

Antigua and Barbuda and Octopus Energy Initial Energy Deal

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**Expansion at the Ffryes Reverse Osmosis Plant
Officially Handed Over**

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda and Octopus Energy Initial Energy Deal



The Right Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and Zoisa North-Bond, CEO of Octopus Energy Generation, signing the Memorandum of Understanding / Credit: Octopus Energy

ages a large-scale VPP network connecting and optimising nearly 500,000 devices, with a combined capacity equivalent to approximately three nuclear power stations.

The partnership supports Antigua and Barbuda's ambition to generate 86% of its electricity from renewable sources and ensure that all new cars sold are electric by 2030.* For Antigua and Barbuda, the energy transition carries particular significance. Like many small island developing states, the country remains highly exposed to the effects of climate change while simultaneously depending heavily on imported fossil fuels. Expanding locally generated renewable energy therefore offers an

Octopus Energy and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda are joining forces to explore ways of making energy cheaper, cleaner and more secure for the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Announced at the Global Citizen NOW: Impact Session during New York Climate Week, the partnership will explore how solar, batteries, EVs and smarter, flexible demand can work together to reduce the country's reliance on expensive imported fossil fuels, lower energy costs and strengthen the resilience of the national electricity grid.

The initiative brings together the Government's renewable energy ambitions and Octopus Energy's experience in smart energy tech, including Virtual Power Plants (VPPs). VPPs connect technologies such as electric vehicles, solar panels and home batteries, allowing them to operate collectively to support the electricity grid and potentially reduce costs for consumers. Octopus Energy currently man-

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opportunity to address both energy security and climate vulnerability. The Right Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, said: “For Small Island Developing States such as Antigua and Barbuda, the transition to renewable energy is both an environmental imperative and an economic necessity. Our continued dependence on imported fossil fuels exposes our people and businesses to high and volatile energy costs, while climate change poses an existential threat to our development.”

This partnership with Octopus Energy gives us an opportunity to explore practical solutions that combine renewable energy, electric mobility, battery storage and smart technology to lower energy costs, strengthen the resilience of our electricity grid and reduce our dependence on imported fuels.

“Antigua and Barbuda has set an ambitious course towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future. We welcome partnerships that bring innovation, investment and proven technology to help translate that ambition into measurable benefits for our citizens. Our objective is clear: to build a modern, resilient

and increasingly renewable energy system that delivers cleaner and more affordable power while demonstrating that small island states can lead the global energy transition. “The energy transition must ultimately improve the lives of our people. It must reduce our vulnerability, strengthen our energy independence and create a more competitive economy. That is the outcome Antigua and Barbuda will continue to pursue through partnerships of this kind.”

As an immediate first step under the partnership, Octopus Energy’s electric vehicle arm will assist with the provision of electric vehicles during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which will be hosted in St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda, from 1–4 November 2026.

Zoisa North-Bond, CEO of Octopus Energy Generation, said: “By partnering with Antigua and Barbuda, we’re exploring how clean power and technology can help address the unique energy challenges small islands face. Our goal is simple: people everywhere should benefit from the lower costs that renewables and smart tech offers. Together, we hope to build an implementable plan to

reduce reliance on fossil fuels and build a more resilient energy system.”

Michael Sheldrick, Co-Founder and Chief Policy, Impact and Government Relations Officer at Global Citizen, said: “Small Island Developing States should not have to choose between affordable energy and climate resilience. This partnership demonstrates the practical coalition needed to deliver both: government leadership, Octopus Energy’s technology and delivery expertise, and Global Citizen’s ability to convene partners and mobilize action.

“Beginning with electric mobility at CHOGM and building towards a smarter, locally powered energy system, Antigua and Barbuda can create a model with relevance far beyond its shores. Global Citizen is proud to have helped bring these partners together, and we will continue working to translate this agreement into tangible results for Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS.”

This comes as Octopus Energy’s generation arm is expanding its global activity, with a growing focus on renewables investment, energy access and economic opportunity in emerging markets.

Through its Power Africa Initiative, it has ambitions to catalyse \$450 million of clean energy investment in Africa. It is also building Sierra Leone’s first-ever wind farm on Sherbro Island - an island increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change - bringing clean, reliable power to underserved homes and businesses, with Idris Elba’s Elba Hope Foundation.

Caption: The Right Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Zoisa North-Bond, CEO of Octopus Energy Generation signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Ministry of Health and Trinidad Eye Hospital Expand School Vision Screening Programme



The Ministry of Health continues to strengthen efforts to identify and address vision-related concerns among students through a comprehensive school vision screening programme in partnership with Trinidad Eye Hospital.

As of 23 September 2026, approximately 2,567 students across 24 schools have been screened as part of the initiative. Approximately 11 per cent of students screened did not meet the initial vision-screening criteria and have been identified for further opto-

metric and/or refraction assessment.

The screenings have also identified a range of refractive and ocular conditions, including astigmatism, myopia, anisometropia, strabismus and dry eye. Several students have also been identified for further clinical investigation for conditions involving the optic disc, including optic disc dragging and possible paediatric glaucoma, as well as abnormal changes affecting the macula.

The Ministry emphasizes that a screening result is not, in itself, a di-

agnosis. Students requiring additional assessment will be referred for the appropriate follow-up to determine whether further clinical care or intervention is necessary.

Participation in the programme has also increased as the initiative has progressed. School participation has ranged from approximately 50 per cent at some schools to full participation at others, with the average participation rate now approximately 75 per cent.

Minister of Health, Michael Joseph, welcomed the continued collaboration

with Trinidad Eye Hospital, noting the importance of identifying vision concerns early.

“Good vision is fundamental to a child’s ability to learn, participate and thrive. Through this partnership, we are bringing screening closer to our students and creating opportunities to identify concerns that may otherwise go unnoticed. Early identification allows for appropriate follow-up and, where necessary, intervention. This is an important investment in the health and educational wellbeing of our children.”

The programme will continue at the following schools during the remainder of September:

Friday, 25 September 2026

J.T. Ambrose Primary School

Liberta Primary School

Sea View Farm Primary School

Monday, 28 September 2026

Baptist Academy Primary

Foundation Mixed Primary

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Island Academy

New Bethel SDA Academy

Minoah Magnet Academy

Tabernacle Academy

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

Seventh-day Adventist Primary

St. John’s Lutheran

The Ministry of Health encourages parents and guardians to support the programme by ensuring that children participate when screening is offered at their schools and by following through with recommended referrals where additional assessment is indicated.

The Ministry of Health expresses appreciation to Trinidad Eye Hospital, participating schools, teachers, parents and guardians for their continued cooperation and support as the programme advances.



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Our client, who operates a small-scale boutique hospitality property, is seeking a hands-on hospitality professional with strong experience in hotel operations, Food & Beverage, events and catering, together with the ability to support the marketing and promotion of the property and its services, to fill the position of Hotel Manager.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will be responsible for the effective day-to-day management of the property, including:

- Front Office, Reservations, Housekeeping and Room Attendant operations;
- Kitchen, Restaurant and Bar operations;
- Coordination and oversight of private events, corporate functions, meetings and catering activities;
- Planning, staffing and executing events to the required standard;
- Guest experience, service quality and resolution of guest concerns;
- Staff supervision, scheduling, training and performance;
- Online booking engines and property management systems;
- Hotel supplies, linen, Food & Beverage inventory and cost controls;
- Monitoring occupancy, room revenue, Food & Beverage and event performance;
- Supporting promotions, marketing initiatives and the property's online presence;
- Coordinating routine maintenance and service providers;
- Liaising with clients, suppliers and service providers on event requirements; and
- Assisting with event and catering packages and identifying opportunities to increase revenue.

The role requires a proactive and versatile manager who is comfortable working hands-on within a small hospitality operation and identifying opportunities to improve service, occupancy and revenue.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of five (5) years' experience in hotel or hospitality management;
- Strong experience in Food & Beverage operations, events and catering;
- Proven staff supervisory and leadership experience;
- Proficiency with online booking engines and property management systems;
- Knowledge of budgeting, inventory management, cost control and operational reporting;
- Demonstrated understanding of marketing and promotional strategies aimed at increasing occupancy and revenue; and
- Excellent communication, organisational, problem-solving and guest-relations skills.

Experience managing a boutique or small hotel property would be an advantage. Candidates must be prepared to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends where required, and must be legally entitled to work in Antigua and Barbuda.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and current résumé/CV **no later than 30th September 2026** to info@wglawantigua.com with **Subject** line: **Vacant Position: Hotel Manager.**

Applications will be treated in confidence. Only suitably qualified or shortlisted applicants may be contacted.

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Expansion at the Ffryes Reverse Osmosis Plant Officially Handed Over



Expansion of the Ffryes Beach Reverse Osmosis Plant has been completed with the successful commissioning of a second unit at the facility. The expansion has been funded by the Government of Japan.

A handover ceremony was held Thursday that brought together members of government, representatives from the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and a Japanese delegation.

The expansion represents a significant development on water storage and distribution amid ongoing drought conditions and water scarcity difficulties plaguing Antigua and Barbuda. The new unit is expected to increase potable water production and strengthen the country's ability to meet growing water demand.

The ceremony included remarks from APUA representatives, as well as Japan's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda. Minister of Utilities and Energy Melford Nicholas delivered the feature address.

The event concluded with the unveiling of a plaque, ribbon cutting, and a tour of the expanded facility, commemorating a meaningful step in the right direction.



Barbuda Holds Official Certification Ceremony To Celebrate Tsunami Ready Recognition



Barbuda has officially received **Tsunami Ready recognition**, marking an important milestone in the island's ongoing efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness, early warning and community resilience.

A Tsunami Ready Certification

Ceremony was held on Wednesday at the Barbuda Community Center, bringing together national and local disaster management officials, international tsunami experts, education representatives and community leadership.

Speaking at the ceremony, Kiz Johnson, Minister within the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Barbuda Council, the National Office of Disaster Services, the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services, the education sector, community stakeholders and international technical partners in achieving the recognition.

Remarks were also given by Trevor Walker, Parliamentary representative for Barbuda, who highlighted the benefits of the process of Barbuda becoming tsunami ready.

Chief of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Caribbean Tsunami Information Center, Ms. Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade, thanked Barbuda for the exceptional support given by the local authorities, and noted the community involvement in achieving tsunami ready certification.

Director of the National Office of Disaster Services, Sherrod James, also spoke to the need for Barbuda to continue the work of preparedness, and to





always be in a state of readiness for hazards such as tsunamis.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the presentation of a video of students from the Holy Trinity Primary and Sir McChesney George Secondary schools participating in and explaining the process to prepare for a tsunami. This video is intended to be displayed in other regional and international forums.

The Tsunami Ready initiative forms part of wider regional efforts coordinated through the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS).

Antigua and Barbuda's capital, St. John's, along with the districts of St. John's City West and St. John's City South received Tsunami Ready recog-

nition in 2020, with other communities around Antigua and Barbuda expected to also seek tsunami ready recognition in the future.

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
 Magistrate's 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 LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS "iBURGER"

I, George g. J. Hughes, 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 licence in respect of premises known as "iBURGER" situated at Ryan's Plaza, Michael's Mount in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 23rd day of September, 2026
Mr. George Hughes
268-464-5601

New ArriveAntigua System to Fast-Track Citizens Through VCBIA

Antiguan and Barbudan citizens are set to benefit from a faster and more streamlined immigration clearance process at V.C. Bird International Airport with the introduction of an enhanced ArriveAntigua system.

Cabinet has welcomed the new system, which is being introduced by the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority in collaboration with the Immigration Department and is expected to become operational by 1st November 2026.

The upgraded platform will use technology similar to international trusted-traveller and automated border-clearance programmes, allowing eligible citizens to complete immigration requirements electronically and undergo automated identity and passport verification when arriving in or departing from Antigua and Barbuda.

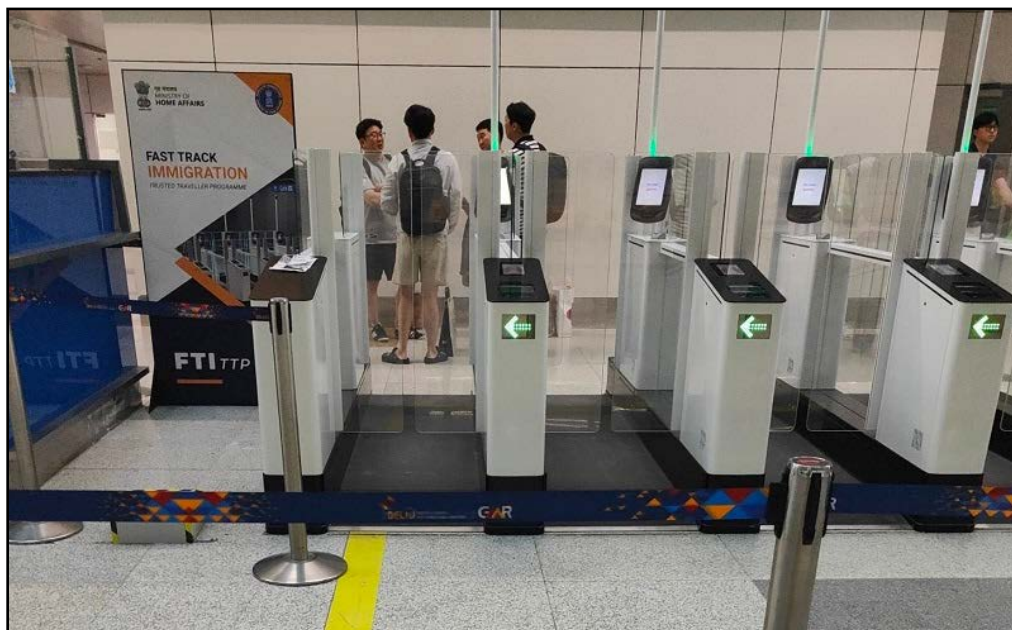
At the initial stage, Antigua and Barbuda citizens will be the only travellers eligible to use the expedited system.

The Government said the initiative is intended to reduce the amount of time citizens spend in traditional immigration queues and provide a more efficient experience for those returning home.

Cabinet said the system will be particularly beneficial to frequent travellers, families, business travellers and other citizens who regularly pass through V.C. Bird International Airport.

The automated processing is expected to allow Immigration Officers to devote greater attention to travellers requiring additional verification or secondary examination, while routine clearance for eligible citizens can be completed more efficiently.

Among the expected benefits are reduced waiting times, faster immigration clearance, increased use of digital and biometric identity verification, improved operational efficiency and reduced congestion during periods of



heavy passenger arrivals.

The Government also sees the initiative as part of the wider modernisation of Antigua and Barbuda's border-management infrastructure and the continued development of V.C. Bird International Airport as a modern international gateway.

The introduction of automated and biometric processing has also raised the importance of safeguarding personal and passenger information.

Cabinet stressed that the new system will be implemented with appropriate safeguards to protect the security and integrity of personal data and will operate in accordance with immigration, data-protection and national-security requirements.

Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant sought to reassure citizens that their information would remain protected.

"Your data will be secured just as it is secured now upon travel when you leave the V.C. Bird International Airport," Merchant said.

He added that security measures would be put in place to ensure that citizens' information remains with the individuals authorised to use it for the

specific purpose of facilitating their entry into, departure from and return to Antigua and Barbuda.

Cabinet emphasised that the new technology will not remove existing immigration or border-security controls. Instead, it will allow modern technology to be used to verify citizens' identities and complete routine immigration processing more efficiently.

The enhanced ArriveAntigua platform will complement the existing system and represents a further move towards digital processing, automated verification and biometric technology at the country's principal international airport.

Cabinet has expressed support for the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority and Immigration Department as preparations continue for implementation.

The Government said the initiative is expected to provide a tangible improvement in the experience of Antiguan and Barbudan citizens returning home, while demonstrating how technology can be used to deliver faster, more efficient and citizen-centred public services.

Local News



ABLP's Newly Elected Chairman Adrian Richardson for St. Phillip's South Executive



The ABLP's St. Phillip's South Constituency Branch on Wednesday elected Adrian Richardson as the new Branch Executive Chairman. Richard-

son for the first time went up against former Vice Chairman Linda Josiah for Chairmanship position.

Richardson amassed a total of 34 votes compared with 10 for Josiah. The election also saw six of the officers comprising the executive being filled. Along with the chairman, the other offices are vice chairman, treasurer, secretary, women's development and youth development.

General Secretary within the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, Senator Shenella Govia congratulated Richardson for the spectacular win and adding that she looks forward to working with the new elected Chairman for St. Phillips South Constituency.

The Chairman in remarks stated that he is humble in accepting the position and pledges to put his best foot forward. Richardson further states that



St. Phillip's South will embrace unity, remain on top and continued guidance by the Almighty God.

Bathlodge Murder Accused Remanded In Prison



The accused of the murder of Saquania Anthony in Bathlodge this week, has been remanded in HM Prison until November 25.

This as Jaquan Shaw of Cashew Hill made his first appearance before a magistrate to answer the charge of murder and shooting with intent arising out of an attack on the occupants in a house in Bathlodge on Monday night.

He is charged with shooting with intent to murder Joshua Meade as well as Kelvin Samuel in the dame incident.

Shaw was unrepresented by counsel when he appeared in the court Thursday morning.

The shooting that left the young woman dead sparked a national outrage with both the Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Public Safety Minister Sir Steadroy Benjamin strongly condemning this wanton act of violence.

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Halo donates to GN Trust for student-athletes scholarships in UK



The Halo Foundation, headed by Lady Sandra Williams, donated approximately \$18,000 to the President of GN Trust 's Ricky Santos at Government House on Wednesday.

The objective of the GN Trust, a UK Registered Charity under the pa-

tronage of Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, is to fund or part-fund scholarships for talented young Antiguan to pursue higher education in the United Kingdom, while receiving elite training and pathways towards professional contracts in the sport of football.

The Halo Foundation continues to support culture and the arts, youth, sports, the differently abled, uniformed bodies, the environment, education, women and girls, community outreach, health, history and heritage, the elderly and world peace.

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Teenager Was Shot in Face During Bathlodge Gun Attack

Thirteen-year-old Joshua Meade, the Ottos Comprehensive School student who was critically injured during Monday evening's shooting incident in Bathlodge was shot in the face Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant has revealed.

During yesterday's Post-Cabinet Press Briefing, Merchant said Joshua Meade remains warded at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and hospital officials are awaiting the arrival of a surgeon to perform reconstructive surgery on the teenager.

"The Cabinet asked for the nation to continue to pray for Joshua and his family," Merchant stated on Thursday.

Joshua Meade was one of several people inside of a house in Bathlodge on Monday evening 21st September 2026, when according to the police, three masked intruders forced their way inside and discharged several rounds, killing 20-year-old Saquaina Anthony.

It was revealed that the deceased woman was the mother of two young children.

"A beautiful young woman 20 years old, the mother of a three-year-old female and a near one-year-old beautiful lad and she lost her life. Was not involved in any nefarious activities, is a little fiery one in defending herself but, is not known for being in any difficulties and she was shot down in the confines of her home by individuals utilising illegal firearms," Merchant said.



Joshua Meade

In addition to Joshua Meade, his 24-year-old brother Kelvin Samuel was also wounded. He was admitted to hospital for treatment and was subsequently discharged.

According to Merchant, if ever there was doubt among citizens and residents about aiding the police in their investigations into serious crimes, then Monday evening's tragic incident should serve to change people's mindsets.

"The police did mention that the quick apprehension of individuals involved in that incident was due to the support of members of

the public and so they reiterate the call for members of the public to support their efforts. If you see something, you say something and that will be in the interest of all Antiguan and Barbudans and residents to arrest the crime problem that we are facing at this time," the government spokesman added.

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has expressed condolences to the family of Saquaina Anthony and best wishes to the relatives of Joshua Greene and his brother Kelvin. It insists that through collaborative efforts between citizens, residents and the police, lawlessness will be stamped out.

"Lawlessness also can be attributed to littering, our driving habits, refusing to follow traffic regulations. All of that contribute to lawlessness and the Cabinet believes that if the police does not act on these small but most important activities or developments, it could lead to more serious incidences of crime and violence in Antigua and Barbuda. So, the Cabinet urges Antiguan and Barbudans to support the actions of the police," Maurice Merchant asserted.

20-year-old Jaquan Shaw of Cashew Hill has been charged with murder and attempted murder in Monday's attack. He appeared in Saint John's Magistrates' Court yesterday before Chief Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel.

Shaw was remanded to His Majesty's Prison and will make his second court appearance on 25th November 2026.

Africa-CARICOM Gala Returns for an Elegant Celebration of Fashion, Culture and Cuisine

Fashion. Culture. Cuisine. Heritage. On Saturday, October 3, the elegance of Africa will meet the vibrancy of the Caribbean as the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) hosts its highly anticipated Annual Africa-CARICOM Month Gala Dinner at the Cortsland Hotel.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the gala promises an elevated cultural experience celebrating the deep and enduring connection between Africa and the Caribbean through food, fashion, music, entertainment and heritage.

Guests will be treated to a specially curated selection of African and Caribbean dishes, bringing together distinctive flavours and culinary traditions from both regions in an all-inclusive dining experience.

Fashion will also take centre stage, with patrons encouraged to step out in their finest African or Caribbean-inspired attire. From bold prints and traditional African designs to contemporary Caribbean elegance, the evening is expected to be as visually striking as it is culturally significant.

And exceptional style will be rewarded.

Amazing prizes will be presented to the Best Dressed Male and Female, while guests will also have opportunities to win exciting door prizes throughout the evening.

The celebration will be complemented by music and entertainment, creating an atmosphere designed to showcase not only the historical ties between Africa and the Caribbean, but the creativity, energy and cultural expressions that continue to unite their people.

The Annual Gala forms part of the Commission's activities in observance of Africa-CARICOM Month and provides an opportunity to celebrate



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shared heritage while reinforcing the importance of preserving that history for future generations.

With interest in this year's gala continuing to build, tickets are going fast, and persons hoping to attend are being encouraged to secure theirs early.

Tickets are EC\$250, all-inclusive,

and are available through ticketpulse.events or by calling 464-6377, 764-3651 or 464-2744.

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Nikki Beach Antigua Makes Waves in Monaco as Freeland Meets 30 Potential Buyers



Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism Michael Freeland and Nikki Beach Vice President Joseph Valentino

Antigua and Barbuda took centre stage at an exclusive Monaco dinner on Wednesday night, where Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism Mi-

chael Freeland met approximately 30 potential buyers and investors interested in The Residences at Nikki Beach Antigua.

The private unveiling at Nikki Beach Monte Carlo brought the proposed Antigua development before an audience considering opportunities on the island. Freeland attended at the invitation of Nikki Beach Vice President Joseph Valentino, whom he had met for discussions the previous day.

The dinner, hosted by Elite Traveler and Nikki Beach Residences Antigua, gave Freeland a chance to speak directly with prospective buyers about Antigua and Barbuda. The residences were presented to guests as a real estate and citizenship opportunity.

Freeland is in Monaco for the 35th Monaco Yacht Show, which runs from September 23 to 26. He is representing Antigua and Barbuda as the country seeks to attract more charter business and marine investment and strengthen its profile in the international yachting market.

With Nikki Beach Antigua drawing interest from potential buyers in Monaco, the dinner added another dimension to the country's presence at one of the world's leading yachting events.

Deputy Chair Alan Hosam and Director of Tourism for Europe and the UK Cherrie Osborne also formed part of the discussions.



POINTE BROADCASTING NETWORK



PBN Bids Farewell to Inhouse Sports Analyst, Alan La’Rose after Eventful Sports Season

The Pointe Broadcasting Network this week says goodbye to Alan La’Rose, better known as Ras Wadada. La Rose came on board in recent months as PBN’s in-house sports analyst, and was instrumental in the revitalization of sports coverage here on Pointe FM and Platinum FM.

At the onset of the FIFA World Cup in June and into July, La Rose became the focal point of coverage, hosting *World Cup Journey*; a daily radio and television programming, with apt game by game analysis and predictions as the season went on.

La Rose’s most notable achievement in restoring the credibility in sports coverage at the Pointe Broadcasting Network, however came as his involvement helped the station to se-

cure exclusive radio rights to the four games played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium during the 2026 Republic Bank CPL Series.

The commentary team was made up of La Rose himself, former West Indies Batsman Dave ‘Suppy’ Joseph, former softball cricket administrator Seth Burton, local sports analyst Denmore Roberts and the Hon. Melford Nicholas. The team represented the first Antiguan collective selected to provide exclusive radio coverage for the Caribbean Premiere league.

La Rose in a statement said, “Everyone teamed up and were able to produce a broadcast that they were proud of.”

Praise was heaped upon Antigua’s coverage of the Falcon’s home games

both by regional media houses such as Shamar Ali of Mix FM Guyana, as well CPL’s Executive Producer of Radio Coverage, Raul DeSouza who was quoted as saying “[The] commentary team captured not just the cricket, but the spirit of the crowd at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Alongside the exclusive radio coverage for the Falcons’ home games, La Rose and the team of dedicated technicians, and analysts from PBN produced the successful Cricket Supermix which helped to drum up interest in the games taking place on a given day.

La Rose Departs Antigua for his native Guyana on Sunday, but says he intends to return in 2027 to continue the work started this year.



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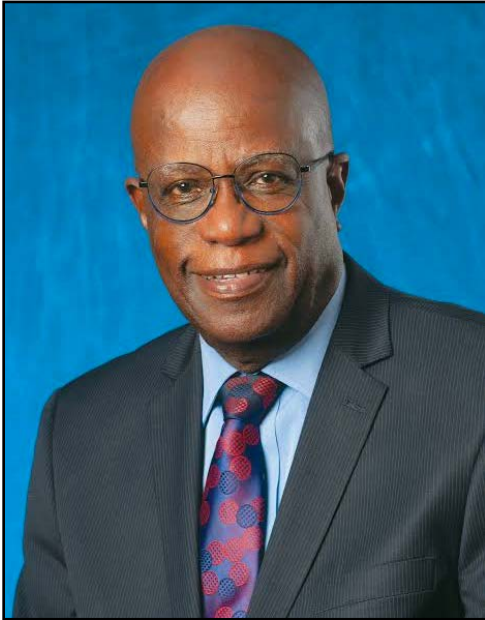
APPLICATION & INQUIRIES

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

25 SEPTEMBER
2026
4:00 PM

VENEZUELA PRESSES ITS ESSEQUIBO CLAIM: THE DIPLOMATIC CHESSBOARD AT UNGA 81



By Julian Rogers MBE

When Delcy Rodríguez Gómez mounted the green marble rostrum at the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday evening, her appearance as Acting President of Venezuela delivered a sharp jolt to the diplomatic corridors of New York.

Speaking in the wake of internal political turbulence and the devastation of the 24 June double earthquake, Rodríguez announced an institutional democratic transition, offered public gratitude to US President Donald Trump for an all-encompassing energy agreement, and signalled a wholesale re-engagement with hemispheric capitals.

Yet for the Caribbean Community, the core takeaway of her address lay in what followed. Standing at what she termed the very seat of international law, Rodríguez made plain that Caracas's domestic evolution has not softened its historic territorial ambitions on South America's northern shoulder.

The Spanish Transcript: La Guayana Esequiba

While early automated transcripts blurred the delivery into phonetic confusion, the official Spanish record was unambiguous. Delivering the seventh pillar of her national address, Rodríguez explicitly invoked la Guayana Esequiba:

“Seven: I would not fail to mention here, at the very seat of international law, our wish to reaffirm Venezuela's historic rights over the Guayana Esequiba. Here I appeal to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to resolve this and return to negotiations, as established in the Geneva Agreement. Agreements which last the longest are those that emerge from bilateral negotiations; they last longer and function better than those imposed by external bodies.”

By using the formal constitutional term la Guayana Esequiba, Rodríguez was laying claim to some 61,000 square miles, roughly 160,000 square kilometres, comprising two-thirds of Guyana's sovereign territory.

In my view, delivered during the evening plenary of Day 2, just as delegates were evaluating the speeches delivered by Caribbean leaders the previous day, this single paragraph fundamentally shifted the focus of regional corridor diplomacy toward Georgetown's territorial defence.

Sidelining The Hague on the Eve of Judgment

The underlying strategy behind Caracas's appeal is transparent: the circumvention of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The border controversy sits in its final deliberative phase before the World Court in The Hague.

Following substantive hearings on the merits, the judges are preparing

a binding judgment on the legal validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award, which definitively demarcated the land boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela.

By asserting from the UN podium that bilateral accords function better than decisions “imposed by external bodies”, Caracas is seeking to delegitimise an impending ICJ ruling before the verdict is even read.

For the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, abandoning a binding judicial tribunal to return to open-ended bilateral talks under the 1966 Geneva Agreement is an impossibility. It would mean relinquishing settled international arbitration in exchange for asymmetrical negotiations against a far larger military neighbour.

The Complication of Washington's Energy Détente

What makes this latest maneuver acutely delicate for the region is the parallel rapprochement between Caracas and Washington.

In her address, Rodríguez openly celebrated a renewed working relationship with the White House, detailing bilateral accords aimed at securing hemispheric energy balance and countering transnational crime.

This dynamic establishes an intricate diplomatic triangle:

Guyana remains a cornerstone of Western energy security through the offshore Stabroek Block, cooperating closely with hemispheric security partners. At the same time, Venezuela is using its crude reserves and anti-cartel cooperation to negotiate an exit ramp from economic isolation. Across the water, CARICOM states, notably Trinidad and Tobago, rely on functional cross-border nat-

ural gas agreements with Caracas to feed domestic processing plants.

If Washington's overriding priority is hemispheric crude stability, Georgetown and its regional partners will need to ensure that the appetite for energy cooperation does not dilute international insistence on respect for established borders.

CARICOM's Sovereign Line in the Sand

For the Caribbean Community, territorial integrity remains non-negotiable.

While regional heads of government welcome democratic stability in Venezuela, humanitarian recovery, and functional energy trade, CARICOM has never wavered on Guyana. The 1899 Arbitral Award established the boundary, the UN Secretary-General referred the dispute to the ICJ under the terms of the Geneva Agreement, and the Court has repeatedly affirmed its jurisdiction.

Rodríguez's suggestion that bilateral pressure represents the only lasting solution will find no traction in Georgetown or across the regional bloc.

Caracas may be projecting a narrative of institutional rebirth, but on its eastern border, the geopolitical posture remains unchanged. The lesson from the rostrum at UNGA 81 is unmistakable: sovereign boundaries are anchored in international law and judicial awards, not negotiated away to accommodate the shifting priorities of hemispheric energy diplomacy.

Julian Rogers MBE is the founder and publisher of Caribbean Bridges. He writes on regional media strategy, corporate development, and Caribbean economic sovereignty.

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Guyana Answers Caracas With the Court

President Irfaan Ali urges Venezuela to abide by the forthcoming ICJ ruling on the border, “as Guyana will do”, after hearings concluded in May

24 September 2026 • The 1899 Arbitral Award and the ICJ

Caribbean Bridges by Julian Rogers . julian@caribbeanbridges.com

#Guyana #Venezuela #Essequibo #ICJ #UNGA81 #CARICOM #CaribbeanBridges



Image: UN Web TV

GEORGETOWN REPLIES: HOW IRFAAN ALI COUNTERED CARACAS AND ELEVATED THE CARIBBEAN AT THE UN.

By Julian Rogers

When Guyanese President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali stepped to the United Nations General Assembly rostrum on Thursday, the diplomatic hall was still absorbing the reverberations of the previous evening. On Wednesday, Venezuela’s Acting President Delcy Rodríguez Gómez had used the global podium to press Caracas’s claim over the Essequibo, urging bilateral talks and pointedly arguing that bilateral pacts function better than decisions “imposed by external bodies”.

President Ali’s response was a study in statecraft: measured, legally unassailable, and strategically devastating.

Without descending into rancour, Ali turned international law into an uncompromising shield. He reminded the assembly that the 1899 Arbitral Award established the “full, perfect, and final settlement” of the land border, and that recourse to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) came only after decades of bilateral attempts through the UN Secretary-General’s good offices had proved futile.

Crucially, Ali placed an essential milestone onto the formal UN record: substantive oral hearings before the World Court concluded in May 2026, with both Guyana and Venezuela fully participating.

His challenge to Caracas was simple and direct: having argued its case in The Hague, Venezuela must now abide by the forthcoming judgment in accordance with its obligations under the UN Charter, just as Guyana has pledged to do. By framing adherence to the court as the only path to a “new


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era of neighbourly relations,” Ali effectively blocked any diplomatic retreat Caracas might seek into endless bilateral wrangling.

Yet Ali did not rely on legal arguments alone. Addressing regional security, he countered Venezuela’s diplomatic overtures to Washington by revealing Guyana’s foundational role in US President Donald Trump’s *Shield of the Americas* initiative, launched in March 2026. Working alongside the United States and 13 partner nations, Guyana has integrated its anti-cartel and maritime security operations into a hemispheric bloc that adopted a fresh joint communiqué in New York this week.

Then came Georgetown’s boldest diplomatic stroke: the formal presentation of Her Excellency Car-

olyn Rodrigues-Birkett as the endorsed CARICOM candidate for United Nations Secretary-General.

Speaking with raw personal conviction, Ali did not present an elite diplomat wrapped in bureaucratic titles. He presented an indigenous woman from a remote Amerindian community who defied the odds of poverty and discrimination to rise to leadership.

In a direct appeal to the Permanent Five members of the Security Council, Ali urged the major powers to “look beyond the small country that nominated her” and recognise that the crisis of modern multilateralism requires a bridge-builder of deep integrity and proven courage.

Between Delcy Rodríguez’s push on

Wednesday and Irfaan Ali’s reply on Thursday, the Caribbean corridor at UNGA 81 delivered an extraordinary masterclass in geopolitics. Georgetown proved that a small developing nation need not be collateral damage in big-power plays. By anchoring its borders in international law, aligning its security with key allies, and putting forward world-class leadership for the United Nations itself, Guyana showed how small states command the global stage.

Julian Rogers MBE is the founder and publisher of Caribbean Bridges. He writes on regional media strategy, corporate development, and Caribbean economic sovereignty.

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- Build strategic relationships with tourism partners, travel agents, destination-management companies, corporate clients, event planners and other referral partners.
- Maintain consistent branding, imagery and messaging across all platforms and promotional materials.
- Conduct market and competitor analysis to identify new customer segments, commercial opportunities and emerging trends.
- Prepare and manage the marketing budget and direct expenditure toward initiatives that deliver measurable value.
- Establish and monitor key performance indicators, including enquiries, bookings, occupancy, event leads, digital engagement and return on marketing expenditure, and report periodically to management.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Minimum 5 years' progressive marketing experience, preferably in hospitality, tourism, events or a related service industry.
- Demonstrated success in marketing initiatives that increased bookings, sales, customer engagement or revenue.
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- Experience in brand development, campaign planning, market research and performance reporting.
- Excellent written, verbal and relationship-management skills.

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Regional News



Shenseea leads dancehall at CMAs; Lila Iké tops reggae



Shenseea won the most awards in the dancehall categories at Saturday's Caribbean Music Awards (CMAs) in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, taking home three titles. She was named Female Dancehall Artiste of the Year, while Shake It to the Max (FLY) [Remix], her collab with Moliy, Silent Addy and Skillibeng, won Dancehall Song of the Year and Dancehall Collaboration of the Year.

In reggae, Lila Iké led with two wins. She was named Female Reggae Artiste of the Year, and Romantic, featuring Masicka, secured Reggae Collaboration of the Year.

Masicka also won Dancehall Video of the Year for Rich Sex, giving him one award in each genre.

The other dancehall winners included Valiant, who was named Male Dancehall Artiste of the Year, and Ding Dong, who secured Dancehall Performer of the Year. Trinidad dancehall artiste Prince Swanny's Saint was named Dancehall Album of the Year.

Ayetian received Dancehall Best New Artiste and the Dancehall Impact Award.

In the remaining reggae categories, Buju Banton was named Male Reggae Artiste of the Year and Chronixx's Exile won Reggae Album of the Year. Protoje's BIG 45 secured Reggae Song

of the Year, while Choluta was named Reggae Best New Artiste.

Keznamdi received the Reggae Impact Award, months after winning his first Grammy Award for Blxxd & Fyah in February.

Several Jamaican entertainers were also recognised outside the two genres. Patra received the Lifetime Achievement Award, Alkaline won the People's Choice Award, and Reggae Fest, organised by CJ Milan, was named Music Event of the Year.

Trinidadian soca artiste Lady Lava recorded the most wins overall, earning four awards across the soca, zess and chutney soca categories. She was named Female Soca Artiste of the Year and Zess Artiste of the Year, while Bob the Builder won Zess Song of the Year. Cyah Pick, in her collaboration with Ravi B, secured Chutney Soca Song of the Year.

The ceremony was held at the National Academy for the Performing Arts. It was the first staging of the Caribbean Music Awards in the region following three years in Brooklyn, New York. (AP)

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SVG, Austria sign MOU to strengthen diplomatic ties

Prime Minister Hon. Dr Godwin Friday met with the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, H.E. Dr Christian Stocker, and H.E. Ambassador Gregor W. Koessler, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, to discuss strengthening relations between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Austria.

Prime Minister Friday was accompanied by Hon. Dwight Fitzgerald Bramble, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs, and H.E. Vynnette Frederick, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations.

The engagement included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, providing a framework for deeper cooperation between the two countries.

Discussions focused on peace and multilateral cooperation, the unique challenges facing Small Island Developing States, climate resilience and recovery, and access to development and disaster financing.

Prime Minister Friday also highlighted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' renewable energy ambitions, including the continued exploration of geothermal energy and the potential of wave energy as the country seeks to strengthen energy security and advance its transition towards a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

The engagement reaffirmed Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' and Austria's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and identifying practical areas for continued cooperation. (St Vincent Times)




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Regional News

‘STATE NOT ABOVE THE LAW’ - PM declares all cop-involved fatal shootings properly investigated, questions why protests only held over police killings



Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness is insisting that the “State is not above the law”, amid growing concerns about an increase in the number of fatal police shootings across the island.

Speaking yesterday during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Housing Agency of Jamaica’s (HAJ) Luana Phase Four in St Elizabeth, Holness emphasised that independent institutions are in place to hold security forces accountable.

“I wish to assure the families and the community that the State is not above the law, and that the institutions that are in place, many of them independent of the Government, will execute their duties,” he said.

Data from the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) revealed that 25 fatal police shootings have been recorded so far this month.

The latest occurred yesterday in St Elizabeth, where a man identified as Jowayne Salmon was fatally shot by the police in an alleged confrontation. The police said the man was a member of the Speculation gang that operates in the parish.

His killing sparked protests in the community of Speculation, near Black River.

Since last year, 223 people have been killed in fatal police shootings, according to INDECOM, while 71 members of the police force have been charged for the 2024-26 period following investigations.

However, indicating that the State’s “first attempt, always, is to bring them (suspects) before the courts”, Holness stressed that police operations are intelligence-driven.

“When the police act, you should know, and I say this for every Ja-

maican to be aware that this is not anything we are hiding. We have increased significantly the capacity of the police to gather intelligence, investigate, and uncover all those who are involved in gangs, including those who pretend to be innocent. We know them,” he said.

Noting the presence of a gang in the parish, Holness charged citizens to reject criminal elements from their communities who, he said, sometimes “parade as if they are Robin Hood”, but are “only there to rob your neighbourhood”.

“Let’s get the murderers out of our society. Let’s get them out now, including those who are wrapped up in our communities, who infiltrate our organisations, who pretend like they are innocent and you don’t know what they are doing outside. We know,” he said.

“This is a warning and I’m putting it very clearly. All of the criminals, all of the dons, all of them who are pretending that they are not involved, we know,” Holness added.

Noting the protests that sometimes erupt following a fatal police shooting, the prime minister stated that he pays close attention to all families “who claim the innocence of their loved ones who have been killed by state forces”.

However, while indicating that “there shouldn’t be one person, innocent person, who is killed”, Holness said he has observed that the demonstrations are often only held in relation to police killings.

“I don’t see people demonstrating for the murders of innocent people in Jamaica as how there are demon-

Regional News

strations for persons who the police have implicated or for those who commit the crimes,” he said.

“The decline in the murder rate is not by accident,” he added, stating that the island is on track to record fewer than 600 murders this year.

“Our society, sometimes we praise the perpetrators and we don’t pay enough attention and give sympathies to the victims,” he said. “We have to be clear [about] who we are and what we want to do as a society. To get to that point where there doesn’t need to be any more police killings, our murder rate needs to get to zero.”

Meanwhile, the prime minister pointed out that the development at Luana would provide 337 housing solutions, comprising 140 houses and 197 service lots, and represents a \$3.7-billion investment.

“Generally, the houses and lots that the Government has anything to do with are transparently distributed,” he said, adding that sometimes homes might be reserved for specific individuals based on recommendations from the venture partner or the bank.

The development will be constructed by Chins Equipment and Construction Limited, while financing is being provided by Sagicor Bank.

Norman Brown, chairman of the HAJ board of directors, said the development would be climate resilient.

“How we build is as important as how much we build. We must build with the future in mind,” Brown said. “The Government’s approach of building forward better, places emphasis on stronger building standards, improved drainage, risk-informed development and integrated infrastructure planning,” he said. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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Regional News



\$218M contract awarded to build daycare centre for prison officers' children



The National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB) has awarded a \$218 million contract for the construction of a Daycare Centre in Region Four for children of Guyana Prison Service officers.

According to NPTAB, the Ministry of Home Affairs project was awarded to K&S General Contractors Inc. who was among 35 contractors that submitted bids for the project in July. The ministry's engineer had estimated that the project will cost \$241,247,060. \$218M contract awarded to build daycare centre for prison officers' children

The daycare centre forms part of the ongoing efforts to enhance welfare services within the security sectors. The facility is expected to be constructed at Parade Street, Kingston.

It was reported by the Department of Public Information that the project forms part of the government's broader agenda to improve working conditions and provide greater support systems for members of the disciplined services and their families.

When completed, the daycare centre is expected to provide a safe and nurturing environment for young children while their parents carry out their duties, helping to ease childcare challenges faced by prison officers and civilian employees. (Kaieteur News)

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Rome's Colosseum closes for the day after worker plunges to death



Rome's Colosseum, Italy's most-visited monument, was closed to the public suddenly on Wednesday to mourn a worker who fell to his death overnight while helping install a new illumination project.

The 22-year-old man, Andrea Moretti, specialized in working at altitude on ropes. He had been installing cabling for the project that was expected to be completed next month and died inside the Colosseum, the archaeological site's press office said.

Premier Giorgia Meloni said that the government was deeply shocked and saddened by the death and called for the cause to be determined as quickly as possible.

"Dying at the age of 22 is unacceptable – even more so when it happens

in the workplace," she said in a statement.

Authorities are working to determine the circumstances of Moretti's death, the park's statement said.

Representatives of Italy's main union, CGIL, were on site after the death to request information about Moretti's employer and contract and said that the closure of the monument was the least Rome authorities could do to honor his memory.

The Colosseum attracted 14.7 million visitors in 2024, according to Culture Ministry statistics. It topped the list of Italy's most-visited monuments, followed by Florence's Uffizi Galleries and the ancient ruins of Pompeii.

The Colosseum's sudden closure on Wednesday caught thousands of tour-

ists who had bought tickets and tours in advance by surprise. But many said they appreciated the gesture.

Colosseum authorities had allowed the first morning tours to go ahead as planned, with just the Colosseum's second tier closed. But they then closed the entire monument to visitors after the first group had exited.

Rachel Townsend, a tourist from New Zealand, said that the closure was disappointing.

"But then after looking up what's happened, then it's understandable," she said.

It wasn't immediately clear when the Colosseum would reopen to the public. (AP)

Belize files statement with ICJ over border dispute with Guatemala

The Belize government on Wednesday said that it had filed its written observations with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in response to the written statements submitted by Guatemala.

“The written observations, which consist of two volumes...were filed in the Registry pursuant to Article 85, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court, within the time limit as extended by the Court in its Order of 16 April 2026,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade said in a brief statement.

It said that the written observations of Honduras on Guatemala’s written statement were also filed in the Registry on the same day.

Belize and Guatemala have a long-standing territorial dispute, with Guatemala claiming more than 11,000 square kilometres of Belizean land, islands and maritime areas. The dispute is now before the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

In March 2000, Belize and Guatemala resumed discussions on their territorial dispute with the assistance of the Organization of American States (OAS) and on November 8, 2000, they signed the first Agreement on Confidence Building Measures, establishing an “Adjacency Line” and a one-kilometre “Adjacency Zone” on either side.



A second Agreement was signed on February 7, 2003, and subsequently amended in September 2005 by the “Agreement on a Framework for Negotiation and Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala.

Earlier this week, Belize Prime Minister John Briceño said the ICJ would receive oral presentations in the case between Guatemala and Belize from February 22 to 26 next year.

Briceño in a nationwide radio and television broadcast, said that he has been informed by the registrar of the ICJ that oral presentations in the Belize-Honduras case will be heard from

March 5, 2027 regarding the sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes and that these hearings will take place at The Hague.

“For too long our borders have been disputed by our neighbours. In keeping with our commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes and respect for the rule of law, we have had recourse to the court.

“We are confident that all doubts will be removed by these two court cases. Belize will be vindicated. Belize has engaged a stellar team of international lawyers and experts to advise us and to present our case before the court,” Briceño said. (CMC)



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US releases additional \$267 million to combat Ebola outbreak



The United States on Wednesday announced the release of an additional \$267 million in funding to support the fight against the ongoing Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

“To date, the United States government has provided \$887 million in direct health and humanitarian assistance to combat the Ebola outbreak,” the US State Department said in a statement,

adding that Washington was the largest aid provider for the latest outbreak.

The aid announcement, made on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, also seeks to “call on capable nations to increase burden sharing to meet the urgency of the moment,” the statement said.

Outgoing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last month issued an

appeal to raise an additional \$1.1 billion in aid against the epidemic, which continues to spread to new parts of the DRC, according to the NGO Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

The Ebola outbreak has killed more than 3,600 people and infected 7,500 since mid-May, according to Congolese public health officials, making it the DRC’s worst recorded epidemic of the disease. (AFP)



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‘There will be elections in Venezuela,’ interim leader tells UN



Venezuela’s interim leader Delcy Rodríguez thanked US President Donald Trump for restoring diplomatic ties and told the United Nations on Wednesday that “there will be elections” in the Latin American country.

Rodríguez replaced president Nicolas Maduro following his ouster by US forces in January, and she has served as a pliant ally to Washington since then.

Addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, she thanked the Trump administration “for their willingness to resume the path of diplomatic relations and cooperation with Venezuela.”

“I want to state this very clearly before this General Assembly: there will be elections in Venezuela,” she added, without mentioning a timeline.

She did not refer to the US raid on Caracas that ousted her predecessor either, instead focusing on the transition to a “stage of democracy” in Venezuela.

Many Venezuelans were hopeful that ongoing, US-backed political transition talks between the interim government and parts of the opposition would lead to a democratic election.

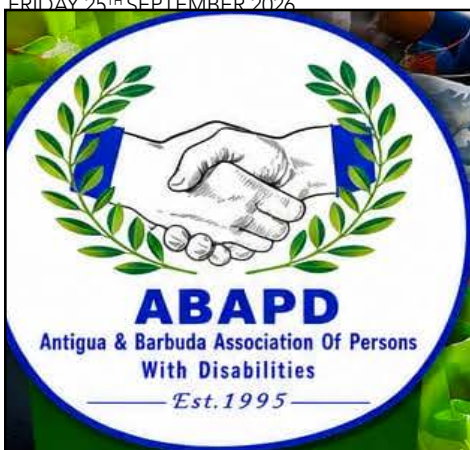
But those hopes were dashed

somewhat in early September when Trump, speaking shortly after striking a mega oil deal with Caracas, brushed off the notion of a vote in the near future.

Rodríguez echoed those comments at the time.

Her trip to New York has featured meetings with International Monetary Fund executives and several heads of state, including Trump.

The last Venezuelan leader to address the UN General Assembly was Maduro in 2018. (AFP)



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Galley Ballers maintain winning start in business football league

The Galley Bay Ballers maintained their winning start in the 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship during the latest round of matches.

The Galley Bay Ballers recorded their third successive win in Group 2 by pulling off a 2-0 victory over newcomers National Housing Development (NHD) Legends at the Golden Grove playing field.

After suffering a 1-0 loss to Galley Bay Ballers in their opening match, the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) rebounded to claim their first win by snatching a one-nil victory over the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) Oilers at the same venue. It was the third loss in as many games for the WIOC Oilers.

The Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors made it two wins in a row in Group 3 by snatching a 1-0 victory over Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) at the Fort Road playing field. It was the first defeat for ABAA after winning their previous two matches.

His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United rebounded from a 3-1 loss to the Department of Immigration in their opening encounter to claim their first win with a 5-2 victory over National Housing Development (NHD) Full Experience in their Group 3 affair at Radio Range in Ottos. It was the second loss in as many games for the NHD Full Experience.

After losing their previous two Group 3 matches, Public Works Asphalt rebounded to claim their first win with a 2-1 victory against the Jolly Harbour Stingers at Golden Grove. It was the second loss in as many games for the Jolly Harbour



Barrington Blake scored twice for Hermitage Bay Strikers

Stingers.

The 2024 champions, Hermitage Bay Strikers, which finished third last year, maintained their unbeaten start in Group 4, recording their second win in three matches with a 2-1 victory over Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) at Radio Range.

Barrington Blake scored both goals with strikes in the 14th and 60th minutes. It was the first loss for CMC after winning their two previous matches.

Public Works Department (PWD)

FC recorded their first win in three matches by surging to a 5-2 victory over KOSCAB Powerade FC in their Group 4 match at Fort Road. Public Works Department (PWD) FC had a draw and a loss in their previous matches, while it was the second loss in as many games for KOSCAB Powerade FC.

After winning their opening match, Jack Idle stayed unbeaten but were held to a goalless draw by Royalton Chic in Group 4 at Radio Range. It was also the first draw for Royalton Chic after securing a loss and a win in their previous matches.

Keyonna Beach Hotel notched up their second win in as many games in Group 1 with a 1-0 victory over National Housing Development (NHD) Demolition Squad at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

It was the first defeat for NHD Demolition Squad after playing to goalless draws in their previous two matches.

After drawing their previous two Group 1 matches, Jumby Bay Resort secured their first win with a 2-0 victory over Blue Waters Hotel at the same venue. It was the second successive loss for Blue Waters Hotel after winning their opening encounter.

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) also picked up their first win in three matches in Group 1, snatching a 3-2 victory against Postal Services at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The ABTB had a draw and a loss in their previous matches. It was the first loss for Postal Services after playing to a draw in their opening match.

Philippines get first win in Business Basketball League title



The Philippines basketball team

The Philippines achieved their first win in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Wednesday evening.

After losing all previous matches, the Philippines, who are making their debut in the competition, recorded their first win with a 77-62 victory against the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) in Wednesday's opening encounter.

Attienne Davis sank 23 points, Alvin Ferrerco converted 18 points, and Raffi Salandino scored 17 points for the Philippines.

Ricky Willock shot a game-high 27 points, Donald Hunte sank 13 points, and Raheem Charles scored 11 points for SLBMC, who

tumbled to their fifth defeat in six games.

Cup-holders, the Board of Education (BOE), extended their unbeaten start to five games in defense of their title.

The Board of Education notched up their fifth win by snatching a 51-46 victory over APCMOL in a top-of-the-table clash in the feature game of Wednesday's triple-header.

Danny Perez sank 16 points, and his brother Daniel Perez scored 12 points for the Board of Education.

Humroy Wright shot a game-high 17 points for APCMOL, who suffered their first defeat after winning all previous four matches.

Last year's losing finalists, Richie's Shooterz, continued their winning start to their campaign, securing their third win in as many matches with a 79-65 victory over former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) in Wednesday's second encounter.

Nickon McGregor sank 18 points, Cohen Desouza produced 17 points, Tavarus Benta converted 16 points, and Jaheem James scored 11 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Lindsay McDonald and Marlon "Buju" Charles each converted 14 points, Raymond Dickenson had 12 points, and Elijah Charles scored 10 points for the ABTB, who slumped to their second loss in four games.

Windies women crush Zimbabwe to win first ODI

Captain Hayley Matthews produced a sensational century to lead the West Indies women to a commanding 99-run victory over Zimbabwe women in the first One-Day International (ODI) at the Harare Sports Club in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Thursday.

Matthews smashed 182 and fellow opener Realeanna Grimmond struck 53 to propel the West Indies women to 299 for six from their 50 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Medium pacer Francisca Chipare claimed two for 57.

In reply, Zimbabwe were all out for 200 in 43.3 overs. Opener Modester Mupachikwa struck 86, Chipo Mugeru-Tiripano got 26, and opener Sharne Mayers made 21.

Pacer Aaliyah Alleyne bagged three for 44, off-spinner Ashmini Munis- ar took two for 27, leg-spinner Afy Fletcher claimed two for 31, and fast bowler Jannillea Glasgow captured two for 37.

The West Indies women made a strong start after taking first strike, reaching 48 without loss during the opening powerplay. Matthews and Realeanna Grimmond established a solid platform, sharing an opening-stand of 128 runs.

The pair brought up their 50-run partnership from 68 balls before carrying the score to 93 without loss after 17 overs.

The opening pair passed their century partnership soon afterwards, with Matthews reaching her half-century from 62 balls, and Grimmond following with a fifty from 58 deliveries.

Zimbabwe eventually found a breakthrough, but Matthews continued to dominate. She brought up her century from 108 balls, having struck 14 fours, and accelerated significantly during the closing stages of the innings.

The West Indies passed 200 runs in the 40th over before Matthews and



West Indies women's captain Hayley Matthews celebrates after reaching her century against Zimbabwe women during the first ODI at the Harare Sports Club in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Thursday, September 24, 2026. (Zimbabwe Cricket)

Chinelle Henry added a rapid 50-run fourth-wicket partnership from 41 deliveries. Matthews then moved beyond 150 from 140 balls as the tourists surged towards 300.

Her outstanding innings eventually ended after facing 156 balls, featuring 26 fours and two sixes at a strike rate of 116.67. West Indies were able to score 98 runs during the final 10 overs.

Zimbabwe's women made a positive start to their chase and reached 51 for two at the end of the opening powerplay. However, the required rate continued to climb as West Indies regularly applied pressure with the ball.

Modester Mupachikwa provided Zimbabwe's main resistance, reaching 52 from 75 balls with four fours and

a six. Zimbabwe moved to 150 in the 34th over, but by that stage they had already lost five wickets.

The hosts reached 200 in the 44th over but were unable to make a serious challenge for the target, with West Indies restricting the scoring during the closing stages.

Zimbabwe ultimately finished 99 runs short as West Indies completed an emphatic victory, with Matthews' remarkable 182 proving the decisive performance of the contest.

Both teams will meet again in the second game of the three-match series at the same venue on Sunday. They will clash in the third and final match in Harare on Wednesday, September 30.

Breetzke's second ODI century spurs South Africa to win over Australia

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Matthew Breetzke notched his second ODI hundred and spinner Keshav Maharaj made up for the absence of four frontline fast bowlers to help South Africa beat Australia by 67 runs on Thursday.

Breetzke scored 112 off 106 balls and Marco Jansen countercharged in the latter half of the innings with 75, which included four sixes and seven boundaries to give South Africa a total of 297 for eight.

Australia, who won the toss and elected to bat, was restricted by the two left-arm spinners — Maharaj (4-20) and Bjorn Fortuin (2-34) — on a tacky wicket to get bowled out for 230 in 41.2 overs.

Captain Mitchell Marsh had flattened the pace with his explosive hitting and made 60 off 36 balls in a whirlwind opening stand with Travis Head of 90 off 56 balls before Australia came down crashing against the South African spin duo.

Marsh smacked six sixes, including a 104-meter hit against Jansen that sailed over the roof of the dressing room at square leg and landed at the roadside before he chipped Maharaj to covers in the 10th over.

The Marsh blitz had provided Australia a perfect platform and it moved to 129-1 in 16 overs but Maharaj and Fortuin kept squeezing the tourists as the old ball started to grip and turn sharply.

Head (36) had welcomed fast bowler Gerald Coetzee in ODIs after three years with four boundaries in his first over before the left-hander top-edged a pull to third in the 17th over.

Maharaj and Fortuin then ran through the middle order with Josh Inglis and Cooper Connolly mistiming their shots against Fortuin, and Maharaj accounting for the wickets of Cameron



South Africa's batsman Matthew Breetzke plays a shot during the first one-day international cricket match between South Africa and Australia, in Durban, South Africa, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026. (AP)

Green and debutant all-rounder Jack Edwards.

Matt Renshaw made 44 but was caught by a diving Jansen one-handed at deep mid-wicket in the 37th over that gave Coetzee his first wicket in the ODIs since he last played the 50-over format nearly three years ago.

South Africa is battling with a lengthy injury list with four of their fast bowlers, including Kagiso Rabada and Kwen Maphaka, ruled out of the series due to hamstring injuries.

Breetzke and Jansen's 107-run sixth-wicket stand in 14 overs spurred South Africa after Australia had controlled the game and kept the home team under check at 168 for five in the 34th over.

Josh Hazlewood (1-50) was disciplined with the new ball and was more effective than Mitchell Starc (0-60), while Nathan Ellis continued his fine form with the use of wobble seam and slow deliveries to claim three for 57.

Adam Zampa also struck inside his first two overs with the wickets of Bavuma (30) and Ryan Rickelton (27), while David Miller struggled to get going and made nine off 25 balls before Jansen and Breetzke shared a century-stand.

Breetzke took a back seat as Jansen blazed his way to 41 off 31 balls and was lucky when Connolly dropped a difficult catch before he completed his third ODI half-century.

Breetzke completed his century with a single in the 44th over and celebrated the landmark with a big roar and gesture to the sky. He was run out in the 48th over while going for a needless second run.

Jansen was trapped leg before wicket by Ellis in the next over but not before the left-hander had equaled his career-best score and gave South Africa enough runs to defend.

South Africa leads the three-match series 1-0 with games on Sunday and Wednesday

Losing start for Antigua in CONCACAF Nations League



Substitute midfielder Mishawn Molina, center, celebrates after scoring the only goal and winner for Aruba against Antigua and Barbuda in their opening match in Group B of League C in the CONCACAF Nations League at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Wednesday, September 23, 2026. (Photo courtesy of CONCACAF)

The senior men's national team of Antigua and Barbuda got off to a losing start at home in the 2026/27 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF) Nations League on Wednesday night.

The Antigua Benna Boys opened their campaign as host of Group B in League with a one-nil loss to Aruba at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Aruba sealed the victory in dramatic fashion, with substitute midfielder **Mishawn Molina** scoring the winner with a late header in the third minute of added time.

After being relegated from League B last year, Antigua and Barbuda are hosting and competing in Group B of League C, which also includes the national teams of Anguilla and Aruba, during late September and early October this year.

The four teams will battle in the first round of matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua from Wednesday, September 23, to Tuesday, September 29. All matches will start at 7 pm.

The Antiguan will face Anguilla in their second game on Saturday, September 26. Anguilla and Aruba will clash in the last first-round encounter on Tuesday, September 29.

Meanwhile, there were winning starts for Montserrat and St. Martin during the other two opening-day matches in League C group stage competition.

Match-day 1 opened with a 2-0 victory for Montserrat against the Turks and Caicos Islands in Group A of League C at TCIFA National Stadium in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Ashley Boatswain placed Montserrat in the lead in the 41st minute with a finish from inside the penalty area as

he scored the first goal of the 2026/2027 Nations League.

Boatswain sealed his brace and the result for the visitors by scoring his second goal in the 69th minute via a header during a set piece play.

Group C of League C opened with Axel Raga scoring a hat trick to lead St. Martin to an 8-0 victory against the Bahamas at Bethlehem Soccer Stadium in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands (USVI).

St. Martin started off with five goals in the first 45 minutes. **Axel Raga** opened the scoring in the 15th minute. A goal from **Yanis Montantin** in the

23rd minute, a brace from **Jordan Alexandre** with strikes in the 20th and 32nd minutes, and an own goal in the 41st minute completed the first half goal spree.

St. Martin scored three more goals in the second half to wrap up their commanding victory. Raga had conversions in the 52nd and 63rd minutes to complete his hat-trick, and **Pierre-Bertrand Arné** scored the final goal with a strike in the 80th minute.

The three group winners of League C will gain promotion to compete in League B in the next edition of the CONCACAF Nations League.

All group winners will also be in contention to secure a berth into the CONCACAF Gold Cup, which will be held in June and July next year.