

Ways to Lower Credit Cards Fees For Gas Stations Dealers Under Consideration

Story on page 2



JCI Antigua Celebrates Award-Winning Success at 66th National Convention

Ways to Lower Credit Cards Fees For Gas Stations Dealers Under Consideration

The government is trying to find ways to minimize or eliminate what has been described as ‘excessive’ credit/debit card fees that are charged by local banks to service stations whenever customers pay for gas using these cards.

And according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, two local banks are actively engaged in finding solutions to this problem. This issue of credit/debit card payments was among the matters raised as concerns when the service station dealers’ association met with the Cabinet little more than a month ago.

Since first of two recent price increases for gasoline went into effect on September 1st, service stations have refused to accept credit/debit card payments for gasoline noting that the fees paid to the banks on the use of cards erode their already narrow margins.

However, the prime minister has expressed empathy for the service station dealers and he revealed that he has met a senior official of at least one bank – the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) which said it is looking into the matter to come up with a solution that favours the dealers.

PM Browne also announced that ACB Caribbean has also indicated that it too was looking into ways to ease the burden placed on the service station dealers.

“One of the things that can be done, is to have the system programmed in such a way that you would have the consumer paying the three percent fee charged by the banks whenever cards



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

are used. This means for example, if you purchase \$100.00 worth of gas, automatically you are charged \$103.00 with the extra \$3.00 going to pay the bank fees,” he suggested.

According to PM Browne under the current system that three percent is paid by the service station dealers. He even suggested that a system could be devised where the extra \$3.00 could be split between the service station and the consumer thereby reducing the charge to the service station, whose margins are already quite small.

The prime minister said he is committed to finding solutions to the problem and he repeated the promise that the government will implement increases in the margins for the service stations before yearend.

However, PM Browne took serious issue with the service station dealers who closed their stations last Tuesday that resulted in long lines at gas stations across Antigua ostensibly to allow them to ‘convene’ a meeting.

He said the action was unnecessary as there was ‘a gentlemen’s agreement’ between the service stations on the government that the demand for an increase would have been addressed within a 90-day period, which expires on November 30.

In response, the prime minister indicated that Cabinet will approve between three and four new service stations to be placed at strategic points across the island to ensure that this does not happen again.



Curry House

ANTIGUA

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

currytandoorihouseanu

curryhouseanu

(268) 736-7165

CTO Names Antigua and Barbuda As Host for Its Tourism Industry Conference, 2027

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has announced that Antigua and Barbuda will host the 2027 State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC) October 4-8, 2027, bringing the region's leading tourism forum to the twin-island nation.

The announcement was made during the final day of SOTIC 2026 in Georgetown, Guyana, where tourism ministers, directors, private-sector executives, thought leaders, industry partners and media gathered to examine the forces shaping the future of Caribbean tourism.

SOTIC is CTO's principal forum for bringing together tourism ministers, commissioners and directors of tourism, private-sector executives, regional and international partners, academics, media, young people and other industry stakeholders to examine the issues shaping Caribbean tourism.

"Antigua and Barbuda has demonstrated a strong commitment to tourism development and regional collaboration, and we look forward to bringing the Caribbean tourism community together there for SOTIC 2027," said Dona Regis-Prosper, secretary-general and CEO of CTO. "Each SOTIC gives us an important opportunity to examine the issues affecting our industry, share knowledge and strengthen the partnerships that will help Caribbean tourism remain competitive, sustainable and inclusive."

Charles "Max" Fernandez, Antigua and Barbuda's minister of tourism, and the newly elected CTO chairman, welcomed the announcement, saying the destination looks forward to hosting tourism leaders and partners from across the region and beyond.

"Antigua and Barbuda is honored to welcome the Caribbean tourism community for SOTIC 2027," Fernandez said. "We look forward to sharing the warmth and hospitality of our people



while providing a setting for meaningful dialogue about the opportunities and challenges ahead.

"Hosting SOTIC will also allow us to showcase the continued evolution and advancement of our tourism product and the experiences that distinguish our twin-island destination. We are deeply committed to the Caribbean and to working with our regional part-

ners to strengthen tourism as a force for shared prosperity, resilience and opportunity across our region."

Regis-Prosper thanked the government of Guyana and its tourism partners for hosting SOTIC 2026 and said the transition to Antigua and Barbuda reflects CTO's continued commitment to taking its flagship conference across the region.

Junior Tourism Minister Racks Up Awards at Regional Tourism Conference

The Junior Minister of Tourism for Antigua and Barbuda, Janica Adams, has received the Honourable Mention/Special Recognition Award at the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Regional Tourism Youth Congress 2026, in recognition of the exceptional qualities she demonstrated throughout the competition.

The award, uniquely established by the CTO, recognizes outstanding attributes displayed by a delegate during their presentation and response to the mystery question—qualities that may extend beyond the standard scoring rubric used by the official panel of judges. It is designed to acknowledge exceptional performance, quick thinking, authentic engagement, and a genuine passion for tourism that may not be fully reflected in the competition's structured numerical assessment.

Unlike the congress's standard awards, the Special Recognition Award is not presented at every Youth Congress. Its presentation is determined by the judging panel when a delegate demonstrates something distinctive in their presentation, presence, interaction, or connection with the audience that leaves an authentic and lasting impression.

The judging panel considered it an honour and privilege to recognize Adams with this special distinction, acknowledging the qualities she displayed beyond the competition's established scoring criteria.

Tracey Browne, Country Coordinator for the programme, high-



lighted the importance of nurturing young talent and creating opportunities for the next generation of tourism leaders.

“The future of Caribbean tourism depends on our ability to nurture and empower the next generation of leaders. Young people like Janica Adams remind us that our region's greatest asset is not only the beauty of our destinations, but also the creativity, passion and fresh perspectives of our youth. By giving them opportunities to lead, innovate and champion sustainable and inclusive tourism, we are investing in a stronger, more resilient future for Caribbean tourism,”

Browne stated.

The recognition represents a meaningful acknowledgement of the value of youth participation in Caribbean tourism and the importance of nurturing emerging leaders who demonstrate enthusiasm, confidence, and a genuine commitment to the sector's future.

Janica Adams' achievement brings positive recognition to Antigua and Barbuda and underscores the importance of providing young people with opportunities to develop their knowledge, leadership abilities, and understanding of the regional tourism industry.

Antigua and Barbuda Elected Vice-Chair of ECLAC, Strengthening its Leadership in Regional Diplomacy

Antigua and Barbuda has secured an important diplomatic achievement with the election of Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene, as Vice-Chair of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The appointment underscores the country's commitment to advancing a sustainable, resilient and inclusive development agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The election took place ahead of the conclusion of the Forty-First Session of ECLAC, held from 7–9 October 2026 in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic. The session convened representatives of governments across the region to deliberate on critical economic, social and environmental priorities, with particular emphasis on strengthening regional cooperation and navigating an increasingly complex global geopolitical and geo-economic landscape.

Commenting on the election, Minister Greene stated, "Antigua and Barbuda welcomes its election as Vice-Chair of ECLAC and recognises this responsibility as an opportunity to deepen our engagement with countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

"At a time when our region faces complex economic, social and environmental challenges, regional solidarity and meaningful cooperation are essential. We look forward to contributing constructively to ECLAC's work and advancing priorities that promote resilience, sustainable development and shared prosperity for our peoples."

Antigua and Barbuda's representative to the Forty-First Session, Joy-Marie King, Director of International Trade, confirmed that Minister Greene's election was unopposed. She described the outcome as "a reflection of the importance of active regional engagement and our country's commitment to multilateralism, international cooperation and the pursuit of sustainable and in-



Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene

clusive development."

Addressing the ECLAC membership, King reaffirmed Antigua and Barbu-

da's commitment to working with the Commission, its member countries and regional and international partners to advance a development agenda responsive to the region's priorities, expand economic opportunities and strengthen collective capacity to address emerging challenges. She underscored the importance of sustained collaboration in translating regional commitments into practical outcomes that advance resilience and sustainable development.

Antigua and Barbuda's election as Vice-Chair provides an important platform for the country to contribute to ECLAC's regional deliberations and support collective efforts to advance the development priorities of Latin America and the Caribbean.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

DID YOU KNOW?

Medical insurance covers vision and dental costs

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422
 info@siclfinancial.com www.siclfinancial.com

Local News

IHO Launches “One Last Thread” Global Creative Call to Amplify Women’s Voices Ahead of CHOGM 2026

Ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Women’s Forum (CWF), Antigua and Barbuda-based non-profit organisation Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) has officially announced the launch of “One Last Thread”, an open call for creative submissions, inviting women across all 56 Commonwealth nations to submit original poetry, short prose, and spoken word recordings reflecting their lived realities in relation to the Forum’s official theme: Advancing Gender Equality: Investment in a Prosperous and Resilient Commonwealth. Running alongside IHO’s ongoing Civil Society Pre-Convening Meeting Series ahead of the CWF, this creative advocacy campaign offers an accessible platform for women worldwide to directly influence the CWF’s social conscience and the wider week of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

IHO Executive Director, Dr Nicola Bird, states: “Prosperity and resilience cannot be measured only by data points and financial metrics. Vibrant grassroots participation is indispensable. And listening to the perspectives of women and girls is what should inform policy-makers whether their actions are having an impact or not, and what needs to change.” The Executive Director added, “Through One Last Thread we are providing a global megaphone for the authentic and unedited realities of women across the Commonwealth as one more way of trying to ensure that all of us, from government, to civil society, to the business sector, to international organisations, remember that real people are counting on us to use platforms like CHOGM to achieve something tangible and meaningful, and not just empty talk.”

Submission Requirements

IHO accepts submissions in three (3) written and oral formats, as noted below. Submissions must be presented in English and strictly adhere to the following artistic limits:

Poetry: Up to 30 lines

Short Prose: Up to 400 words

Spoken Word: Up to 2 minutes (video



One Last Thread

AN OPEN CALL FOR CREATIVE SUBMISSIONS FROM WOMEN IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Theme:

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY: INVESTMENT IN A PROSPEROUS AND RESILIENT COMMONWEALTH

POETRY
Up to 30 lines

SHORT PROSE
Up to 400 words

SPOKEN WORD
Up to 2 minutes
Video or Audio

We want to hear from you, the women of the Commonwealth, ahead of the 5th Commonwealth Women's Forum in November 2026. Submit an original creative piece in English on the theme for the Forum (see below). Selected pieces will be showcased on our channels to run alongside both the Women's Forum and CHOGM. Women's voices matter. What does gender equality mean for you? What does a prosperous and resilient future look like for women in your country?

Submission Deadline: **October 30, 2026**

Email submissions to: info@ihoab.com

To learn more, visit our page: www.ihoab.com/chogm-2026

or audio, video is strongly encouraged)

Rather than remaining solely a social media campaign, selected submissions will be showcased by IHO on its social media, its website and at associated events during CHOGM week as delegates pour into Antigua for the 28th CHOGM. Submissions must be completed and emailed to info@ihoab.com before the **deadline on October 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM Atlantic Standard Time (AST)**. Further guidance is available online at IHO’s website at this link: www.ihoab.com/chogm-2026. Women residing anywhere within the 56 Commonwealth countries can read the detailed guidelines and submit their files directly by visiting the IHO CHOGM Campaign Page.

The Commonwealth Women’s Forum (CWF) is one of several official stakeholder gatherings held alongside the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The 2026 CHOGM is happening in Antigua and Barbuda, and so too is the 2026 Women’s Forum. Within the Commonwealth, advancing women’s rights is not merely a social goal but a foundational pillar for sustainable development and democratic resilience. With women and girls making up more than half of the Commonwealth’s 2.7 billion citizens, addressing pervasive challenges such as gender-based violence, economic marginalisation, and systemic inequality requires robust, targeted cooperation between government and civil society.

Celebrate 45 years with 45% OFF.

Get a
Samsung A17
with a new Postpaid plan



a chance to win weekly
prizes and a **Royalton CHIC**
Antigua getaway for two.



Happy Independence
Antigua and Barbuda.

Sign up today.

Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid while stocks last.
Promotion period September 28 to October 31

Royalton
CHIC Antigua

FLOW



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

INDEPENDENCE *Church Service*



SUNDAY
18
OCTOBER 2026



PRECISION
CENTER



4:00 PM



NATIONAL
EVENTS
DEPARTMENT
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

JCI Antigua Celebrates Award-Winning Success at 66th National Convention



JCI Antigua returned from the 66th National Convention in Saint Lucia with a series of major awards and finalist nominations, recognising the achievements of the organisation and its members. Held from October 7 to 10, the convention also saw former JCI Antigua President Laurel Jonas elected to serve as JCI West Indies National President for the 2027 administrative year, with Colette Edwards elected as Vice President. The JCI Antigua delegation was headed by President Collet Gordon.

The organisation received the 100% Efficiency Award, Public Relations Award and Skills Development Award. It also won Best Local Growth and Development Programme for Aspire to Inspire and Best JCI RISE Project for the Spotlight Entrepreneur Expo. JCI Antigua was further named Most Outstanding Organisation.

Members earned individual honours across several categories. Shere

Roberts received one of two First-Timer Awards, Akilah Anderson was named Best Local Secretary-General, and Olson Browne received the Most Outstanding Member Award. Maleeka Goodwin won the Public Speaking Championship, while JCI Antigua's debating team—Donte Walter, Kenrick George and Tiffany Strann-Peters—claimed the Debating Championship.

Board members were also recognised through the Presidential Honours. President Collet Gordon received the Excellence in Leadership among Local Presidents Award. National President Therese Mills received the Above and Beyond Award, while Colette Edwards was honoured with the Excellence in Leadership among Board Officers Award.

JCI Antigua was shortlisted as a finalist in seven additional categories:

- * Best Local Business and Entrepreneurship Programme – Professional-

ism in Customer Care Seminar

- * Best Local Individual and Development Programme – Training Series

- * Best Humanitarian Project – Peace Walk

- * Best International Cooperation Project – Prospective Members Gentle Heart Initiative

- * Best Inter-Organisation Collaboration Project – JCI Antigua and Lions Club partnership for prostate screening

- * Most Outstanding Local President – President Collet Gordon

- * Most Outstanding New Member – Maleeka Goodwin

The awards and leadership appointments highlight JCI Antigua's contribution to leadership development, community service and the wider JCI movement. The organisation congratulated its members and partners whose dedication contributed to its successful showing at the convention.

Antigua and Barbuda Art Week 2026 Promises ‘Cultural Experiences’

«Jam Bull» performances, evening art tours, sustainable art, live painting and opportunities to create everything from West African masks to handmade notebooks to textured paintings by the sea, feature among the confirmed highlights of Antigua and Barbuda Art Week, taking place November 11–18, 2026.

New experiences this year include ‘Art After Dark’, an evening Art Trail tour; ‘Out of the Krokus Bag’, a series of dramatic and cultural presentations featuring the Jam Bull; Henré Designs’ first Art Week studio opening; the ‘Dual Thresholds’ public art project; and an exhibition at The Barracks Gallery.

“More and more, we recognise that visitors are seeking experiences that deepen their understanding of a destination and allow them to connect with its people. Art Week creates that connection while also providing a platform for our artists to share their work, reach new audiences, and earn through their creativity,” said Maria Blackman, Marketing Communications Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

The Art Week programme brings together Tourism Authority-led events and independently organised experiences by artists, galleries, studios and other members of the creative community, creating more ways for residents and visitors to engage with Antigua and Barbuda’s art and culture.

Symphony of Colours, the official Art Week opening, will bring colour, music, cuisine and performances to Redcliffe Quay on the evening of November 11, launching a week of exhibitions, public art, studio experiences, workshops and cultural performances across Antigua.

Visitors arriving at V.C. Bird In-



ternational Airport from November 11 will get their introduction to Art Week through the winning art pieces from the ‘Rising Stars of Art’ student art competition and the ‘Dual Thresholds’ public art installation, which brings a selection of artist-designed doors into the airport’s arrivals hall.

The ABTA Art Week exhibit relocates this year from the V.C. Bird International Airport to the new E.T. Henry Gallery in Redcliffe Quay, allowing for even greater engagement with the pieces. The exhibit will feature the works of over thirty artists throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

At Makö Fine Art Gallery, the Roots Krokus Collective will present ‘Out of the Krokus Bag’, bringing Caribbean stories to life through exhibitions, dance, poetry, workshops and performances. A preview of the ‘Out of the Krokus Bag’ Jam Bull performance during Symphony of Colours will offer audiences insight into Antigua and Barbuda’s history and folklore.

Fashion designer and creative stylist Shem Henry will welcome visitors and residents to the Henré Designs studio for ‘BE’, an intimate fashion and art experience. At the Barracks Gallery, artist Stephen Murphy, in



collaboration with Amaya Iztueta, will present the exhibition of works by artist Maria Ross Iztueta. While, at the Art and Cultural Village at Julees, multidisciplinary artist Iyaba Ibo Mandingo will host West African mask-making and puppet workshops, alongside ‘Puppet Village’.

Other hands-on experiences throughout the week range from ‘Bind Your Story’, a personalised notebook-making workshop, to Good Humans 268’s sustainable art activity using recycled and repurposed materials.

Art Week’s guided gallery bus tours expand this year with ‘Art After Dark’, a new ABTA Art Trail experience on November 17 that combines evening art encounters with local wine tastings. It follows the November 13 Art & Culture bus tour during the day. Participating galleries, studios and exhibition spaces will also welcome visitors exploring independently during Art Week.

From ‘Jam Bull’ performances and ‘Art After Dark’ to studio discoveries, public art and hands-on workshops, the fourth edition invites visitors and residents into Antigua and Barbuda’s creative community (Photos courtesy, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

Caribbean States Show Solidarity at IWC Meeting in Hobart, Australia

The Sustainable Use group Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Benin, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Morocco, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu, Suriname, Nicaragua, Laos, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Norway and others — attended IWC70 Hobart 28 Sept - 2 Oct as principled minority 18 vs 39 grounded in law.

ON SMEAR CAMPAIGN, CATEGORICAL LEGAL CLARIFICATION:

We never attempted to reintroduce commercial whaling by resolution. That can only be done by amendment of the Schedule which requires three quarters majority and we have never ever, ever tried to do that. That was false narrative of NGOs worldwide.

A resolution cannot overturn a moratorium. Moratorium is Para 10(e) of Schedule. To change Schedule needs 3/4 vote. We knew that. We never tabled Schedule Amendment.

What we tabled through Saint Lucia was resolution asking for a review of moratorium as agreed under Para 10(e) itself over 40 years ago. Para 10(e) says it shall be reviewed after 10 years by 1990 — to consider modification and establishment of other catch limits. It was never reviewed. All we asked for was a review and consideration of sustainable use possibilities. Resolution never said resumption of commercial whaling. That is very important.

OUTCOMES:

1. SOUTH ATLANTIC SANCTUARY FAILED AGAIN AFTER 28 YEARS OPPOSITION INCREASING NOT DECREASING:

Vote 39 for, 18 against, 2 abstentions (Iceland, Turkiye). Needs 75%



to amend the Schedule. At IWC69 lost by one vote. At IWC70 lost by more. There is increasing objection to sanctuary, not decreasing objection. Opposition growing despite 28 years lobbying.

Our 18 against: Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Grenada, Laos, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Morocco, Nauru, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Senegal, Saint Kitts, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Tuvalu. We voted on principle: sanctuaries must be based on Science Committee advice, not politics.

Not only does sanctuary has No scientific justification it would become threat to global navigation. It has Not been approved by IMO. It has many concerns with trade and ocean enclosure. The reasons are not in keeping with freedom of navigation. There has never been any record of any whale strike in this area in terms of

ship strikes. There has never been any major issue of entanglement. It is all attempt to increase territories to provide for more funding for NGOs.

2. QUORUM MANEUVER STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS:

The anti-sustainable use forces tried to use quorum tool to stifle debate and silence SIDS rights. We stopped it. Thank you to United States who stated categorically they cannot accept a quorum not based on majority of members of Commission. Victory for democracy, especially small states.

3. PARA 10(e) + SUSTAINABLE USE GOVERNANCE FAILURE:

While refusing to say in public, US and many other countries agreed privately moratorium was based on requirement for review after 10 years and something must be put in place. US agreed Para 10(e) requires review

Local News



and will work with us inter-sessionally on revised resolution. Increasing sympathy within IWC traction.

Some EU countries have gone as far as legislating for permanent ban domestically. This is illegal and against international agreement at IWC where they agreed for review they should not put domestic laws in place to circumvent international commitment made by law. This is a governance issue, not just moratorium about functioning of Commission.

A Sustainable Use Resolution was tabled this time by St Lucia to show broad-based SIDS support, not just Antigua and Barbuda. However, this was withdrawn strategically after its third tabling when the EU bloc refused a good-faith engagement.

4. BUDGET HYPOCRISY - SAINT VINCENT EXAMPLE, WHO IS AGENT OF CHAOS?

The Secretariat proposed 12-15% increase for 2026-2027 biennium while SIDS face oil crisis, inflation, cost-of-living.

Coalition of ~10 anti-whaling NGOs who raise MILLIONS annually using whales as fundraising tool pledged ONLY US\$36,000 TOTAL to IWC \$3,000 each including OceanCare.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ALONE PAYS A LITTLE BIT MORE THAN AN-

TIGUA ALMOST £36,000+ FOR TWO YEARS ONE SIDS EQUALS THEIR ENTIRE COALITION. All SIDS combined contributions dwarf their charity.

They spend MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON THEMSELVES AND ON ANTI-WHALING CAMPAIGN AND NOTHING ON DEVELOPMENT AND NOTHING ON WHALE RESEARCH. They pledged \$36K to Commission that provides them with a their stage.

OceanCare called us agents of chaos for demanding Zero Nominal Increase. Who is agent of chaos? Those who fund Commission, or those who use Commission to fund themselves?

5. HOBART DECLARATION & REFORM:

Antigua and Barbuda was invited to sit on many committees. The Commission invited Antigua and Barbuda to sit on many committees including Hobart Declaration Committee. Antigua did not impose itself Commission recognized our constructive leadership. Declaration adopted by consensus for 80th Anniversary contains many elements supporting sustainable use, food security and role of developing countries. Proves Antigua is major advocate for reform and reform beginning to have traction.

6. VOTE-BUYING SMEAR CATEGORICALLY FALSE, RACIST,

NEOCOLONIAL:

That vote buyers, votes are being bought, and developing countries that support sustainable use votes are being bought. That is what they say. Categorically false, racist, neocolonial, insulting to sovereign states. We are not for sale. Smear that SIDS are proxies is false. We speak for ourselves.

7. OCEAN GOVERNANCE-REAL ISSUE:

This is not just about whales. Antigua and Barbuda does not whale. Whale is fundamental issue of ocean use and marine science. This is about who controls ocean. Is it governments accountable to coastal communities, or NGOs or governments under pressure from NGOs? This is about governance of international organizations against trend where large developed countries even landlocked trying to take ocean management away from us, something we gained under Law of Sea Convention they trying to re-control. We will not allow recolonization of our seas.

We came as minority grounded in law. Our seas, our heritage, our right to sustainable use under Convention.

Issued by; The Antigua and Barbuda Delegation - IWC70 Hobart



ACB
CARIBBEAN

Home Advantage

**MORTGAGES
DESIGNED
JUST FOR YOU**



Apply today.

f @ y in

 **50% off legal fees**

 **100% Financing**

Indian Delegation Visits Antigua and Barbuda



To further contribute towards expanding partnership between India and Antigua and Barbuda, the delegation led by Ms Simran, Under Secretary of Development Partnership Administration, India- DPA, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and a NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) team headed by Pushphas Pandey paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne and Foreign Minister, E P Chet Greene.

The delegation also met with Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr. The High Commission of India in Guyana accredited to Antigua and Barbuda was represented by



Hon. Consul of India in Antigua and Barbuda, Vijay Tewani.

The delegation made site visits to Crispa Wholesale & Distribution Company Ltd. and A & B Farms Ltd. in connection with India's

SEEDS (Supply of Equipment for Efficient Development of SMEs) initiative of development partnership program aimed at supporting nations in the Global South.

Local News

Two Women Have Been Charged with Larceny Over the Theft of Items of Clothing

The police have arrested and jointly charged 25-year-old Cleo Lemonious of Cooks Hill and 29-year-old Latoya Pilliner of Gray Hill in connection with the alleged theft of several items of clothing valued at EC\$4,405.

It is alleged that between October 6 and 7, 2026, the two women stole several articles of clothing from a clothing store located on Market and Redcliffe Streets.

The stolen items reportedly included several Polo and Burberry shirts, jeans, baby clothing, and other apparel. CCTV footage captured both accused allegedly removing the items from the store.

They were subsequently arrested and jointly charged with larceny, and are expected to appear before the St. John's Magistrate's Court on Monday, October 12, 2026, to answer to the charge.



Midweek Deals

TUESDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

-Burger
-Medium Drink
\$19.99



-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
\$17.99



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



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

TALKING POINT

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

Letter to the Editor

Open Letter to The Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua And Barbuda

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

I write to you today as a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda. I write as a young Black woman, as a mother, as a person living with a disability, as someone who experienced the uncertainty of pregnancy without wages, and most importantly, as a tired citizen.

I am tired of fighting. I am tired of waiting. I am tired of having to prove that I deserve to be treated with dignity in the country I call home. On October 19, 2020, I was removed from the work schedule at Sheer Rocks Restaurant and Bar. I was not given a termination letter. What followed was years of financial uncertainty, emotional distress, pregnancy, motherhood, and a legal battle that tested me in ways I cannot adequately explain.

But I fought. And on May 22, 2026, the Industrial Court of Antigua and Barbuda delivered a judgment in my favour. The Court determined that I had been unfairly dismissed and ordered compensation totalling EC\$61,118.32, payable by June 30, 2026.

The Court described my dismissal as “harsh, oppressive and wholly contrary to good industrial relations practice.” Those are not my words. Those are the findings of a court in Antigua and Barbuda. Yet here I am, approaching October 19, 2026, six years after my removal from the work schedule, still fighting to receive the compensation awarded to me. After nearly six years of fighting, and after a judgment for more than EC\$61,000, I cannot pretend that I am satisfied.

Prime Minister, I am not asking you to interfere with the judiciary. I am not asking the Government to pay a private employer’s debt. I am asking for something entirely different.

I would like my outstanding government back pay. I need the money because I intend to continue fighting for the enforcement of my judgment. I need to be able to retain a lawyer. I



Joshuanette Francis

need to be able to exercise the rights that the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

I do not want a government handout. I want what I am lawfully entitled to. And there is a much bigger question that I need you, as Prime Minister, to consider.

What does justice really mean in Antigua and Barbuda if an ordinary citizen can spend years fighting through the legal system, win a judgment, and still face another expensive legal battle to obtain payment? What happens to the citizen who cannot afford another lawyer? What happens to the single mother? What happens to the young worker? What happens to the person with a disability who has already spent years fighting to be treated fairly?

Are our laws protecting citizens, or are they protecting only those who have the financial resources to keep fighting? We speak constantly about economic growth, investment, tourism, national development, and the future of Antigua and Barbuda. Those things are important. But the most valuable resource any country possesses is its people.

A country cannot measure its success

only by how much money businesses generate. We must also measure our success by how people are treated, particularly when they are vulnerable. Our history matters. Our ancestors endured enslavement. Generations of working people fought for dignity, fair wages, and better conditions. Leaders of our labour movement, including V. C. Bird, helped establish the idea that ordinary workers deserved protection and respect.

We cannot celebrate that history while allowing working people to feel that justice is beyond their financial reach. I am not asking for special treatment because I am disabled. I am not asking for special treatment because I am a woman or a mother. I am asking that the rights afforded to me under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda mean something in practice.

I am therefore publicly requesting that your administration pay my outstanding government backpay entitlements through the appropriate channels and consider whether our legislation provides sufficient, affordable mechanisms for workers to enforce Industrial Court judgments.

I have fought the good fight. I have won in court. I should not have to spend the next six years fighting to enjoy the benefit of that victory. I do not want charity. I want justice. I want dignity. I want the opportunity to use what is rightfully mine to continue standing up for myself.

And I want an Antigua and Barbuda where the next young woman who finds herself in my position does not have to endure what I have endured.

Respectfully,

Joshuanette Francis

Citizen of Antigua and Barbuda

Mother | Disability Advocate | Former Employee of Sheer Rocks Restaurant and Bar

Letter to the Editor

PAGE 17

The Steelpan - A Force of “ONENESS”

There is no force on Earth to match the force of “ONENESS,” be it political, religious, or otherwise. The Steelpan has proven to be a centripetal force that genuinely and unconditionally brings people of all walks of life, and regardless of age, together as a unifying body for humane purposes.

Additionally, the Steelpan naturally aids in memory retention, health, and positive team building.

Golden Gates Steel Orchestra, a subsidiary of the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra, is a living testimony of this. The Golden Gates Steel Orchestra was established in 2002, as a ‘very special Steelpan class’, of the Eustace “Manning” Henry Steelpan Academy, specifically for adults. The Eustace “Manning” Henry Steelpan Academy also has Beginner, Intermediate and Advance Classes.

The idea of establishing a special class for adults, was given birth by Auntie Esther Henry.



**Keep shining -
Togetherness
Energetic
Awesome
Magnanimous
GOLDEN GATES**

“Educate! Agitate! Don’t Violate!”

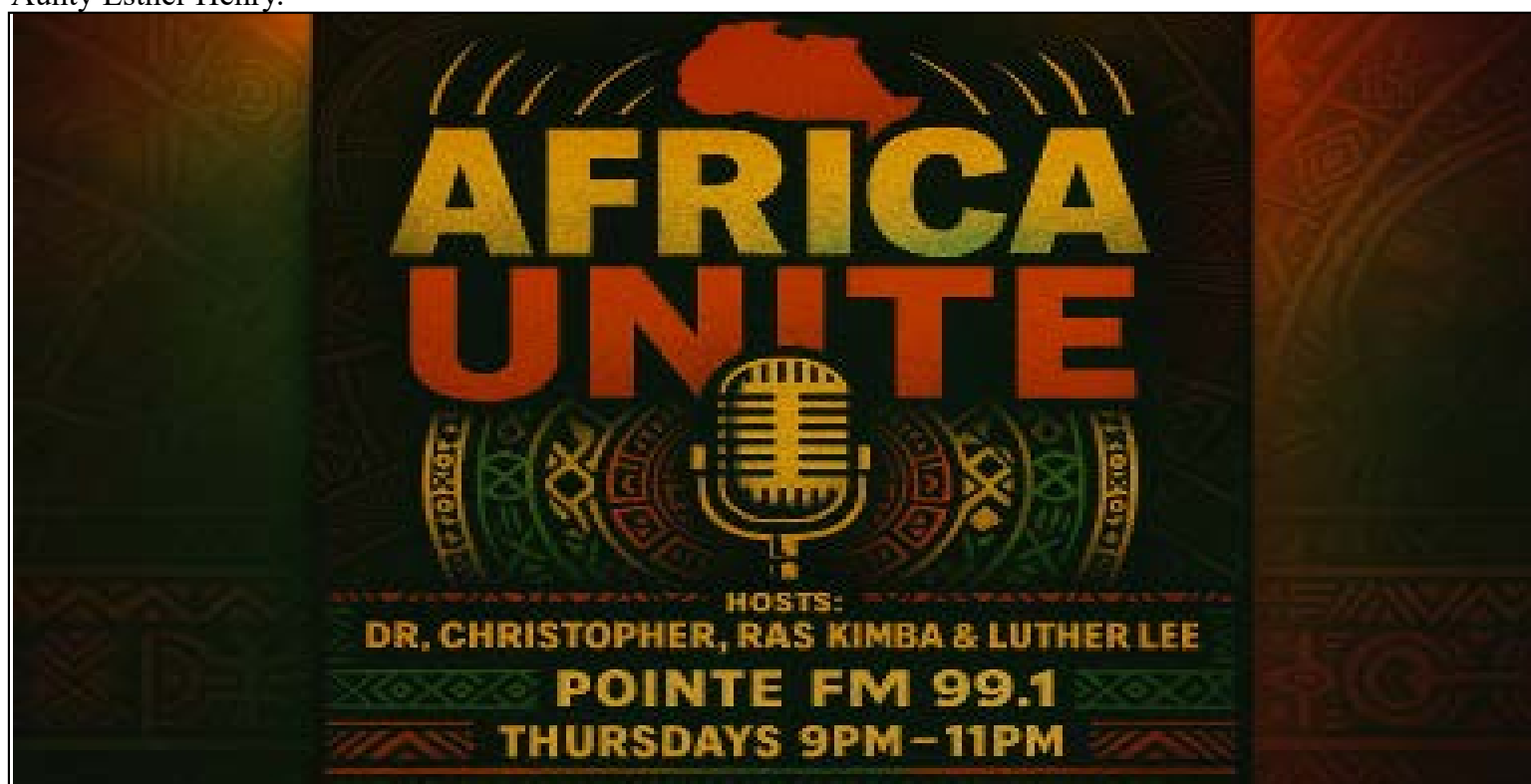
Jessy J. Stafford Joseph

P.O.Box 379

Kingshill

St. Croix, USVI 00851

*E-mail: stovesj1955@gmail.com -
Phone: 1 340 201 7344*





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

NATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

SPECIAL DRILLS AND CHEERLEADING COMPETITION



THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER 2026



SIR VIVIAN
RICHARDS
STADIUM



8:30 AM



NATIONAL
EVENTS
DEPARTMENT
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



MINISTRY OF
SPORTS &
CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

18

OCTOBER

Independence Church Service

Precision Center

4:00 PM

THURSDAY

22

OCTOBER

National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

8:30 AM

SUNDAY

25

OCTOBER

National Food Fair

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

10:00 AM

National Schools' Panorama

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

6:00 PM

MONDAY

26

OCTOBER

National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway

10:00 AM

National Independence Business Decor Competition

Starts: October 26

Ends: October 29

TUESDAY

27

OCTOBER

Voices in Harmony - Festival of Choirs

St. Anthony's Secondary School

8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

28

OCTOBER

Schools' Independence Programs

Schools Across the State

Island Treasures Gala - Golden Age

Casa Palmadita

THURSDAY

29

OCTOBER

Barbuda Day Activities

Evening of Theatre

St. Anthony's Secondary School

7:00 PM

FRIDAY

30

OCTOBER

Independence Calypso Competition

Green Lounge – Cedar Valley

8:00 PM

National Dress and Flag Day

SUNDAY

1

NOVEMBER

Independence Flag Ceremony

Barbuda

7:00 AM

Independence Ceremonial Parade

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

5:45 PM



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

45 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Renaissance

ROOTED IN PRIDE, BOUNDED BY PROSPERITY FOR ALL

SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE
AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Feature

The Mediterranean fruit fly threatens food security in Antigua and Barbuda

Medfly is not known to be present in Antigua and Barbuda. Public vigilance can help keep it out.

The Plant Protection Division within the Ministry of Agriculture urges residents, travelers, and importers to help prevent the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*), also called Medfly, from entering and becoming established in our country. This pest is of national and regional quarantine importance and threatens many crops, including mango, guava, citrus, papaya, soursop, sugar apple, carambola, tomatoes and peppers.

The Mediterranean fruit fly occurs in many African countries, the Mediterranean basin, parts of the Middle East, Central and South America, Hawaii and Western Australia. The threat is now very close to home! On 25 September 2026, the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture declared a phytosanitary emergency and an island-wide quarantine on St. Croix after detecting male and female flies since March. Its notice instructs travelers not to move fresh fruits, vegetables, or host plants off the island. The United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) further announced an Old San Juan quarantine in Puerto Rico on 28 September 2026 following July detections.



Left: Adult Medfly, enlarged. Photo: Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service. Right: Fruit fly larva inside damaged fruit. Photo: Laura Smith, USDA APHIS.



Medfly damage is not always visible to the naked eye

Female medflies lay eggs beneath the skin of host fruit. The larvae, or maggots, feed inside, breaking down the flesh and causing decay and early fruit fall. Under ideal conditions, medflies can complete their life cycle in about 21 days. Fruit can look okay while carrying eggs or larvae. Importantly, this small fly can cause significant losses within the agricultural sector. What an outbreak could mean for our food supply

If Medfly became established in An-

exports. The consequences can extend beyond the site of an outbreak; for example, after the Dominican Republic's 2015 incursion, export restrictions contributed to an estimated US\$40 million in losses within nine months. Eradication took about two years! A later incursion was detected early, and eradication was declared in September 2024, without importing countries imposing quarantine restrictions due to the country's significantly improved level of preparedness for the pest.

“One piece of infested fruit carried in a suit-

POINTE ON DE STREETZ

**HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER**



TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM
CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991
 **POINT FM99.1**

case or sent in a package can put our farms and home gardens at risk. Keeping Mediterranean fruitfly out helps protect the food on our tables and the livelihoods of those who grow it.”

---Dr. Janil Gore-Francis, Chief Plant Protection Officer

How the general public can help prevent entry and establishment of the Mediterranean fruit fly

The main long-distance pathway is the movement of infested host fruit and vegetables. Personal gifts, parcels and produce carried in luggage can carry the pest just as commercial consignments can.

- ▶ Check before you pack or ship. Before bringing, ordering or sending fresh fruit, vegetables or plants to Antigua and Barbuda, contact the Plant Protection Division. Obtain the required import permit and documentation and comply with its conditions. A small quantity or a gift is not exempt from requirements for regulated plant commodities.
- ▶ Declare and present for inspection. Declare all fruit, vegetables, plants, and other agricultural items on arrival and present them to the relevant officers. Tell friends and relatives overseas to check requirements before sending parcels. Follow quarantine restrictions in the place you are visiting, including St. Croix and Puerto Rico.
- ▶ Examine your harvest. Look for puncture marks, unusual soft spots, early decay, premature fruit fall or maggots inside fruit. Notably, these signs can have other causes and do not confirm Medfly. Expert identification is needed.
- ▶ Report promptly and contain suspect material. Email plantprotection@ab.gov.ag with clear photo-

graphs, the fruit or crop involved, the location, date, and your contact details. Include where the produce came from, if known. Keep suspect fruit securely contained where found and ask the Plant Protection Division how to handle it. Do not sell, share, move, compost or feed suspect fruit to animals while awaiting advice.

- ▶ Support surveillance. Cooperate with authorised Plant Protection personnel who inspect fruit or place and check traps. Follow Plant Protection instructions for

handling fruit and plant waste.

Help protect both islands. Before you travel with produce, arrange an import or send a package, check with Plant Protection. If you see suspect damage, report it early.

Public enquiries and pest reports: plantprotection@ab.gov.ag

Issued by the Plant Protection Division

Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & the Blue Economy

ENDS



WARRIOR • HOPE • GRACE

tickle me pink II
fête

CONTRIBUTION | OCT 17, 2026
\$100 | **8:00 PM**

NEW VENUE
THE CORTSLAND HOTEL
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

CASH BAR | HORS D'OEUVRES | MUSIC WITH DJ UNDERCOVER & DJ ALTITUDE | WEAR SOMETHING PINK

Proceeds in aid of the Oncology Department and ongoing projects at SLBMC

LOVE • STRENGTH • COURAGE

Feature

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

Good Humans
268 Inc

NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US: A CLIMATE CALL FOR ALL



The Commonwealth

Across the Commonwealth, a call for change is ringing clear,
But change means little if the unheard cannot draw near.
In Antigua, where the ocean meets the brilliant blue,
We ask who shapes tomorrow, and whose dreams make it through.

Some speak of rising temperatures, of storms upon the shore,
Of plastic choking waterways and waste we can't ignore.
Yet climate plans mean little if they leave our neighbours behind;
A greener world must also be a world that's just and kind.

For people living with disabilities, disaster has a cost,
When shelters cannot welcome them, when vital help is lost.
A warning no one understands, a route no chair can take,
Can turn a passing danger into heartbreak we could break.

Let's talk about employment, about dignity and pay,
About whose work is welcomed and whose skills are turned away.
For green jobs have no meaning if access is denied;
No climate win is worthy when our people stay outside.

At Good Humans 268, we've learned from every bag,
That progress isn't measured by a slogan or a flag.
It's measured in the opportunities that people help create,
When everyone has power at the table, not the gate.



We gather plastic bottles and rescue caps once thrown,
To show what care can accomplish when the seeds of change are sown.
Each school becomes a classroom, each young voice has a part,
And action grows much stronger when it starts within the heart.

The Commonwealth Bottle Cap Flag Project tells a tale,
Of little things united when determined hands prevail.
Yet beyond the colours standing bright for all to see,
We seek a fairer future where each person can be free.

Our island knows the struggle of the promises delayed,
Of labour freely offered and the debts that must be paid.
Sustainability needs funding, not applause that fades away,
For those who do the heavy work deserve support today.

When policies are drafted far from people they affect,
The harm may hide in language and the costs we don't detect.
So bring lived experience in before decisions start,



For “nothing about us without us” must guide the work and heart.

Invite the young, the elders, those whose stories go unheard,
 Don't ask them to be grateful for a microphone or word.
 Give access to the meetings; let their knowledge shape the plan,
 And build a fairer future with the strength of every hand.

Make schools and roads accessible; make workplaces more fair,
 Design disaster shelters with an open door and care.
 Put disability and gender in the budgets we prepare,
 And make the future safer for the people living there.

Let governments be answerable for pledges they proclaim,
 And let the powerful remember that inclusion's not a game.
 Set targets, publish progress, let communities review,
 Because trust is built through actions, not what we say we'll do.

Our problems interconnect like currents in the sea,
 The climate, jobs and justice shape the lives of you and me.
 A family needs clean water, a livelihood, a home,
 And confidence the future holds a place where they can roam.

When we design together, then solutions have the chance,
 To serve the lives once overlooked and help our nations advance.
 We need no empty promises, no ribbon, stage or show,
 We need investment in the people who can help our islands grow.

So when the People's Forum meets, let every voice be heard,
 Let action follow dialogue, and deeds stand by each word.
 From Antigua to the Commonwealth, let justice be the thing,
 A future built with everyone is worth the change we bring.





ABAPD
Antigua & Barbuda Association Of Persons
With Disabilities
— Est. 1995 —

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ASSOCIATION OF
**PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Share Hope...
Change Lives!

OCTOBER 3RD – DECEMBER 19TH

*"Whoever is generous to the poor
lends to the Lord, and He will repay
him for his deed."
— Proverbs 19:17*

**TOGETHER
WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

 Help us assemble food packages for
PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITY
in Antigua & Barbuda.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:	DROP OFF AT	CONTACT US:
 DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS	 VARIOUS SUPERMARKETS AROUND ANTIGUA & BARBUDA 	 WENDY VALENTINE (TREASURER) 780-2974
 GIVE TOILETRIES & ESSENTIALS		 BERNARD WARNER (PRESIDENT) 781-1228
 SPONSOR A FOOD PACKAGE	 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!	 ABAPD OFFICE 562-9575
 VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME <i>Every Little Bit Helps!</i>		

BE KIND. BE GENEROUS. BE THE REASON SOMEONE SMILES TODAY!
Together, We Can Build A Stronger, More Caring Community! ♥



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE

Bring our culture. Shape our identity.

LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

CASH PRIZE - EC \$2,500

ENTRY CRITERIA

- Open to Antiguan and Barbudan nationals at home and abroad of all ages.
- Use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited
- Each participant may submit one logo via email to Performingartscompetition@ab.gov.ag
- Submissions must include the final logo in PNG and PDF formats-in both full-color and black-and-white (monochrome) versions-along with the editable source file.
- Include a short description explaining your design concept and how it reflects the theme *Bring our culture, Shape our identity*

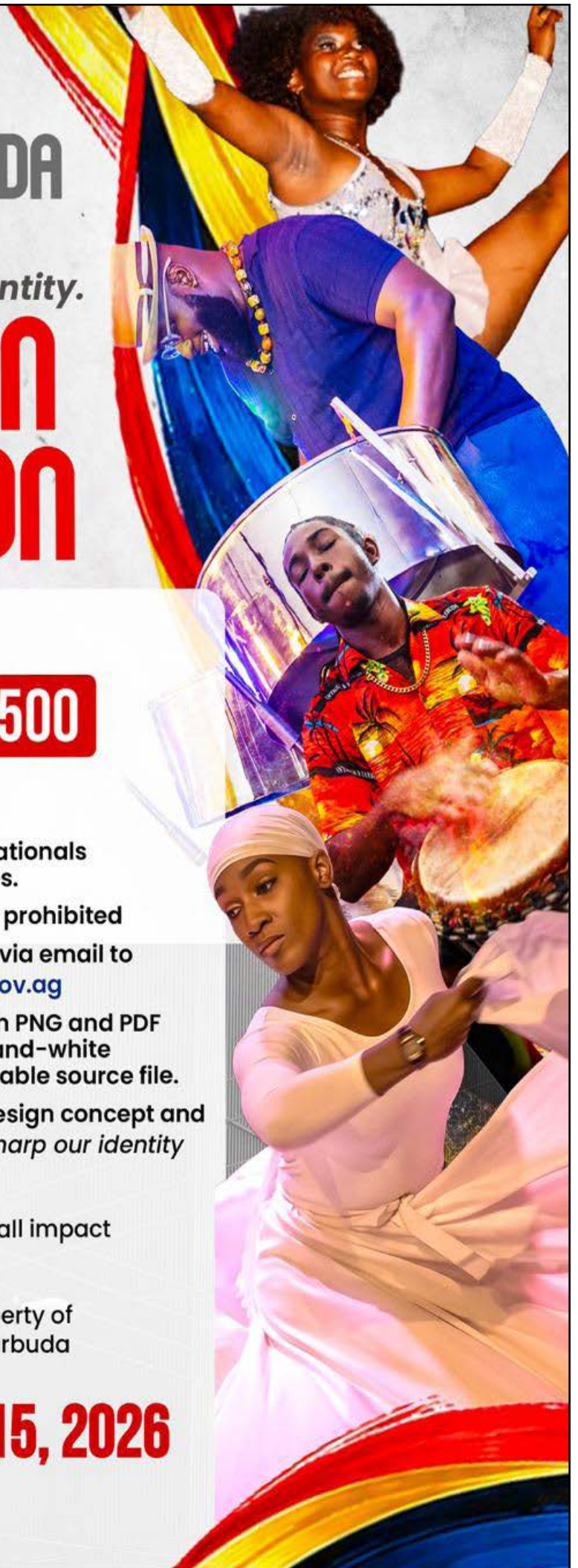
JUDGING

Creativity, Relevance, Clarity and Overall impact

OWNERSHIP

The winning logo becomes the property of
The Government of Antigua and Barbuda

SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 15, 2026



Regional News

Sitting minister's US visa 'revoked'...as senior judicial officer confirms being summoned to Embassy

The United States visa of a sitting minister in the Kamla Persad-Bissessar-led Government has reportedly been revoked, while the visa status of a senior judicial officer has also come under scrutiny.

The Sunday Express contacted the minister via WhatsApp on October 2, seeking a response. Although the message appeared to have been read that day, no response was received. Follow-up messages sent on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday last week also went unanswered, as did at least two telephone calls made during that period.

Further attempts to reach the minister by telephone on Friday were unsuccessful. A call placed at 9.26 a.m. was answered but immediately disconnected, while a second call shortly afterwards went unanswered. Subsequent WhatsApp messages seeking comment were read, but no response was received.

The senior judicial officer, who spoke with the Sunday Express on condition of anonymity, confirmed being summoned to the US Embassy but said the meeting concerned work-related matters.

"I did ask if this in any way would affect my visa, but I was informed that it would not," the officer said.

The revocation of the minister's visa forms part of a wider series of US visa revocations and suspensions in Trinidad and Tobago that has already affected politicians, Immigration officers, members of the Judiciary, law enforcement officers, other public officials, and members of the business community.

Senior Immigration and national security sources said the action was linked to US visa enforcement measures targeting individuals allegedly connected to criminal entities or



organisations, as well as those suspected of involvement in corruption, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and other illicit activities.

Although the identities of those affected remain undisclosed, sources said the revocations and suspensions were continuing and expected to intensify in the coming weeks and months.

Sources within the Immigration Division and national security agencies indicated that over the past three months, at least six Immigration officers and a police officer attached to an elite unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) had either had their US visas revoked or suspended.

The sources estimated that close to 50 people across several sectors could be affected by the ongoing action.

Meanwhile, several Immigration officers reportedly faced restrictions while attempting to travel with their families.

Some were stopped from boarding US-bound flights, while others who arrived in the US were denied entry and sent back to T&T. In several cases, notification of visa revocation reportedly followed by e-mail.

At least four junior Immigration officers and two senior officers have been affected so far, according to the sources.

Some of the affected officers had reportedly come under scrutiny over suspected links to human trafficking, while others were accused of accepting payments to facilitate work permits and other immigration documents for Chinese nationals.

The Sunday Express reported exclusively several months ago on allegations of corruption within the Immigration Division involving work permits and the alleged improper facilitation of immigration documents.

The reported visa action has also extended to the TTPS, with sources indicating that a senior officer attached to an elite unit had his US visa suspended pending further

investigation.

According to the sources, the officer purchased a property in South Trinidad that was subsequently rented to Chinese nationals for commercial purposes.

Questions have since arisen about the nature of the business relationship and the circumstances surrounding the transactions. It remains unclear whether those dealings are connected to the reported visa action.

The Sunday Express sent questions on visa revocations to the US Embassy in Port of Spain last Tuesday.

In a response via e-mail last Wednesday, the embassy declined to comment on individual cases but outlined the broader US position on visa enforcement.

A spokesperson stated, "US law requires the Department of State to protect the confidentiality of individual visa records. We therefore cannot confirm or discuss specific cases. A visa is a privilege, not a right.

"The United States continuously reviews visa eligibility and will revoke visas when information indicates that an individual no longer qualifies under US law. We will use our visa authorities when warranted to protect US national security, public safety, and other vital interests."

If the reported action proceeds as anticipated, it would signal a potentially broader application of US visa restrictions in T&T, months after reports emerged that members of the country's wealthy business community had lost their US visas.

Attorney General John Jeremie disclosed in Parliament in June that the US had revoked the visas of certain members of the business community.

He stressed at the time that the decisions were made by US authorities and that the T&T Government had played no role in determining whose visas were revoked.

On September 28, the US Depart-

ment of State announced a policy providing for visa restrictions against 27 Latin American officials and former officials accused of undermining democratically elected governments through corruption or narco-trafficking. Immediate family members may also be affected under the policy.

That measure adds to other US actions targeting individuals Washington says are connected to transnational criminal organisations and other illicit activities.

Sources have linked the reported re-

vocations and suspensions in T&T to these broader enforcement efforts.

A US visa revocation or suspension does not mean that a person has been charged with or convicted of a crime, nor does it, in itself, establish wrongdoing.

US authorities generally exercise broad discretion over the issuance and revocation of visas, and the specific reasons for individual decisions are not always made public. (Trinidad Express)



VACANCY

Join Our Team

WE'RE HIRING — ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS!

Are you friendly, energetic, and passionate about great customer service?

KFC is looking for **dedicated individuals** to join our restaurant team as **Food & Customer Service Team Members**.

As a Team Member, you'll help create a great experience for our customers by:

- Providing fast, friendly, and exceptional customer service
- Preparing and serving our much-loved KFC products
- Working as part of a supportive and energetic team
- Helping to maintain a clean, safe, and positive restaurant environment

📍 COME READY TO INTERVIEW!

Bring your **resume** and come prepared to meet with our team. You could be one step closer to joining the KFC family!

Location: KFC Administration Office, Brysons Complex, Friars Hill Rd., St. John's, Antigua.

All applicants:

- **Must be 18 years and older**
- **Have Social Security & Medical Benefits**



Haitian gov't pledges neutrality in the electoral process

Haiti's Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé says he has instructed members of the Cabinet and officials of the public administration "to demonstrate neutrality and impartiality and to provide their full support to the smooth running of the electoral process" as Haiti prepares for a December 13 election.

General elections, repeatedly delayed since 2019, are scheduled for December 13, marking the first time Haitians will be casting ballots since 2016 when President Jovenel Moise was elected. Moise was later assassinated on July 7, 2021.

Fils-Aimé said that "the credibility of the electoral process rests on citizens' trust in the neutrality of public institutions and in the equal treatment of all candidates, political parties, groups, and coalitions of political parties".

He said that it is therefore necessary to reassure the population, political parties and civil society actors of the Government's neutrality in the electoral process.

A resolution reaffirming the Government's commitment to neutrality in the electoral process was adopted at the last meeting of the Council of Ministers.

According to the resolution, the Government acknowledged having regard to the electoral decree of June 2, 2026, and amended one month later that there is "the need to establish leadership based on trust, balance and neutrality at the executive level", noting that "these are essential conditions for the prompt organisation of inclusive and transparent elections to install elected authorities".

The resolution also notes that it is the Government's responsibility to take all necessary measures to create a safe and stable environment conducive to the conduct of elections and that in keeping with the relevant orders "no public official, civil servant, employee



of the national public administration, member of the Government, or senior official may use state equipment and resources to engage in electoral propaganda activities in favour of one or more candidates, political parties, groups, or coalitions of political parties, under penalty of sanctions".

The Government is also warning that any one breaching the principle of neutrality during the electoral process shall face the penalties provided for by the laws and regulations in force.

Meanwhile, Haiti has revised the electoral rules for the third time in four months amid fears that the December 13 poll date will not be met.

The revised electoral decree, which was published in the official Gazette on Thursday, establishes the framework for organising elections for president,

legislative and local officials along with a constitutional referendum.

The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) has been pushing for the deadline for online candidate registration and submission of required documents to October 31, postponing the official start of campaigning.

It said that a new updated electoral calendar would soon be published, and although the revised decree continues to bar individuals sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council from running for president, Parliament and local elections, it does not automatically disqualify those who have been sanctioned solely by individual foreign governments, including the United States and Canada, or by the European Union. (CMC)

FOR SALE

One 30KVA open set Generator with 200amp Automatic Transfer Switch.

\$40.000.00ec.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Guyana steps up bird flu surveillance amid outbreak in Suriname

The Guyana Government has intensified surveillance and implemented precautionary measures to prevent an outbreak of H5N1 Avian Influenza, commonly known as bird flu, following reports of the disease in neighbouring Suriname.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha said he received official notification of the outbreak earlier this week from the World Organisation for Animal Health, but had already begun putting measures in place after hearing reports of the disease.

“When I heard about the rumours I started to put things in place; as a matter of fact, I activated a multi-stakeholder committee that is meeting very regularly, sometimes twice per week, sometimes,” Mustapha said.

The committee, which is being led by the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA), also includes representatives from the Civil Defence Commission, Guyana Police Force, Guyana Revenue Authority and Poultry Producers Association.

Mustapha said surveillance has been increased at poultry farms across the country, while authorities are also monitoring unofficial crossing points used by vessels travelling between Guyana and Suriname.

“We are also strengthening those areas to ensure that we don’t have any of those poultry products come across to our country,” he said.

According to the minister, Guyana has approximately 1,025 poultry farms and 24 plucking shops, with more than four million birds con-



centrated in Regions Four, Five and Six.

He said additional personnel from the GLDA, National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) and National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) have been deployed to strengthen monitoring efforts.

“We are monitoring it on a daily basis. As a matter of fact, I have increased the extension services in the GLDA, and the NPPO staff, plus the NAREI staff, are also complementing the GLDA staff.

“So, we have put an intensive mechanism in place to strengthen surveillance around the country. We are also doing a lot of random testing in various parts of the regions so hopefully we will not have an outbreak here,” Mustapha said.

He added that measures are also being implemented to ensure poultry farms maintain proper hygiene standards.

“I want to assure the public out there that the government has been working through the Ministry of Agriculture, through GLDA, auspiciously to ensure that we don’t have

an outbreak in our country because that is a very dangerous disease and it could disseminate among our population in our poultry industry,” he said.

The minister said the stakeholder committee is preparing informational brochures to educate the public about bird flu symptoms and warning signs in poultry.

Symptoms of the disease in chickens include sudden death, lethargy, loss of appetite, coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, swelling or purple discolouration of the comb and wattles, diarrhoea, loss of coordination and a sudden decline in egg production.

Meanwhile, Mustapha said efforts are continuing to expand domestic poultry production, noting that six tunnel-ventilated poultry pens are currently producing 40,000 birds every six weeks, with another 10 facilities expected to be established before year-end.

“I’m working very hard to ensure that we have maximum production of these products in the country,” he stated.

Meanwhile, in Suriname,

trading and distribution company Subisco International NV has taken legal action against the Government over its refusal to grant an import permit for 11,700 kilograms of frozen chicken from France.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV) rejected the application, citing a ban on poultry imports from Europe that took effect on February 6, 2026, amid concerns about avian influenza.

Subisco is seeking a court order compelling the authorities to allow the importation and release of the shipment within 24 hours or face a penalty of SRD 20,000.

The company is also requesting that the state be ordered to issue all necessary permits and approvals for the importation, customs clearance and delivery of the chicken, as well as cover its legal costs.

However, the Surinamese Government has defended its decision, stating that Subisco applied for a veterinary import permit on March 27, after restrictions had already been imposed on poultry products from Europe and affected areas of the United States.

The LVV said importers were formally notified of the restrictions on February 5, a day before the ban took effect.

It further noted that Subisco purchased and paid for the chicken on February 23, 17 days after the restrictions were implemented.

The state has asked the court to dismiss the company’s claim. (CMC)

Search warrants used to seize former Prince Andrew's property ruled unlawful

Police investigating former Prince Andrew's links to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein unlawfully searched his homes, a London judge said yesterday.

Justice Nicholas Hilliard said significant errors were made by Thames Valley Police in applying for search warrants and by a judge in granting them in the investigation into the disgraced former prince now known as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor.

Mountbatten-Windsor was not in court, but he was already aware of the partial legal victory because police had previously conceded in July that the warrants were improper.

Police, however, had tried to keep the matter out of the public eye while the investigation continued, leading to a delay in its revelation.

Mountbatten-Windsor was arrested February 19 on suspicion of misconduct in public office and police searched two of his homes.

His lawyers had asked the High Court judge to invalidate the warrants that allowed those searches.

Attorney Mark Stephens, who wasn't involved in the case, said the development "opens a door to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's lawyers to start to chisel away at some of the fruits of that unlawful warrant".

The judge, however, said "the fact that the search warrants were quashed does not bring an investigation to an end, or mean that the whole of the investigation was unlawful".

Hilliard said he still needs to rule on whether to return Mountbatten-Windsor's property because there's a provision by which police can retain unlawfully seized property for evidence.

Stephens said that under English law, there will be further hearings to determine exactly what, if any, evidence would be thrown out.

"The judge will make that decision based on whether or not it's likely to be probative," Stephens said. "But,



of course, it's very different in other countries. For example, in America, if you have the fruits of an unlawful warrant, then all that evidence is out. But that's not the case in the UK, so we've got a few more rounds to go here."

The judge said the warrants were unlawful because the judge who issued them had not considered whether items being seized were subject to legal privilege or another protection known as "special procedure material".

Thames Valley Police said in a statement that it accepted that the warrants must be quashed, but said the investigation was continuing.

King Charles III stripped his younger brother of his princely title last year as he sought to shield the rest of the royal family from the continuing fallout from Mountbatten-Windsor's links to Epstein.

While Mountbatten-Windsor, 66, continues to receive a stipend from the king's private funds, Buckingham Palace has made it clear that those funds may not be used to fund his effort to challenge the search warrants.

The police investigation initially focused on allegations that Mountbatten-Windsor shared sensitive information with Epstein when the former

prince was a UK trade envoy, but police later said they could also consider other matters.

Police questioned Mountbatten-Windsor for 11 hours before releasing him under investigation, meaning he was neither charged nor exonerated.

It was the first time in nearly four centuries that a senior British royal was placed under arrest.

The allegations against Mountbatten-Windsor came to light when the US Justice Department released millions of pages of documents from its investigation into sex trafficking by Epstein and his connections to a network of wealthy, powerful men around the world.

Mountbatten-Windsor's ties to Epstein have been a source of embarrassment to the royal family for more than a decade.

Lawmakers questioned the relationship as far back as 2011, when the then-prince was forced to give up his globetrotting role as the UK's special trade envoy. Eight years later, he failed to explain his continuing ties to Epstein in a disastrous interview with the BBC, ending his career as a working member of the royal family. (AP)

Vance expresses doubts about plan to livestream execution



Vice President JD Vance cast doubt on whether the Pentagon will livestream the execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan in December but told reporters that if it is livestreamed, “I’m not going to be watching it.”

The Republican vice president said, “I don’t know that that’s actually going to happen.” When asked about the plans that the Pentagon confirmed on Thursday. But Vance then tried to set aside the controversy over the shocking plans for a public execution and said Hasan’s crimes should not be forgotten.

Hasan was convicted of killing 13 people and injuring 32 others in a shooting spree at the military base in 2009.

“So, whatever the controversy is about the method of the execution, I hope that people don’t forget that this is a guy who brutally murdered a lot of innocent people,” Vance said.

“Now, that said, I mean, look, if it’s ultimately livestreamed, I’m not

going to be watching it,” he added.

Vance is a convert to the Catholic Church, which has long opposed capital punishment.

Earlier Friday morning, the head of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops condemned the US government’s decision to livestream Hasan’s execution.

“It is with shock and great sorrow that I have learned of the Department of War’s decision to publicly livestream the execution of Nidal Hassan. Our God is the God of life. In no way can Hassan’s actions be

condoned, but this decision is a barbaric promotion of a culture of death and must be reconsidered,” said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the conference, in a statement.

Earlier, President Donald Trump told a White House event that Hasan will be getting “the death penalty through firing squad. And he deserves it”.

Trump, who approved Hasan’s execution, called him “a maniac”.

The president approved the method of execution by firing squad days after a failed attempt to execute Christa Pike by lethal injection late last month pushed Tennessee’s governor to halt further executions in that state this year.

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the military hasn’t executed a service member by firing squad since World War II. The last military execution took place on April 13, 1961, when Army John Bennett was executed by hanging.

Trump, who has long been a vocal supporter of capital punishment, didn’t mention the plans that the Pentagon has announced to livestream the execution so that the broader public can see it. (AP)

GENERATOR RENTALS

GENERATORS FOR RENT

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

CONTACT:

THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

US to get diesel from Russia

President Donald Trump said that he has struck a deal to obtain diesel from Russia, a stunning reversal of years of US pressure on Moscow over its war with Ukraine and an attempt to address high fuel prices ahead of the US midterm elections.

Trump said on social media yesterday that he struck the deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call in which he was expected to discuss a suspected case of plague in Russia. Instead, Trump announced that Russia will immediately supply more than 300,000 tonnes of diesel, followed by an additional 500,000 tonnes in November and one million tonnes "immediately thereafter."

Russia will deliver another 3 million tonnes "within a short period of time" after that, he wrote.

Trump's shocking announcement comes after he signed a sweeping Russia sanctions law last month that aimed at clamping down on Russia's energy economy, among other areas, that fuel its war against Ukraine.

Trump, in his announcement, did not address the sanctions or Russia's war but said, "Lower prices for Americans, especially our Great Farmers, Ranchers, and Truckers, is my Greatest Priority."

The law he signed last month is aimed at sanctions on Russian officials, banks and a shadow fleet of tankers and bans all new US investment in Russia and the handling of sovereign debt

It also directed Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on the top five importers of Russian oil or natural gas, with an exception for countries that import less than 15 per cent of Russia's natural gas exports and have taken significant steps to reduce those imports.

The US has not imported Russian oil or gas since 2022, when the Biden administration banned them because



of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

Shortly after Trump made the announcement, the Treasury Department said it was immediately issuing a temporary license allowing Russian diesel to be supplied to the global market.

Gas prices around the world have surged as the war in Iran upends the energy sector. The national average for a gallon of diesel was US\$6.23 on Friday, according to AAA, after hitting a record US\$6.52 on September 22. (AP)

Generators for Rent

One 150KVA 3phase Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

One 50KVA Single Generator with Out Door Enclosure.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

FOR SALE

**One 30KVA open set Generator with 200amp Automatic
Transfer Switch.**

\$40.000.00ec.

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Venezuela's Maduro, wife hit with new US torture charges

The United States (US) on Thursday filed new torture charges against ousted Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, bolstering a mounting criminal case against the pair held in US custody.

Maduro and Flores already face drug trafficking and firearms charges in the United States after they were snatched from their Caracas compound in an extraordinary US military raid in January.

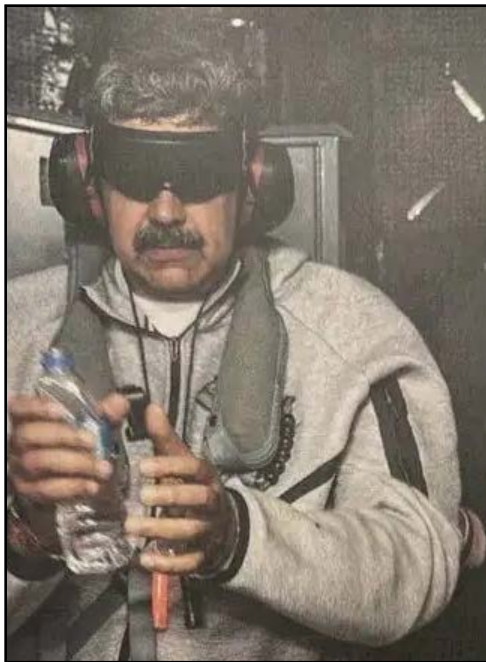
A new court filing shows both are now additionally charged with conspiracy to commit torture, stating that they “inflicted severe physical and mental pain and suffering.”

The alleged goal was to “repress and punish political opposition, silence dissent and perceived dissent, preserve and protect the power and authority of the members of the conspiracy, and intimidate, harass, and neutralize their opponents, including through kidnappings.”

Prosecutors detailed apparent instances of unidentified victims, including US citizens, being shocked with electric wires, waterboarded and raped while in Venezuelan detention.

In a 2022 instance, Venezuelan authorities allegedly tortured an American who they accused of plotting to assassinate Maduro.

“That torture included electric shock



to (the victim's) arms, legs, and genitals; asphyxiation; beatings; deprivation of food and water; and forced injections of a substance that caused (the victim) to experience seizures,” the filing states.

During his 2013-2026 presidency, rights groups widely accused Maduro of using political repression to cling to power.

Maduro and Flores are slated for a trial in New York next June and are currently being held in a Brooklyn jail.

US prosecutors claim that Maduro used state power to protect and promote illegal drug smuggling, and that

he allied himself with cartels to ship tons of cocaine into the United States.

Maduro has denied the charges he originally faced: “narco-terrorism” conspiracy, cocaine importation conspiracy, possession of machine guns and destructive devices as well as conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices.

He has described himself as a “prisoner of war” and said the US military kidnapped him.

Flores has similarly pleaded not guilty to cocaine importation conspiracy, possession of machine guns and destructive devices and conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices.

She was additionally charged Thursday with “narco-terrorism” conspiracy, the court filing showed.

The pair have asked a US judge to dismiss the charges against them, claiming they have immunity as president and first lady of a sovereign country.

Since Maduro's capture, vice president Delcy Rodriguez has governed Venezuela as interim leader under intense pressure from US President Donald Trump's administration.

US energy firms have this year signed a raft of multi-billion-dollar deals with Venezuela, which has agreed to grant the United States control of a huge chunk of its vast oil reserves. (AFP)

ACB
CARIBBEAN



**MORTGAGES
DESIGNED
JUST FOR YOU**



**Apply
today.**



India beat Windies in third T20I to lead five-match series 2-1



Players of the Indian team celebrate after taking a wicket against the West Indies during the third T20 International in Indore, India, on Sunday, October 11, 2026. (BCCI)

INDORE, India (AP) — Arshdeep Singh and spinner Naman Dhir shared five wickets as India beat West Indies by 14 runs in the third T20 cricket international on Sunday to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Singh took three for 44, while Dhir picked up two for 39, as West Indies was restricted in their chase to 209 for seven off their 20 overs.

Abhishek Sharma earlier hit 69 off 30 balls, including five sixes, and India scored 223 runs all out in their 20 overs after the West Indies won the toss and opted to field in Indore.

The West Indies beat India in the second T20 by six wickets in Ranchi on Friday after making their highest successful T20 run chase. India won the series opener by eight wickets in Lucknow.

On Sunday, put into bat, India got off to a good start despite losing Sanju

Samson (3) cheaply.

Sharma hit five sixes on his way to 50 off 18 balls as India scored 87 for one in the powerplay. India's 100 came up in 7.2 overs as Sharma added 108 off 40 balls with Ishan Kishan, who scored 37 off 18 balls.

Kishan hit one six and six fours but was stumped off spinner Roston Chase, who picked up two for 38, in the ninth over.

Chase trapped skipper Shreyas Iyer lbw for one in the same over. It triggered a mini collapse as India was reduced to 135 for five after losing four wickets for 20 runs.

Given West Indies' batting exploits on the current tour, India's total almost didn't seem enough. But the West Indies got off to a slow start after losing in-form skipper Shai Hope for just five runs.

Singh bowled Hope in the second

over and West Indies could only manage 54 for one in the powerplay.

Kamil Pooran (42) and Shimron Hetmyer (43) added 60 off 31 deliveries for the second wicket. The duo hit five sixes between them, forcing India to introduce Dhir's off-spin.

It worked as Dhir broke through — Hetmyer was bowled in the seventh over — and he also went on to dismiss Pooran. Patel removed Rovman Powell (5) as the Indian spinners picked up three wickets in the middle phase.

Sherfane Rutherford scored 32 off 20, with two sixes, and added 46 off 27 with Quentin Sampson (21) but their dismissals left West Indies struggling.

Shamar Springer finished 35 not out off only 11 balls, including three sixes in the final over against Axar Patel, but could only reduce India's winning margin. Hyderabad will host the fourth T20I on Wednesday.

Wins for FC Master Ballers and Real Blizzard in AFBA Second Division



Real Blizzard

FC Master Ballers and Real Blizzard claimed narrow wins in the only two of four opening-round matches that were played to kick off competition in the 2026-27 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Friday.

Teejay Roberts produced a hat trick to fire FC Master Ballers to a 3-1 victory against Wadadli United at the Golden Grove playing field.

Roberts had conversions in the 22nd, 25th, and 78th minutes. Keithroy Gregg scored a consolation goal in the 41st minute for Wadadli United.

Real Blizzard snatched a one-nil victory over Blackburn Palace at the Fort Road playing field.

But the other two opening-day matches were not played. The Young Warriors were awarded a 3-0 victory by default against the Cedar Grove Blue Jays, who were unable to field a team for the encounter at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Bendals FC was also given a 3-0 victory via default against Herberts FC, which failed to show up for their encounter at the Pigotts playing field.

The second division will contin-

ue with three more opening-round matches on Tuesday.

Tryum FC will face Police FC at Cashew Hill at 4:30 pm. Sea View Farm will host Lion Hill FC at Sea View Farm at 5 pm, and North Coast FC will clash with the Liberta Blackhawks at North Coast at 4:15 pm.

Action in the ABFA First Division will kick off with one match on Monday. John Hughes FC will meet Jets Football Academy at the Antigua Recreation Ground at 5 pm.

Sports News



ABCAS enjoys goal-spree in school boys under-20 league

Fresh from winning this year's knock-out cup title, the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) has made a prolific start in the Boys Under-20 Division in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League.

ABCAS launched their campaign in this year's competition with a 12-0 drubbing of St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) in their opening-round match at the Bolans playing field.

Kavon Young and Kymani Richards each achieved hat tricks, and Jayden Martin scored twice for ABCAS. Young had conversions in the third, 46th, and 80th minutes, while Richards scored in the 24th, 28th, and 30th

minutes.

Martin found the back of the net with strikes in the 11th and 19th minutes. The other goals were scored by Je'taime Barrett (31st), Jamil Thomas (34th), Dennisen Stevens (48th), and Dennisen Hodge (78th).

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) also made winning starts to their campaigns by securing victories in their respective opening matches.

Princess Margaret School recorded a 3-0 victory over Irene B. Williams Secondary (IBWS) at the ABFA Technical Center.

The goals were scored by Neshawn Williams in the 23rd minute, Delroy

Francis in the 46th minute, and Attijah Millette in the 66th minute.

Ajah Barrett scored twice to help the Sir Novelle Richards Academy overcome a two-nil deficit to snatch a 3-2 victory against All Saints Secondary School (ASSS) at the Freemans Village playing field.

Barrett had conversions in the 23rd and 33rd minutes, and D'Nic Hadaway struck the winner for SNRA with a strike in the 63rd minute.

Goals by Ashvin Pelle in the seventh minute and Kemari Brodie in the 17th minute gave All Saints Secondary School a two-nil lead before SNRA recovered to score three times and snatched victory.



Payers of the ABCAS pose with their trophy after winning the School Boys Knockout Cup at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday, October 2, 2026.



Curry House

ANTIGUA

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

 currytandoorihouseanu
  curryhouseanu
  (268) 736-7165





Richie's Shooters stay unbeaten in Business Basketball League

Richie's Shooterz maintained their perfect run to remain as the only unbeaten team in the 2026 Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

Richie's Shooters strengthened their position as unbeaten leaders of the 13-team round-robin competition by surging to their 10th win in as many matches with a 102-80 victory over Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC).

Sean Nicholas produced 29 points, Cohen Desouza and Steven Matthew each converted 21 points, and Nickon McGregor scored 12 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Demeitre Leitch shot a game-high 40 points, and Raheem Charles sank 17 points for SLBMC, who slumped to their ninth loss in 11 games.

Former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) claimed their seventh win in 11 games by snatching a narrow 80-

77 victory over Sandals.

Marlon "Buju" Charles sank 23 points, Elijah Charles and Raymond Dickenson each converted 18 points, and Lindsay McDonald scored 10 points for the ABTB.

Keroi Lee had 24 points, and Se lassie Braithwaite got 17 points for Sandals, who lost for the third time in 10 games.

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board recorded their sixth win by pulling off a hard-fought 92-81 victory over the Philippines in their previous outing.

Elijah Charles shot a game-high 34 points, Raymond Dickenson and Ishaan Peets each converted 13 points, and Marlon "Buju" Charles scored 11 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board.

Alvin Ferrerco sank 16 points, Ronel Gomez converted 15 points, and Tyndale Telemaque and Joffel Implica each scored 12 points for the Philippines.

Anjo Wholesale notched up their fifth win in nine games with a 115-38 drubbing of the Philippines,

who finished their league campaign with a record of three wins and nine defeats from their quota of 12 matches.

Anjo Wholesale were led by Erije Joseph with 17 points and Marcus Murphy with 16 points. In support, Yohan Nicholas sank 14 points, Tristan Thibou had 11 points, and Kadeem Simon and Jayden Lewis each scored 10 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Tyndale Telemaque produced 15 points, and Jules Frederick scored 11 points for the Philippines.

The Sledge O'Ballers claimed their sixth win in nine games by prevailing 67-57 against the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT).

Ariel Quallis produced 16 points, and Leroy Percival and Terry Roberts each converted 12 points for the Sledge O'Ballers.

Henry Dorsette shot a game-high 19 points, and Enrico Josiah sank 12 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers, who suffered their ninth loss in 10 games.

ECAB and APUA off to winning starts in business volleyball league



The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) volleyball team

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) and APUA Inet have both won their two opening matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship.

ECAB, which finished in the runners-up position in the business volleyball league for the past three successive years, claimed their second win with a 2-0 victory over 77 Bus at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

ECAB prevailed 25-15, 26-24 against 77 Bus after launching their campaign with a 2-0 straight-set victory against Zamine Enterprises in their opening

encounter.

ECAB produced an efficient performance to secure their 25-15 and 25-12 victory with relative ease. Last year's third-place finishers, APUA Inet, also made a successful start to their 2026 campaign, winning their first two matches.

APUA Inet pulled off a 25-21, 25-23 victory over Zamine Enterprises, who slumped to their second loss in as many games on Saturday.

APUA Inet, which won back-to-back championships in 2022 and 2023, launched their 2026 campaign with a 2-0 straight set victory against Sandals.

APUA Inet's experience proved to be

the deciding factor in securing their 25-23 and 25-17 victory against Sandals in a keenly contested affair in the mixed-team competition.

The rebounded from their opening game loss to the University of the West Indies (UWI) to claim their first win with a 2-0 (25-17, 25-19) victory over Royalton, who slumped to their second loss in as many games on Saturday.

The UWI secured a 2-1 victory against the Media in the opening encounter. UWI took the opening set 25-22, and the Media drew level by taking the second set 25-23 to force a deciding third set. UWI prevailed 15-9 in the decider to close out the match.

Nate's Photography also got off to a winning start, launching their campaign with a 2-0 straight-set victory against Royalton.

Nate's Photography displayed exceptional teamwork to overcome Royalton with relative ease, winning 25-16 and 25-20.

Nine teams, four less than the last competition in 2024, are battling for supremacy in the 2026 ABAVA's Business League Competition.

However, ICONS, which won their maiden title in 2024, will not be defending their title in this year's competition.