped in with 12 points for the KCBA Knights.