

Antigua and Barbuda and United States to Resume Discussions on Third-Country Nationals

Story on page 2

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23rd NOVEMBER

See Page 4

Antigua and Barbuda and United States to Resume Discussions on Third-Country Nationals

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America, Sir Ronald Sanders, has announced that discussions with the Government of the United States are expected to resume shortly, **at the request of the United States**, concerning the possible reception in Antigua and Barbuda of a limited number of third-country nationals removed from the United States.

The discussions form part of a wider United States initiative involving a number of countries, including several Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Antigua and Barbuda will enter the resumed negotiations on the basis of the Resolution adopted by the House of Representatives on **14 July 2026**, which established the principles and safeguards governing the country's participation in any such arrangement.

Among other safeguards, the parliamentary framework preserves Antigua and Barbuda's sovereign authority to approve or reject every individual proposed for transfer on a case-by-case basis. It rejects any automatic or open-ended programme and requires satisfactory legal, operational, financial and administrative arrangements before any transfer can take place. These include adequate arrangements concerning identity and documentation, accommodation and support, legal status, security, funding, and responsibility for onward movement or return.

The negotiations will also be conducted under the oversight of Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs the Honourable Sir Steadroy Benjamin, and Minister of Foreign Affairs the Honourable E. Paul Chet Greene.

Ambassador Sanders emphasises that **no final agreement has been settled with the United States and no trans-**



Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America, Sir Ronald Sanders,

fer of any third-country national has been authorised under the proposed arrangements. The purpose of

the resumed discussions is to determine whether terms can be agreed that are consistent with the parliamentary framework, Antigua and Barbuda's laws and international obligations, and the national interest.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to approach the discussions in a spirit of cooperation with the United States, while ensuring that the country's sovereignty, security, financial interests and limited absorptive capacity are fully protected and that its legal and international obligations are respected.

Consistent with the commitment to transparency that has guided the Government's handling of this matter, **the public will continue to be informed of the status of the negotiations and of any material developments.**



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Government Throws Its Full Support Behind Police Crime-Fighting Efforts

The government is fully backing the police department in its crime fighting initiatives under the heading Operation Iron Grip, while agreeing to a review of provisions of the Child Justice Act dealing with the diversion of juveniles accused of firearm offences and other serious crimes.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet held extensive discussions on national security, youth involvement in serious crime, and the Government's continuing efforts to strengthen the legislative and law-enforcement framework.

Cabinet noted the progress being made by the Royal Police Force through Operation Iron Grip and commended officers for their recent successes in suppressing serious criminal activity.

Operation Iron Grip was launched in June as a targeted crime-fighting initiative aimed at disrupting criminal activity and increasing visible police presence, particularly in identified hotspot communities. Public reporting at the launch indicated that the operation would involve targeted enforcement and greater police activity designed to disrupt the movement and operations of persons engaged in criminal activity.

The Cabinet noted that the initiative complements other measures being pursued by the Government to strengthen public safety, including the expansion of the national CCTV surveillance network. Government is currently deploying more than 200 cameras at strategic locations to assist the Police with crime prevention, detection and investigations. This process is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Cabinet pledged its continued support to the Commissioner of Police and the men and women of the Royal Police Force and reiterated that the Police will be provided with the resources and institutional support required to effectively discharge their responsibilities.



Cabinet again appealed to members of the public to support the Police by providing information concerning criminal activity. Members emphasized that effective policing requires cooperation between law enforcement and the communities they serve and encour-

aged citizens with relevant information to make it available to the Police. So far this year, the police have removed over fifty firearms from the streets of Antigua and Barbuda as part of the ongoing crime fighting initiative.

Midweek Deals

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- Medium Drink



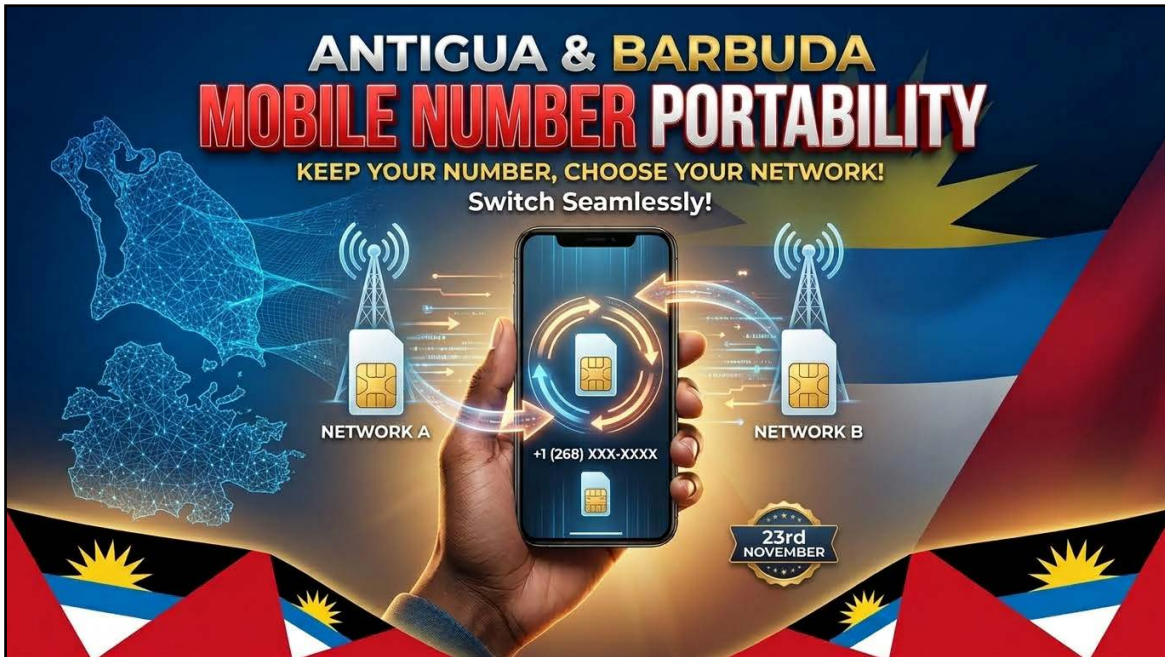
\$19.99

- Burger
- Medium Drink





Mobile Number Portability Rollout Set for Late November



Following several years of planning with the country's three main telecommunications providers, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has now given a 23rd November 2026 timeline by which Mobile Number Portability will become reality.

Mobile Number Portability allows cellular phone users to switch providers while maintaining their existing phone numbers.

Antigua and Barbuda is believed to be the only country within the OECS that is yet to introduce MNP. Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, along with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, all members of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) introduced the service on 3rd June 2019.

On Wednesday, during its weekly meeting, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda was informed by a manager from Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and a consultant that the implementation process has now reached the important porting

and routing testing stages.

Porting testing, according to the Cabinet Notes, confirms that the systems of the various operators can successfully process the transfer of a customer's number from one network to another. Routing testing ensures that calls and text messages sent to a transferred number are correctly directed to the network currently serving that customer.

Cabinet was advised that the principal outstanding issues identified to date are not expected to prevent the operators from significantly accelerating the number of test transactions and moving the project towards completion.

The migration to Mobile Number Portability commenced in 2022, but encountered numerous challenges, resulting in significant delays.

"I think all three different carriers [APUA, DIGICEL, FLOW] operate on different networks and different systems and so getting them to somehow make it an easy or simple task to the portability...has taken a lot of time and a lot of investment

from the various network providers and also the government in its consultancy and investment in ensuring that this number portability happens," Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant told reporters during yesterday's Post Cabinet Press Briefing.

He acknowledged that consumers have been waiting for some time for the promised service, which is now a few months away from implementation.

"They are at the stage right now whereby they believe that they have enough data that the system can be implemented," Merchant said.

Cabinet was advised that telecommunication providers have committed to completing porting testing by **23rd October 2026**, after which further routing and end-to-end testing will continue. Testing will also extend to the retail environment to ensure that the experience of customers seeking to transfer their numbers works as intended before the service is made available nationally by 23rd November, ahead of the country's hosting to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Meantime, officials have agreed to a comprehensive public education and awareness campaign to ensure subscribers are fully aware of the components that make up Mobile Number Portability and the process that must be undertaken by consumers who intend to migrate from one service provider to the next.

Tourism strengthens MICE Strategy with SITE membership and first Certified Incentive Specialist

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, as part of an overall strategy to grow and strengthen the MICE market for Antigua and Barbuda, is now a member of the Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE).

SITE concentrates and delivers major benefits for stakeholders, including destinations like Antigua and Barbuda, around incentive travel, a key pillar of the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events (MICE) market.

Recognizing the strategic value, the ABTA-US sponsored the participation of its Sales and Marketing Officer Andy Liburd in a course that provided him with broad knowledge of the various aspects of incentive travel. As a result of successfully completing the training programme, Liburd is now the first Certified Incentive Specialist on the ABTA. His accreditation further qualified the ABTA for membership in SITE, which has a presence in over 90 countries around the globe.

Membership in SITE provides Antigua and Barbuda with access to an international network of incentive travel professionals, industry knowledge and opportunities for collaboration that can support the destination's positioning within the global MICE market. It also strengthens the ABTA's capacity to develop and promote incentive travel experiences that leverage the country's tourism product, hospitality partners and destination strengths.

ABTA-US Director Dean Fenton, who has always advocated for strengthening group travel for the destination, said this was a crucial step in the ongoing development of Antigua and Barbuda's MICE strategy.

"Andy's initiative in pursuing this opportunity, and the ABTA's membership in SITE, provide a foundation for us to build greater awareness of Antigua and Barbuda as a destination for incentive travel," Fenton stated.

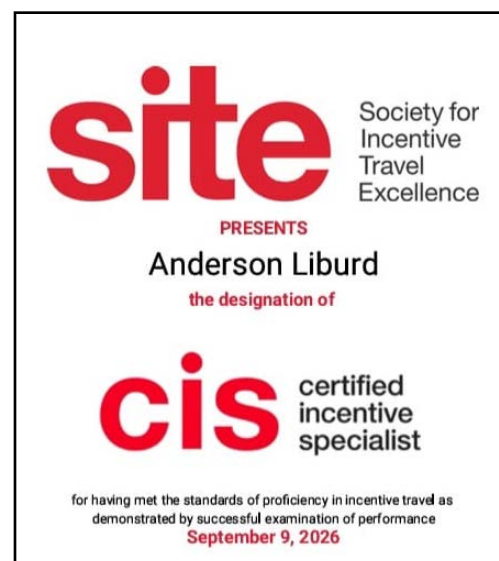
Also offering congratulations were



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez and his Ministry's Government Relations Manager, Senator Angelica O'Donoghue, both of whom were featured prominently in the discussions at the ABTA's annual strategy meeting now taking place at the Blue Waters Hotel in Antigua.

"Incentive travel presents valuable opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda to truly showcase the destination in ways that extend beyond our traditional tourism offerings. So, this is certainly a positive development," Minister Fernandez stated.

"I am delighted to congratulate Andy on this achievement. Having been a member of his team when he served as



Communications Lead for the historic SIDS4 Conference, I have seen firsthand his commitment to delivering at a high level, and his understanding of the importance of effective communication in major projects," Senator O'Donoghue added.

Antigua and Barbuda was named the Caribbean's Leading Meetings & Conference Destination at the World Travel Awards and has secured nine combined nominations for the upcoming World MICE Awards as it prepares to host November's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Local News

The FSRC Says STEADYLEND Is Not Licenced To Provide Financial Services

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission (Commission) wishes to advise the public that STEADYLEND with its advertised website www.steadylendoman.com and email address support@steadylendoman.com, is not licensed to provide money services business in Antigua and Barbuda and is therefore in contravention of Section 4 (1) and 13 of the Money Services Business Act 2011, as amended of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda. Information seen by the Commission suggests that STEADYLEND is offering money service business and advertising its loan product.

The public is advised not to conduct business with money services business providers in Antigua and Barbuda which are not licensed by the Commission.



The list of licensed money services providers may be viewed at the Commission's website www.fsrc.gov.ag

For further information and clarifications contact:

International Banking and Non-banks Unit

Financial Services Regulatory Com-

mission

Royal Palm Place,
 Friars Hill Road P. O. Box 2674,
 St. John's, Antigua Tel (268) 481-3300/1/2, Fax (268) 463-0422 Email: bankingandco-operativesteam@fsrc.gov.ag website: www.fsrc.gov.ag

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Police Renew Appeal For Wanted Man Janiah Antoine To Surrender

The police are renewing their appeal for Janiah Antoine of Golden Grove to surrender himself to the police without further delay.

Antione is believed to be armed and is therefore considered dangerous. Members of the public are once again strongly advised not to approach, confront, or attempt to apprehend him if he is seen. Instead, immediately contact the police.

The Police Administration is also reminding the public that harbouring, concealing, assisting, or otherwise facilitating a person wanted by the police to evade lawful arrest may constitute a serious criminal offence.

Police are therefore calling upon relatives, friends, associates, and other persons who may be in contact with Antione not to assist him in voiding the authorities, but instead to encourage him to surrender peacefully and without delay.

Anyone with information concerning the whereabouts of Janiah Antione is



asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/3914, Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477), or the nearest police station.

Three Jamaican Nationals Have Appeared In Court on Drug Charges

Three Jamaican nationals appeared in the magistrate's court on Thursday to answer several drug-related charges.

The accused are; Aljermin McLean, 25, and Joshua Newton, 21, of Jennings and Elvis Smith, 54, of Paynters. They were arrested following a police sting operation at Creekside on September 14.

They were found to be in possession of 26.4 pounds of cannabis valued at \$79,000.00. They are joint-



ly charged with possession of the controlled substance, possession with intent to supply and possession with intent to transfer.

All three have been remanded in HM Prison until the case resumes on November 25 for mention and case management report. Smith and McLean are out of time while Newton's time expires October 2.

All three were unrepresented by counsel during the hearing.

Concerns Grow Over Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse Cases

The Government is expressing concern over the reporting of rape and other sexual abuse cases involving minors, with officials acknowledging that some parents remain silent or are reluctant to provide law enforcement with information that could help bring alleged perpetrators to justice.

Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant said the Cabinet believes addressing the issue requires a collective effort involving parents, law enforcement, social workers and the wider community.

“The Cabinet believes that it takes a village in this case,” Merchant said during Thursday’s Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, while responding to questions about whether officials are satisfied with existing reporting mechanisms in cases involving the sexual abuse of children.

Merchant said authorities have encountered situations in which parents of affected children either remain quiet or refuse to provide information to law enforcement.

He described the situation as “a work in progress”, while highlighting the challenge of convincing parents and guardians to report suspicious behaviour involving their children.



Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

Merchant said the Government is particularly concerned about how parents can be encouraged to act when situations arise.

“How do you convince parents to report any activity that they may see unusual between their conjugal partners and their children?” he asked.

The issue, he said, is also a major concern for law enforcement officials, who are responsible for investigating allegations and pursuing cases through the justice system.

Social workers are also facing significant pressures as they respond to increasingly serious cases involving children.

Merchant pointed to concerns raised by the Minister of Social and Urban

Transformation about the mental health and wellbeing of social workers.

“Minister Rawdon Turner would say that he is concerned for the mental health of his workers at this time, due to the seriousness of the cases that they are encountering time,” Merchant said.

He stressed that the seriousness of the cases has prompted Government to consider what additional measures may be necessary to strengthen the response to child sexual abuse.

According to the Director General, the discussions have resulted in various recommendations and public statements from senior Government officials, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who has spoken strongly about the issue of sexual offences against children.

Merchant said the Prime Minister’s pronouncements form part of a wider national conversation about how the country should respond to serious crimes involving minors.

The comments come amid heightened public discussion about the treatment of offenders accused or convicted of sexual crimes against children, as Government officials examine possible responses involving law enforcement, social services and the wider community.



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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

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THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER

National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 8:30 AM

SUNDAY
25
OCTOBER

National Food Fair

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 10:00 AM

Independence Church Service

Church TBC 4:00 PM

National Schools' Panorama

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 6:00 PM

MONDAY
26
OCTOBER

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway 10:00 AM

National Honours Award and Reception

Governor General Gardens 6:00 PM

National Independence Business Decor Competition

Starts: October 26 Ends: October 29

TUESDAY
27
OCTOBER

Voices in Harmony - Festival of Choirs

St. Anthony's Secondary School 8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY
28
OCTOBER

Schools' Independence Programs

Schools Across the State

Island Treasures Gala - Golden Age

Casa Palmadita

THURSDAY
29
OCTOBER

Barbuda Day Activities

Evening of Theatre

St. Anthony's Secondary School 7:00 PM

FRIDAY
30
OCTOBER

Independence Calypso Competition

Green Lounge – Cedar Valley 8:00 PM

National Dress and Flag Day

SUNDAY
1
NOVEMBER

Independence Flag Ceremony

Barbuda 7:00 AM

Independence Ceremonial Parade

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 5:45 PM



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Crime thrives on weak justice, illegal guns and dirty money



By Sir Ronald Sanders

Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean is no longer only a matter for the police. It is weakening societies, draining economies and obstructing development. It is also testing public confidence in courts, governments and democratic institutions.

The figures are alarming. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean reports that the region, with only about 9 per cent of the world's population, accounts for almost one-third of all homicides. In 2021 alone, at least 89,100 people were killed with firearms.

Behind every statistic is a human tragedy: a child without a parent, a mother mourning a son, a woman trapped with an abuser, or a family driven from its community. Fear changes how people live. Children are kept indoors. Businesses close early. Witnesses remain silent. Communities retreat behind bars and locked gates.

Killings are not isolated acts. They are the visible result of a larger system involving illegal weapons, criminal finance, compromised institutions and persons who profit without approaching the scene.

For women and children, institutional failure is especially dangerous. When

complaints are disregarded, investigations are delayed and protective orders are not enforced, vulnerable persons are left within reach of their abusers. Impunity then becomes an invitation to repeat the offence.

The criminal justice system is a chain. Police, prosecutors, courts, prisons and rehabilitation services are all links in it. When any link breaks, the entire system is weakened.

Public impatience is now producing open confrontation between political leaders and the judiciary. In Costa Rica, where drug-related violence has risen sharply, President Laura Fernández has accused the judiciary of being infiltrated by organised crime. Her Security Minister has said that only 38 per cent of homicides result in convictions.

Judicial authorities have denied the allegations and warned that budget reductions will further weaken their capacity. That dispute contains a lesson for the entire region. Courts cannot retain public confidence if criminal cases collapse, convictions are rare and allegations of corruption are not credibly investigated. But governments have to demand accountability while providing courts with resources and maintaining judicial independence, consistent with clear rules.

In Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Gaston Browne recently expressed strong concern about what he regarded as an unduly lenient judicial approach in a firearms case. His intervention reflected a wider public anxiety across the Caribbean: persons accused of serious firearms offences must be dealt with firmly and expeditiously, in accordance with law.

Criminal justice systems must demonstrate that unlawful possession and trafficking will attract consequences capable of deterring others. That requires clear laws, competent police investigations, forensic services, effective prosecution and courts equipped to dispose of cases promptly. Every

part of the system must function if public confidence is to be maintained.

The 2023 Caribbean Firearms Study, jointly produced by CARICOM IMPACS and the Small Arms Survey, found that the Caribbean's violent-death rate was almost three times the global average. Firearms were used in more than half of all homicides and, in some countries, in about 90 per cent.

Technology must also become a much stronger part of the region's defence. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its World Drug Report 2026, shows that land and maritime routes dominate the movement of illicit drugs by volume, depending on the substance. Caribbean seaports, airports and unofficial landing points are therefore front lines in the struggle against organised crime.

Governments should invest in cargo scanners, container-tracking and surveillance systems, automatic number-plate recognition, canine units and advance passenger and cargo information. But machinery must be supported by intelligence-led risk assessment, trained and vetted officers, secure port access and regional information-sharing. A scanner within a compromised system will detect only what criminals permit it to find.

According to the Inter-American Development Bank, the direct costs of crime and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean amounted to approximately 3.4 per cent of regional GDP in 2022. That was equivalent to 78 per cent of all public spending on education across the region. Businesses lose sales, governments spend scarce resources on policing, prisons and emergency health care, and families lose income when breadwinners are killed or disabled.

Tourism and investment are not automatically destroyed by every increase in crime. But once international headlines, travel advisories and social media create an image of uncontrolled

violence, tourists, airlines, insurers and investors reconsider their exposure. For small economies heavily dependent on tourism, the consequences could be unemployment, falling revenues and deeper poverty.

The guns themselves also tell only part of the story. A young man in a poor community does not manufacture an assault rifle, import ammunition, arrange international drug shipments or launder large sums of money. Someone finances these operations. Someone supplies vehicles, safe houses, communications equipment and protection. Someone converts criminal proceeds into apparently legitimate wealth.

Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, recently warned that the fight against crime must extend beyond street gangs to wealthy and influential persons suspected of facilitating organised criminal activity. She alleged that drug and firearms networks operate from affluent communities and that businesses and financial intermediaries may be involved in moving and laundering criminal proceeds.

Haiti shows how gangs can become economic and territorial powers when criminal finance, political protection, illegal weapons and institutional weakness converge. Ecuador shows how ports, prisons and local gangs can be absorbed into international cocaine networks. Trinidad and Tobago shows that substantial national resources offer no immunity when firearms, narcotics, gangs and illicit finance reinforce one another.

Governments cannot end this crisis by pursuing only the gunmen. Every major investigation involving gangs, drugs, firearms or contract killings should include a parallel financial investigation. Authorities must identify the beneficial owners of companies, scrutinise suspicious transactions, strengthen tax and customs enforcement, freeze criminal assets and cooperate across borders.

At the same time, justice systems must be strengthened. Police need training and forensic resources. Prosecutors require manageable caseloads. Witnesses must be protected. Courts must dispose of cases promptly and explain their decisions clearly. Judges

must remain independent, but judicial independence cannot mean immunity from transparent standards of competence, integrity and accountability.

Crime is not separate from development. A society cannot achieve sustainable development when citizens are afraid, businesses are burdened by security costs, young people are recruited by gangs and courts cannot deliver timely justice.

The region must confront three connected failures: justice systems that do not deter offenders, illicit weapons that make crime more lethal, and financial systems that conceal the persons who organise and profit from it.

The gunman must be caught. But so must those who procured the weapon, financed the shipment, laundered the proceeds and corrupted the institutions that should have stopped them.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also Chancellor of the University of Guyana and current Chair of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development. The views expressed are his own.)



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25 Years After 9/11: The Professionals Who Stand Between the Threat and the Traveller

Recognizing the critical role of Aviation Security Officers at Antigua and Barbuda's airports

Part I



By Kurt Menal, CEO of the VC Bird International Airport

Twenty-five years ago, on 11 September 2001, the world witnessed an attack that fundamentally changed international civil aviation.

The events of 9/11 demonstrated, in the most devastating way possible, that the openness and accessibility that make aviation so valuable to the world can also create vulnerabilities that must be carefully managed. In the years that followed, aviation security underwent an unprecedented transformation. Governments strengthened legislation and regulation. Airports invested in technology and infrastructure. Airlines enhanced security procedures. International standards evolved.

But behind every security system, every screening machine, every access-control system and every security procedure, there is a person.

At Antigua and Barbuda's airports, these persons are our Aviation Security Officers.

The Aviation Security Officers employed by the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) occupy

one of the most important and highly specialized positions within the airport environment. They are the people who translate national and international aviation security requirements into action every day, every shift and for every passenger.

Their work is often most successful when the travelling public barely notices it.

That is precisely the point.

Aviation security is more than checking a passenger's bag

There is sometimes a perception that an Aviation Security Officer is simply someone who operates an X-ray machine or conducts passenger screening.

That perception significantly understates the profession.

Modern aviation security is a comprehensive, risk-based system designed to prevent acts of unlawful interference against civil aviation. It involves passenger and baggage screening, access control, airport security, surveillance, identification of potential threats, security of restricted areas, protection of aircraft and aviation facilities, response to security incidents and the application of carefully controlled procedures.

The Aviation Security Officer is an essential operational link in that system.

At the checkpoint, an officer must be able to interpret images, identify prohibited or suspicious items, understand screening procedures, communicate effectively with passengers, recognize unusual behaviour or circumstances, make appropriate decisions and know when an issue must be escalated.

The officer must do all of this while maintaining professionalism, courtesy, vigilance and consistency.

It is therefore not simply a job of searching people or property.

It is a profession built around judgement, observation, discipline, commu-

nication, technology, procedures and responsibility.

It is a profession built on international standards and neither does it exist in isolation.

Antigua and Barbuda's aviation security system operates within a broader international framework established through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), including the Standards and Recommended Practices contained in Annex 17—Security.

ICAO describes Annex 17 as the framework concerned with the security of international air transport and the prevention of acts of unlawful interference against civil aviation. The standards are continually reviewed and amended as threats, technology and aviation operations evolve.

One of the most important principles contained within that framework is that the people implementing aviation security measures must themselves be properly selected, trained, qualified and assessed.

ICAO Annex 17 requires States to ensure that personnel implementing security controls possess the competencies required for their duties and are appropriately trained in accordance with the National Civil Aviation Security Programme. It also requires persons carrying out screening operations to be certified in accordance with national requirements.

This is important because it changes how we should view the Aviation Security Officer.

The officer is not simply an airport employee assigned to a checkpoint.

The officer is a trained and qualified security professional operating within an internationally governed aviation security system.

The Colonial Mindset and Our Ocean: Why Antigua and Barbuda Must Think for Itself



By: Daven Joseph- Antigua and Barbuda

For more than 400 years, the Caribbean was told what to think. We were told what to grow, what to export, what to believe, and what was best for us. Political independence in the 1980s ended the flag of colonialism, but it did not end the colonialism of the mind.

That colonialism of the mind is alive today. It lives in the belief, too common in Antigua and Barbuda and across the Caribbean, that any idea coming from developed countries, from their universities, their NGOs, their media, must be superior to our own homegrown ideas, our own experiences, and our own aspirations for development.

Nowhere is this more dangerous than in how we see and use our ocean.

The Greatest Gift of Independence

In 1982, the same year Antigua and Barbuda joined the International Whaling Commission, we and the world signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. For the first time in our history, we were not a small island with no resources. We became a large ocean state.

Under UNCLOS, we gained an Exclusive Economic Zone of over 110,000 square kilometers. Our land is 440 square kilometers. Our ocean is 250 times bigger than our land. This ocean was not given to us by any foreign NGO. It was secured by the hard work of Caribbean statesmen like those from Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica who fought for the Law of the Sea.

For the first time, we had the legal right to shape the rules within our own waters based on our own experiences, our own culture, and our own aspirations for food security and livelihoods.

That is the promise of 1982. But 43 years later, we are allowing that promise to be hijacked.

We are allowing ourselves to be told, again, that others know what is best for our ocean.

The New Colonial Playbook

Today's colonialism does not come with gunboats. It comes with glossy reports, well-funded campaigns, and emotional advertising.

Certain well-funded international NGOs based in developed countries see our Caribbean Sea not as a source of food, jobs, and identity for coastal peoples, but as a playground for the rich and privileged. A blue wilderness to be preserved for their tourists, their documentaries, and their fundraising.

Their business model is simple. They need a cause that raises money in London, Washington and Berlin. What raises money better than saving the whale, saving the turtle, saving the reef? Not by working with us, but by telling their donors they are saving it FROM us.

And to do this, they use three old colonial tactics.

First: Deception and Misinformation

They tell our people that sustainable use is destructive use. They deliberate-

ly confuse conservation with preservation. Conservation, which is in the very name of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, means wise use. Preservation means non-use. We, as Caribbean people, have always been conservationists because our survival depended on it. We never needed to be taught conservation by outsiders.

They hide science that does not fit their fundraising. The Scientific Committee of the IWC, the best whale scientists in the world, have said clearly that many whale stocks have fully recovered. Humpbacks, Minke, Fin whales in many areas are abundant. But that science is never shared in their campaigns, because an abundant whale does not raise money.

Second: Manipulated Polling

They come to our islands with polls designed to get the answer they want. They ask our children in schools: Do you want to kill whales? No child will say yes. Then they publish a headline: 90% of Antiguan oppose whaling.

They never ask: Do you support the right of your country to decide how to manage all living marine resources in your EEZ based on science? Do you support food security for SIDS? Do you support the right of other cultures to sustainably use resources as we sustainably use fish? Do you support ecosystem-based management where we look at how many fish4 whales eat?

That is not polling. That is propaganda.

Third: Economic Blackmail and Political Flattery

This is the most insidious. They whisper to our politicians, to our hoteliers, to our tourism officials: If you support sustainable use in the IWC, we will call for a tourism boycott. We will tell the world your country kills whales, even though Antigua and Barbuda has never whaled and has no intention to whale.

And for those politicians who already

Feature

lean toward colonial thinking, they offer flattery. They fly them to conferences, give them Citations, call them heroes for the ocean. They make them feel that by adopting the values of developed countries, they are being progressive, international, enlightened. They call it international best practice.

It is not international best practice. It is their cultural practice being imposed on us.

Food Security Is Our Best Practice

For Antigua and Barbuda, food security is more important than any foreign NGO's fundraising strategy.

We import over 80% of what we eat. When COVID hit and supply chains shut down, our people understood what food security means. When hurricanes hit and ports close, we understand what it means.

Our ocean is our farm. And in our farm, there is an ecological reality that these NGOs refuse to discuss.

Whales consume enormous amounts of fish and other marine resources. A single large whale eats up to 2 tons a day. In the North Atlantic, marine mammals consume more fish than all fisheries combined. In the Caribbean, where our pelagic fish stocks are under pressure, we cannot afford to pretend that ecosystem relationships do not exist.

We are not saying we want to start whaling. We have said repeatedly we do not. What we are saying is that as a responsible member of the international community, we want decisions about marine resources to be based on ecosystem science, not emotion. We want the International Whaling Commission to return to its mandate of conservation through sustainable use, as written in 1946.

That is not radical. That is rational

And that rationality is protected by international law. UNCLOS Articles 56, 61 and 62 give coastal states the sovereign right and the duty to conserve and manage living resources in their EEZ and to determine the allowable catch based on best scientific evidence. The

right to use our resources sustainably is not a gift from an NGO. It is a right under international law fought for by our own Caribbean forefathers.

The Fear That Stifles Us

The ultimate goal of these tactics - deception, fake polling, economic threats, flattery - is to create fear. Fear in our ministries, fear in our Cabinet, fear in our people that if we think for ourselves, we will be punished.

This fear is the very essence of colonialism. Colonialism worked because it convinced the colonized that they were incapable of self-government, incapable of self-thought. That the master knew best.

When we accept that any decision from Geneva, London or Washington must take precedence over a decision made in St. John's, based on our own science, our own University of the West Indies research, our own fishermen's knowledge, we are accepting that colonial hierarchy all over again.

They call our desire for self-determination over our ocean anti-environment. It is not. No one loves our ocean more than we do. We live by it. We are buried looking over it. We do not need to be taught to love the ocean.

What we need is the mental freedom to develop our ocean space within the lens of our own development aspirations, not within the lens of those who see our ocean as their aquarium.

Reclaiming Our Mind

The fight at the IWC in Hobart this September for its 80th Anniversary is

not about whales. It is about who decides.

Will the Commission be reformed to base its decisions on science, as its own Convention requires? Will it fulfill the commitment made in 1982 to review the moratorium after a comprehensive assessment by 1990 - a commitment broken for 36 years? Will it respect the rights of coastal states and Small Island Developing States to food security and sustainable livelihoods?

Or will it continue as a preservation club, driven by fear and funding, where science is ignored and developing countries are told to be quiet and accept international best practice?

Antigua and Barbuda must stand up. Not for whaling, but for thinking. For the right to think for ourselves.

We must be PRO-CONSERVATION, because we must protect our resources.

We must be PRO-SCIENCE, because decisions must be based on evidence, not emotion.

We must be PRO-COOPERATION, because we believe in multilateralism and international law.

We must be PRO-FOOD SECURITY, because a nation that cannot feed itself is not truly independent.

That is decolonization of the mind. That is the true meaning of 1982.

The ocean that was returned to us must now be reclaimed in our minds.

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APPLICATION & INQUIRIES

Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority
investmentfacilitation@ab.gov.ag
1 (268) 468-4077

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2026
4:00 PM



The poster features a vibrant background image of three Antigua Carnival dancers in elaborate costumes with large, colorful feathered headdresses. The central dancer is a woman with a large, multi-colored feathered headdress, and the two men on either side are also in similar costumes. They are all smiling and appear to be in motion. The background is a mix of bright colors and abstract geometric shapes.

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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 ****

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PAHO expands access to HIV prevention drug

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says it is opening new avenues for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to access lenacapavir, a long-acting HIV prevention medicine aimed at curbing new infections across the region.

Under an agreement with Gilead Sciences, the drug will be made available through PAHO's Regional Revolving Funds, allowing 14 countries to procure the treatment.

"The agreement between Gilead and PAHO reflects our shared commitment to help countries move as quickly as possible from scientific innovation to real-world access to HIV prevention and public health impact," said Johanna Mercier, chief commercial and corporate affairs officer at Gilead Sciences.

"Strategic partnerships are essential to our ambition to help end the HIV epidemic. This agreement demonstrates how collaboration between governments, public health organisations and industry can expand access, accelerate implementation, and create the conditions for sustainable scale."

PAHO estimates that about 140,000 new HIV infections occur annually in Latin America and the Caribbean, underscoring the need for more effective and accessible prevention tools.

Lenacapavir is a long-acting injectable form of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) administered twice a year. In 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the drug as an additional HIV prevention option after clinical trials showed almost 100% efficacy in preventing infection. Its six-month dosing schedule offers an alternative for people who struggle to adhere to more frequent regimens.

Under the agreement, participating countries will be able to procure lenacapavir through PAHO's Regional Revolving Funds, subject to national regulatory approvals and programme



requirements.

The arrangement complements existing voluntary licensing agreements covering 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of a broader framework spanning 120 countries worldwide. Together, the mechanisms provide multiple routes for access to the medicine.

"Today, the Americas have increasingly effective tools to prevent HIV, but these innovations will have an impact only if they reach the people who need them," said PAHO Director Dr Jarbas Barbosa.

"This initiative is an important step toward reducing gaps in access to lenacapavir, expanding the prevention options available to countries and advancing efforts to end HIV as a public health problem," he added.

The Regional Revolving Funds pool demand among member states, helping countries secure medicines and health technologies more efficiently and on favourable terms.

PAHO said the introduction of lenacapavir into national HIV programmes would be gradual, depending on regulatory approvals, clinical protocols, health-worker training and programme planning.

The agency is providing technical support to help countries assess de-

mand, develop guidelines, strengthen monitoring systems and prepare health services for the drug's rollout. The aim is to ensure implementation is evidence-based and tailored to national needs.

The agreement forms part of PAHO's wider effort to accelerate access to new HIV prevention technologies while strengthening the region's ability to produce health technologies. It also aligns with the Alliance for the Elimination of HIV, a regional platform established under PAHO's Disease Elimination Initiative.

PAHO said lenacapavir joins a growing range of HIV prevention options, including daily and event-driven oral PrEP, long-acting cabotegravir and condoms, alongside early diagnosis and prompt access to antiretroviral treatment. Offering a broader menu of prevention tools, the agency said, can better address differing needs and preferences while supporting more person-centred approaches to care.

"Expanding access to effective prevention, diagnostic and treatment tools, and ensuring they reach everyone who needs them, will remain essential to reducing new HIV infections and advancing toward the goal of ending HIV as a public health problem by 2030," PAHO added. (CMC)

Haitians return to school under shadow of gang violence

When UNICEF's Representative in Haiti Geetanjali Narayan stepped into a classroom in Port-au-Prince at the start of the new school year, she asked the children a simple question: What did they most need from the UN children's agency?

"Madame, please, can you stop the armed groups? Can you stop what the gangs are doing to us?" a child responded.

Her plea captured the reality confronting children across Haiti, where violence has disrupted schools, upended families and made even the simple act of going to class an act of courage.

As children around the world head back to school, the start of the year in Haiti unfolds once again under the shadow of insecurity, displacement and hardship. Children must cross gang-controlled zones to reach school, risking crossfire and forced recruitment.

Yet in a country battered by gang violence, school also remains a space of hope — where children can learn, reunite with their classmates and, despite everything, begin to imagine their future.

For Etzer, a father of four, internally displaced and an advocate for the rights of displaced people, returning to class means far more than simply going back to school.

After fleeing their neighbourhood because of gang violence, many displaced children are reuniting with friends and rebuilding a social life brutally cut short by the crisis.

"Schooling is like therapy for these children," he says. But in many areas, learning conditions remain extremely difficult.

Jasmide, mother of seven-year-old Woodayline, is glad classes are reopening. But behind that hope lies the hardships facing many families: hunger, unemployment, insecurity, and the cost of schooling, which weighs particularly heavily on those who depend on private institutions.

"We Haitian parents are in favour of classes reopening but not under the sub-human conditions being imposed



on us," she said.

Those concerns are widely shared among displaced families and communities scared by violence. Everywhere, Narayan said, she hears the same plea: to see children going to school safely.

"Above all, we want safety and continuity of education," she added.

The scale of the crisis is staggering. The United Nations Children's Fund's latest figures, for the 2024–2025 school year, show that more than 1,600 schools were affected by insecurity — disrupting the schooling of over 240,000 children and the work of some 7,500 teachers.

Woodayline and Etzer's four children are among the many for whom a classroom is no longer a given.

In Port-au-Prince, where up to 90 per cent of the capital is under gang control, some schools have closed, become inaccessible or been destroyed. Others now shelter families with nowhere else to go.

For many children, the danger begins before they even reach the classroom.

"Just yesterday, two young girls were kidnapped on their way to school. It was the day after the school year began," Narayan recounted.

Such incidents cause "enormous fear and anxiety" among families, she explained, to the point that some parents now hesitate to let their children travel alone.

And the fear does not vanish once students are seated in class. A child who

has been displaced or exposed to violence can hardly concentrate the way they used to. The teachers themselves may have fled their own neighbourhoods or may no longer be able to reach their schools.

In response, UNICEF is helping more than 174,000 children this year across the country's West, Greater North and Greater South regions.

The work ranges from distributing school supplies and helping children enrol to creating safe learning spaces, providing psychosocial support, training teachers to recognise and respond to signs of trauma, and rehabilitating damaged schools.

It also runs remedial classes and accelerated learning programmes for children who have been out of school for months, or even years — a bridge back into the formal system. That support flows through the Ministry of National Education and targets the country's public schools.

At the launch of the school year, Narayan said he was struck by the students' enthusiasm. "They were so happy to be there."

Because despite everything, Haitian families and their children hold onto an aspiration that is as ordinary as it is defiant: to go to school, to learn, to find their friends again, and to imagine a future for themselves. (CMC)

Regional News

Bouncing back fast: Hurricane Melissa recovery 18 months ahead of schedule, says finance minister



CITING data that shows Jamaica 18 months ahead of schedule in recovering from the destruction Hurricane Melissa unleashed on several parishes last year, Finance Minister Fayval Williams on Wednesday painted a rosy picture of the country's economy.

She acknowledged, however, that "not everybody is feeling it just yet", a nod to critics who have argued that the pace of the recovery and rebuilding is much too slow.

During her upbeat PowerPoint presentation at Wednesday's post-Cabinet news briefing the minister reeled off data to support her claims.

"When I look at this chart, I see quarters that are becoming less negative and that is a good sign," Williams stated.

"And, no, this is not a picture of a re-

cession. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) already debunked that notion," she added.

Williams highlighted that in the quarter following the hurricane, the economy contracted 7.1 per cent, then 4.1 per cent in the next quarter and just 2.9 per cent in the quarter, after that. She said the 2.9 per cent projection should be finalised by the

Statistical Institute of Jamaica (Statin) by the end of September.

The finance minister argued that the shrinking year-on-year numbers are themselves proof that the economy is recovering. She argued further that "an economy in decline produces deepening figures, not improving ones".

Williams urged Jamaicans to remember that immediately after the hurricane, PIOJ projected that the country would not get back to its pre-Melissa level of output until the last quarter of 2028. She noted that the PIOJ now expects that the economy will begin to see growth by the second quarter of 2027 — "six quarters earlier, a year-and-a-half earlier". According to her, the PIOJ "has been able to revise their forecast because the out-turn keeps getting better".

The finance minister highlighted that where it was projected that the fiscal deficit would have been 3.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) immediately after the hurricane, it instead came in at 2.5 per cent. At the same time the primary surplus was projected to be 1.3 per cent but came in at 2.3 per cent, while public debt-to-GDP was projected to rise to 68.9 per cent but came in at 65.6 per cent.

Regarding the public debt-to-GDP

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Regional News

number, Williams said, “That number matters, it is not a one-off, it’s because we had stronger nominal GDP, the economy itself is bigger than we assumed, and that is the kind of improvement that will persist.”

She also pointed to the positions taken by the big three international ratings agencies with Moody’s upgrading its assessment of Jamaica just seven weeks after the hurricane, which it described as a “temporary setback”. Standard & Poor’s held its rating for Jamaica in December 2025 and moved the outlook to stable, while Fitch affirmed its BB-rating for Jamaica in February 2026 with a stable outlook.

Williams also pointed out that while unemployment rose from 3.3 per cent to 3.7 per cent following the hurricane, it remained at record lows. She acknowledged that unemployment in the hardest-hit parishes was higher.

“I want to assure them that the Government continues to work night and day to restore the west — to restore roads, water, housing, all the services, employment, schools and so on,” she said.

Williams also noted that the response from the Diaspora helped to stabilise the economy, as is evidenced in the record level of remittances that were sent to Jamaica in the aftermath of the hurricane. A breakdown of the numbers shows that, in November, the Diaspora sent remittances totalling US\$273 million, up 16 per cent. December saw a record US\$296 million being sent. The figure was up 16.3 per cent for the month. Of note is that all of the hardest-hit parishes received more in remittances than before the hurricane.

In the first three months after the storm, Jamaicans abroad sent home US\$93 million more than they sent in the same three months a year earlier.

On the matter of inflation, the finance minister insisted that, while it was expected that food prices “would

run away” following the devastating hurricane, they did not. She pointed out that inflation moved to 2.9 per cent in October 2025, 4.4 per cent in November 2025, and 4.5 per cent in December 2025 — all within the target range for the Bank of Jamaica. This, she said, was because agricultural production recovered faster than expected.

“Because of that, the price shock was contained,” the minister remarked.

However, Williams acknowledged that by July 2026 the picture had changed completely, with headline inflation surging to 7.5 per cent —

the driver being the transportation division, which was up 13.6 per cent. She said based on figures released by Statin on Tuesday, whereas transportation had pushed up inflation in July, it was higher food prices, as a result of the ongoing drought, which drove inflation in August.

While transportation is still a factor, the finance minister said the August inflation number is directly attributable to the upheaval in international markets, driven by the United States war on Iran which has pushed up oil prices since February. (Jamaica Observer)

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENCING MAGISTRATE
Magistrate’s Court
Gray’s Farm
St. John’s
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIOER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS

“BAHARI CLUB LIMITED”

I, DIANA FESTINI CROMER, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street, St. John’s Antigua on Monday 5th October, 2026 next ensuing for a (tavern/bottle) licence in respect of premises known as “BAHARI CLUB LIMITED” situated LONG BAY, in the parish of St. Phillip’s, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (3) of the Licencing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.
Dated the 7th day of September, 2026

.....
DIANA FESTINI CROMER
(268) 714-3222

Frozen body of baby found in city bin

A newborn infant was found dead inside a garbage container at a waste disposal site at Orange Walk, Bourda, Wednesday afternoon.

The discovery was made around mid-afternoon when an unidentified vagrant searching through the refuse stumbled upon the remains and immediately raised an alarm to nearby sanitation personnel.

Ackeem Austin, a Mayor and City Council (MCC) worker stationed at the site for the past six months, reported that the situation unfolded rapidly after the vagrant alerted workers on duty.

“A couple of hours ago, a man came to tumble the bin,” Austin stated. The man said, “You all come, you all come and see what’s going on,” and when we went, we saw a just-born baby.”

According to Austin, workers were informed that the specific waste bin containing the infant had originated from the vicinity of Merriman Mall before being transported to the Orange Walk location.

Asquith Smith, an employee with private waste management firm Puran Bros. Disposal Inc., confirmed the sequence of events, clarifying that the bin had been brought in for emptying prior to the discovery.

“The man was just tumbling the bin... he saw what was going on,” Smith recounted. “When he got there, he saw there was a baby inside.”

At the time of the discovery, offloading and processing operations at the site were temporarily stalled due to an ongoing localised power outage (“blackout”), leaving the bins stationary when the vagrant began searching through them.

Officers from the Guyana Police Force were called to the scene shortly after the discovery to secure the area, process the evidence, and initiate investigations. Police have not yet re-



leased official details regarding the News) child’s sex or cause of death. (Kaieteur

NOTICE

**TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
MAGISTRATE COURT
HIGH STREET
ST. JOHN’S
ANTIGUA**

**TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
POLICE HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN ROAD
ST. JOHN’S
ANTIGUA**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENSE BUSINESS REGISTERED AS “BIGGIE MINI MART”

I, Fabian Biggs, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street, St. John’s Antigua on Monday 5th October 2026 next ensuing for a Retail License in respect of premises known as BIGGIE MINI MART situated at East Bus Station, in the parish of St. John, Antigua pursuant to section (11)(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

**Dated 5th October, 2026
Fabian Biggs**

Fiji declares national HIV emergency and extends testing programme as cases surge

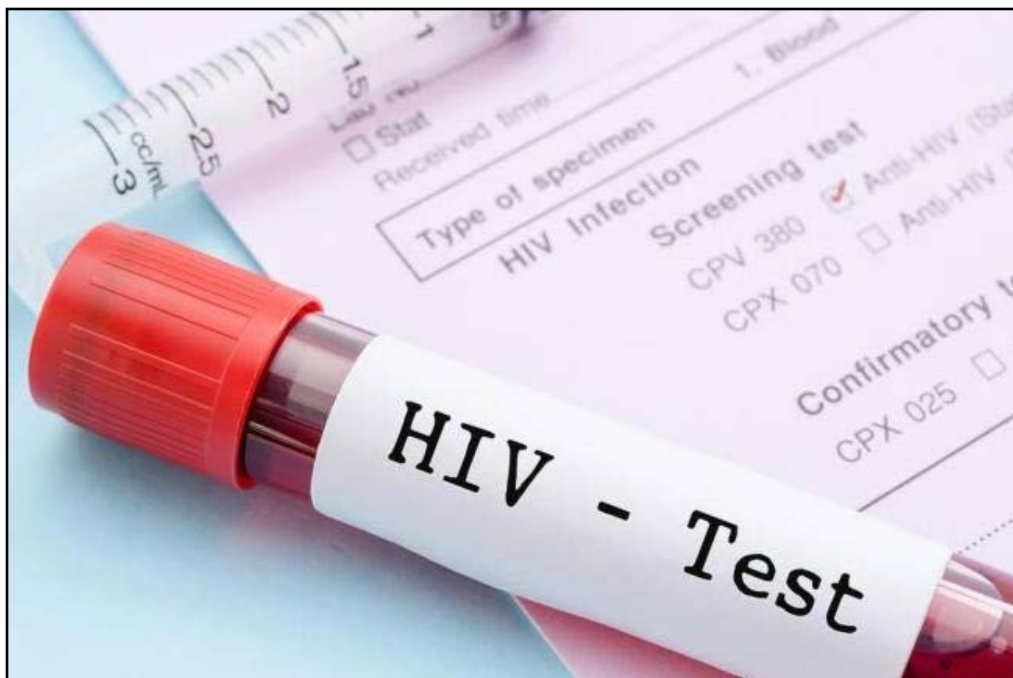
Fiji has declared an HIV national emergency after data showed one in 60 people in the South Pacific island nation is now estimated to have the virus.

The country says it is boosting testing and treatment efforts to fight a surge in new infections, which have increased 12-fold over the last 15 years, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV and Aids (UNAIDS).

Latest figures showed there was about 9,000 people living with HIV in 2025 in a country which has less than a million people, according to the UN agency. It said only 39% of patients knew their HIV status and just 22% were receiving antiretroviral treatment.

Fiji said that one in every 60 adults in the country has HIV, compared with one in 167 five years ago.

“This means HIV is now a national crisis — and the government is treating it like one. No more busi-



ness as usual,” Fiji’s Health Minister Antonio Lalabalavu said in a video statement on Facebook.

“More people in Fiji are living with HIV than ever before.”

The government said it was finding more cases because its testing efforts are reaching more people.

It will provide more free testing, clean needles for drug users and free treatment for people who test positive.

“This is about protecting people — not judging them, not watching them, not shaming them,” the statement said. (AP)

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Ninth woman found dead in South Africa killing spree

South African police on Thursday recovered the body of a ninth woman east of Johannesburg in two months, as a string of murders continues to stoke public anxiety.

The country has one of the world's highest homicide rates but the discovery of the women's bodies, partially naked and battered, has raised fears that a serial killer or group of killers may be operating in the area.

Police have imposed a lockdown in Kempton Park in the Ekurhuleni municipality and officers mounted roadblocks after three of the bodies were found this week.

A police cordon stretched along the roadside where the latest victim was discovered, drawing clusters of residents who stood watching as investigators combed the scene.

"We cannot continue picking up bodies," deputy police chief Tebelo Mosikili told journalists at the scene.

The killings have left residents shaken.

"This is very scary... because you can say us as woman and children are no longer safe," said Patience Masa.

"I told someone on the phone that, I don't feel safe, for this to happen in the morning, so we are not safe," said another resident Zanele Vilakazi.

Police have offered a 400,000 rand (\$25,000) reward for any information that could lead to the arrest of the killer or killers, while the Democratic Alliance, the second largest political party in South Africa offered \$31,000.

Mosikili said offices will investigate whether the Thursday discov-



ery was linked to the earlier murders or if they were dealing with a copycat.

Gender-based violence is endemic in South Africa, where one in three women experiences physical or sexual violence during her lifetime, according to the United Nations, despite years of government pledges to tackle it.

One of the victims, 38-year-old Elizabeth Moselakgomo, left her eight-year-old daughter at home to go for a jog and never returned. Her body was found on September 12 behind a hotel.

Her disappearance drew public attention after fellow runners launched a social media campaign to find her, bringing renewed focus to earlier cases and, later, to the discovery of more bodies.

The first victim, a 37-year-old woman, was found naked and bound with cable ties on July 15. A suspect was arrested two days later and appeared in court on Wednesday, police said.

Mosikili said the man was a for-

eigner but could not say from where.

The second woman, 32, was found partially clothed on August 24, while a third was discovered naked and in an advanced state of decomposition on September 10.

Provincial premier Panyaza Lesufi on Thursday said "someone has declared war against us, and we will push back, we are not going to surrender".

President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday said "no stone will be left unturned" to solve the killings, acknowledging "these incidents are causing fear and uncertainty in our communities, and especially among women".

The killings have drawn condemnation from civil society and sporting bodies as calls grow for action on gender-based violence, which South Africa has declared a national emergency.

South Africa, a nation of 62 million people, has some of the highest rates of violence against women and children in the world, according to UN Women. (AFP)

King Charles disputes claims in book by Princess Diana's brother



Britain's King Charles III has taken the rare step of hitting back at criticism after Princess Diana's brother alleged that the monarch acted insensitively following her death in a car crash three decades ago.

The war of words between the king — who was married to Diana for 15 years — and Charles Spencer featured on the front pages of several UK newspapers on Thursday.

Buckingham Palace issued an unusually strong statement after Spencer claimed in his new memoir that days after Diana died in 1997 the future king said to him: "Rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough."

A palace spokesperson said late Wednesday they do not normally comment on books, before adding: "His Majesty is mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgement and colour memory in ways others do not recognise, even many years after such a loss."

Spencer's book, titled "Swan Song: Diana, My Sister" and set to be published next week, has been serialised

in the Daily Mail newspaper.

In excerpts released so far, Spencer claims Charles subjected him to a "stream of anger" after he insisted Diana would not have wanted her sons, princes William and Harry, then aged 15 and 12, to walk in her funeral procession.

"He unleashed down the phone what I have always taken to be his pent-up contempt for Diana, and his horror that the world was so bowled over by her death. 'Rest assured', he hissed, 'we'll forget her soon enough!'," Spencer writes.

Diana, who was hugely popular in the UK, died in Paris aged 36 after the car she was travelling in crashed as it tried to get away from paparazzi photographers.

Her death sparked an outpouring of grief in Britain and led to accusations that the monarchy failed to show the appropriate empathy.

Both heir-to-the-throne William and his brother Harry, who quit royal duties in 2020 but has just returned

to Britain, have spoken previously about how difficult it was to walk behind her coffin.

Julian Payne, who was communications secretary to Charles on the 20th anniversary of Diana's death in 2017, said he found it hard to believe his former boss had said what Spencer alleges.

"It's just not language that I recognise," he told the BBC.

Royal watchers said Buckingham Palace's quick response to Spencer's allegation hinted at the anger felt within the monarchy at the claim.

"Sometimes the palace have to weigh up whether or not they want to just leave things and adopt the never complain, never explain mantra," Sunday Times royal editor Roya Nikkhah told the BBC.

"But I don't think that would have washed in this scenario."

"It's too big a claim. And they know with the serialisation there are days more of this kind of stuff coming and so they'll be braced."

UK media also likened the language in the palace's statement to the late queen Elizabeth II's response in 2021 to claims of racism in the royal family from Harry and his wife Meghan.

The queen said that "some recollections may vary".

Charles and Diana's tumultuous marriage between 1981 and 1996 was regularly featured in British newspapers, and continues to fascinate.

Diana's famous "revenge dress" that she wore on the evening in 1994 that Charles made a public admission of adultery is to be auctioned in New York in December. (AFP)

Saudis pound Yemen, Houthis fire at Saudi, as Middle East war spreads



Saudi warplanes pounded Yemen and Houthi fighters launched drones and missiles at Saudi cities, the Iran-backed movement said on Wednesday, after a lightning advance that has extended Tehran's reach in the Middle East war.

In a sign of the worsening conflict in a new theatre, the United States tightened its travel warning for Saudi Arabia, banning government employees from travelling within 20 miles of the Yemen border.

The Houthis, who since last week have swept through Yemeni towns along the Red Sea coast and seized islands in the Bab el-Mandeb strait at its mouth, released battlefield video overnight of fighters seizing armoured vehicles from Saudi-backed forces. Warplanes flew overhead and huge explosions billowed into the sky from desert dunes, the video showed.

Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group had launched fresh drone and missile strikes on the major Saudi Red Sea oil port of Yanbu, and at a southern Saudi airbase at Khamis Mushait. He did not say when the strikes had taken place. Both cities were among a wide range of locations where Saudi Arabia announced alerts

on Tuesday, although there were no similar announcements on Wednesday.

Saudi officials and oil company Aramco did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Earlier, Saree said the Houthis had also shot down a Saudi F-15 fighter jet. No immediate evidence was presented of that incident.

Saree said the Saudis had carried out as many as 450 air strikes on Yemen this week. Officials in the Saudi-backed government that controls southern Yemen have acknowledged that their forces and those of Saudi Arabia were conducting air strikes on Houthi positions, though Riyadh itself has not confirmed them.

The Houthis have fired repeatedly into Saudi Arabia over the past week causing alarms over cities in the south

and west. An attack blamed on Iran-aligned fighters in Iraq last week also knocked out Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline, the main route used to divert oil exports from the blockaded Strait of Hormuz.

Riyadh said its air defences had shot down a Houthi drone south of Mecca on Tuesday before it entered prohibited airspace over the holy city, an attack it said crossed a "red line" of threatening shrines sacred to all Muslims. Houthi spokesperson Saree denied the group had targeted Mecca, and the Saudi reports were a set-up for propaganda purposes.

Sources told Reuters that U.S. officials had held a meeting with the Houthis over the weekend in Oman, at which the group said it had no intention of attacking American vessels and

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was committed to a ceasefire reached with the U.S. last year.

The extension of the war into Yemen threatens to worsen the global energy supply shortage caused by the six-month-old U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, which has disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

The price of Brent crude hovered around \$108 a barrel on Wednesday, close to its highest levels since May. The politically sensitive average retail price of diesel fuel in the United States hit another all-time high above \$6.30 a gallon for the first time.

Traders say a prolonged closure of Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline could cut off as much as 4% of global oil supply. Saudi Arabia has not said when operations might resume, but U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright told CNBC on Tuesday that crude oil should be flowing through the pipeline within days.

Saudi Arabia has led a coalition battling the Houthis since 2015. The conflict had largely quietened under a ceasefire in recent years, but reignited when the Houthis declared a naval blockade against Saudi Arabia in July and fired at southern areas in the kingdom. Violence has intensified sharply this month when the militant group pushed back forces aligned with the Saudi-backed internationally recognised Yemeni government.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman phoned U.S. President Donald Trump last week seeking military support, which so far has been limited to intelligence aid.

The United States bombed the Houthis for two months in 2025, but halted that campaign after reaching what President Donald Trump described as a ceasefire that would halt attacks on ships.

Trump now faces a dilemma of whether to stand by and risk the Houthi advance worsening the global energy crisis, or provide more direct military support to the Saudis and risk extending the costly U.S. intervention to another theatre. (Reuters)



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Sports News

APUA Telecoms win again in defense of business league title

APUA Telecoms maintained their winning start in defense of their title in the 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship during the latest round of matches.

APUA Telecoms claimed their second successive win with a 3-1 victory against West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) Oilers in their Group 2 clash at the Radio Range playing field. It was the second loss for WIOC Oilers, who suffered a 3-1 defeat to the Galley Bay Ballers in their opening Group 2 affair.

The Galley Bay Ballers made it two wins in a row by snatching a 1-0 victory over Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) at Radio Range. It was the first outing for SVRS after their opening Group 2 match against Sandals was postponed.

Last year's third-place finishers Sandals were awarded their first win via a 3-0 victory by default against National Housing Development (NHD) Legends, who failed to show up for their Group 2 match at Golden Grove.

The 2024 champions, Hermitage Bay Strikers, which finished third last year, were held to a 2-2 draw by Public Works Department (PWD) FC in their second Group 4 encounter at the Fort Road playing field.

Roy Gregory and Barrington Blake scored for Hermitage Bay Strikers, while Chayanne Isaac and Tikwan Matthew converted for PWD FC.

The Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) notched up their second straight win with a 3-1 victory over Cocos Hotel in their Group 4 encounter at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park. It was the second successive loss for Cocos Hotel after suffering a 2-1 defeat to Jack Idle in their opening match.

The Royalton Chic Hotel rebounded from a 6-0 drubbing from the Her-



Roy Gregory of Hermitage Bay Strikers

mitage Bay Strikers in their opening Group 4 encounter to snatch a 2-1 victory against KOSCAB Powerade FC at Fort Road.

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) and the Department of Immigration claimed their second wins in Group 3 at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The ABAA surged to a 6-1 victory over the Jolly Harbour Stingers, who were playing their first match after their opening encounter with National Housing Development (NHD) Full Experience was postponed.

The Department of Immigration prevailed 2-1 over Public Works Asphalt, who lost for the second time after crashing to a 3-0 defeat to the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority in their opening match.

The Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors launched their campaign in Group 3 by pulling off a 1-0 victory over National Housing Development (NHD) Full Experience at the Fort Road playing field.

After suffering a 2-1 loss to Keyonna Beach Hotel in their opening match, the University of the West Indies (UWI) Frigate Bird FC rebounded to claim their first win by snatching a 1-0 victory over Blue Waters Hotel in their Group 1 affair at Golden Grove.

It was the first defeat for the Blue Waters Hotel after snatching a 3-2 victory against the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) in their opening match.

Jumby Bay Resort and National Housing Development (NHD) Demolition Squad played to a draw in successive Group 1 matches.

After battling to a nil-nil stalemate with the NHD Demolition Squad in their opening match, the Jumby Bay Resort was held to a goalless draw by the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) at Golden Grove.

The NHD Demolition Squad and the Postal Services played to a goalless draw in their Group 1 affair at Radio Range. It was the first outing for Postal Services in this year's tournament.

Kingsmen beat Tridents to keep hopes of CPL crown alive



Opener Maaz Sadaqat celebrates after reaching his century against the Barbados Tridents in the CPL Eliminator at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. (CPLT20)

Opener Maaz Sadaqat hits a century as the Jamaica Kingsmen produced their best performance of the season in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) Eliminator with a commanding nine-wicket victory over the Barbados Tridents at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Wednesday night.

Sadaqat became the youngest centurion in CPL history at 21 years old as he produced a stunning 112 to lead the Jamaica Kingsmen to victory at 145 for one in 14.1 overs after restricting the Barbados Tridents to 144 for six off their 20 overs.

Sadat shared a 138-run opening partnership with Kirk McKenzie, who struck 22 not out as the Kingsmen steamrolled their way to Qualifier 2.

Quinton de Kock and captain Chris Green both hit half centuries in a

sixth-wicket stand of 114 runs to rescue the Tridents from a dismal start after being sent in to bat.

De Kock hit a topscore of 71 off 49 balls, including five runs and two sixes, while Green struck 57 not out from 44 balls, with five fours and a six. Veteran all-rounder Andre Russell captured two for 36.

The Tridents made a bad start, losing Brandon King and Kevlon Anderson for ducks in the first two overs. The Trident were two for two after three overs and lost two more wickets by the end of the first six.

They were left reeling at 24 for four with the dismissal of opener Zachary Carter for three and Shadrack Descarte for a duck. The Tridents plunged into further trouble when Sherfane Rutherford was bowled by pacer Saim Ayub for six.

But de Kock and Captain Green

combined to add some respectability to the Tridents' eventual total.

Together, they scored 95 runs in the back half of the innings, with de Kock getting himself run out off the last ball.

However, the Tridents' total was not enough, as the opening pair of Maaz Sadaqat and Kirk McKenzie then propelled the Kingsmen to victory.

Sadaqat dominated the early rotation of strike and made good use of it, powering the Kingsmen to 79 without loss at the end of the PowerPlay.

He continued to dominate the strike and motored to his first CPL half century this season in just 22 balls. Sadaqat's strike rate remained immaculate as he reached his first ever T20 century in 44 balls.

He wasn't able to finish the job off as Daniel Sams finally forced a mistake, as Sadaqat skied a slower ball that allowed the bowler to take the catch.

Sadaqat departed with the Kingsmen needing one run to win with 35 balls remaining; a wide from Kevlon Anderson put the Tridents out of the competition.

The Kingsmen will move on to Qualifier 2 at the same venue on Friday, where they will face the loser of Qualifier 1 between top-seed, the Amazon Warriors, and the second-seed Antigua and Barbuda Falcons for a place in Sunday's final at the Kensington Oval.

Bravo and Bishop inducted into CPL Hall of Fame



Dwayne Bravo, left, accepts the Sir Garry Sobers Award on being inducted into the CPL Hall of Fame at a gala dinner at the Hilton Barbados on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. (CPLT20)

The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) confirmed its inaugural Hall of Fame class on Tuesday 15 September, inducting Dwayne Bravo and Ian Bishop at a gala dinner held at the Hilton Barbados.

Bravo received the newly created Sir Garry Sobers Award as the tournament's first playing inductee, presented by Daniel Sobers on behalf of the Sobers family.

The Sir Garry Sobers Award, the centrepiece honour of the CPL Hall of Fame, is named for the West Indies icon widely regarded as the finest all-rounder the game has produced, with the Sobers family granting CPL permission to attach his name to the trophy.

Bravo, one of the most decorated per-

formers in CPL history, retires from playing with 129 wickets to his name and five titles as a player with Trinidad Knight Riders, adding a sixth as head coach in 2025.

Bishop was inducted in the non-playing category, recognising a broadcasting career that has been part of the CPL story since the tournament's launch in 2013.

His commentary has helped bring the "Biggest Party in Sports" to fans across the Caribbean and around the world, and Tuesday's honour reflected his standing as one of the game's most respected voices.

Pete Russell, CEO, Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), said, "Dwayne and Ian represent everything this Hall of Fame was created

to celebrate.

"Their contribution to this competition, on the field and behind the microphone, has helped build CPL into the phenomenon it is today, and it was a privilege to welcome them into this inaugural class."

Tuesday's gala also supported the Sir Clive Lloyd Healthcare Foundation's prostate cancer awareness initiatives, with two new names to be added to the CPL Hall of Fame each year going forward.

As Republic Bank CPL continues to grow and expand its footprint across the region, the Hall of Fame stands as a lasting tribute to the players and personalities who have shaped one of the world's premier T20 leagues.

The boos have started at Man United after another troubled start to the season



Manchester United's head coach Michael Carrick, right, leaves the field after the English League Cup third round soccer match between Manchester United and Brighton and Hove Albion in Manchester, England, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — The boos that rang round Old Trafford on Wednesday have become a familiar sound in recent times.

For Michael Carrick, however, it is a new experience after a whirlwind start at Manchester United, which saw him inject a new sense of optimism into the club on the wave of high profile wins and a return to the Champions League.

So impressive was Carrick's tenure as stand-in coach when stepping into the shoes of the fired Ruben Amorim last season that he was rewarded with a long-term contract and the opportunity to bring the good times back to a club that has been in decline for more than a decade.

Things feel anything but good at United right now after a troubled start to the campaign, which has seen

it lose three of its opening six games and crash out of the English League Cup.

Add to that the news that its most exciting academy prospect has asked to leave, while fans have launched fresh protests against the ownership.

Then there was the error by VAR officials, which cost United the match against fierce rival Manchester City last week.

Going into the first international break of the season, the pressure is already mounting on Carrick ahead of Sunday's Premier League clash with winless Fulham.

"When we win, people say I'm doing a good job. If we don't win or don't get results, then a lot of it is on me. I accept that. I'm not hiding away from any of that," Carrick said.

As a player, Carrick knew almost

nothing but success as part of club icon Alex Ferguson's last great squad, winning the Champions League in 2008 and a full set of domestic trophies.

He was beloved by fans, but that will only go so far if he is unable to turn performances around.

Carrick is the seventh permanent manager since the retirement of Ferguson in 2013 and follows in the footsteps of top-tier names like Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho, who failed to return United to the summit of English soccer.

United has not won the Premier League title since Ferguson's final season and Carrick's team is already eight points adrift of leaders Arsenal and City going into the next round of games.

There is no suggestion that his position is under threat, but Carrick is fully aware of the expectations at a club that is desperate to return to the top.

"It feels bad at the moment because we haven't had a great week, or two or three weeks, but that doesn't mean you can't win another game of football quickly," he said.

"The players have shown before what they're capable of doing, and we have as a group. It doesn't count for much, it's always about what happens next. That's the ultimate challenge.

"We've certainly got to deal with this moment in a good way."

ABSCA honours teams and individuals in T20 awards ceremony

Teams and individuals were recognized for their outstanding performances in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5 FM and Chet Greene T20 Championships in an awards ceremony, which was held recently.

Among the recipients were men's team champions Rackaman Construction Strictly Business as well as Alzarri and Sharon Joseph, North Sails Antigua Female Flyers, winners of the women's team title in ABSCA T20 Championships.

Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js and Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors were also rewarded for capturing the runners-up positions in the men's and women's T20 tournaments, respectively.

Kerry Mentore of Strictly Business captured the Player of the Final Award in the men's T20 tournament. Mentore scored 31 runs and picked up four wickets against Buckley's 3Js.

Vonetta Bachelor of Female Flyers claimed the Player of the Final Award in the women's competition. Bachelor scored 30 runs and took five wickets against Survivors.

Kenrick Scott of Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js won the overall Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award in the men's competition, while Sacha Michael of Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors captured the MVP award in the women's competition.

Scott batted not out three times in scoring a total of 249 runs and took eight catches and three wickets in six matches. Michael batted not out twice in scoring a total of 172 runs and claimed seven catches and six wickets in five matches.

Scott also received the award for scoring the most runs (249) in the men's tournament, while Makada Hector of Female Flyers claimed the award for the most runs in the women's competition



President of the ABSCA Mandy Weatherhead and the six children whose parents play in the national domestic softball competitions. (Photos courtesy of the ABSCA)

with an aggregate of 178 runs.

Scott won the accolade for the highest individual score in the men's contest. He hammered 133 in a match-winning performance for Buckley's 3Js against PMS.

Grace Persaud of Survivors took home the award for the highest individual score in the women's competition. She slammed 109 against the Potters Uprising Cricket Team.

Rodney Williams of Buckley's 3Js captured the award for the most wickets with 13 scalps in the men's competition.

However, three players shared the award for the most wickets by capturing six wickets each. They are Monique Titus of Female Flyers and Sacha Michael and Desiree Welch of Survivors.

Charanlall Ramjohn of Buckley's 3Js claimed the award for the best bowling figures in the men's tournament, capturing three wickets for five runs in four



Buckley's 3Js all-rounder Steve Martin, left, pose with his cabinet gift and ABSCA President Mandy Weatherhead during the awards ceremony.

overs.

Kimberly Anthony of Survivors won the award for the best bowling figures in the women's competition, picking up three wickets for 12 runs in four overs.

Several special awards were presented by President of the ABSCA Mandy Weatherhead, who is a professional builder and tradesman.

Weatherhead presented Steven Martin of Buckley's 3Js and Sacha Michael of Survivors with cabinets, which he built, as rewards for being named the most influential player in the men's and women's competitions, respectively.

Weatherhead also honoured six children whose parents play in the ABSCA softball competitions.

Six-year-old Yeshayah Viville of Mix-Up Stars and Jeniece Russell of Survivors were also recognized by Weatherhead as the youngest male and female players, respectively, that participated in the ABSCA T20 competitions.