

Antigua and Barbuda Builds On Strong UK and European Growth

Story on page 2



The new French Ambassador Marie-Novelle Duris met with Sir Clare Roberts (left), Prime Minister Gaston Browne (centre) and Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene (right)

Photos courtesy: Wayne Mariette

Antigua and Barbuda Builds On Strong UK and European Growth



British DJ and content creator DJ AG live streaming from The Hut and St. John's City during Antigua Carnival, introducing Antiguan musicians and personalities to his extensive online audience. (Photo credit: Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

Antigua and Barbuda is seeing significant momentum from the UK and Europe, with 5,394 more UK visitors travelling to the destination by the end of August than during the same period last year, as the Tourism Authority's UK and Europe team continues to drive demand.

July and August have been particularly strong, with UK arrivals increasing by almost 23 per cent in July and more than 18 per cent in August, representing an additional 1,642 UK visitors across the two months.

Cherrie Osborne, Director of Tourism UK and Europe at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, said: "The growth we are seeing from the UK and Europe is incredibly encouraging. To be 5,394 UK visitors ahead of the same period last year, alongside significant growth across Europe, demonstrates that our strategy is delivering. Our focus now is on building that momentum and bringing even more visitors from the UK and Europe to Antigua and Barbuda."

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority team has taken a 360-degree approach across the region, bringing together creators, media, music, food, cultural partnerships and live experiences to drive visitation and build momentum towards the 70th anniversary

of Antigua Carnival in 2027 and beyond.

The activity began on Antigua during this year's Carnival, when the Tourism Authority, in partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, hosted British DJ and content creator DJ AG alongside a carefully selected group of creators and influential personalities, including voices with strong connections to the Caribbean diaspora.

DJ AG brought his distinctive live-streaming format into the community, creating opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda talent and personalities to engage with his extensive online audience. Together, the creator programme has already generated more than 280 pieces of content, a reach of 3,076,700 and an earned media value of approximately US\$200,000, with content continuing to grow.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission then carried that momentum into London around Notting Hill Carnival. Reigning Jumpy Soca Monarch Tian Winter, reigning Groovy Soca Monarch Young Lyrics, international Soca performer Zamoni and Antiguan DJ The Spaniard had a united front to make Antigua and Bar-

buda's impact greater while in London. The artists also took the Antigua Carnival story into UK media through Soca News and WorldMag, alongside dedicated content creation with Capital XTRA's Omah Howard.

Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, said, "The success of Antigua Carnival is a testament to the power of partnership. While the ABFC remains committed to creating and delivering an unforgettable Carnival experience, the ABTA plays a critical role in amplifying that experience to global audiences and converting interest into arrivals. Together, we are showcasing Antigua Carnival as a premier cultural and tourism event. As we look ahead to Legendary 70, we remain focused on enhancing the product, expanding its reach and ensuring even more visitors experience the magic, authenticity and energy that make Antigua Carnival truly unique."

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority continued its five-year partnership with Island Mas at Notting Hill Carnival, which secured first place in the Dutty Mas category and second place in the Large Mas Band category, creating further visibility for Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne: 'We're cooperating fully' as US Court Authorises Subpoenas in Alfa Nero Case

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says his son is prepared to cooperate with proceedings in a United States court following an order authorising subpoenas for testimony and documents connected to the legal dispute over the sale of the superyacht **Alfa Nero**.

US Magistrate Judge Marty Fulgueira Elfenbein granted the application on September 7, allowing Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov to pursue evidence in the United States relating to the sale of the Alfa Nero.

Mr. Browne said his son, who is based in Antigua, would appear before the Florida court if formally subpoenaed.

He added that his son may retain an attorney to advise him on the legal aspects of the proceedings.

The Prime Minister stressed that the family was not seeking to obstruct the US proceedings.

"We're not trying to block anything. We're cooperating fully," Browne said.

He pointed to previous efforts by parties involved in the case to obtain information concerning his banking affairs, saying he had not sought to prevent those inquiries.

Prime Minister Browne also strongly rejected claims that he holds hundreds of millions of dollars in assets outside Antigua and Barbuda.

Responding to allegations that he has approximately **US\$700 million** in assets being held through his son, Browne said the claim was false.

"I don't have one cent outside of Antigua and Barbuda," he said. "I have no savings. I have no stocks, no shares. I have no bonds outside of Antigua and Barbuda."

The Prime Minister said that, apart from bank accounts he maintained while living in the United Kingdom several years ago, he has not main-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

tained foreign accounts.

He also recalled purchasing approximately US\$30,000 in shares through Swiss American Bank, saying he lost most of that investment during the

technology market collapse around 2000.

Browne further denied allegations of corruption surrounding his son's acquisition of a home in Florida.

He said his son purchased the property through a legitimate private transaction.

"He bought it using some of the proceeds from the \$2 million profit he made on the Long Bay land," Browne said. "Perfectly legitimate transaction. Private buyers, private seller."

Prime Minister Gaston Browne maintains that he and his family have nothing to hide and reiterated that they would cooperate with lawful requests for information.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

SUPPORTING THE **HEALTH & SAFETY** OF WORKERS IN A TECH-DRIVEN WORLD



WORLD DAY FOR HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK 2025

Peace Beach Development Takes Shape from Dredged Material



Prime Minister Gaston Browne says the development of **Peace Beach at Barnacle Point** is demonstrating how an innovative idea can transform dredged material into valuable land while potentially saving the government millions of dollars in disposal costs.

On his radio programme the Browne and Browne Show last weekend, he explained that the project involves using dredge spoil from dredging operations to create and shape additional land at the Peace Beach development, which is being undertaken by his son.

“My son has owned Barnacle Point now for over a decade,” Browne said, explaining that the family offered to have the dredged material deposited on land adjacent to the property.

He said the alternative would have been for the government to transport the material out to sea, potentially

costing several million dollars.

“We’re now turning what is considered dredge spoils into viable land,” Browne said.

According to the Prime Minister, the family has been able to undertake much of the work using heavy equipment it has owned for decades, including trucks, backhoes, excavators and bulldozers.

He said the machinery represents a sunk investment, with the main additional costs involving fuel and the employment of heavy-equipment operators.

The equipment has been used to level and shape the dredged material as work continues to develop Peace Beach.

“We have been able to continue to level the dredge material and to level it to such a way that we’re creating a beautiful beach,” Browne said.

Landscaping is now underway, with plans to add grass, palm trees and other greenery to enhance the area.

Mr. Browne also revealed plans for an **artificial reef system** at Peace Beach. Reef balls have been shipped to Antigua and are expected to form part of the marine development.

He explained that the concrete structures contain scientifically designed openings intended to provide habitats for different forms of marine life, including lobsters and octopuses.

“It’s going to be a nice, beautiful, artificial reef system that we’re developing there using our own resources.”

He said the concept is similar to an artificial reef system developed by John Paul DeJoria in Barbuda, which the Peace Beach project is seeking to replicate.

While the land surrounding the

development is privately owned, Browne stressed that the beach itself is public.

He said the intention is for the beach to be enjoyed by Antiguan, Barbudans and visitors, while additional commercial facilities could eventually be developed at the site.

Among the possibilities is a seafood restaurant, which Prime Minister Browne said could be constructed over the water and leased to an operator.

He described the Peace Beach project as an example of how a simple idea can create significant economic value.

“What became of there was a simple idea of dumping some dredge spoils here,” he said, adding that instead of treating the material as waste, it is being converted into usable land.

He said the completed development could include several villas overlooking the water and suggested that the properties could eventually command prices of several million US dollars each., stressing that his comments were intended to demonstrate the potential of legitimate wealth creation through investment and innovation.

The Prime Minister also highlighted his family’s longstanding involvement in real estate, noting that property development has been a core business for more than three decades.

He said the Peace Beach development reflects the broader approach of identifying opportunities, investing resources and creating value from available assets.

He argued that the project demonstrates how material that could otherwise represent a significant government expense can instead be incorporated into a development capable of generating long-term economic and property value.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAY / WEDNESDAYS

**-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink**

\$17.99



\$19.99

**-Burger
-Medium Drink**



VACANCY

ELECTRICITY CUSTOMER SERVICES ENGINEER

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) invites applications for the position of Customer Services Engineer within the Electricity Business Unit. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating all Transmission & Distribution Customer Services issues with an aim at increasing collections and reducing revenue losses. Resolve customers' complaints and contributes to debt reduction and conserve resources.

Key duties include:

1. Resolve and clarify complaints of customers, products and services.
2. Analyze customer services issues, determine cause of problems, select, explain and expedite correction or adjustment using the best solutions to customer service issues.
3. Follow up to ensure that customer services issues are resolved.
4. Lead a team of individuals in adherence with the Authority's Performance Management System.
5. Contributes to debt collection and reduce losses:
 - (a) Ensure that the electricity service accounts of customers in arrears are disconnected in a timely fashion in keeping with the Authority's policy.
 - (b) Ensure that the electricity service accounts of customers whose arrears have been cleared following disconnection for non-payment of services are reconnected in a timely fashion in keeping with the Authority's policy.
 - (c) Monitor and observe the legality of electrical installation and connection at customers' premises.
 - (d) Report abuse and illegal use of company property and equipment.
6. Ensure that service of a high quality is delivered:
 - (a) Conduct training, sourcing training, mentoring and coaching of all staff members under command.
 - (b) Administer and provide technical guidance to Electrical Installation and maintenance teams.
 - (c) Review electrical drawings submitted by Applicants to ensure they comply with APUA's standard and the National Electric Code (NEC).
 - (d) Collaborate with the Inspectors to ensure that electrical drawings meet the required standards before approval
 - (e) Adequately respond to faults on the Network and addressing same in a timely and safe manner.
7. Install, record, service, repair and keep street lights operational.
8. Manage the installation, maintenance and change out of revenue meters, both single and three phase meters. This include AMI meters and associated systems.
9. Manage the maintenance of secondary distribution system.
10. Manage vegetation on the distribution system to minimize faults.
11. Prepare and submit reports on a monthly basis and an annual budget of Electricity Customer Services Department.
12. Conserves the Authority's resources, develop and implement programs geared at reducing non-technical losses.

The successful candidate **MUST** possess the following:

- A bachelor's degree or equivalent in electrical engineering or related field from a reputable tertiary institution.
- Experience in Electrical Engineering and Customer Services a plus.
- Excellent interpersonal and human relations skills.
- The ability to effectively lead a team of skilled workers and to perform optimally in a team environment or individually.
- Excellent analytical, customer service, verbal, written, report writing, and computer skills.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Thursday, 17th September, 2026

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****

"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Police Condemn Open Display of Firearms On Social Media



Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is expressing serious concern over the growing practice of young people openly displaying what appear to be firearms and ammunition in photographs and videos being circulated across several social media platforms.

The Police Administration strongly condemns this type of lawless and deviant behaviour and warns that the glorification and open display of firearms, particularly among young people, will not be treated lightly.

The police are actively reviewing information and material being circulated on social media and will pursue all credible information that may lead to the identification of persons involved and the recovery of illegal firearms and ammunition.

The Police Administration wishes to reassure the public that every lawful effort will be made, and all available resources will be utilized, to address this troubling behaviour. Where sufficient



evidence exists that criminal offences have been committed, those responsible will be investigated and brought before the courts.

Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers, is appealing particularly to young people to reject the dangerous culture of glorifying firearms and criminal behaviour.

“The unlawful possession and public display of firearms should never be viewed as a symbol of status, power, or acceptance. This behaviour places lives at risk and contributes to a culture of violence that has no place in our society. We will continue to use every lawful means available to identify those involved, recover illegal firearms, and

hold offenders accountable.”

The Police Administration is also calling upon parents, guardians, educators, community leaders, and other responsible members of society to openly condemn such behaviour and continue to guide young people away from criminal activity and associations that may ultimately destroy their lives and negatively impact their families and communities.

Members of the public are urged not to ignore photographs, videos, messages, or other information that may point to the possession, movement, concealment, or use of illegal firearms. Such information should be reported promptly to the police.



Curry House

ANTIGUA

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

 [currytandoorihouseanu](#)
 [curryhouseanu](#)
 (268) 736-7165

New French Ambassador Presents Credentials To Government



The new ambassador for the French Republic accredited to Antigua and Barbuda - Her Excellency Marie-Noëlle Duris, paid her first official visit to St. John's on Monday when she presented her credentials to senior government officials.

Duris presented her credentials first to the Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts at Government House followed by courtesy calls on Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene and Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

In his welcome remarks to the new ambassador, Sir Clare noted that Antigua and Barbuda attaches particular significance, to the fact that France was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the young nation immediately after independence.

"Our relationship with France, however, is more than a traditional diplomatic relationship between two states. France is also our Caribbean neighbour. Through Martinique and Gua-

deloupe, we share the Caribbean Sea, a regional identity, common interests and many of the same challenges and opportunities," the Governor General's Deputy observed.

He noted that over the years, the two countries have developed a relationship founded upon mutual respect, friendship and cooperation. He added that Antigua and Barbuda values the longstanding commitment of France and its Caribbean territories to regional cooperation, and the support extend-



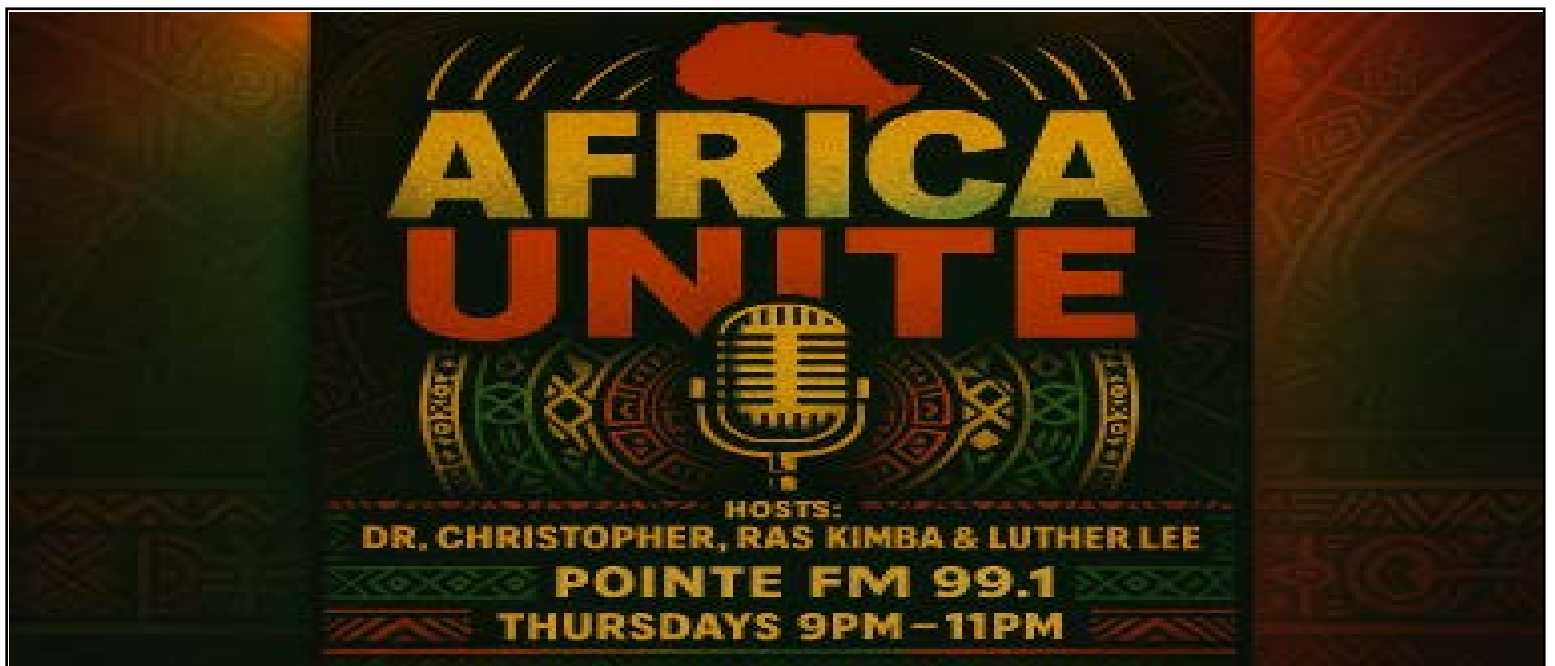
ed in areas including civil aviation, health, trade, military cooperation and national development.

“We recall with appreciation, for example, the important development as-

sistance extended during 2009–2010, channeled through the European Union, which assisted Antigua and Barbuda at a particularly difficult period arising from the global financial crisis and economic downturn,” Sir

Clare declared.

Similar expressions of support and solidarity were offered by both Prime Minister Browne and Foreign Minister Greene.



Local News

Antigua and Barbuda to Host 19th OECS Credit Union Summit

The Antigua and Barbuda Co-operative League Ltd. (ABCL) is hosting the 19th OECS Credit Union Summit, a major regional gathering of credit union leaders, directors, managers, professionals and other stakeholders from across the OECS and wider Caribbean.

Being held under the theme "Navigating Change: From Resilience to Results" the Summit will provide a forum for discussion on the changing financial services environment and the continued strengthening and development of the regional credit union movement.

The Summit will take place in Antigua and Barbuda from 22 to 27 September 2026 at the Royalton Antigua, All-inclusive Resort. The Opening Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 23 September 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Organisers say the Summit will have regional significance given the importance attached to the gathering of the leadership of credit unions from across

the sub-region. It will also provide an opportunity to showcase Antigua and Barbuda as a destination for meetings,

conferences and events. The local media are expected to provide wide coverage of the opening ceremony.



20 OECS 26
Credit Union Summit
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

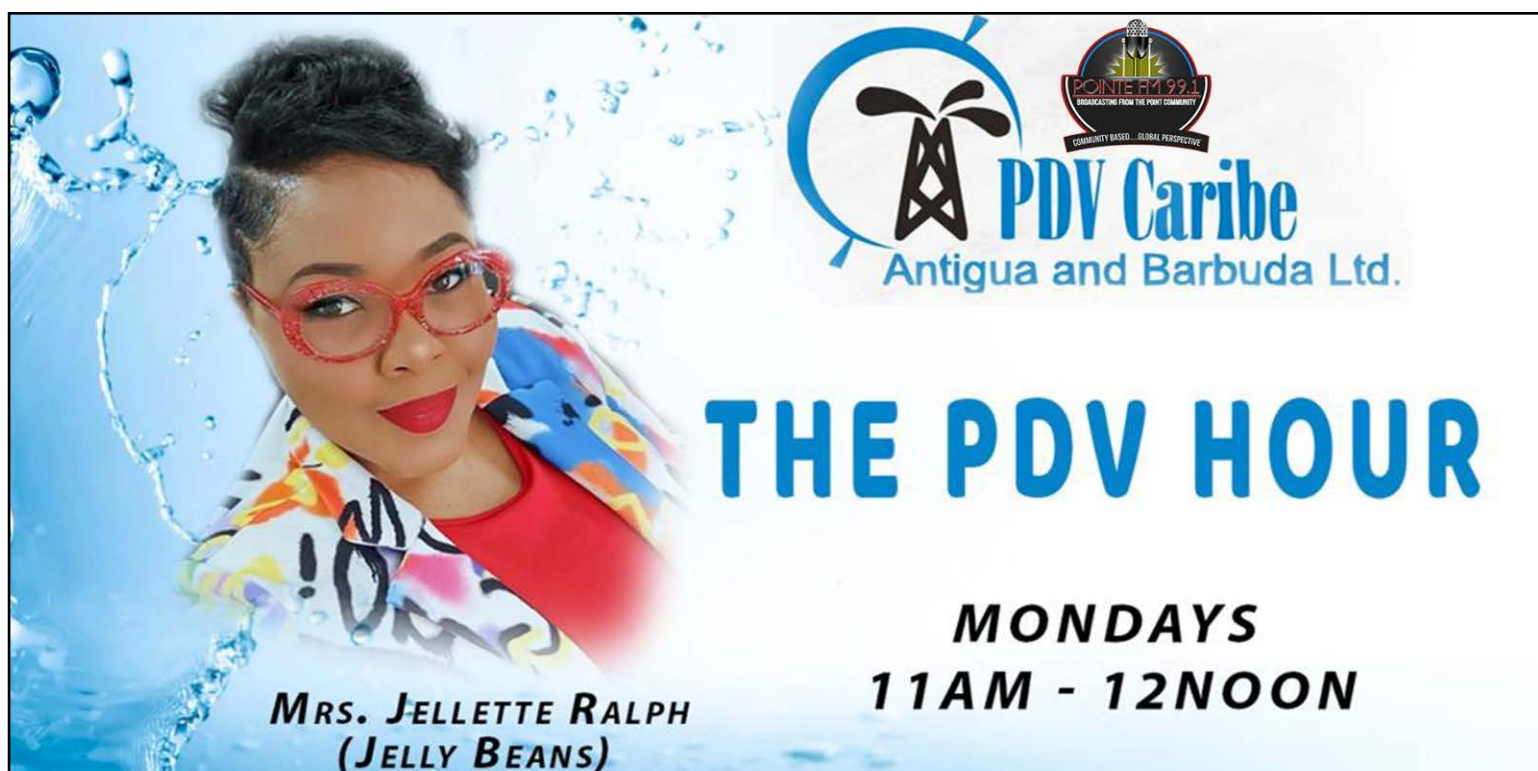
OECS

Credit Union Summit 2026
Antigua and Barbuda

Theme: Navigating Change:
From Resilience to Results

 **Royalton Antigua - All Inclusive Resort**

 **22 - 27 SEP, 2026**



 **PDV Caribe**
Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.

 **POINTE 99.1**
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

Second-year partnership brings essential school supplies and encouragement to children across Antigua

The new school year is officially underway, and hundreds of children across Antigua have begun their return to the classroom with new school supplies, renewed confidence and the knowledge that their community believes in their potential.

For the second consecutive year, Sandals Foundation, Digicel Antigua and Tropical Adventures have joined forces through their annual Back-to-School Initiative, building on a partnership that began last year with an activation supporting children in Barbuda.

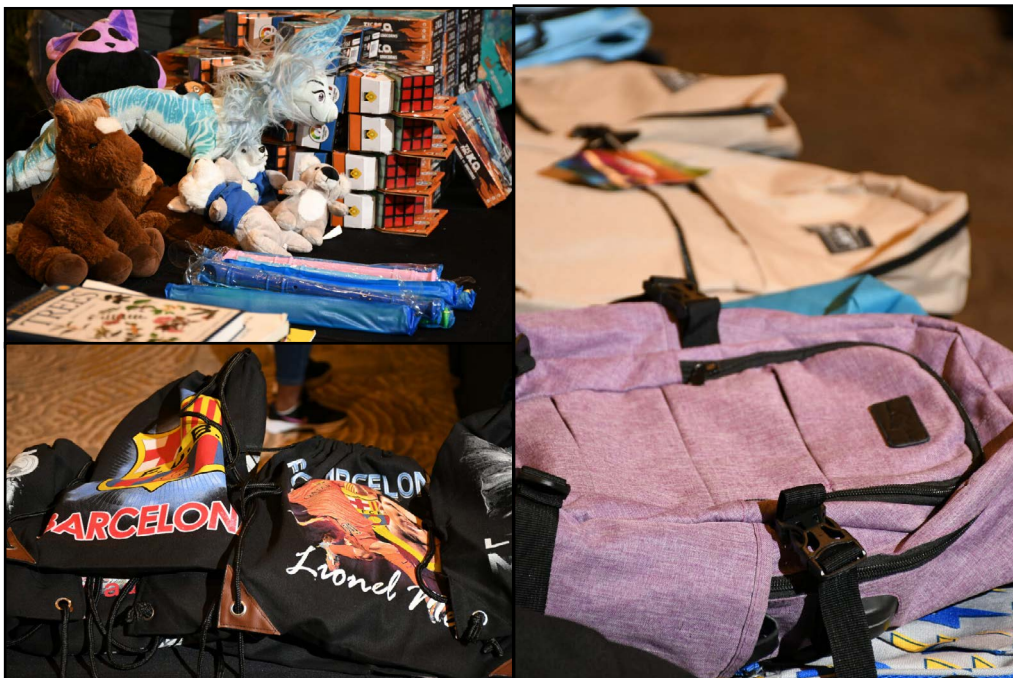
This year, the partners expanded their reach across Antigua, with multiple handover activations benefiting children in Grays Green, Willikies, Cedar Grove and Seaview Farm, among other communities.

The initiative helps to ease some of the financial pressure families' face at the start of a new school year while ensuring children have essential tools to support their learning.

Hundreds of backpacks were distributed, each stocked with supplies including notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, rulers and geometry sets, among other essentials.

The initiative also supported children participating in the ACE Summer Camp, providing campers with additional support as they transitioned from their summer activities back into the classroom.

For the children, however, the handovers represented much more than receiving school supplies. Smiles and excitement accompanied the distribution as students explored their new backpacks and supplies. The simple gesture provided a meaningful reminder that their community is invested in their success and encouraged them to approach the new school year with confidence and optimism. For the partners, that sense of possibility is at



the heart of the initiative.

Speaking at the conclusion of the ACE Summer Camp, Leon Norville, Public Relations Manager at Sandals Grande Antigua with responsibility for the Sandals Foundation reflected on what the initiative represents beyond the contents of a backpack.

"A backpack can carry books, but it can also carry ambition. A notebook can hold lessons, but it can also hold dreams. And a simple gift can send a powerful message to a child: your community sees you, your community believes in you, and your future matters," Norville said.

Mark Ryan, General Manager of Tropical Adventures, said the company was happy to continue its partnership with the Sandals Foundation and Digicel for a second year. "We're just happy to be able to help and give back where we can. It's a great initiative, and we're really happy to be a part of it again this year. Being able to put something in the hands of a child that they can use for school, and knowing it helps a family in some small way, is what makes this worthwhile for us. We're proud to be part of the partnership and to do our little bit to support the children in our community."

Generators for Rent

One 150KVA 3phase Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

One 50KVA Single Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Local News

Police Seize 30 Pounds of Cannabis and Cash During Stop and Search



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues its ongoing crime-fighting efforts with the seizure of 30 pounds of cannabis and more than EC\$10,000 in cash during a police operation at Creekside on Monday.

At approximately 7:45 a.m. on September 14, officers attached to the

Criminal Investigations Department Task Force (CIDTF) were conducting a Stop-and-Search exercise in the Creekside area when they intercepted a white Toyota Ractis motor car occupied by three men.

During a search of the vehicle, police discovered a quantity of plant material resembling cannabis, along with

sums of Eastern Caribbean and United States currencies.

The occupants of the vehicle were arrested on suspicion of Unlawful Possession of Cannabis and taken into police custody for further questioning.

The drugs, cash, and vehicle were seized as part of an ongoing investigation.

POINTE ON DE STREETZ

HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER



TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

f POINT FM99.1

ECCO Distributes Over EC\$1.7 Million to Songwriters and Music Publishers



The Eastern Caribbean Collective Organisation for Music Rights (ECCO) Inc. has announced its 2025 royalty distribution of over EC\$1.7 million to songwriters, composers, and music publishers across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The distribution, scheduled for September 23rd 2026, covers royalties collected for Broadcast, Carnival, General, and Live Events across the region for the period 1st January to 31st December 2025, along with foreign income received from ECCO's sister societies and the Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC).

Of the total allocation, 55% goes directly to ECCO's members within the OECS, with the remaining 45% paid out to sister societies abroad on behalf of their affiliated members whose works were used within ECCO's territories.

"Every distribution is a reminder of why this organisation exists," said Martin A. James, Chief Executive Officer of ECCO. "Behind these numbers are real songwriters and publishers across our region whose works are being recognised and rewarded. We re-



main committed to strengthening our collection and distribution processes so that more of that value reaches our members."

Bruno Leonce, Chairman of ECCO's Board of Directors, echoed that sentiment. "This distribution is proof of what a well-run collective management organisation can achieve for its members," he said. "The Board is proud of the progress ECCO continues to make, and we remain fully committed to good governance and sound stewardship so that our members can focus on what they do best: creating music."

Despite these recent achievements in royalty collection, ECCO continues to face significant regional headwinds, most notably persistent non-compliance among commercial music users. Across the OECS, numerous commercial operations, broadcasters, and

event organisers continue to exploit intellectual property without obtaining the necessary licences for broadcast, carnival, general, or live event usage. This widespread non-compliance severely impairs royalty revenues and highlights an urgent need for comprehensive legislative reform to modernise copyright laws and streamline enforcement for non-compliant users across member territories.

To safeguard the future of the creative industry, ECCO is calling on governments across the OECS territories to place far greater priority on copyright protection and intellectual property enforcement. National leadership and legislative updates are essential to creating a fair, sustainable music industry where songwriters, composers, and publishers are properly compensated for their creative labour. By prioritising intellectual property rights within regional development agendas, governments can help ensure that the Eastern Caribbean's rich musical heritage remains economically viable and respected both locally and internationally.

About ECCO: The Eastern Caribbean Collective Organisation for Music Rights (ECCO) is a collective management organisation representing songwriters, composers, and publishers across the OECS, working to protect and monetise their music rights both regionally and internationally.

ECCO Protecting Music Rights!!!

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889

FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

VACANCY

ELECTRICITY CUSTOMER SERVICES ENGINEER

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) invites applications for the position of Customer Services Engineer within the Electricity Business Unit. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating all Transmission & Distribution Customer Services issues with an aim at increasing collections and reducing revenue losses. Resolve customers' complaints and contributes to debt reduction and conserve resources.

Key duties include:

1. Resolve and clarify complaints of customers, products and services.
2. Analyze customer services issues, determine cause of problems, select, explain and expedite correction or adjustment using the best solutions to customer service issues.
3. Follow up to ensure that customer services issues are resolved.
4. Lead a team of individuals in adherence with the Authority's Performance Management System.
5. Contributes to debt collection and reduce losses:
 - (a) Ensure that the electricity service accounts of customers in arrears are disconnected in a timely fashion in keeping with the Authority's policy.
 - (b) Ensure that the electricity service accounts of customers whose arrears have been cleared following disconnection for non-payment of services are reconnected in a timely fashion in keeping with the Authority's policy.
 - (c) Monitor and observe the legality of electrical installation and connection at customers' premises.
 - (d) Report abuse and illegal use of company property and equipment.
6. Ensure that service of a high quality is delivered:
 - (a) Conduct training, sourcing training, mentoring and coaching of all staff members under command.
 - (b) Administer and provide technical guidance to Electrical Installation and maintenance teams.
 - (c) Review electrical drawings submitted by Applicants to ensure they comply with APUA's standard and the National Electric Code (NEC).
 - (d) Collaborate with the Inspectors to ensure that electrical drawings meet the required standards before approval
 - (e) Adequately respond to faults on the Network and addressing same in a timely and safe manner.
7. Install, record, service, repair and keep street lights operational.
8. Manage the installation, maintenance and change out of revenue meters, both single and three phase meters. This include AMI meters and associated systems.
9. Manage the maintenance of secondary distribution system.
10. Manage vegetation on the distribution system to minimize faults.
11. Prepare and submit reports on a monthly basis and an annual budget of Electricity Customer Services Department.
12. Conserves the Authority's resources, develop and implement programs geared at reducing non-technical losses.

The successful candidate **MUST** possess the following:

- A bachelor's degree or equivalent in electrical engineering or related field from a reputable tertiary institution.
- Experience in Electrical Engineering and Customer Services a plus.
- Excellent interpersonal and human relations skills.
- The ability to effectively lead a team of skilled workers and to perform optimally in a team environment or individually.
- Excellent analytical, customer service, verbal, written, report writing, and computer skills.

Interested persons are asked

to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Thursday, 17th September, 2026

**** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged ****

"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Visit us at www.apua.ag

National Focal Point On AI Addresses the Ongoing Debate About Regulations for AI



By Andrea Jacobs

I've been trying to stay clear of commenting on the latest Anthropic controversy. But I can't ignore this one. I've warned about this time and again and again and again: AI capabilities are moving extraordinarily fast, while our governance, oversight, and accountability mechanisms are nowhere near keeping pace.

Now, Jacob Coxon, a former OpenAI and Anthropic researcher, has resigned and publicly warned that the industry is racing toward self-improving AI and potentially super-intelligent systems without sufficient safeguards. His warning is stark. He argues that people building these systems genuinely believe AI could pose catastrophic risks within this decade.

You don't have to agree with his timelines, probability estimates, or conclusions to take the underlying governance question seriously.

But something else bothers me: we've been here before. In March 2023, the Future of Life Institute published an open letter calling for a six-month pause on training AI systems more powerful than GPT-4. Thou-

sands of researchers, technology leaders, and public figures signed the letter, including prominent names such as Elon Musk and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. More than 30,000 people ultimately signed the letter. The central message was simple: slow down, assess the risks, and put appropriate safeguards in place before continuing the race.

And yet, look at where we are now. Three years later, we are having an eerily similar conversation, except the systems are far more capable, the stakes are considerably higher, and some of the people building these systems are now publicly talking about the need to slow down.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has called for the industry to "pace the frontier," including independent safety evaluators with deep access to AI companies, greater coordination between frontier labs, and international cooperation.

Sam Altman has also supported independent evaluation and the broader idea that frontier AI development needs stronger safety mechanisms. That matters. These are no longer just concerns being raised by academics, policymakers, or AI governance professionals. Some of the people leading the companies developing the most powerful AI systems now acknowledge that the current trajectory creates governance and safety challenges that cannot be solved by moving faster.

This is precisely why I have argued repeatedly that AI governance cannot be treated as a compliance exercise that happens after the technology has been built. Governance needs to be embedded into the AI development lifecycle itself. We need continuous risk assessment, independent evaluations, meaningful red-teaming, mon-

itoring of model capabilities and behavior, clear escalation mechanisms, human accountability, and enforceable thresholds for when additional safeguards are required.

Another dimension deserves far more attention: AI itself can help us govern AI. AI can help governance teams continuously monitor regulatory developments across jurisdictions, identify emerging risks, stress-test AI systems against thousands of scenarios, monitor changes in model capabilities, simulate potential failure modes, identify gaps in governance controls, and support independent evaluations. Well-designed AI governance systems could give organizations a level of risk intelligence and oversight that would be extremely difficult to achieve manually.

But there is a critical distinction: AI should assist governance, not become the governor. We cannot solve the challenge of governing increasingly autonomous AI systems by simply asking another AI system to decide what is safe or acceptable. We still need independent oversight, human accountability, transparency, enforceable rules, and institutions that can challenge the organizations developing these systems.

The lesson from the last few years should not simply be that AI is moving faster than expected.

It should be that warnings without institutional action are not enough.

We had the warnings in 2023. We are hearing them again in 2026, now from people much closer to the frontier.

The question is no longer whether we should have a conversation about AI governance.

The question is whether we are finally prepared to act on it.



ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

 ANTIGUA CARNIVAL  @ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL

Regional News



UNESCO launches WINGS Caribbean to advance science, women, Caribbean transformation

The UNESCO Regional Office for the Caribbean launched this week WINGS Caribbean (Women Inspiring New Generations in Science), a new fellowship initiative designed to support outstanding mid-career and advanced-career women researchers and innovators whose work addresses some of the Caribbean's most pressing development challenges and priorities.

These include climate and environmental resilience, disaster risk reduction, digital innovation, applied scientific research, social development, governance, social entrepreneurship and community-based research.

WINGS Caribbean will award two fellowships of US\$10,000 each, one in STEM and one in Social Impact, and fellows will have up to 12 months to develop projects capable of delivering practical and measurable societal benefits.

"The Caribbean needs the full power of its scientific talent to meet the challenges ahead, and women must be at the centre of that effort," said Eric Falt, regional director of UNESCO for the Caribbean. "WINGS Caribbean is about advancing science itself by ensuring that some of the Caribbean's most talented women researchers and innovators have the opportunity, resources and visibility to develop solutions that can make a tangible difference to our societies."

WINGS Caribbean is being imple-



mented by the UNESCO Regional Office for the Caribbean, in technical collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Technology at The University of the West Indies, Mona, and the Caribbean Academy of Sciences.

For Dr Marvadeen Singh-Wilmot, senior lecturer at UWI Mona, this partnership on WINGS Caribbean is critical because "it invests in the Caribbean's own capacity to solve its problems".

"Caribbean women are already doing excellent work, but limited resources and uneven pathways to visibility, leadership and influence too often restrict the impact of that work. WINGS responds by supporting them and advancing solutions that are scientific-

ly sound, socially grounded and relevant to Caribbean lives," she added.

WINGS Caribbean builds on a growing portfolio of UNESCO initiatives supporting women and girls in science across the region.

This initiative in particular seeks to support mid-career and advanced-career women so they can take their research and innovation further, strengthening their contribution to Caribbean priorities and translating scientific achievement into leadership and tangible societal impact.

Through the two fellowship streams, UNESCO and its partners aim to enhance scientific excellence, increase the visibility and leadership of women in research and innovation, and build a growing regional network of women whose work is helping to shape a more resilient, innovative and sustainable Caribbean.

The application deadline is September 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Jamaica time, and additional information can be found here:

Call for applications: <https://bit.ly/4xOGuKM>

Online application form: <https://bit.ly/4x92vm0>

For further information, please contact the UNESCO Regional Office for the Caribbean at kingston@unesco.org. (Jamaica Gleaner)

ACB
CARIBBEAN

Home Advantage

**MORTGAGES
DESIGNED
JUST FOR YOU**

**Apply
today.**

**50% off
legal fees**

**100%
Financing**

St Kitts PM confirms stroke, but recovering well

St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew confirmed Sunday that he had suffered a stroke late last month but that he is recovering well and has since been discharged from a United States hospital.

Drew, 49, was flown to Florida for further medical evaluation on September 2, after initially being hospitalised in the neighbouring French island of Martinique. He was first treated for symptoms including nausea, dizziness, and balance issues, and was admitted to the Joseph N. France General Hospital on August 30.

“I want to thank you for your prayers and well wishes. I first of all want to thank God Almighty for having me here. Without Him, I would not be here. And again, to thank all of the medical practitioners ...,” Drew said in an eight-minute broadcast to his twin island Federation.

“After all of the analysis, I suffered a stroke. This stroke was a dissection of one of the arteries in the back of my brain called the vertebral artery, and even though I suffered that stroke, the limitations on my mind and body, those limitations have been well controlled and well managed,” said Drew, himself a medical practitioner.

“I can move all my limbs, speak well. My mentation, my coordination, my intelligence have been well and I am now at the stage where I have left the hospital here in Florida, and I’m now doing rehab, both occupational therapy and IOT as well.”

The prime minister said his rehabilitation exercises “are going extremely well,” adding, “so at this point in time, I can say, both mentally and psychologically and also



physically, I’m doing much better than my ailment [would] suggest.

“And I thank God over and over for

his many, many blessings and praise from all those who have been praying for me,” he said. (CMC)

COOKS WANTED

Experienced cooks required. Applicants must be skilled in the dishes listed for their position:

African Cuisine — 3 positions

Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, Senegalese, Ivorian & Ghanaian dishes

South Indian Cuisine — 3 positions

Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Goan cuisine

North Indian Cuisine — 4 positions

Curries, starters & snacks (veg and non-veg), tandoori, Indo-Chinese & South Indian

Nepalese / Thai / Japanese Cuisine — 3 positions

Nepalese, Thai, Japanese & sushi, Italian, Indonesian & Indian dishes

Only applicants with proven skills and experience in the listed dishes will be considered.

Send CV and cover letter to support.ag@onelegalcaribbean.com by 25 September 2026.

'Never okay' - Morris Dixon orders probe into children abandoned at hospital

Youth Minister Dr Dana Morris Dixon says a probe has been launched to determine the circumstances that led to five children remaining in the care of the Spanish Town Hospital for several months after being abandoned by their families.

Morris Dixon said leaving vulnerable minors in long-term institutional care without family affection is an administrative breakdown that can "never be seen as okay".

"With children, we have to be especially careful, and we have to be especially responsible," said Morris Dixon.

The minister said she requested an immediate report after learning of the situation, but was not satisfied with the initial findings.

She said Permanent Secretary Dr Kasan Troupe and the advisory board of the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) have been asked to investigate the matter to strengthen child-protection procedures.

"I asked for a report on it and the answers aren't adequate. And so it speaks again to the reason that we need to do more work in terms of firming up these procedures, so that you do not have children who are just lost in the system – and too often that does happen. And so I asked the advisory board to look into it. I asked the permanent secretary to get a report," Morris Dixon told The Gleaner.

She said the initial report received "was not fine for me, and so we've been getting more information, and I have not received the final report on it".

This follows a Gleaner report in August which noted that four of the five children abandoned at the St Catherine-based hospital had spent their entire lives at the facility.

The fifth child – a male who is one and a half years old – had been at the hospital 11 months after being discharged.

Spanish Town Hospital CEO Jacqueline Ellis said the situation was unacceptable, disclosing that the facility had to divert staff and resources to its paediatric ward to care for the children.



atric ward to care for the children.

Hospital records show that four of the children – whose ages range from 10 months to two and a half years old – were left by their parents shortly after birth to be placed for adoption.

The other child was left there for "care and protection".

Questions sent by The Gleaner to CPFSA about the matter on September 2 have not been answered.

Last Friday, the agency, which has direct responsibility for placing the children in state care, issued a media release indicating that it had removed the children from the hospital.

In the questions sent, The Gleaner sought to determine, among other things, the timeline for removing the five children, why four spent their lives there, whether there were legal and bottleneck delays, what were the placement protocols, and the number of children who remained in hospitals islandwide.

In its statement, the CPFSA said it had secured the relevant court orders for the children.

It said two of the children were placed in family environments through the agency's foster care programme, while

a third, a baby with special needs, was placed at a facility equipped to care for children with similar needs. The other two babies remain under the direct supervision of the state at a CPFSA nursery while their cases are before the court, the agency said.

CPFSA CEO Laurette Adams Thomas said each of the five cases had unique variables that led to a delay in placement.

She admitted that while no law mandates a strict timeframe for how long a child can remain in a hospital, which legally functions as a place of safety, the children were left in institutional care longer than desired.

"There is no single factor related to the delay in placement that is applicable to all five cases. Placement decisions are influenced by the availability of appropriate spaces for the needs of the child, especially those with medical and other special needs; the availability of foster families who are able to meet the individual needs of a child; and case-specific legal or family circumstances, including family tracing," the statement quoted her as saying.

She noted that the agency is actively pursuing both family and residential

Regional News

PAGE 21

placements, while appealing to Jamaicans with the necessary resources to step forward as foster parents.

At the same time, Morris Dixon said the matter raises issues in relation to procedures.

"We have to always have at centre the welfare, the best interest of the child; and leaving them in a hospital where they're not being held, not being hugged, not being able to get attached to someone who loves them, is not the best position for them," she said.

Questions sent to CPFSA on September 2

1. What is the immediate operational timeline for transitioning the five abandoned children currently living on the pediatric ward at Spanish Town Hospital into appropriate state care or family settings?

2. Given that standard protocol requires CPFSA to place abandoned infants within approximately six weeks, why have four of these children spent their entire lives living inside the hospital?

3. Has the agency secured care and protection orders through the Family Court for all five children, and if not, what specific administrative or legal bottlenecks are stalling the court proceedings?

4. Is the primary delay in removing these children caused by a critical lack of beds in CPFSA places of safety, a shortage of registered foster parents, or delays in processing adoption paperwork?

5. What formal inter-agency communication protocol exists between Spanish Town Hospital social workers and the CPFSA to ensure immediate notification and fast-tracked removal when a child is deserted?

6. Because Spanish Town Hospital is currently funding diapers, wipes, and meals out of its healthcare budget, does the CPFSA provide any direct financial or material subvention to public hospitals caring for state wards?

7. How frequently do CPFSA officers conduct on-site visits to public health facilities across the island to audit active social cases involving minors?

8. Has the CPFSA or law enforcement successfully located and interviewed

the parents or extended families of these five children to establish legal accountability or explore family reunification?

9. What specific legislative reforms or policy amendments is the CPFSA recommending to Parliament to shorten the legal timeline required to transition

abandoned hospital infants into state care or adoption?

10. How many children in total, that CPFSA is aware of, are currently stranded in public health facilities islandwide awaiting placement? (Jamaica Gleaner)



Regional News



Guyana reaffirms confidence in International Court of Justice



President Irfaan Ali says Guyana remains confident that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will rule in its favour in the decades-old border dispute with Venezuela.

Oral hearings in the territorial controversy concluded on May 11 and Guyana's case affirming the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award is now fully before the ICJ with a final, binding ruling expected early in the new year.

In June, the Ali administration said all that remains to be done is for the ICJ to deliberate, draft its judgment and deliver it in a public session, a process the ICJ has historically completed within six to eight months of the close of hearings.

"We are hoping that early in the new year, there will be a ruling at the ICJ; we are very confident," Ali said in an interview with the international broadcaster Al Jazeera.

Ali said beyond the ruling the focus turns to "building a relationship and ensuring that the region remains strong, stable, secure, and that both countries can advance its economic potential and opportunity in an environment that is free from fear".

The case, filed by Guyana in 2018, seeks the court's confirmation that the 1899 Award and the boundary it established between then-British Guyana and Venezuela is valid and

The ICJ has twice affirmed its jurisdiction to hear the matter, ruling in 2020 that it had authority over the case and dismissing a further Venezuelan objection in 2023. The court has also twice granted Guyana's requests for provisional measures, most recently ordering Venezuela in 2025 not to proceed with elections in the disputed Essequibo region.

Venezuela's representatives maintained their rejection of the court's authority during the May hearings, arguing their territorial position pre-dates and stands apart from the ICJ process.

But Ali, asked about Caracas's position during his interview, replied:

"Those are words that we have heard many times, but we know the fact and the truth in relation to the 1899 Award, and the court is going to determine the merits of words and facts."

On whether Guyana is bracing for continued resistance from Venezuela regardless of the outcome, Ali said, "I wouldn't say we are bracing, but we are prepared for any reaction to the court ruling."

"We are very conscious of these words...notwithstanding the fact that Venezuela has participated fully in every aspect of the case before the ICJ," President Ali said, adding that the United States continues to play an important role in supporting regional stability and that Georgetown's relationship with Washington remains unchanged and rooted in principle. (CMC)

FOR SALE

One 30KVA open set Generator with 200amp Automatic Transfer Switch. \$40,000.00ec.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

GENERATOR RENTALS

GENERATORS FOR RENT

**150KVA 3Phase 3wire.120/240v.
50KVA 3Phase 3wire 120/240v.**

CONTACT:

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Buckingham Palace works uncover trove of everyday items dating back to 1800s

A pair of battered, hobnailed boots and a decades-old newspaper cutting are among a trove of everyday objects unearthed during restoration work at Buckingham Palace.

The misplaced items are thought to belong to staff who worked at the palace decades ago, and were found by workers carrying out the £369m refurbishment.

A ticket for a “whist drive” - a card game event hosted by the Palace on 14 April 1949 - was found embedded in a lump of brick.

Several betting slips, a bottle of Schweppes Still Malvern English Spring Water, an empty Silk Cut cigarette carton and a newspaper article about the gang jailed for the 1963 Great Train Robbery were also found under floorboards.

The royal residence in London is undergoing a 10-year refurbishment plan - funded through a temporary increase in the Sovereign Grant, which pays for the official duties of the royals. It is due to be completed in March.

Ageing cables, lead pipes, wiring and boilers are set to be replaced - many for the first time in 60 years - following concerns about potential fire and water damage.

Until now, many of the items have remained hidden within the building's infrastructure.

Among the discoveries was a typed schedule detailing Queen Elizabeth II's plans to host a diplomatic reception in her Silver Jubilee year of 1977.

It revealed the monarch would work the room in a “clockwise direction”, and that aides were asked to encourage the 350 British guests to mingle with the diplomats at the annual gathering.

“The British guests will be distributed throughout the State Rooms, except the Music Room and West Gallery, where they should be encouraged to talk to the Diplomats,” the sheet reads.

Blank Littlewoods Football Pool betting slips from 1957 and a scrap of West End theatre listings from The Standard



newspaper in 1889 were also found, alongside fragments of Minton decorative ceramic tiles from a fireplace hearth, with the design dated to around the mid-1800s.

A pewter tankard, a wooden junction box and a faded box containing six Christmas cards were included in the haul.

Examples of electrical wire covered with vulcanised Indian rubber cabling were found. It was replaced as priority when the restoration began as it posed the greatest risk of fire to the building.

Also discovered were pages from the Daily Express newspaper in 1966 detailing the “maximum security” prison where the Great Train Robbers were incarcerated.

The article had pictures of Durham Prison, revealing that “the men who were found guilty of stealing a fortune in mailbags spend their week stitching them for nine shillings”.

Meanwhile, the whist drive ticket, priced at 6d or sixpence, would have taken place during the reign of King Charles III's grandfather, George VI, hosted by the Buckingham palace social club.

Along with a typed schedule detailing Queen Elizabeth II's plans to host a diplomatic reception in her Silver Jubilee year.

Unearthed items at Buckingham Palace:

PA Media A fragment of a West End theatre listing from the Evening Standard (known previously as the Standard) from Wednesday 27 November 1889PA Media

PA Media Minton decorative ceramic tiles from a fireplace hearthPA Media

A fragment of a West End theatre listing from the Evening Standard (known previously as the Standard) from Wednesday 27 November 1889

Minton decorative ceramic tile from a fireplace hearth, the design dates to around the mid-1800s

King Charles and Queen Camilla are currently residing in Clarence House, which stands beside St James's Palace and was once the Queen Mother's home.

They will not live in Buckingham Palace after the refurbishment is completed.

The decision was also taken to allow greater public access to the landmark, officials said. The landmark may now also be able to open for a longer period, generating more income.

The King will continue to host a range of events at the palace, from state banquets and garden parties to receptions and audiences with the prime minister and new ambassadors. (BBC)

At least one dead, 25 missing after boat carrying migrants sinks off Greece



One person has died, 25 are missing and 51 people have been rescued after a boat carrying migrants sank off a Greek island near Crete, according to the country's coastguard.

"Fifty-one were picked up by two boats that were in the area," a coastguard spokesman said on Monday.

He said survivors had reported that 77 people were on board when the boat went down near the island of Gavdos.

Search and rescue efforts were ongoing, with four ships, boats, Frontex aircraft and a coastguard helicopter operating in the area, Greece's public broadcaster ERT News reported.

The 51 rescued people were due to be brought to Crete, "where the prescribed procedures will be followed", ERT reported.

After arriving in Crete, undocumented migrants generally face immediate arrest and temporary confinement before being transferred to closed detention camps on the Greek mainland. Under Greek law, individuals are subject to extended administrative detention, severe penalties and fast-track deportation.

Strong winds blowing through the area have been hampering the search operation, ERT said.

Crete and Gavdos, about 320km (200 miles) from the Libyan coast, have become the main point of entry for asylum seekers in Greece.

In late August, Greece's ANA news agency published figures from the Ministry of Migration and Asylum that indicated that migrant arrivals in the country fell from about 61,000 in the year to August

2025 to 42,000 in the following 12 months – a decline of about 31 percent.

Greece's conservative government in July suspended all asylum claims for migrants arriving by sea from North Africa for three months, a move it argued helped deter crossings.

The ban passed in parliament amid a surge in asylum seekers reaching Crete and after talks with Libya's Benghazi-based government to stem the flow were cancelled in July.

The government remains at odds with regional authorities in Crete over a plan to build a permanent transit facility on the island. It is preparing draft legislation that would mandate imprisonment for people whose asylum claims are denied and require ankle monitors during a 30-day compliance period before deportation.

Authorities in Europe have tightened their immigration rules over recent years as far-right, anti-migrant political parties have won increasing support throughout the continent.

Greece has been in discussions with Germany and several other European Union countries on setting up "return hubs" outside the bloc for processing migrants' claims. (Al Jazeera)

Temporary Hormuz solution deferred as Iran-Arab summit falls through



Another attempt to clinch a deal between Iran and Oman to restore some traffic to the Strait of Hormuz has been set back by a lack of regional consensus on the future of the waterway.

Officials from Iran, Iraq and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations – minus objecting Bahrain – were scheduled to meet in Oman's port city of Salalah on Monday to confer on new temporary routes in the Strait of Hormuz amid Tehran's ongoing hot-and-cold war with the United States.

On Sunday night, the region's officials announced the postponement of the meeting, without giving a new date. None of the stakeholders gave any indication that the postponement was directly linked to recent Houthi and Iraqi militia attacks on Saudi Arabia.

However, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Saudi objection was the reason for the postponement, without providing further details.

US media outlets Axios and CNN reported that Saudi Arabia had submitted amendments to the Iran-Oman proposal for Hormuz because it had concerns that the wording would es-

tablish a new status quo which would be unacceptable to Riyadh.

It comes days after Saudi Arabia shut down its critical East-West oil pipeline – the kingdom's key route for energy exports – after drone attacks in the area originating from Iraq. US President Donald Trump said these attacks were likely conducted at Tehran's behest.

Saudi Arabia has also faced repeated attacks by the Houthis, who took control of Yemen's Red Sea coast over the weekend.

Hours after the Salalah meeting was postponed, the Saudi civil defence issued alerts for Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan and Najran in southern and western parts of the kingdom. The Houthis claimed to have fired dozens of ballistic missiles and drones at military facilities in Khamis Mushait, in retaliation for air strikes across Yemen, which it blames on Saudi Arabia.

Iran has said it will engage with the US on the future of the Strait of Hormuz and ending the war only if there are tangible moves to lift Washington's naval blockade on the country

and return to the June memorandum of understanding. With continued disruptions to the passage of vessels through the strait, Iran has signalled that it intends to continue pursuing the bilateral agreement with Oman over Hormuz, which it said was finalised last month.

"In consultation with Oman, in the next step, we will make a decision on how to announce or register the agreement," Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei told reporters

during a weekly news conference on Monday.

When the two countries initially advanced the bilateral deal, Trump threatened to bomb Oman if it "gets in the way" of US talks with Iran.

Ali Vaez, deputy director of the Middle East and North Africa programme at the Crisis Group, told Al Jazeera that Tehran wants to use its leverage over Hormuz for regional legitimacy – and ultimately to pressure the US.

"The broader the regional buy-in, the harder it becomes for the US to dismiss the arrangement as an Iranian diktat," he told Al Jazeera.

GCC states, suffering from a sharp decrease in energy receipts, want ships moving and their economies insulated from a war they neither started nor can end. But Vaez said Washington is unlikely to lift the blockade on Iran even if the region blesses the arrangement between Muscat and Tehran.

"[The US] will find it much harder to sustain a policy that its own partners increasingly see as perpetuating the crisis," Vaez said

International

AROUND THE WORLD



The Omani-Iranian planned agreement envisions temporary entry and exit routes for commercial vessels in the strait, with Tehran repeatedly stating that this would not mean that the Strait of Hormuz has reopened.

Iran and Oman are the only two countries with territorial waters in the Strait of Hormuz. The proposed inbound corridor reportedly goes through Iranian waters, while the outbound corridor mostly passes through Omani waters, with small parts still in Iranian territory.

During Monday's scheduled meeting, Iran and Oman were supposed to share precise maps and discuss the details of the routes with GCC members Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait, and Iraq, which is outside the bloc. The deal could reportedly include voluntary tolls to fund navigation, environmental protection and search-and-rescue operations.

Bahrain, which has borne the brunt of Iranian attacks since the US-Israel war on Iran started at the end of February, said it would not participate in the forum since it would amount to "appeasement". The Tasnim news outlet, affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), claimed Israel pushed Bahrain to refuse participation.

The latest diplomatic movement comes after days of explosive developments in Yemen, when the Houthis, officially known as Ansar Allah, essentially took control of the Bab al-Mandeb strait and the Red Sea after a lightning offensive against government forces.

Thomas Juneau, assistant professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa, said the Houthi advances represent a significant gain for Iran. Its Yemeni allies' position in the Red Sea offers Iran an important new bargaining chip in future negotiations with the US.

"The Houthis are not a simple arm of

Iranian foreign policy. They operate largely based on their own interests, and do not take and execute Iranian commands," he told Al Jazeera. "But Houthi and Iranian interests are largely, if not always fully, aligned. They cooperate closely on the basis of those shared interests."

Juneau sees the ability for Iran and the Houthis to potentially partially block traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandeb – two of the world's most crucial maritime bottlenecks – would give them tremendous influence over the global economy, and thus the US.

The Houthis are trying to seize the opportunity to "institutionalise the de facto reality of their veto on maritime

traffic" in the southern Red Sea and replicate partial Iranian success in doing the same in the Strait of Hormuz, Juneau said

Iran has stressed that their allies' gains in the Red Sea cannot be separated from the Saudi-led blockade and attacks on Houthi areas in Yemen since 2015.

"We know very well that continued war between Islamic countries in the region only has one winner, and that winner is no one but the Zionist regime, which is after persisting tensions and conflict in our region and between Islamic countries," Iranian spokesperson Baghaei said. (Al Jazeera)



VACANCY

Join Our Team

We are looking for friendly and dedicated individuals who can provide outstanding customer service to join our KFC restaurants.

As a Team Member, you will have a range of duties from engaging with our customers, delivering a fast and friendly service, and preparing our much-loved products.

Join us and be part of a team that is customer-oriented and works together to ensure a positive and effective environment.

Interested persons can pick up application forms at KFC Administration Office, Brysons Complex, Friars Hill Rd., St. John's, Antigua.

All applications must be submitted to the Admin Office by Friday 18th September 2026.



Protests break out across Syria over fuel price increases



Protests have erupted across several cities in Syria after the government increased fuel prices, with demonstrators blocking a main highway for several hours.

The government raised prices on Sunday by up to 40 percent on diesel and 28 percent on petrol, in what it said were temporary increases caused by a sharp rise in the global cost of securing fuel.

Syria's government also cited an overhaul of the critical Baniyas refinery for higher prices, saying it will

raise capacity from 80,000 to 130,000 barrels per day.

Protests were reported in Hama, Khan Sheikhoun and Maarat al-Numan. Footage published by Al Jazeera shows crowds gathering on the street and burning tyres. The price increases also prompted fierce debate on social media.

The country is currently producing about 102,000 barrels of oil per day, while it needs about 325,000 barrels per day for domestic consumption and is relying on imports to make up the

difference, Syrian Energy Minister Mohammed al-Bashir said on Saturday.

The Ministry of Energy said it would continue to review prices as global market conditions change and would work over the long term to expand refining and storage capacity, according to the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA).

Syria's fuel supplies are key to the country's economic recovery as it seeks to rebuild after 14 years of war. (Al Jazeera)



268 736 7165

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



↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke

⌚ Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am

🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!



Sports News

Anjo Wholesale wins again in Business Basketball League



Players of the Curtain Bluff Hotel team huddle during a break of their debut encounter against the Sledge'O Ballers in the Cool and Smooth ABBA Business Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Anjo Wholesale maintained their winning start to their campaign in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

After launching their campaign with a commanding 85-25 drubbing of Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLB-MC) in their opening encounter, Anjo Wholesale made it two wins in a row with an 82-50 victory over newcomer Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT).

Marcus Murphy and Gabriel Desuza each scored 10 points for Anjo Wholesale. Aiden Crawford shot a game-high 16 points, and Molefi Joseph scored nine points for ABUT.

APCMOL and Sledge'O Ballers got off to winning starts in their campaigns. APCMOL recorded a 92-36 victory over the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, who lost for the second time in as many games.

Takeem Martin shot a game-high 26 points, and Amare Browne sank 21 points for APCMOL. In support, Humroy Wright converted 20 points, Sergio Symister scored 12 points, and Judah Ferris chipped in with 11 points for APCMOL.

Ricky Willock sank 15 points, and Dimetre Leitch scored 13 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

The Sledge'O Ballers prevailed 53-46 against newcomers Curtain Bluff Hotel in Sunday's most keenly con-

tested affair.

Terry Roberts produced a game-high 14 points, and Marlon Davis and Deon Jules each contributed 10 points for the Sledge'O Ballers. Naje Simons converted 11 points, and Shalom Bloodman scored 10 points for Curtain Bluff Hotel.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday evening.

The Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers will face Christos at 6:30 pm, CTM Auto Spa will meet Sir Lester Bird Medical Center at 7:30 pm, and Curtain Bluff Hotel will take on APCMOL at 8:30 pm.

ABNA Business Netball League commences at YMCA



Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders

The Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) launches its highly anticipated 2026 Business League Competition at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

Following a march past and a brief official opening center, Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders snatched a narrow 17-13 victory over Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) JOMA IV League Netters in the Mixed Division in their first match of the competition.

Ervedine Parker-Barnard sank 13 of her 17 shots, and Jamila Fitz scored four of her 10 attempts for the Rewinders. Daniel Kerr converted seven of her nine shots, and Deandre Harris scored six of her eight

attempts for the SLBMC fourth League Netters.

The competition is bringing together teams representing businesses and organizations in an exciting display of skill, teamwork, and competitive spirit across both Female and Mixed Divisions.

This year's participating teams include the Ministry of Education, Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) IV League Netters, Ministry of Tourism, Fitzroy Rewinding Rewinders, and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Games will be played on Monday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at the YMCA Sports Complex.

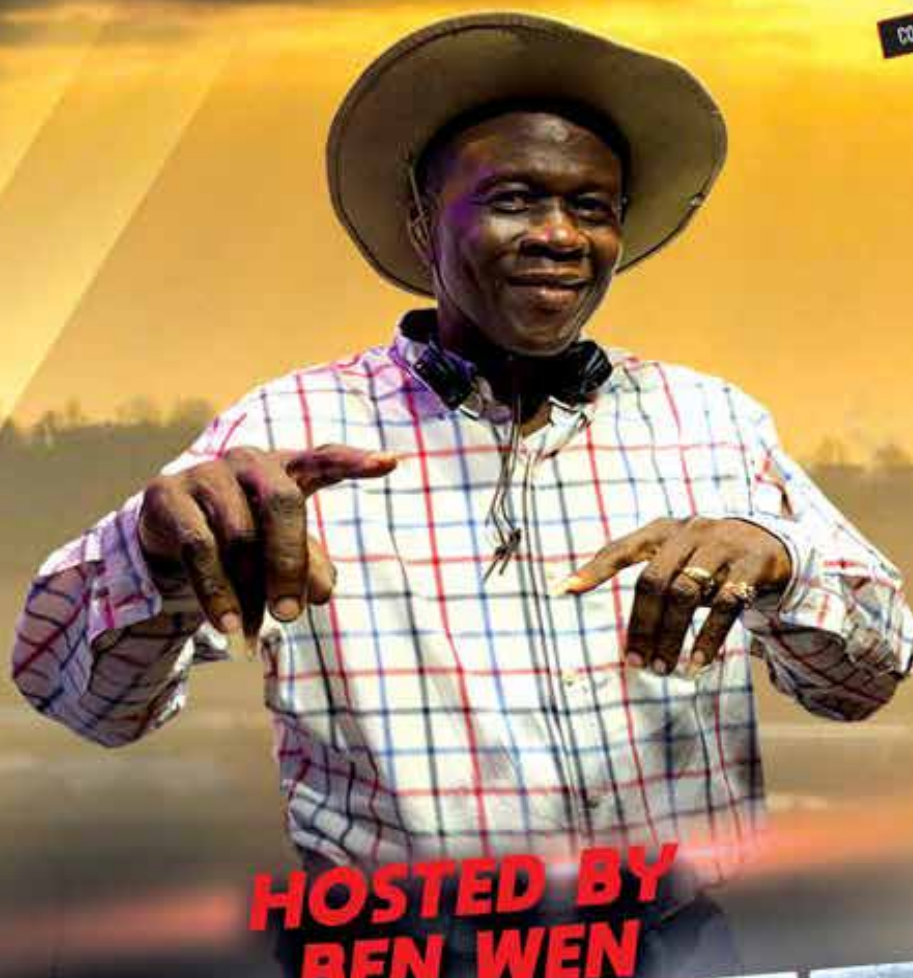
With talented players taking to the court and teams ready to compete, the 2026 ABNA Business League is poised to deliver an exciting season of netball action.

Fans can expect plenty of fast-paced netball as teams battle for supremacy throughout the competition.

The league will also provide an opportunity for players, supporters, businesses, and the wider community to come together and celebrate the sport.

Supporters are encouraged to come out, cheer on their teams, and enjoy the competition in this year's business netball league.

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

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

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

More success for Hanse on Security in IBSC Tape Ball Classic

Hanse of Security continue to enjoy success, while up-holders Bryson's Bullets have maintained their dismal start in defense of their title in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

Hanse on Security claimed their third win in as many games after being awarded victory via default when the annual T20 competition resumed on Sunday.

Hanse on Security won by default after Jakes Invincibles were unable to field a team for their encounter at the Powells playing field. It was the third loss in as many games for Jakes Invincibles.

The Bullet lost for the third successive time, crashing to an eight-wicket defeat to VIP in their latest outing at the Powells playing field.

Bullets won the toss and batted, scoring 207 for seven from their 20 overs. Shaquan Reifer hit 38, George Elvin and Essan Warner each made 30, and Kimani George scored 26. Akeem Blackman claimed two for 22.

In reply, Kofi James slammed an unbeaten century to propel VIP to their second win in as many matches by scoring 211 for two in 15.4 overs.

James hit 100 not out, smashing 11 sixes and five fours, and was named player of the week. Elroy Francis Jr. struck 45, and Shamoy Williams cracked 31 not out.

The Dredgers claimed their first win in three matches by coasting to an 81-run victory against Grill Box at the Rising Sun playing field.



Kofi James of VIP struck a century and claimed a wicket against Bryson's Bullets to claim the Player of the Week Award during the latest round of matches in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

The Dredgers won the toss and batted, scoring 173 for nine from their 20 overs. JQuan Athanaze hit 45, Glenton Williams got 29, Mervin Higgins scored 24, and Tyrone Williams Jr. made 21.

Richie Thomas took two for 18, Rodney Williams claimed two for 19, and Demari Benta captured two for 35 for Grill Box, who suffered their first loss in three matches.

In reply, Grill Box crashed to 92 all out in 14.5 overs. Demari Benta hit 25, and Randino Turner scored 24. Justin Athanaze snapped up four for 13, Tanez Francis grabbed three for 14, and Dhari Francis took two for 21.

PMS recorded their second win

in three games by snatching a one-run victory against Easy Pickings Mix Up Stars in a match that was reduced to 15 overs per side due to a late start.

PMS made 81 for eight off their 15 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Charles James hit 28, and Clarence Francis struck 26. Kemar Christian snatched three for 13, and Isaiah Viville took two for 10.

Mix Up Stars suffered their second loss in as many matches after crashing to 80 all out in their 15 overs. Frederick Floyd scored 16.

Cheldon Charles bagged four for 14, Charles James claimed two wickets for six runs, and Jullian Charles captured two for 12.

UK visitor wins ABCF Individual Road Race



Winners of the Elite Male podium at the ABCF Individual Road Race on Sunday, July 12, 2026. From left to right: Second-place finisher Conroy Thomas, winner James Heng, and third-place finisher Jaleel Cannonier. (Photo courtesy of the ABCF)

A visitor from the United Kingdom won the overall title in the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) Individual Road Race on Sunday.

Eighteen-year-old James Heng, who is visiting the island and was encouraged by his friends to join the race, won the Elite Male category and the overall title by being the fastest finisher.

There were 15 competitors across six categories comprising Elite Male, Female, Junior Male, Masters B, Juniors, and Sports Class.

The route took the elite riders from the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to the beginning of Willikies Village three

times. All other categories did two laps. Each lap was 20.6 kilometers.

Heng completed the three-lap Elite Male race in a time of one hour, 46 minutes, and 20.41 seconds. Conroy Thomas took second place in one hour, 51 minutes, and 27.44 seconds, and Jaleel Cannonier finished in third place.

Aiofe Smith captured the title in the female division, completing her two laps of the course in one hour, 39 minutes, and 46.51 seconds.

Lone contestant Elite Thomas won the Juvenile Class in one hour, 14 minutes, and 16.19 seconds. But the only competitor in the Junior Male cate-

gory, Aiden Tonge, did not finish the race.

Vaughn Gomes won the Masters B Class by clocking one hour, 15 minutes, and 39.12 seconds. Garfield Henry took second place in one hour, 16 minutes, and 12 seconds, while Cornel Hughes finished in third place.

Tiger Tyson captured the title in the Sports Class, completing the two-lap course in one hour, 14 minutes, and 16.81 seconds.

Eldon Farquharson claimed second by clocking one hour, 29 minutes, and 28.83 seconds, while Dexter Simmons finished in third place.