

House of Representatives Passes Tougher Laws for Firearm-Related Offences

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Local News



House of Representatives Passes Tougher Laws for Firearm-Related Offences



Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin
AG: 'This is Not a Cowboy Country'

Attorney General Sir Steadroy Benjamin has declared that Antigua and Barbuda will not become

a “cowboy country” as the Government moves to impose tougher penalties for firearm-related offences.

Speaking during debate of the **Firearms (Amendment) Bill 2026**, which was passed in the House of Representatives on Monday following its second and third readings, Sir Steadroy defended the proposed tougher sentences, saying the Government must take decisive action to address the growing use of firearms.

“This is not a cowboy country. We are not herding cattle. We are protecting life, liberty and property from those scoundrels who want to hot up the place,” he told Parliament.

He said the legislation is intended to serve as a deterrent, with sig-

nificantly increased minimum and maximum prison terms for a range of firearm offences.

Under the amendments outlined by the Attorney General, possession of a firearm without a licence could attract a prison sentence of between **five and 10 years on summary conviction**, while conviction on indictment could carry a minimum sentence of **15 years**.

The Attorney General also highlighted proposed penalties for carrying firearms or ammunition in prescribed public places. He said persons other than authorised law enforcement and defence personnel could face **five to 10 years imprisonment** for such offences.

The legislation also targets individuals who sell or transfer firearms or

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ammunition to unlicensed persons. According to Sir Steadroy Benjamin, such offences could attract **five to 10 years on summary conviction and between 15 and 30 years on conviction on indictment.**

The Attorney General pointed to several recent incidents involving firearms as evidence of the need for stronger measures, including last week's shooting incident in Bathlodge that claimed the life of 20-year-old Saquaina Anthony. 13-year-old Joshua Meade was shot in the face in that incident and was scheduled for reconstructive surgery last weekend, while his brother, who was shot in the buttocks, was treated and discharged from hospital.

"Do we have to sit back and do nothing about it?" he asked, arguing that the Government has a responsibility to take "drastic" action to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Benjamin said the amendments would also address possession of firearms with intent to injure, with the proposed penalty ranging from **15 to 30 years imprisonment.**

He further warned that the legislation would target the illegal manufacture, importation, exportation and transshipment of firearms.

"We have to get a hold of this thing. We have to stop it. We cannot afford to have this thing going on in this country," he said.

Sir Steadroy Benjamin acknowledged concerns surrounding mandatory minimum sentences but pointed to provisions allowing a convicted person to seek leave to appeal where a court determines that imposing the prescribed minimum would be manifestly excessive or unjust in the circumstances of a particular case.

He said the Government had exam-

ined the issue and referenced cases in Jamaica where similar provisions had been considered.

The Attorney General also cited concerns about the proliferation of firearms across the region, pointing to developments in neighbouring countries and saying Antigua and Barbuda must act before the situation worsens.

"We will stamp it out," Benjamin declared, adding that his office would continue to do its part in tackling firearm-related crime.

Sir Steadroy Benjamin said the Government's objective is to protect Antigua and Barbuda's reputation as a peaceful country.

"We have a beautiful, peaceful country. We want to keep it safe," he noted.



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Local News

Minister Turner Backs Firearms Amendment to Strengthen Public Safety



Minister of Social Rawdon Turner, has expressed strong support for the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, saying its proposed minimum sentences are needed to protect residents and restore confidence in the response to gun violence.

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amends the Firearms Act, Cap 171, to toughen penalties for firearms offences. Maximum penalties rise from five to ten years for summary offences and up to 30 years for offences triable on indictment. It also introduces a minimum penalty of 50% of the prescribed penalty for any offence under the Act, which a Magistrate or Judge can reduce only in special or exceptional circumstances.

Speaking in the House of Representatives during debate on the bill, Minister Turner said the fear caused by shoot-

ings has affected everyday life. People should be able to enter a shop or walk from their vehicle to their home without worrying that they could be caught in an armed attack, he said.

The Minister pointed to the recent Bathlodge shooting, which claimed the life of a young mother and wounded two others, including a child. He said the attack brought into sharp focus the consequences of firearm violence for victims, families and the wider community.

Minister Turner also raised concern about reports that one of the accused had been on bail for a firearm offence. Those allegations remain before the courts, but he said they underscore the need to examine whether existing measures are adequately protecting the public.

“Anybody with common sense in this country can’t tell me that something is not wrong with the system,” he told the House.

The Minister said he had pressed for minimum sentences to be brought before Parliament because maximum penalties alone had not resolved public concern about the sentences imposed for serious firearm crimes. He welcomed the bill’s approach of establishing a sentencing floor and said it would give a clearer warning to those who use guns to threaten, injure or kill.

He also welcomed the provision requiring judges to give reasons when imposing a sentence below a prescribed minimum. Minister Turner said written reasons would help the public understand how such decisions are reached and strengthen accountability within the justice system.

While urging firm action against firearm offences, Minister Turner acknowledged the importance of addressing the conditions that can lead young people towards violence. He referred to the work of the government’s family and social services and youth affairs departments and called on parents to play an active role in guiding their children.

The Minister said protecting communities requires both social intervention and laws that respond firmly to serious crime. He reaffirmed his support for the Firearms (Amendment) Bill as Parliament continued its debate.



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Government Releases U.S. Proposal and Antigua and Barbuda Counter-Proposal on Third-Country Nationals

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda today released to the public the proposal received from the Government of the United States concerning Operating Procedures for the possible transfer to Antigua and Barbuda of third-country nationals removed from the United States, together with Antigua and Barbuda's counter-proposal.

Both documents will also be tabled in the House of Representatives by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Honourable Sir Steadroy Benjamin.

The Government is doing so in keeping with its commitment to transparency and to keeping Parliament and the people of Antigua and Barbuda fully informed on a matter involving the country's sovereignty, security, laws, public finances and national interest.

No agreement has been concluded. The United States document is a proposal and the Antigua and Barbuda document is a counter-proposal. Discussions between the two Governments are continuing.

The discussions are part of a wider initiative undertaken by the United States with countries in different parts of the world, including members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Some CARICOM countries have entered into arrangements with the United States, while others have engaged in discussions concerning proposals made to them by the United States.

Antigua and Barbuda is responding to a request from the United States and has sought to determine whether, and under what strictly controlled conditions, it could responsibly cooperate while protecting its national interests.

Among the principal safeguards in Antigua and Barbuda's counter-proposal are:

- ▶ every person proposed for transfer must be considered individually and receive the **prior express written approval** of the Government of An-



tigua and Barbuda;

- ▶ a maximum of **seven persons in any three-month period**, which is a ceiling and not a quota or obligation;
- ▶ strict requirements concerning eligibility, criminal and security screening, health, immigration history, protection claims and valid travel documentation;
- ▶ confirmation that each proposed individual has been informed that Antigua and Barbuda is the destination, understands the temporary nature of the arrangement, and has indicated in writing a willingness to be transferred;
- ▶ admission and temporary presence would be governed by the **laws of Antigua and Barbuda**;
- ▶ satisfactory financial and operational arrangements must be in place so that the costs arising from the transfer and continued presence of persons do not become a burden on the taxpayers of Antigua and Barbuda;
- ▶ satisfactory arrangements for lawful return or onward placement when a person's temporary presence comes to an end; and
- ▶ the right of Antigua and Barbuda to suspend further transfers where national security, public order, public health, capacity, financial or other

serious concerns arise.

The counter-proposal also envisages a possible supporting role for the International Organization for Migration, subject to its own requirements and to appropriate arrangements with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Government emphasises that **the sovereign decision whether to accept or refuse any person proposed for transfer will remain with Antigua and Barbuda in every individual case.**

Antigua and Barbuda values its long-standing relationship with the United States and will continue to engage constructively with the United States Government. Cooperation, however, must be consistent with Antigua and Barbuda's laws, limited capacity and national interest, while ensuring that persons affected are treated with dignity and in accordance with applicable law.

By publishing the two proposals and placing them before the House of Representatives, the Government is fulfilling its undertaking that this matter will be dealt with openly and with respect for Parliament and the people.

The Government will continue to keep Parliament and the public informed as the discussions proceed.

Antigua and Barbuda Makes Opening Statement at IWC Meeting In Australia

Antigua and Barbuda congratulates the Chair and thanks the Government and people of Australia for hosting IWC70 here in Hobart at this historic moment - the 80th Anniversary of the International Whaling Commission.

We acknowledge the Palawa people as the traditional custodians of this land.

Eighty years ago, our forebears crafted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling - not as a preservation convention, but as a convention to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and the orderly development of the whaling industry.

That Convention has served as the governing tool for great whales. At a time when whales were decimated for oil and for industrial purposes, this Convention stopped that decimation and put in place a system to regulate and manage whales.

Today the context has changed. In many coastal communities, including Small Island Developing States, whales are taken not for oil, but for food - for food security, for nutritional needs, for cultural continuity. That take is allowable if it is done scientifically, within the framework of the Scientific Committee.

We congratulate the Scientific Committee for its work over the years - its assessment work, its dedication, its science.

The moratorium was put in place in 1982. It was to have been reviewed after 10 years. That review has never been done. Forty-three years later, we



are still living under a measure that was meant to be temporary and reviewed.

Antigua and Barbuda today calls for that review - a review towards sustainable use, consistent with the Convention.

We remind this Commission of its two pillars:

1. Conservation; and
2. Management and development of the whaling industry.

Both must be respected.

We thank the founding members for their wisdom in creating a balanced convention - a convention for management and use, not for preservation alone.

Antigua and Barbuda subscribes to multilateralism and to rule-based international organizations. This Organi-

zation must continue to be rule-based. Decision-making must be grounded in science, in law, and in the Convention - not taken through emotions.

We appeal to all members to respect the Convention, to strive for balance, and to respect the rights of all sovereign states represented here.

Antigua and Barbuda is a Small Island Developing State. We face climate change, food security challenges, the need for sustainable livelihoods, and the need for ecosystem-based management of all ocean resources - including whales.

Whales are part of that ecosystem. They must be managed, not mythologized.

We thank Australia again for hosting at this auspicious moment. Antigua and Barbuda looks forward to a Hobart that delivers balance, science, and respect for all peoples.



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Antigua and Barbuda Strengthens Climate Resilience Through China Early Warning and Climate Adaptation Seminar

Antigua and Barbuda continues to strengthen its capacity to prepare for and respond to climate-related hazards through the exchange of knowledge, technology and best practices with international partners.

Technical Officer with the Department of Environment (DOE), Zariya Russell, and Communications Officer in the Ministry of Health, J'noure Smith-Kellman, recently participated in a two-week seminar in the People's Republic of China focused on early warning systems and climate change adaptation.

The seminar provided participants with an opportunity to examine China's approaches to climate risk management, disaster preparedness and the use of technology to strengthen early warning and response mechanisms. Discussions also highlighted the importance of ensuring that scientific information is translated into timely, accessible and actionable warnings for communities.

Among the key areas explored were climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, meteorological monitoring and forecasting, early warning systems, climate information services, emergency preparedness and response, and the use of technology and innovation to strengthen resilience.

Participants were also exposed to China's experience in integrating early warning information into decision-making and preparedness measures. Particular attention was placed on the importance of coordinated systems that bring together technical agencies, government institutions and communities before, during and after hazardous events.

For Antigua and Barbuda, these areas are particularly relevant as a Small Island Developing State that remains vulnerable to hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding, sea-level rise and other climate-related hazards.

The seminar also provided an opportunity for participants to consider how



international experiences and technological advances can inform national approaches to climate adaptation and disaster preparedness.

The participation of Russell and Smith-Kellman provided an opportunity for Antigua and Barbuda to gain further insight into approaches that can contribute to national climate resilience, while also strengthening professional knowledge and international cooperation.

For the Department of Environment, the experience contributes to ongoing efforts to strengthen climate change adaptation, environmental resilience and the use of climate information in national planning and decision-making.

ing.

For the Ministry of Health, the training also underscores the importance of effective communication in ensuring that information about environmental and climate-related risks reaches the public in a clear, timely and accessible manner.

The knowledge gained through the seminar will support continued collaboration among government agencies and stakeholders as Antigua and Barbuda advances efforts to strengthen preparedness, improve public awareness and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Local News

Prime Minister Warns Immigrants to Respect the Law or Face Deportation

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has again warned that immigrants convicted of serious crimes in Antigua and Barbuda will face deportation, while naturalized citizens who commit certain serious offences could have their citizenships revoked.

Speaking in Parliament yesterday during debate of the **Firearms (Amendment) Bill 2026**, Browne said the Government expects all residents and immigrants to respect the country's laws.

"We expect you to respect our laws. And if you fail to respect our laws, you'll serve your time and you'll be deported," the Prime Minister said.

The Antiguan and Barbudan leader said the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Immigration has been instructed that, once convicted immigrants complete their prison sentences, they should be deported "forthwith."

He went further, warning that naturalized citizens are likely to face the same fate if found on the wrong side of the law.

"Those who naturalize and become citizens and commit certain crimes in this country... if they commit any serious crime in this country, we will re-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

voke their citizenship and deport them," Browne told Parliament.

The Prime Minister said the decision had already been taken by Cabinet and that his comments were intended to make the policy clear, particularly to the immigrant population.

Mr. Browne maintained that the policy was not aimed at immigrants generally, noting that his administration had taken steps to facilitate citizenship for thousands of immigrants through periodic amnesties.

"No administration in the history of this country, in the history of the Caribbean, would have done more for immigrants than my administration," he said.

According to the Prime Minister, approximately 4,000 to 5,000 immigrants are processed for citizenship through amnesties every four years.

He said the Government had been "very embracing" of immigrants, particularly Caribbean nationals, but argued that public safety must take precedence where individuals become involved in serious criminal activity.

"We are not targeting immigrants," Browne said. "We have been very embracing. We're an all-inclusive administration. We love our immigrants, especially our Caribbean brothers and sisters."

"But where they become a threat to public safety, we are duty bound to do what is necessary to keep this country safe," he added.

The Prime Minister's remarks came during debate on legislation seeking tougher measures against firearm-related offences, as the Government outlined its approach to combating violent crime and improving public safety.

Three Jamaican Women Receive Removal Notice For Overstaying

The court has ordered the deportation of three Jamaican women who have been living in Antigua and Barbuda without having the legal right to do so.

The court handed down the removal notice on Monday when they appeared before a St. John's magistrate to answer the charge of overstaying the time allotted by the Immigration Department.

The women are; Shantel Haynes 24 years, Jova Gordon 23 and Sophia Bonnick 50.

They are being detained at immigration detention center until their departure on Caribbean Airlines on Thursday.



ABTA Launches Art Competition Among Students Nationwide

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is inviting primary and secondary school students across Antigua and Barbuda to participate in the 2026 Antigua and Barbuda Art Week Schools' Art Competition, under the inspiring theme 'The Rhythm of the Islands'.

Now in its fourth year, Antigua and Barbuda Art Week will take place from November 11–18, 2026, celebrating the creativity, culture and artistic expression of our upcoming rising stars. The Schools' Art Competition continues to provide young artists with an opportunity to showcase their creativity while exploring the many elements that make life in Antigua and Barbuda unique.

This year's theme invites students to explore and interpret the rhythm that exists throughout island life. From music, festivals and traditions to everyday experiences, the beauty of the natural environment, community life, people and culture, students are encouraged to express what "The Rhythm of the Islands" means to them through art.

"We would like this competition to be more than just a chance to win a prize. It is an opportunity for our students to express themselves, celebrate where they live and show us Antigua and Barbuda, as they experience it. I am especially excited to see how each student interprets 'The Rhythm of the Islands' in a way that is uniquely their own", said Mauricia Frith lead of the



Art Week Student Art Competition.

The Art Week competition is open to students ages 7–17 attending primary and secondary schools, with entries divided into three age categories: 7-9 years, 10-12 years and 13-17 years.

First, second and third-place winners will be selected in each category, with industry prizes awarded to the top three students.

The winning pieces will form part of the Antigua and Barbuda Art Week exhibition at the V. C. Bird International Airport.

Students may submit one original artwork that reflects the theme "The Rhythm of the Islands."

Eligible artworks must:

- Be no smaller than 14" x 14" and no larger than 14" x 16"
- Be a painting or drawing using quick-drying paint, watercolour/ acrylic paint, crayon pencils/wax crayons or collage
- Be created on Manila Paper, Water-Colour Paper or Bristol Board

All entries must be submitted by Friday, November 6, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

Artwork should be submitted to:

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority
 1st Floor, John E. St. Luce Building
 Factory Road



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WE'RE HIRING - HOTEL MANAGER

Boutique Hospitality | Events & Catering | Marketing Support

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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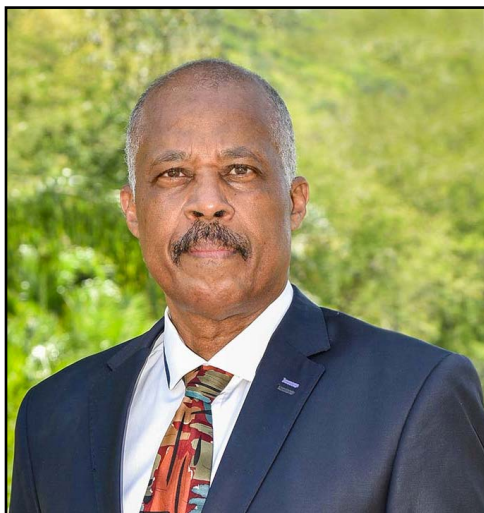
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New York University honours Sir Hilary

The University of the West Indies (UWI) proudly announces that its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, has been appointed Distinguished Scholar for 2026-2027 by New York University (NYU). Sir Hilary will be hosted by NYU's Centre for the Study of Africa and the African Diaspora, led by acclaimed scholar Professor Michael Gomez.

In responding to the honour, Vice-Chancellor Beckles expressed gratitude, stating, "This is a valued expression of fellowship, especially as the Centre is renowned for its outstanding scholarship and research. In 1994, I was a visiting scholar at NYU's Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and was succeeded by Professor Kamau Brathwaite. Being back at NYU after 32 years, now among leading scholars of African history, will be special."



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles

As Distinguished Scholar, Sir Hilary will deliver a public lecture on October 13, 2026, entitled "The Economics of Wealth Creation: Why Enslaved Black Women Were the Financial Core of the Slavery Business Model." The event will be held at NYU Silver Centre,

Hemmerdinger Hall, New York City, beginning at 5:30 pm. For more information and registration, visit <https://csaad.nyu.edu/event/chattel-like-cattle-enlaved-women-as-perfect-property/>.

This latest accolade follows in a series of prestigious international recognitions for Vice-Chancellor Beckles, including his selection as the Honorary International Historian of the Year by the Association of American Historians in 2022 and his role as Chancellor's Distinguished Professor-at-Large at Cornell University. Each not only celebrates Sir Hilary's impactful scholarship and leadership on the world stage, but also continues to raise the global profile of The University of the West Indies, reflecting its commitment to excellence, international collaboration, engagement, and important scholarly dialogue.

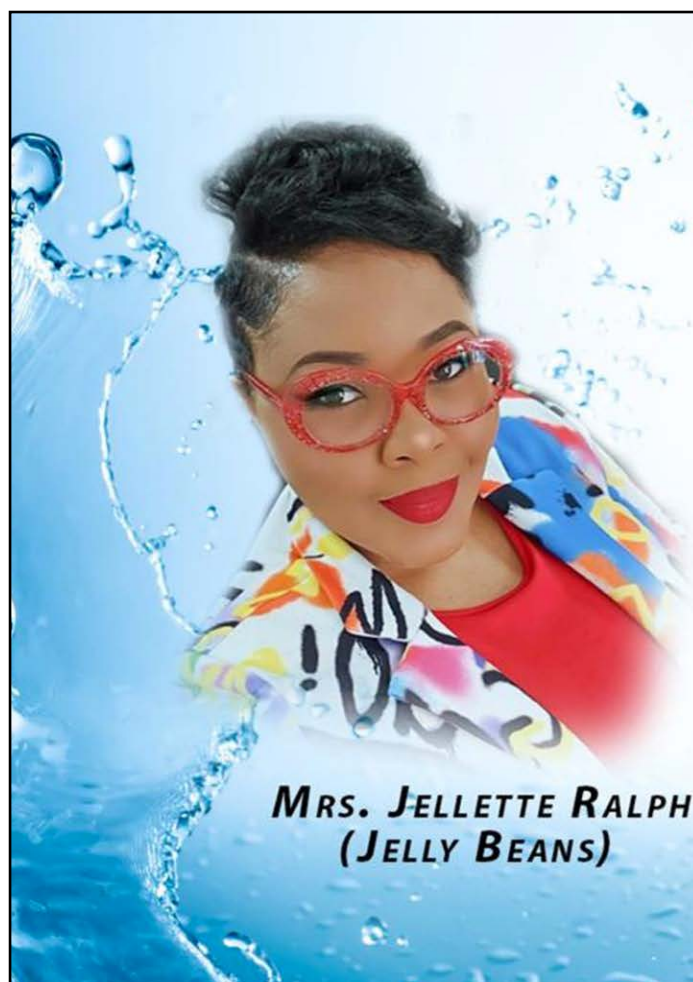


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New ABLP SPS Branch Chair Addresses Full Party Executive

Newly Elected Chairman of the ABLP St. Phillips South branch, Adrian Richardson addressed the regular executive meeting of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party on Friday night.

Richardson expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the members of the SPS branch for the overwhelming support they gave to him to secure the victory in the recent branch elections.

The Chairman presented three members of his executive: Marsha Pasco (Women's Development Officer), Summer Hector (Treasurer) and Arrienne Nicholas (Secretary).

Richardson congratulated his executive members and addressed them as Wonderful Beautiful Winners.

The Chairman spoke about the hard work and his dedication to the task at hand on this journey and that he is indeed humble for this great opportunity to serve the constituency in this position.




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Local News

Two Male Suspects Are In Police In Connection With Villa Shooting



Two male suspects are currently in police custody assisting with investigations into the alleged shooting of 47-year-old Dennis Francis of E.A. Stephen Street, Villa.

Preliminary reports indicate that at approximately 3:40 a.m. on Sunday, September 27, Francis was walking along Gordon Street when he was reportedly approached by three males travelling in a silver Toyota Vitz.

It is alleged that Francis attempted to escape from his attackers, who were reportedly dressed in dark clothing, and was shot in the process.

He sustained what appeared to be gunshot wound to his lower back and abdomen, and was transported by Emergency Medical Ser-

vices to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

His condition is said to be stable and his injury is not life-threatening.

Meanwhile, within 24 hours of the incident, two male suspects were apprehended by the police and are now in custody assisting investigators with the ongoing investigation.

The police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or who may have information that could further assist the investigation, to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477), or the nearest police station.

The Police will be providing further updates as the investigation progresses.



Flow Completes Every Six Gives Back Initiative with Donations to Two Local Charities



Flow Antigua and Barbuda today completed its Every Six Gives Back initiative with the presentation of donations to Sunshine Home for Girls and St. John Hospice, turning every six hit by the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons during their Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) home series into support for two local charities.

The initiative formed part of Flow's regional CPL sponsorship programme, under which the company donated US\$50 for every six hit by the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons during their home series matches in Antigua and Barbuda.

Over the course of the home series, the Falcons struck 33 sixes, generating a total donation of US\$1,650, which was shared equally between the two organisations. The beneficiary organisations were selected by Flow em-

ployees through an internal engagement activity, giving team members the opportunity to identify causes they believed were making a meaningful impact within the community.

The donations were officially presented during a cheque handover ceremony attended by representatives of both organisations and members of the Flow team.

"The Every Six Gives Back initiative reflects our commitment to supporting communities in meaningful ways," said Wayne Hull, Country Manager, Flow Antigua and Barbuda.

Nicole Bailey, House Mother at Sunshine Home for Girls, welcomed the contribution and thanked Flow for its support.

"We are sincerely grateful to Flow Antigua and Barbuda for this donation and for recognising the importance of

the work we do. Contributions like this help us continue providing care, guidance and support to the young girls entrusted to us, and we appreciate everyone who helped make this initiative possible," Bailey said.

Pauline Christopher, Administrator at St. John Hospice, also expressed appreciation for the donation.

"At St. John Hospice, we are committed to providing compassionate palliative care and support to our patients and their families. This donation from Flow will assist us in continuing that mission, and we are thankful to have been selected as one of the beneficiaries of the Every Six Gives Back initiative," Christopher said.

The Every Six Gives Back initiative was launched at the start of the 2026 CPL season as part of Flow's wider effort to connect the excitement of Caribbean cricket with causes that matter

WE'RE HIRING: MARKETING MANAGER

Boutique Hospitality | Marketing

Our client, who operates a small-scale boutique hospitality property, is seeking to hire a commercially minded Marketing Manager to strengthen the property's market presence, increase room occupancy and direct bookings, promote events and catering services, and drive measurable revenue growth.

THE ROLE

This is a hands-on role combining strategy and execution. The successful candidate will take ownership of marketing initiatives from concept through implementation and measurement, working closely with management to grow the property's accommodation, events and catering business.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop and execute an integrated marketing strategy for the boutique property, rooms, events, catering and related services.
- Increase room occupancy and direct bookings through targeted campaigns, packages, promotions and effective use of online booking channels and OTAs, where applicable.
- Plan and manage digital marketing, including social media, content creation, online advertising, website promotion, email marketing and online reputation management.
- Develop campaigns to grow weddings, private functions, catered events and other revenue-generating activities in both local and visitor markets.
- 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.
- Strong digital marketing, social media, content creation and online advertising skills.
- Experience in brand development, campaign planning, market research and performance reporting.
- Excellent written, verbal and relationship-management skills.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

Creative, commercially focused, self-motivated and comfortable working in a small hospitality environment. The successful candidate must be able to think strategically while also executing day-to-day marketing activities and taking ownership of results.

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: Marketing Manager**

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

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**GAME
CHANGERS**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) is proud to announce 15-year-old Ethan Camacho as the first recipient of the ECAB Game Changers Scholarship.

Ethan is a student-athlete currently pursuing his studies at Ackworth School's football academy in England. He was selected following careful consideration of the applications received, with emphasis placed on academic achievement and athletic ability.

The one-time EC\$25,000 scholarship grant is intended to assist with the cost of studying abroad, helping Ethan to pursue his academic and athletic ambitions while continuing his development as a young footballer.

Prior to beginning his studies at Ackworth School, Ethan attended Baptist Academy, where he maintained a GPA of 3.0 and above while demonstrating a strong commitment to football. In 2021, he placed third overall in the Antigua and Barbuda Grade 6 National Assessment. He has also represented Antigua and Barbuda on multiple occasions in regional competitions and has earned numerous accolades throughout his football career, including multiple Golden Boot titles, as well as Best Midfielder and Most Valuable Player awards.

Ethan was also highly recommended by his coaches in support of his scholarship application.

We congratulate Ethan on this achievement and wish him continued success in his academic and athletic endeavours.

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank

Ethan Camacho

2026 Game Changers Scholarship Recipient



87th Annual Delegates' Conference Antigua Trades and Labour Union Theme: "Developing Stronger Workers, Stronger Future"

By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

The historic success of the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons reminds us that excellence is built through preparation, discipline, teamwork and common purpose. Those same qualities are essential to building stronger workers, stronger institutions and a stronger nation.

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union is more than a trade union. It is part of the history of Antigua and Barbuda.

As the country's oldest trade union, the AT&LU has helped shape our national development for 87 years. It existed before universal adult suffrage, before Associated Statehood, before CARICOM, before Independence and before the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

An institution that helped to build the nation must never become merely a witness to its future. It must continue helping to shape that future.

For me, that responsibility is personal. One of the most important decisions I made as a young man was to follow my father, Clarence E. Pilgrim Sr., up the eight steps at 46 North Street, pay my membership fees and dues, and become a bona fide, card-carrying comrade of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union.

Those eight steps led into more than a building. They opened a door to discipline, leadership and service. Later, as President of the AT&LU National Young Labour Organisation—NYLO, the Junior Executive—I learned the importance of preparing younger people for leadership.

If an institution does not deliberately prepare its younger members to lead, it eventually weakens its own future.



My later involvement with the Confederation of Latin American Trade Unions—CLAT and participation in trade-union formation in Venezuela reinforced another lesson: training teaches a person how to perform a task; formation helps a person understand what he or she stands for.

That is why I believe the modern trade union must develop the whole worker—economically, technologically, socially, intellectually and civically.

A union must not only defend the worker at work. It must help develop the worker for life.

One practical way of doing this is to restore the Workers' Voice. Those who remember the newspaper know it did more than report union business. It informed, educated, challenged and sometimes provoked.

Its "Question Box" column could be spicy and satirical, but it performed an important function: it asked what many people were quietly asking—

what is really happening?

I also remember Ms. Shervington and her best friend, who carried the Workers' Voice from house to house on foot. No Facebook, no WhatsApp, no website—just commitment and belief in the message.

The newspaper should return as a modern digital platform carrying labour news, workplace education, financial literacy, occupational health information, historical features, podcasts and commentary. Perhaps Question Box deserves another life as well.

The technology has changed. The need for a workers' voice has not.

The Union should also establish a Golden Age Circle of Stalwarts. Much of the AT&LU's institutional memory resides in former officers, shop stewards, organisers and long-standing members.

Their stories should be recorded. Their experience should be used to mentor younger workers. Their victories should be remembered, but so should their mistakes.

Retirement should end a job, not a lifetime of usefulness.

The labour movement must also engage wider national problems. Crime and violence cannot be treated only as police matters. They are family, education, economic, youth-development and community issues.

It is deeply troubling that Antigua and Barbuda recently observed a National Day of Prayer for healing and peace, and the very next day experienced another fatal shooting.

Prayer remains important, but prayer must be accompanied by responsibility and action.

Organised labour can contribute through mentorship, apprenticeship, skills development and partnerships

with employers, churches, sporting organisations and community groups.

Safer communities require more than enforcement. They require belonging, opportunity, discipline and hope.

Worker development must also confront the technological age.

Artificial intelligence, automation and digitalisation are changing the workplace. Workers should not be passive recipients of those changes. Organised labour must have a seat at the table.

Workers should know why technology is being introduced, what functions will change, what skills will be required, what training will be provided and what pathway will exist for workers whose roles are transformed.

There is merit in a national Future of Work and Technology Compact involving government, employers, organised labour and educational institutions.

Technology should not be a trapdoor beneath the worker.

It should be a ladder of advancement.

Our Labour Code should also be reviewed carefully to ensure that its definitions and terminology adequately address modern realities such as remote work, technology-assisted work, digital workplaces, worker data and changing employment relationships.

This should not be about weakening established protections. It should be about ensuring clarity, fairness and relevance.

Regional cooperation is equally important.

COVID-19 demonstrated that a health crisis can quickly become an employment, economic, transport and social crisis. The Association of Caribbean States should explore a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in communicable diseases, pandemic preparedness and related public-health threats.

Such an arrangement could strengthen information sharing, health surveillance, essential-worker protection and training, continuity of essential services and cross-border coordination.

The Greater Caribbean should not have to invent its response from the beginning every time a major health emergency occurs.

Trade unions should also make greater use of the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society as a template for national and regional worker development.

Significantly, the Charter was adopted in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, in 1997.

It speaks to participation, social justice, human development, rights and responsibilities and provides a useful Caribbean compass for determining whether our institutions are expanding dignity, opportunity and protection for workers and their families.

Ultimately, those principles could inform a Caribbean Worker Development Framework supporting education, leadership formation, digital skills, mentoring, occupational health, civic responsibility and crisis preparedness.

Regional integration cannot only be about moving goods, capital and skills.

It must also be about developing Caribbean people.

This requires us to measure trade-union success differently.

Yes, unions must continue to settle grievances, negotiate agreements and defend workers.

But we should also ask: How many workers improved their qualifications? How many became homeowners or entrepreneurs? How many adapted successfully to technology? How many prepared responsibly for retirement? How many became mentors? And how many young people became leaders?

The strongest union is not necessarily the union that shouts the loudest.

The strongest union is the union that develops the strongest people.

Social partnership will also remain essential.

Government, employers and organised labour will not always agree, nor should they. But disagreement does not have to become destruction.

Workers have legitimate interests. Employers have legitimate interests. Government has national responsibilities.

Strong institutions do not eliminate disagreement. They teach us how to manage it constructively.

Labour should never stand outside national development looking in.

Labour should help to shape national development.

The central proposition is simple:

Develop the whole worker.

If we develop only the employee, we prepare someone for a job.

If we develop the whole worker, we strengthen a family, a community and ultimately a nation.

The AT&LU has survived because earlier generations accepted responsibility for their time. They organised, persevered, built institutions and fought for a voice.

Our responsibility is not merely to preserve what they created. It is to make it relevant to another generation.

The responsibility of a great institution is not merely to survive history. It is to continue making history.

Stronger workers build stronger families.

Stronger families build safer communities.

Stronger communities strengthen the nation.

And stronger nations strengthen the Caribbean.

A resilient Antigua and Barbuda, within a resilient Caribbean—grounded in dignity, responsibility, opportunity and solidarity—moves us closer to the purpose that should guide all development:

the greatest good for all.

The Professor Who Never Held a Chair



By Professor C. Justin Robinson

*Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
The UWI Five Islands Campus*

Around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday September 27, I heard the news that the Mighty Sparrow had passed on to Blessed Memory. I hesitated because after all the guy had “died” a few times. In 1969 Mighty Sparrow recorded and sang the calypso “Sparrow Dead” to mock and challenge false rumours of his death and failing health.

Sparrow was a constant on my radio as a boy in St. Vincent. The songs were our anthems. Capitalism gone mad, Where the Lizard, Education, Dan is man, Wanted Man and many more. As I got older, I smiled that my religious relatives sang along to the song “all saltfish sweet.” Sorry, you will only get that if you are West Indian. I celebrated when he came back and won the road march with Don’t Back Back on me. The wit of Lying Excuses parts 1 and 2 are simply unmatched.

I have no ear for music, so I loved the lyrics and the ability to capture complex issues in a witty and musically appealing manner. As I got older, I formed the view that Sparrow was one of the finest social analysts this region has ever produced. He was more effective than the rest of us



because he did his analysis in public, in our own language, with a chorus.

I may have learnt economics in lecture halls in the Caribbean, the United States and England, but some of my earliest lessons in political economy came from a calypsonian born in Grenada, made in Trinidad, and sung everywhere a West Indian could find a radio.

I think of “Jean and Dinah” the song that launched his career in 1956, as the best calypso ever written. On

its surface it is a funny story of the American soldiers leaving the military base at Chaguaramas and the ladies of the night of Port of Spain losing their market. Underneath it is a sharp account of reclaiming sovereignty and what happens to a dependent local economy when the foreign spending that props it up walks away.

In 1959, he released “Simpson” to combat early rumours that he had passed away, as I said, the guy has died a few times.



Consider the song “Federation!” In 1962, released as the West Indies Federation collapsed. Sparrow’s diagnosis of small states with big egos, and a failure to believe that we were stronger together than apart is still valid sixty-four years later.

You can’t beat “Dan is the Man,” a song that was absolutely relatable to those of us in school at the time. Here was a young man from the working class taking the colonial curriculum apart, line by absurd line. Those of us tear down CXC should take note. CXC needs to be held to account but definitely not destroyed.

As Trinidad and Tobago, the oil rich aristocrats and big spenders of the Caribbean experienced the switch from oil boom to oil bust and ended up in an IMF program in the 1980s Sparrow released the beautiful number “Capitalism Gone Mad.” You

will not find a clearer explanation of Import Cost Push Inflation and this one was set to music.

CLR James described Sparrow as a genuinely West Indian artist, rooted in the people and speaking for them without apology. UWI Scholar Professor Gordon Rohlehr spent decades proving the point in scholarship and titled his collection of essays on Sparrow with the line that summed him up, “My Whole Life is Calypso”. In 1987 The University of the West Indies was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt), one of the better decisions we have made.

In a region still too inclined to wait for someone else to validate us, fund us, or save us, Sparrow’s career is a case study in what our region needs in this new world order. Sparrow was excellence built locally, owned locally, and exported with confidence.

Sparrow was not a saint, and he never pretended to be. A Vincentian calypsonian once said to me, “Sparrow sings too much smut”. Sparrow’s songs were racy as often as they were profound, and he would have laughed at any tribute that tried to tidy him up. A central part of his genius was that he refused the choice between the respectable and the real and gave us both, in the same verse.

I was amazed when Sparrow came back and won the crown in 1992 with the “Both of them” and “Survival.” Sparrow was a public intellectual; he just never held a chair.

As a friend of mine wrote, “Well boys, Kitch gone, Melody gone and now the Birdie gone too. They have left us with a wonderful legacy.” Rest well, Birdie, the lecture is over but thankfully the lessons are not.



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Regional News

Former PM says he rejected U.S. plan to dump foreign criminals in SVG



Former St. Vincent leader Ralph Gonsalves has detailed how he firmly rejected a proposal from United States officials to accept third-country deportees, including non-Vincenian criminal offenders and refugees, while serving in office.

Speaking on the Corie Sheppard Podcast, Gonsalves explained that U.S. officials requested St. Vincent accept nationals from other countries whom the U.S. sought to deport.

“I immediately rejected the proposal regarding refugees, under international law, any nation that grants refugee status is legally obligated to retain those individuals”.

Addressing the request to take non-national criminal deportees, Gonsalves argued that accepting

even small numbers—such as 5 to 10 individuals annually would accumulate to 50 within five years, posing severe risks to the stability of a small nation.

He cautioned U.S. representatives that such relocations could destabilize the region and lead to “multiple Haitis,” stressing that the policy served neither nation’s long-term interests.

Highlighting existing challenges with deportations, Gonsalves pointed to past experiences receiving deported Vincenian nationals. He noted that U.S. authorities consistently failed to provide background history or antecedents on individuals prior to their return.

Without access to criminal histories,

local authorities were forced to reintegrate returnees blindly, creating serious public safety hazards if an individual happened to be a violent offender or psychopath.

Gonsalves also challenged the fundamental asymmetry of the proposed arrangement, questioning why the U.S. sought to recruit St. Vincent’s “best and brightest”—such as computer scientists—while attempting to offload foreign criminal “dregs” onto the island nation.

While reaffirming his admiration for American civilization, Gonsalves stated he could not allow such an arrangement and firmly refused the U.S. proposal to safeguard his country. (St Vincent Times)

Defence attorneys to withdraw services from courts islandwide Monday

Following unsuccessful discussions with the Ministry of Justice, defence attorneys have been directed to withdraw legal services from all criminal courts islandwide on Monday as clashes over minimum mandatory sentences in the Firearms Prohibition Restriction and Regulation Act 2022 continue.

The action is expected to affect Parish Courts, Circuit Courts and Gun Courts.

Another day of industrial action, specifically targeting the Gun Courts, is scheduled on Tuesday.

A joint statement from the Jamaican Bar Association (Jambar) and Advocates Association of Jamaica (AAJ) indicated that members had voted overwhelmingly in favour of withdrawing legal services this week.

The vote followed a silent protest on Thursday in front of the Supreme Court in downtown Kingston by association members, where they lobbied for a review of the mandatory minimum sentences applied to certain gun crimes in the 2022 law.

Maintaining that the legal fraternity does not oppose stringent measures against violent gun crime, it emphasised that the legislation as currently constructed contains structural gaps and rigid mechanics that undermine the broader legal framework.

They described “significant shortcomings, gaps and statutory weaknesses” impacting the justice system, including what the attorneys describe as the erosion of judicial discretion, the dismantling of guilty plea incentives and the practical friction with statutory sentencing discount frameworks.

A meeting was held with Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Delroy Chuck on Thursday to address the issues, but the lawyers say those discussions concluded without any definitive legislative timeline to address their concerns.

The associations, however, urged attorneys to manage urgent remand list matters, emergency bail applications involving juveniles or vulnerable persons, and time-sensitive con-

stitutional applications in a manner that ensures no client’s fundamental rights are prejudiced during this period.

The associations say they are again calling for urgent and meaningful legislative amendments to ensure the justice system functions efficiently for all Jamaicans. (Jamaica Observer)



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Regional News



Some BVI residents bathing in the sea amid prolonged water shortages

Persistent water shortages across parts of the British Virgin Islands are forcing some residents to find alternative ways to meet basic household needs, with reports that people on the island of Jost Van Dyke have resorted to bathing in the sea.

The issue was raised during a recent Kross Talk podcast interview with National Democratic Party candidate for the Third Electoral District, Aaron Parillon.

Host Tyler Levons said he had seen reports that the water situation on Jost Van Dyke had deteriorated to the point where some residents were using seawater for bathing.

“I saw in Jost Van Dyke, where it got so bad that members of the community resorted to bathing in the seawater,” Levons said.

Similar claims have surfaced on social media, while Second District Representative Melvin “Mitch” Turnbull has also previously told the House of Assembly that some residents on Jost Van Dyke had turned to the sea because of water shortages.

Parillon said the problem extends beyond Jost Van Dyke, with residents in parts of the Third District sometimes going without running water for weeks.

“Some specific parts of my community are without water for a month, sometimes two weeks, sometimes three weeks,” he said.

He said the shortages create particular difficulties for women, elderly residents and families with newborn babies, and added that he has been using his personal truck for about a year to help residents transport buckets and gallons of water to their homes.



“We all need water to bathe,” Parillon said, describing the situation as “very disappointing.”

He argued that the territory should not be struggling to provide such a basic service given the size of its economy.

The government has acknowledged that the territory’s ageing water network has suffered from years of underinvestment and says repairs and upgrades are under way.

Approximately US\$2.8 million is

being invested in water infrastructure, including new pipelines in Sea Cows Bay, improvements to the Ridge Road transmission system and the rehabilitation of several reservoirs.

The government is also advancing plans to merge the Water and Sewerage Department with the BVI Electricity Corporation under the proposed Virgin Islands Energy and Water Corporation, VIEWCo. (CMC)

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Jamaica turns to AI to reshape tourism

Jamaica is accelerating its use of artificial intelligence to sell the destination, predict visitor demand and help tourism businesses operate more efficiently as the country positions technology at the centre of its next phase of industry growth.

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett says AI and other digital technologies are already being incorporated into destination marketing, visitor services, workforce training and crisis management, as Jamaica marked World Tourism Day Sunday.

The shift forms part of what Bartlett describes as the country's Tourism 3.0 growth agenda, which is intended to marry technology with sustainable and people-centred development.

"We are moving past guesswork," Bartlett said in his World Tourism Day message.

He said smart digital platforms are increasingly connecting travellers directly with Jamaican experiences, while giving hotels tools to forecast demand, improve operations and reduce waste.

Among the initiatives being pursued are multilingual digital concierges to assist visitors with bookings; centralised data dashboards to identify travel trends and sharpen marketing; AI-assisted training programmes, and "AI clinics" for small tourism businesses.

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) is also using an AI-powered chatbot to provide 24-hour assistance to potential visitors.

Technology is being deployed beyond marketing. Bartlett said the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre is using advanced technologies to help anticipate disruptions that could affect the industry.

The increased reliance on technol-

ogy comes as artificial intelligence rapidly changes the way travellers research destinations, plan vacations and make bookings.

Jamaica is seeking to ensure that its hotels, attractions and other tourism experiences can be discovered and understood by the digital platforms increasingly influencing those decisions.

Bartlett said the transformation must also extend to the industry's workforce.

Training and upskilling are among the Government's priorities as AI changes existing tourism jobs and creates new career opportunities.

That focus will be taken directly to young Jamaicans during Tourism Awareness Week, which runs from September 27 to October 3 under the theme, 'Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism'.

Among the activities planned is a Tourism AI Youth Forum aimed at exposing students to the ways technology is reshaping the industry and creating new career paths.

The Jamaica Centre for Tourism Innovation will also stage a Hospitality and Tourism AI Workshop for industry stakeholders.

Bartlett said the technological push is intended to support Jamaica's longer-term ambition of attracting 10

million visitors and earning US\$10 billion from tourism over the next decade.

But he argued that technological transformation cannot come at the expense of the people and culture on which Jamaica's tourism product depends.

"Embracing this digital agenda helps us to future-proof our tourism industry while keeping a firm focus on protecting our environment and preserving our local culture," he said.

Tourism Awareness Week activities began with a church service at Faith Temple Assemblies of God in Montego Bay and will also include an Experience Jamaica programme offering discounts to Jamaicans at participating hotels and attractions, a speaker series in Tourism Action Club schools and stakeholder engagement activities.

Bartlett urged tourism businesses, communities and other stakeholders to embrace the technological changes while ensuring that their benefits reach Jamaicans.

"Together, we can harness innovation to rethink what tourism can be: an industry that uplifts communities, safeguards our heritage and builds a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for all," he said. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Regional News



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DR Congo Ebola outbreak exceeds 8,000 cases



The Democratic Republic of Congo has logged more than 8,000 cases of Ebola, including almost 4,000 deaths, amid the worst outbreak in the country's history, according to data from the Congolese authorities seen by AFP on Monday.

In mid-May, the DRC officially declared its 17th Ebola breakout, a deadly disease that has killed more than 15,000 people in Africa over the past 50 years.

To date, authorities have recorded 8,067 cases — including 3,901 deaths and 2,070 recoveries — since the start of the current crisis, representing a fatality rate of 48.4 per cent, the latest official data showed.

Starting in northeastern Ituri province, the outbreak has spread to seven provinces, with Ituri, North Kivu and Upper-Uele accounting for the majority of recorded cases.

Following a rapid increase, the number of cases has levelled off, according to the African Union's health agency Africa CDC, which nonetheless sees the outbreak as "not under control".

Several treatments and vaccines are being trialled against the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus behind the latest case flurry but for which there is currently no approved vaccine or treatment.

The health response lacks resources in remote areas, where the presence of armed groups complicates movement, amid mistrust from some sections of the local population, which has led to violence targeting humanitarian staff.

A health worker responsible for detecting cases was killed during an armed attack at a health checkpoint in North Kivu province, according to the Congolese health authorities' latest case report, which highlighted a "low

capacity" to treat cases at health centres in Ituri province.

The report also described a "complete shortage" of stocks of an experimental vaccine against the Bundibugyo strain in the northeastern province of Tshopo, where cases have been recorded.

The first doses of the Ervebo vaccine, which has been proven effective against the hitherto most common Zaire strain of the virus, have been administered in recent weeks in the DRC to volunteers from among frontline health staff as part of a clinical trial.

Some 70,000 doses of Ervebo, drawn from the global stockpile of Ebola vaccines, were allocated to the DRC in August.

Last week, the United States announced it was releasing a further \$267 million to help fight Ebola. (AFP)

A child and 2 women killed in an apparent stampede during Channel crossing attempt

A 10-year-old child and two women died Monday on the treacherous migration route across the English Channel from France, apparently trampled to death on a boat packed with more than 100 people, French authorities said.

The so-called “taxi boat” ran into difficulty off the northern French coast, with its passengers asking for help, authorities said. The inflatable boats attempt the dangerous crossing after picking up people from the beaches of northern France, where they waded into the sea to clamber aboard.

A French maritime rescue boat took aboard 105 people, the maritime prefecture said in a statement. The child and the two women were declared dead by an intensive care team that was helicoptered aboard, it said.

The women were believed to be in their 30s, the regional government said in a separate statement.



“According to the initial findings of the investigation, it appears the deaths were caused by a stampede. The precise circumstances of the tragedy will, however, have to be established by the

judicial investigation,” led by a prosecutor in the northern French port of Boulogne, the statement said.

Nine other people required medical treatment, it said. (AP)

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11th woman's body in South Africa as authorities investigate recent spate of killings



South African police said Monday that another body of a woman was discovered in Ekurhuleni, east of Johannesburg, bringing the total number of female victims recently found in the area to 11.

The spate of killings and bodies of women discovered in the area since July has sparked fears that a serial killer or killers are responsible. The killings also have generated anger in South Africa, which has high rates of femicide and violent crime toward women and children.

The body of the latest female victim was discovered in Springs, which is part of Ekurhuleni, by a private security company that was patrolling the area on Sunday, police said.

Police began investigating after the bodies of three women were found in July and August within about 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) of one another in the Ekurhuleni municipality, east of Johannesburg.

The discovery of six bodies in Ekurhuleni over 10 days earlier this month raised fears about a serial killer or killers.

The latest discovery came a day after another body of a woman who appeared to have been violently killed was discovered near Tembisa township.

Police released limited details about the 10th body, which was found early Saturday, and didn't immediately identify the victim.

According to the police, a 36-year-old suspect was arrested in connection with the killing and is due to appear at Tembisa Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

It is alleged that following the killing, the suspect fled to Tzaneen in Limpopo province, which is nearly 400 kilometers (about 245 miles) away from where the woman's body was discovered. He was arrested on Saturday evening, the same day the woman's body was discovered.

Last week, two women appeared in court in relation to the killing of one of the women whose bodies have been discovered around Ekurhuleni since July. They are due to appear in court on Oct. 1. (AP)

Sports News

ABCAS advances to final of School Boys Knockout Cup



The ABCAS football team

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) has advanced to the final of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean School Boys Knockout Cup.

ABCAS booked their spot in the championship decider after prevailing 3-2 in a penalty shootout against the Harrison Center after both teams battled to a goalless draw at the end of regulation in their semi-final at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park on Friday.

ABCAS is awaiting the winner of the other semi-final between Antigua Grammar School (AGS) and Princess

Margaret School (PMS), which will take place on Wednesday, September 30.

Antigua Grammar School and Princess Margaret School advanced to the semi-finals after both teams won their respective matches in the quarter-finals to secure their berths into the final four of the knockout competition.

The Antigua Grammar School recorded a 3-0 victory against Clare Hall Secondary at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The goals were scored by Tafari Parker in the 15th minute, Jayden Adam in the 37th minute, and Chace Joseph in

the 49th minute.

Princess Margaret School prevailed 4-1 against Irene B. Williams Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

The goals for Princess Margaret School were scored by Mario Lewis in the 13th minute, Jahmari George in the 21st minute, Delonte Phoenix in the 64th minute, and Dejoun Wilson in the 67th minute.

Najae Morton scored the opening goal of the match with a conversion in the third minute for Irene B. Williams Secondary.



Former champs ABTB among winners in Business Basketball League

There were wins for former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB), Sledge O'Ballers, and Curtain Bluff Resort in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Sunday evening.

The Transport Board claimed their fourth win in seven games by snatching a narrow 67-60 victory over Anjo Wholesale in their first game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Lindsay McDonald sank 20 points, Marlon "Buju" Charles had 17 points, and Elijah Charles scored 12 points for the ABTB.

Nathan Matthew produced 18 points, and Yohan Nicholas converted 14 points for Anjo Wholesale, who suffered their third consecutive loss after winning all three previous matches.

The Sledge O'Ballers notched up their fourth win in seven games by surging to a 73-52 victory over the Philippines in Sunday's second encounter.

Ariel Quallis sank 19 points, Terry Roberts converted 18 points, and Bernard Andrew scored 14 points for the Sledge O'Ballers. Raffie Salandino scored 10 points for the Philippines, who lost for the fourth time in six games.

Curtain Bluff Resort recorded their third win in seven outings with an 83-56 drubbing of Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) in Sunday's feature game.

Antoine Browne shot a game-high 21 points, Tyrese White sank 16 points, and Kareem Edwards scored 14 points for Curtain Bluff Hotel.

Demeitre Leitch converted 16 points, Malique Ward had 12 points, Donald Hunte sank 11 points, and Raheem Charles scored 10 points for SLBMC, who tumbled to their sixth defeat in seven games.



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Sports News

Three more teams enjoy success in ABFA pre-season knockout cup



The Freemans Village Scorpions team

John Hughes FC, the Freemans Village Scorpions, and the Young Lions of Old Road became the latest teams to advance to the Round of 16 in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) pre-season knockout tournament.

The three teams booked their spots into the next stage after winning their opening matches in the Round of 32 of the ABFA Pre-Season Knockout Cup.

Terrence Thomas scored four goals and Tijahni Isaac converted twice to propel John Hughes FC to an 11-1 drubbing of the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Thomas had conversions in the 11th, 35th, 40th, and 50th minutes, while Isaac scored in the 17th and 23rd minutes. Rodrique Barnes scored a consolation goal for the Cedar Grove Blue Jays with a strike in the 24th

minute.

The Freemans Village Scorpions prevailed 3-0 against FC Master Ballers at the Pigotts playing field. Goals by Junior Lee in the 14th minute and Darius Hector in the 34th minute gave the Scorpions a two-nil lead at halftime.

Shackwon Simon sealed the win by scoring his team's third and final goal with a strike in the 85th minute.

The Young Lions of Old Road beat Jennings United 4-1 at the Golden Grove playing field.

Following a goalless first half, the Young Lions took the lead via an own goal, which was scored by Kobe Meade in the 48th minute.

The Young Lions took a four-nil lead with conversions by Stefan Smith in the 62nd minute, Calique Shaquan Simon in the 76th minute, and Xavier Joseph

in the 88th minute.

Dante Isaac scored a consolation goal for Jennings United with a strike in the 90th and final minute of regulation play.

But the Round of 32 match between 11th-seed Ottos Rangers FC and Bendals FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park was postponed.



NOTICE **Closure for Annual Stocktaking**

Island Provision Food Distribution & Best Cellars
Wines & Spirits will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday 30th**
September 2026 at 10:00am for **ANNUAL**
STOCKTAKING. We will resume regular operating
 hours on Thursday 1st October 2026.

We **THANK YOU** for your continued support and offer our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience these closures may cause.

MANAGEMENT
Island Provision Group

Teams share reasons for optimism at NBA media day

After being on opposite sides of an NBA Finals that ended just 3 1/2 months ago, New York guard Jalen Brunson and San Antonio center Victor Wembanyama found themselves with the exact same mindsets on Monday.

As proof, consider the descriptions offered about their summer vacations.

"It was short," Wembanyama said. "The longest, shortest summer ever," Brunson said.

Short offseasons are the goal for every team in the NBA — because they want to play as long as possible, like the champion Knicks and runner-up Spurs did last season.

And the journey toward potential title runs have now started in earnest around the league, with Media Days being held for most teams on Monday and practices for everybody happening on Tuesday.

"Right now, the best team in the NBA is the New York Knicks," Miami forward Giannis Antetokounmpo said at Heat media day Monday, tipping his cap to the reigning champions.

"And they have one of the best players, Jalen Brunson. ... But we're going to do our job. We've got to do our job, man. If we do our job and we win games, then we'll see."

It's not an unheard-of approach, obviously, but it worked wonders for the Knicks last season when they ended a 53-year title drought for the franchise.

"Not being satisfied, I think, is the biggest takeaway moving forward," Brunson said. "You still want to figure out how you can grow as a person and as a player."

There is no shortage of teams in the league with confidence that they can contend, especially in this era of parity — with eight different franchises having won titles in the past eight seasons.

Among the key moves from recent months: Philadelphia loaded up by adding LeBron James and Jaylen Brown, Miami added Antetokounmpo and Klay Thompson, the Toronto Raptors brought back Kawhi Leonard, LaMelo Ball headed to Minnesota and DeMar DeRozan is set to pair up with Nikola Jokic in Denver.



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard speaks at the Raptors media day in Toronto on Monday, Sept. 28, 2026. (AP)

James — the NBA's all-time leading scorer, entering Year 24 of his career — was asked what he can do for the 76ers.

"Whatever the team needs for me to do," James said, wearing his new 76ers uniform in public for the first time. "I think the luxury of my game is I can do everything. Literally, I can do everything."

And while the Eastern Conference is loaded with depth, it's two Western Conference teams — the Spurs and the Oklahoma City Thunder — that are favorites to win the 2027 championship, according to most sportsbooks.

Wembanyama said the Spurs grew from the pain that came with losing to the Knicks.

"I've had a few sleepless nights; maybe not sleepless nights, but hard to find sleep sometimes or hard emotions. Haunting, sometimes," Wembanyama said.

"But there's just a point where you accept that you have to go through it and you have to feel all of it."

Some roster additions didn't even have to change addresses. Indiana, which lost Game 7 of the finals in 2025 to Oklahoma City, now has Tyrese Haliburton back after he missed all of last season

with a torn Achilles, and that means the Pacers will also likely be among the many legit contenders in the East.

"I am healthy. I am 100%. There will be no restrictions," Haliburton said. "That is not news. There is no source. I am the source. I'm good. I'm ready to go for the year."

Leonard's return to the Raptors — he led Toronto to the 2019 NBA title — came after a year where the end of his tenure with the Los Angeles Clippers was overshadowed by a salary-cap-circumvention scandal that led to massive sanctions against his now-former team such as the forfeiture of five first-round picks, a US\$30 million fine and a one-year banishment of owner Steve Ballmer.

"I think the best decision is to move forward and focus on my time being a Toronto Raptor," Leonard said.

"I already was a distraction for the past 70 days and wasn't able to meet my teammates, do any of that minicamp stuff with them. Moving forward, I just want to talk about the Toronto Raptors. ... I just want to focus on basketball again."

Hanse on Security return to winning form in IBSC Tape Ball Classic

Hanse on Security returned to winning form during the latest round of matches in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

After suffering their first defeat in a six-wicket loss to Grill Box in their previous outing, Hanse on Security rebounded to notch up their fourth win in five matches by pulling off a three-wicket victory over TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs at the Powells playing field in the annual T20 competition on Sunday.

Malique Jacobs slammed a century to propel the Underdogs to 227 for seven off their 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Jacobs smashed 109, including 12 sixes and four fours, while Vishal Gobin struck 32. Kerique Mentore took two for 32, Rahkeem Cornwall claimed two for 36, and Derek Mourillon picked up two for 40.

Clinton Benjamin and Cornwall both hit half centuries to lead Hanse on Security to victory at 230 for seven with 10 balls to spare. Benjamin struck an unbeaten 90, which included nine sixes and five fours.

Cornwall hammered 83 off 23 balls, smashing eight sixes and eight fours. Tyree Moore bagged three for 20, and Rondell Winter captured three for 43. Both Jacobs and Cornwall were named joint players of the week for their outstanding performances.

It was the second consecutive loss in four matches for TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs after winning their opening game, with the second being rained out.

Meanwhile, the VIP's unbeaten start to the competition was ended by Grill Box in their latest outing. After winning their previous three matches, the VIP suffered their first loss in a nine-wicket defeat to



Joint player of the week Rahkeem Cornwall of Hanse on Security

Grill Box at the Rising Sun playing field.

The VIP crashed to 57 all out in 10 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Michael Marcellin got 15. Richie Thomas snapped up three for 12, Zavear Otto took three for 19, Demari Benta grabbed two wickets for five runs, and Rodney Williams captured two for 16.

Grill Box claimed their third win in five matches, which also included a loss and a rained-out encounter, by scoring 61 for one in eight overs. Steve Martin hit an unbeaten 33, and Kadeem Henry struck 24 not out.

After losing all four previous matches, Jakes Invincibles recorded their first win by pulling off a seven-wicket victory over Easy Pickings Mix Up Stars at Rising Sun.

Mix Up Stars tumbled to 89 all out in



Joint player of the week Malique Jacobs of TG Welding & Fabrication

18.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Kirk Douglas hit 44. Anthony Perrier bagged three for 18, TRon Payne captured two for 13, and Cheston Scotland picked up two for 14.

Jakes Invincibles achieved victory by scoring 90 for three in 10.5 overs. Melvin Charles struck 25, and Anthony Perrier made 24 as the Mix-Up Stars plummeted to their fourth loss in as many matches.

After losing their previous three matches in defense of their title, cup-holders Bryson's Bullets claimed their second consecutive win after being awarded victory via default against PMS, who was unable to field a team for their encounter at Powells. It was the second loss in four matches for PMS.