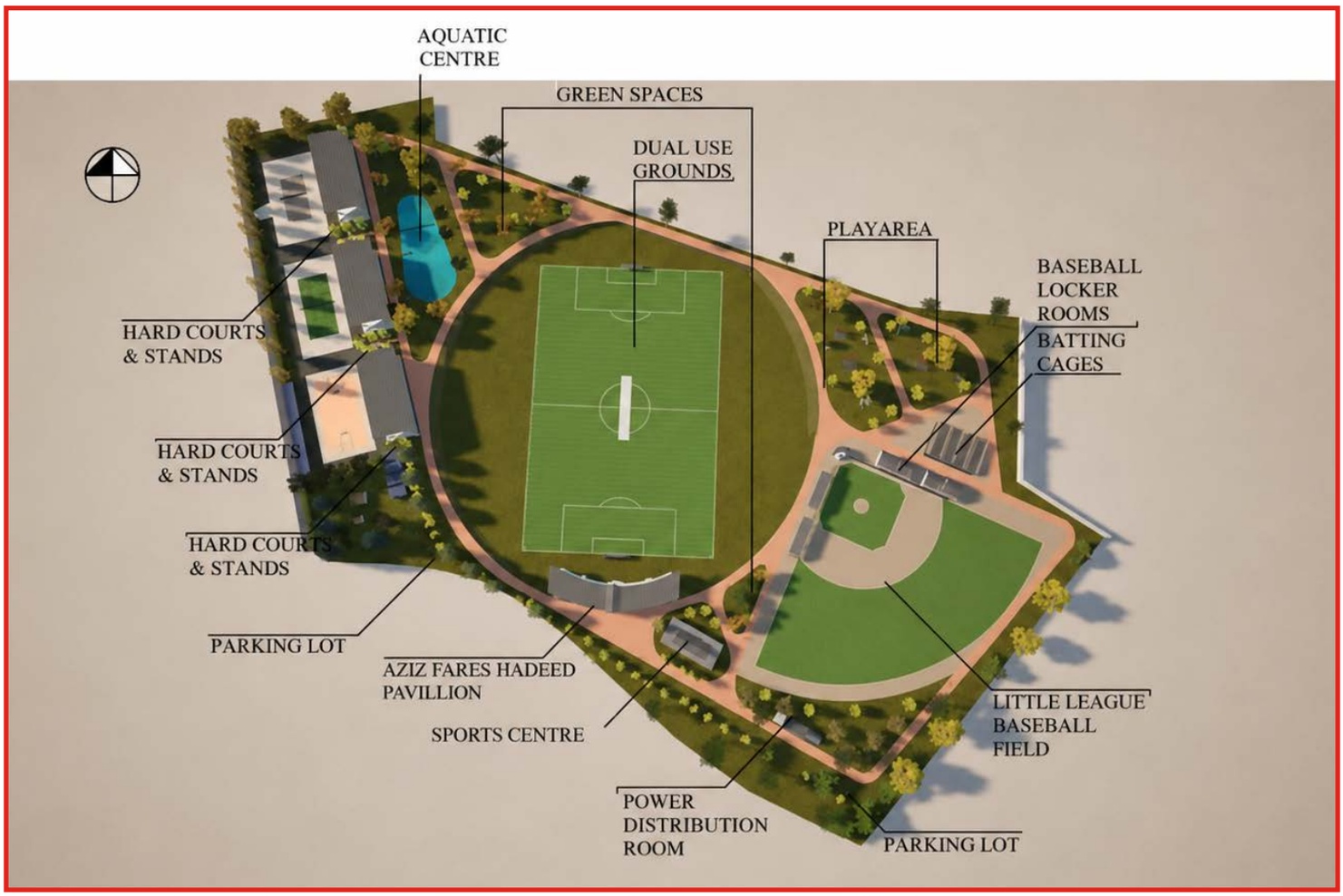
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A New Centre of Excellence For Sports Launched in Potters

Story on page 2



Architectural design of the new Harrison Sports Centre of Excellence in Potters which will be the first of its kind in Antigua and Barbuda

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Government Renames Potters Sports Facility as the Harrison Potters Sports Centre



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has formally renamed the Potters Sports Facility as the Harrison Potters Sports Centre: A Centre of Sporting Excellence, in recognition of the extraordinary contribution of Sir David Harrison, Lady Sylvia Harrison and the Harrison family to national development.

The renaming marks a defining stage in the transformation of the Potters sporting grounds into a modern centre for sport, education, healthy living and community enterprise. It also gives practical expression to the theme of CHOGM 2026, Accelerating Partnerships and Investments for a Prosperous Commonwealth, by demonstrating the lasting results that can be achieved through partnership among Government, philanthropy and community.

Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne described the development as part of the national renaissance being celebrated during Antigua and Barbuda's 45th anniversary of Independence.



"What is happening here in Potters is a renaissance that will create new opportunities for athletes, students and entrepreneurs, while strengthening community pride and identity," Prime Minister Browne said. "The Harrison family's multimillion-dollar investment is an exceptional act of generosity and nation building. On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I thank Sir David, Lady Sylvia and their family for helping us create a legacy that will serve generations."

The Government has added a further 1.66 acres to the development for the Lady Sylvia Harrison Aquatic Centre. The centre will include a 50-metre Olympic-sized swimming pool, instructional and warm-down pools, and seating for 750 spectators, strengthening Antigua and Barbuda's capacity to host national and regional swimming competitions. The Hadeed family has also committed to constructing the Sir Aziz Hadeed Pavilion on the cricket field.

High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill, whose vision and advocacy have been central to the partnership, said the project reflects the power of purposeful relationships to deliver meaningful national outcomes.

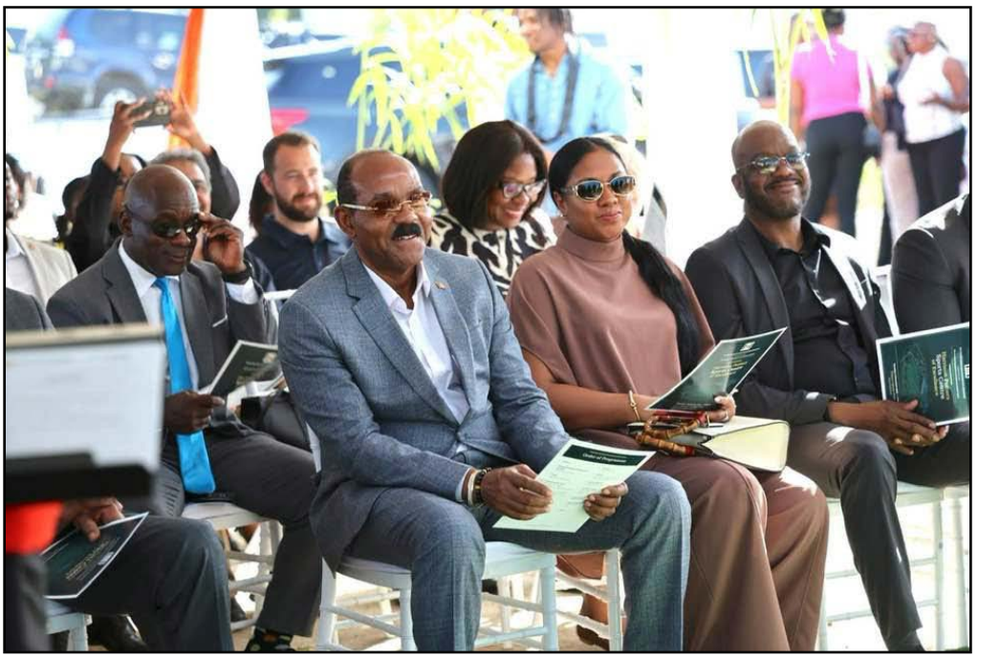
"The Harrison Potters Sports Centre is the result of a shared belief in the ability of young people and communities to thrive when they are given the right facilities and opportunities," High Commissioner Hill said. "It is a partnership rooted in friendship, trust and a commitment to Antigua and Barbuda. I wish to thank the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its partnership and support, and I am deeply grateful to Sir David, Lady Sylvia and the Harrison family for embracing this vision and helping to turn it into a lasting national asset."

Sir David Harrison reaffirmed his family's commitment to the people of Antigua and Barbuda and to the continued development of the centre.

"Our family is honoured to support a project that places young people, sporting opportunity and community life at its heart," Sir David said. "We hope the Harrison Potters Sports Centre will become a

place where talent is discovered, confidence is built and people from every background come together. We look forward to seeing it serve Potters, Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean for many years to come."

When completed, the centre will serve students from the Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Studies, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy and Potters Primary School. It will also provide a home for Little League baseball, support closer integration between Spanish-speaking and Englishspeaking communities, host community activities, create employment and open new opportunities for small businesses in Potters.





The Government thanks the Harrison family, the Hadeed family, the Potters community and all ministries, departments, agencies and other partners contributing to the project. The completed facility is expected to be officially opened during the first quarter of 2027.



Minister Turner Calls for Disability Inclusion to Shape Urban Renewal and Public Services





Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner, has called for accessibility to guide urban renewal and public service delivery, with persons with disabilities directly involved in decisions affecting their lives.

Delivering opening remarks at a CHOGM symposium on implementing disability rights across the Commonwealth, Minister Turner stressed that government decisions about streets, buildings and services determine who can participate fully in national life.

"We should never have to face a barrier ourselves before we take someone else's experience seriously," he said.

The Minister highlighted the renewal of St. John's as an opportunity to incorporate accessibility from the design stage. He urged planners to consider the entire journey a person must make, including crossing streets, navigating pavements, entering buildings and accessing service counters.

"A ramp at the entrance can only do so much if the pavement leading to that building is blocked," Minister Turner said. "The people who make these journeys every day should help us design them."

He identified the establishment of a functional disability council as one way to give organisations of persons with disabilities a regular voice in national decision-making. Such a body, he explained, should help set priorities, advise on implementation and identify shortcomings.



Minister Turner also called for better coordination between education, training and employment services, alongside reasonable workplace accommodations that enable qualified persons with disabilities to perform their duties.

He highlighted a dedicated service to provide, maintain and repair assistive equipment as a practical proposal deserving consideration, noting the importance of reliable support for people who depend on wheelchairs, hearing aids and other devices.

Addressing the particular challenges facing small island states, the Minister emphasised that disaster preparedness must account for persons with disabilities. He pointed to accessible warnings, suitable transportation and shelters capable of supporting people who rely on powered medical equipment.

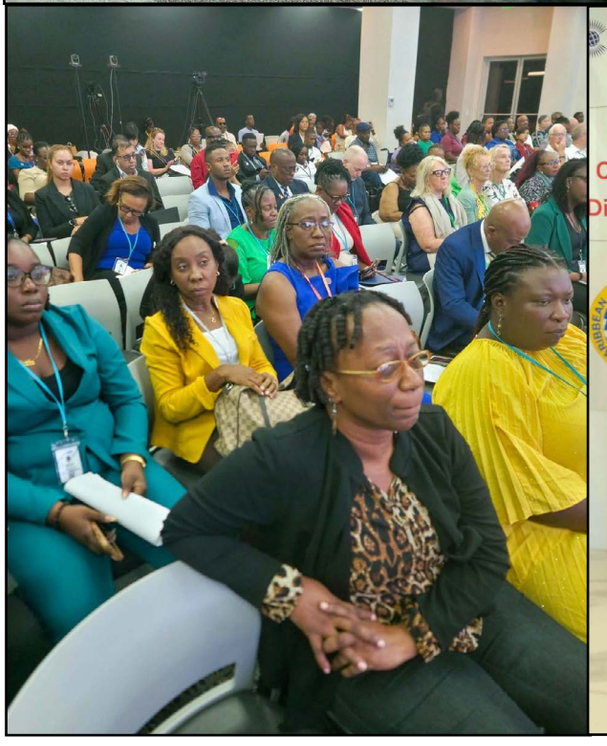
"Persons with disabilities and their organisations must help us plan, test, and make arrangements well before the emergency," he said.

Minister Turner pointed to the Commonwealth Disability Inclusion Action Plan as a shared framework for putting the rights affirmed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into practice.

He encouraged symposium participants to leave with clear responsibilities and achievable actions: identify a barrier, agree who will remove it and involve those affected in determining whether the change works.

The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation recognises the importance of ensuring that disability inclusion is reflected in the everyday decisions that shape communities, services and opportunities across Antigua and Barbuda.









A Royal Welcome and a Commonwealth Celebration

Their Majesties conclude a visit to Antigua and Barbuda during CHOGM 2026



Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla concluded their visit to Antigua and Barbuda on Wednesday, 4 November 2026. The visit, which began with the King's official arrival on Friday, 30 October, coincided with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026 and brought Their Majesties into contact with the country's culture, history, communities and natural environment.

Across the programme, Their Majesties met community organisations, young people, educators, artists, environmental groups and leaders from across the Commonwealth. The engagements reflected Antigua and Barbuda's heritage and national identity, as well as the work taking place to support education, community service, environmental stewardship and opportunity for young people.

On Sunday, 1 November, Their Majesties attended a church service at St. John's Pentecostal House of Restoration and later joined the Indepen-



dence Ceremonial Parade at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. The parade marked the country's 45th anniversary of Independence and celebrated the service and achievements of Antiguans and Barbudans. The King also met the Prime Minister and the Governor-General and took part in the Commonwealth Cricket Celebration, including the ceremonial coin toss for the Heads of Government match.

The following day, Their Majesties visited Government House, where they met representatives of charitable organisations, uniformed youth groups and education initiatives. They viewed the Government House Art Gallery and Museum, including an exhibition on the history of Antigua and Barbuda, and unveiled a plaque marking the restoration of Government House. The visit also recognised the contribution of local artists, students and craftspeople.

At Agave Gardens, Their Majesties learned about the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society's work in seed preservation, drought-resistant planting and horticulture. They met traditional seedworkers and local artisans and heard how heritage plants and locally sourced products support food security, livelihoods and the preservation of traditional skills.

The Queen later attended the CHOGM Women's Forum at the American University of Antigua, where she met organisations working to prevent violence against women and girls. The



King visited Nelson's Dockyard to learn about heritage conservation, coral restoration and efforts to address sargassum. He also supported the launch of the Commonwealth Nature Initiative and attended the Commonwealth Business Forum at the Sticky Wicket, where he met Commonwealth leaders, business representatives and investors.

On Tuesday, 3 November, Their Majesties attended the opening of CHOGM at the National Performing Arts Centre. The Queen visited Princess Margaret School, where she met students participating in a Queen's Commonwealth Writing Competition workshop and viewed a student art exhibition. The King attended a reception for newly appointed Heads of Government at Weatherills, while Their Majesties also took part in an oceans engagement at Fort James Beach, meeting people working in coastal protection, marine conservation and water safety.

The day concluded with Their Majesties hosting a dinner for Commonwealth Heads of Government at Blue Waters Resort. The occasion brought together leaders and delegates from across the Commonwealth during Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of CHOGM.

The dinner marked the close of a programme through which Their Majesties experienced the people, culture and ambitions of Antigua and Barbuda and joined Commonwealth leaders in the host nation.




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FLOW

Octopus Energy spearheads an Eastern Caribbean Alliance to turbocharge low-cost energy for island nations



Octopus Energy and partners from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Global Citizen, Sustainable Markets Initiative and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank signing the Eastern Caribbean alliance agreement at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on Monday 2nd November.

A new Eastern Caribbean Alliance has been launched to help slash the region's fossil fuels reliance, turbocharge the region's clean energy transition and cut energy bills, spearheaded by Octopus Energy.

The Alliance was announced at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda. It unites Octopus with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and it is dedicated to the sustainable development of the region through greater integration and partnership with entities such as Global Citizen, the Sustainable Market Initiative and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

By banding together, the partners are taking a whole-system approach to explore low-cost clean energy systems for homes, industry and transport, mobilise investment and pool expertise.

They aim to unlock economies of scale to harness abundant renewable energy, electric vehicles and battery storage, and manage this all flexibly with technology to cut bills.

This comes as small island nations face the frontline impacts of climate change. In addition, around 90% of electricity generation in the Caribbean comes from imported oil and diesel, leaving the islands vulnerable to global price shocks and with some of the world's highest energy prices. By cutting dependence on expensive fossil fuels, governments can save money which can ultimately be invested across their economies.

This latest move builds on Octopus' partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to explore ways of making energy cheaper, cleaner and more secure for the nation.

octopus energy

EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTRAL BANK

ECS Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Sustainable Markets Initiative

GLOBAL CITIZEN

Royal Commonwealth Society Caribbean Leaders Participate in Sports Twinning Signing Ceremony



Governor-General's Goodwill Ambassador, Dame Sandra Williams, who also serves as President of the Halo Foundation and President of the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) Antigua and Barbuda Branch, on Wednesday joined Dame Sandra Mason, former Governor-General of Barbados, first President of Barbados, and Patron of RCS Barbados, at a special signing ceremony held on the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in St. John's.

The ceremony marked the formal linking of the Divine Academy of Excellence (DAE) Football Field with the historic Flanders Fields football field in an event designed to build bonds between young people through shared remembrance and the spirit of sport.

The initiative was spearheaded by Ernie Brennan, Chairman of the Children's Football Alliance, who was also a signatory to the documents as was Lourdes Andrews of DAE. The event was organized by Peter Mann, previously associated with RCS Hong Kong and a Trustee of the Commonwealth Bond, together with CEO of Vasports Media Inc., Vernon Springer.

The programme included remarks from Andrews, Principal of the Divine Academy of Excellence (DAE), Minister James Richards, and Jerry Blenman.

Following the signing, participating school teams engaged in a ceremonial football match, bringing the message of unity into action on the field.







The "Flanders Fields" is remembered as a place of peace, and its connection draws attention to a landmark story from the First World War. The Peace Field in Mesen (Messines), Belgium is recognized for its association with the Christmas Truce of 1914, when soldiers on opposing sides paused hostilities and, in a moment that defies the logic of war, shared goodwill, exchanged tokens, and played an impromptu game of football in areas often described as No Man's Land.

In that context, the twinning of football fields is more than a ceremonial gesture—it is a promise to carry forward values of reconciliation, respect, and human dignity through education and youth engagement. At present, 86 fields are twinned in this network connected to Flanders.

During the ceremony, Peter Mann announced that his organization will be working closely with Dame Sandra and the RCS Antigua to take a group of children from the Divine School of Excellence (DAE) to Diripe in 2027, where they will have the opportunity to see and learn about the key sites connected to this peace-focused initiative, including the Flanders (Peace) Field in Belgium.

Organizers say the exchange aims to strengthen friendship and broaden young people's understanding of history—while encouraging teamwork and community values through football.



Who Benefits from Commonwealth Sport? Pilgrim Puts Historical Inequality and Reparations on the Agenda

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador calls for a formal review of sporting inequalities and constructive dialogue on reparatory justice

The Commonwealth should examine how historical inequalities continue to shape who participates in, leads and benefits from international sport, Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim has urged.

Delivering the "Way Forward Reflections" at the Commonwealth Sport Summit for Development and Peace on 2 November, Dr. Pilgrim called for respectful dialogue on sports reparations and proposed that Commonwealth Sport commission a review of historical sporting inequalities and their present-day consequences.

The review would examine unequal access to resources and international competition, the movement of sporting talent, and developing countries' ability to retain expertise. It would recommend practical measures for Commonwealth leaders.

The proposal builds on an international discussion already developing within sport. In July 2026, the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, Commonwealth Sport and the United Nations human rights office convened a Glasgow conference dedicated to reparatory justice in and through sport. Participants considered how enslavement, colonialism and their legacies have shaped who gets to play, lead and benefit from sport, and how sporting institutions might advance truth, justice, repair and reconciliation.

Commonwealth Sport has also identified historical injustice as a priority in its Foundation's development model and points to its Declaration on Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples as part of its work on truth and reconciliation.

Dr. Pilgrim seeks to extend that discussion to structural disadvantages experienced by developing and small states. He linked the issue to sport's wider economic importance. The World Economic Forum estimates the global sports economy at US$2.3 trillion annually and projects growth to US$3.7 trillion by 2030.





The St John's Sports Pledge emerged from the Summit as a draft framework for action. Commonwealth Sport announced on 3 November that the draft would be developed further in consultation with member Commonwealth Games Associations before being shared with governments through the Commonwealth Sport Coordination Forum. Its published themes include inclusion, economic prosperity, cultural heritage and international cooperation; sports reparations have not been announced as an adopted commitment.

Dr. Pilgrim is calling for member states to ensure that historical inequalities receive deliberate consideration as the pledge develops. He is calling for a review and constructive dialogue, not a predetermined finding of liability, so evidence can inform a fairer Commonwealth sporting system across member countries.

Joshuanette Francis Appeals For the Return of Feather Banners



Well-known environmental and disability activist, Joshuanette Francis, is appealing for the return of two feather banners (flags) that were mounted along Queen Elisabeth Highway, belonging to her organization, Good Humans 268.

The feather banners formed part of a display that included the flags of all 56 Commonwealth countries depicted on plywood with the use of discarded plastic bottle caps. It was the organisation's contributions to activities marking Antigua and Barbuda's historic hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting from November 1 – 4.

Francis reported that when she drove by Queen Elizabeth Highway early Thursday morning, both feather banners/flags were missing even while the display of the national flags remained intact.

"Someone removed BOTH of our Good Humans 268 feather banners/flags from Queen Elizabeth Highway. Our team of 35 persons worked for hours to create the Commonwealth bottle-cap flag display. Our feather banners/flags cost money and represent our organisation, individuals with disabilities, our sacrifices, and our commitment to sustainability and inclusion," she recalled.

Francis said taking the items means stealing from an organisation working to make Antigua and Barbuda better.

"Please respect our work. If you have our flags or know where they are, please help us to get them back," she urged.



ABUT Provides Financial Academic Aid to Veteran Teachers



Three longstanding and seasoned educators were the recipients of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers' inaugural scholarship grants on Thursday. The grants are an initiative undertaken by the ABUT to build the capacity of the country's educators.

"The Antigua and Barbuda Teachers Union has been known to advocate for our members," a representative noted, "but one of the things we also stand on is professional development and making sure that we build capacity not just among our leaders, but among all our teachers."

The recipients received sums to put towards their studies in the fields of Accounting and Finance, Educational Leadership and Administration, and Child Advocacy. ABUT President Casroy Charles described the initiative as a reaffirmation of the Union's commitment to removing financial and other barriers to professional development among its members, empowering them to operate with class and excellence within their profession.

All three recipients, Asana Peters, Annette B-Joseph and Natalie Casimir Samuel, have been teaching for over 18 years. The grant is seen as an opportunity to capitalize on their own personal and professional development, while it also represented a reward after almost two decades of dedicated service to education.

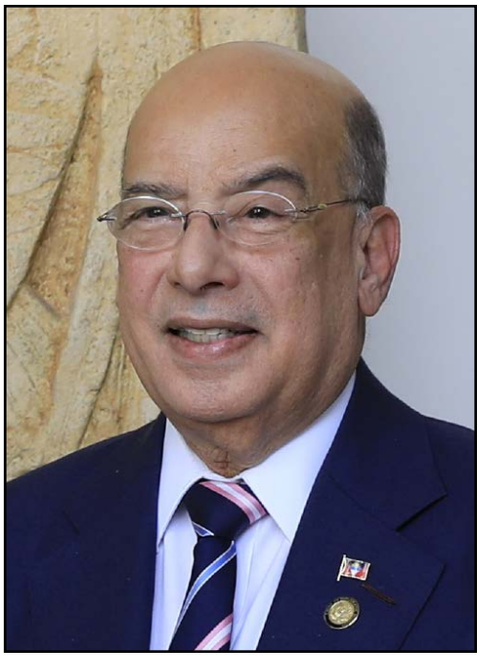
The ABUT affirms that, as long as it remains within its capacity, the union will continue the initiative in an effort to fulfil its mandate of helping members achieve the best possible outcomes




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A New Congress in Washington: What Changes for the Caribbean?



By Sir Ronald Sanders

The American electorate has changed the political balance in Washington. In the midterm elections of 3 November, Democrats won majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. They will assume control when the new Congress takes office in January 2027.

For the Caribbean, the result raises an important question: how much will a change in Congress alter the policies affecting our security, economies and people?

The answer is that the administration's principal foreign-policy priorities are unlikely to change, although Congress can influence how they are pursued.

Continuity alongside change

Congress legislates, appropriates funds and conducts oversight. The Senate also considers and confirms many senior presidential appointments. The new majorities will therefore influence legislation, expenditure and scrutiny of the administration.

However, President Trump will continue to direct the executive branch and conduct foreign relations, with substantial authority over diplomatic engagement, immigration enforcement and aspects of trade policy. He can also issue executive orders without congressional approval, provided they rest on his constitutional powers or authority granted by existing law. He can veto legislation, and overriding a presidential veto requires a two-thirds majority in each chamber – not easy to achieve.

Constraints on a President's domestic legislative programme do not necessarily produce a corresponding reduction in foreign-policy activity. The executive retains considerable capacity to act abroad, although congressional funding decisions and statutory limits remain consequential.

It would therefore be premature to interpret the election as a change in the administration's approach to Latin America and the Caribbean.

The administration's "Trump Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine emphasises American strategic interests in the Western Hemisphere. Its priorities include migration, narcotics trafficking, access to strategically important locations and limiting the influence of competing powers. There is little reason to expect those priorities to disappear because congressional control has changed.

For Caribbean countries, the implications extend beyond traditional diplomacy. Ports, energy infrastructure, telecommunications, investment and relationships with external partners can acquire strategic significance in Washington alongside their economic importance at home. Understanding that perspective is essential to effective engagement. Caribbean countries also have legitimate development needs, international obligations and sovereign responsibilities.

A durable relationship between the US and CARICOM countries should allow for meaningful discussion of the interests of both sides.

Where interests meet

There is substantial common ground, supported by tangible economic benefits, for such discussions.

The United States is a major trading partner and an important source of investment and visitors for Caribbean countries. At the same time, CARICOM countries collectively provide a valuable market for American exports, generating a US goods trade surplus of approximately US$7 billion in 2025. That commerce supports American businesses and employment.

CARICOM's value extends beyond its purchases. Its oil and gas industries, bauxite and other mineral resources make the region a nearby partner in supply chains important to American industry and energy security. Guyana's oil production and the longstanding energy and mineral industries of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica illustrate that contribution. These connections give practical substance to a mutually beneficial relationship.

Predictability matters. US tariffs on Caribbean exports are affecting their competitiveness in the American market. Separately, changes in American export prices, shipping costs and supply chains are increasing Caribbean import bills. For small economies, disruption affecting one industry can have consequences for national employment, revenue and foreign-exchange earnings.

Arrangements that sustain Caribbean economic activity also preserve opportunities for American commerce.

Security provides another area of shared interest. Drug trafficking, illegal firearms, organised crime, illicit financial flows and maritime insecurity damage Caribbean societies and threaten the United States. Cooperation among police, customs authori-

ties, coastguards and judicial institutions is indispensable. Its effectiveness depends on attention to the movement of weapons and criminal proceeds alongside narcotics.

Security also rests on functioning institutions, economic opportunity and public confidence in the rule of law. Enforcement and development reinforce each other.

Haiti demonstrates the consequences when insecurity overwhelms institutions. Its people bear the greatest suffering, while neighbouring countries face humanitarian and security pressures.

A durable response requires resources, accountability, stronger Haitian institutions and meaningful Haitian participation. Continuity of international support remains important whatever the composition of Congress.

Developments affecting Cuba also have implications for neighbouring countries through migration, economic connections and humanitarian needs. Those consequences remain relevant to any assessment of regional stability.

Resilience and human connections

Development financing is equally consequential. Income per capita alone does not capture a small country's exposure to disasters or the burden of rebuilding. A hurricane can destroy infrastructure accumulated over decades, leaving a country classified as middle- or high-income facing severe financial distress. Necessary borrowing to pay for rebuilding has deepened existing vulnerability.

The Caribbean's longstanding case for assessing vulnerability alongside income has practical relevance to the United States, which has considerable influence in international financial institutions. Resilient economies are better able to sustain trade, protect investment and recover without repeated emergency assistance. Disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure consequently offer a basis for cooperation grounded in economic stability and measurable benefits.

Families, students, workers, businesses and Caribbean communities in the United States also sustain connections that reach far beyond government. Individual visa eligibility is a matter for the US authorities under American law. However, broad restrictions on visa issuance based on nationality, including those affecting Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica, have consequences beyond individual applicants. They impede business travel, tourism to the United States, attendance by fee-paying students at American universities and access to paid medical care at American hospitals.

These effects carry costs for American institutions and businesses as well as Caribbean citizens, and can strain cooperative relations. Predictable arrangements that address legitimate security concerns while sustaining these connections serve both sides.

An enduring relationship

The new Congress creates possibilities for dialogue and scrutiny, but it does not guarantee agreement on Caribbean concerns, nor replace the present administration as an essential partner.

Some of the priorities of the US administration command support across party lines. Others remain contested. The value of Caribbean engagement lies in continuing to explain our circumstances clearly and identifying workable propositions for agreement.

Our relationships with American businesses, universities and communities add depth to that effort. They demonstrate that Caribbean prosperity and security have tangible connections to American wellbeing.

The balance in Washington has changed. However, the geography, economic connections and human relationships binding the United States and the Caribbean endure.

Those realities provide a foundation for constructive relations with President Trump's administration and both parties in Congress, sustained by mutual respect, candid dialogue and recognition that our interests frequently meet.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the OAS. He is also Chancellor of the University of Guyana. The views expressed are his own.)





From Emancipation to Independence a Three Part Series

PART III

The Unfinished Emancipation: No Lord Moyne Is Coming

By Professor Justin Robinson

The suffering of the masses under slavery and colonialism are matters of historical fact as are the achievements of the independence era. As I complete this three part series I suggest to you that the current generation in the Caribbean confronts the fundamental question of whether a people can be politically sovereign and truly emancipated while so much of its economic future remains beyond its command, and political tribalism eats away at the very legitimacy of the state, rendering its institutions hollow and its promises suspect?

I am of the view that the Moyne Commission still teaches a dangerous truth. A society can appear orderly while frustration accumulates beneath it, and governments often recognize structural distress only after private suffering becomes public disruption. The rebellions of the 1930s were not the beginning of Caribbean poverty they were its eruption into visibility.

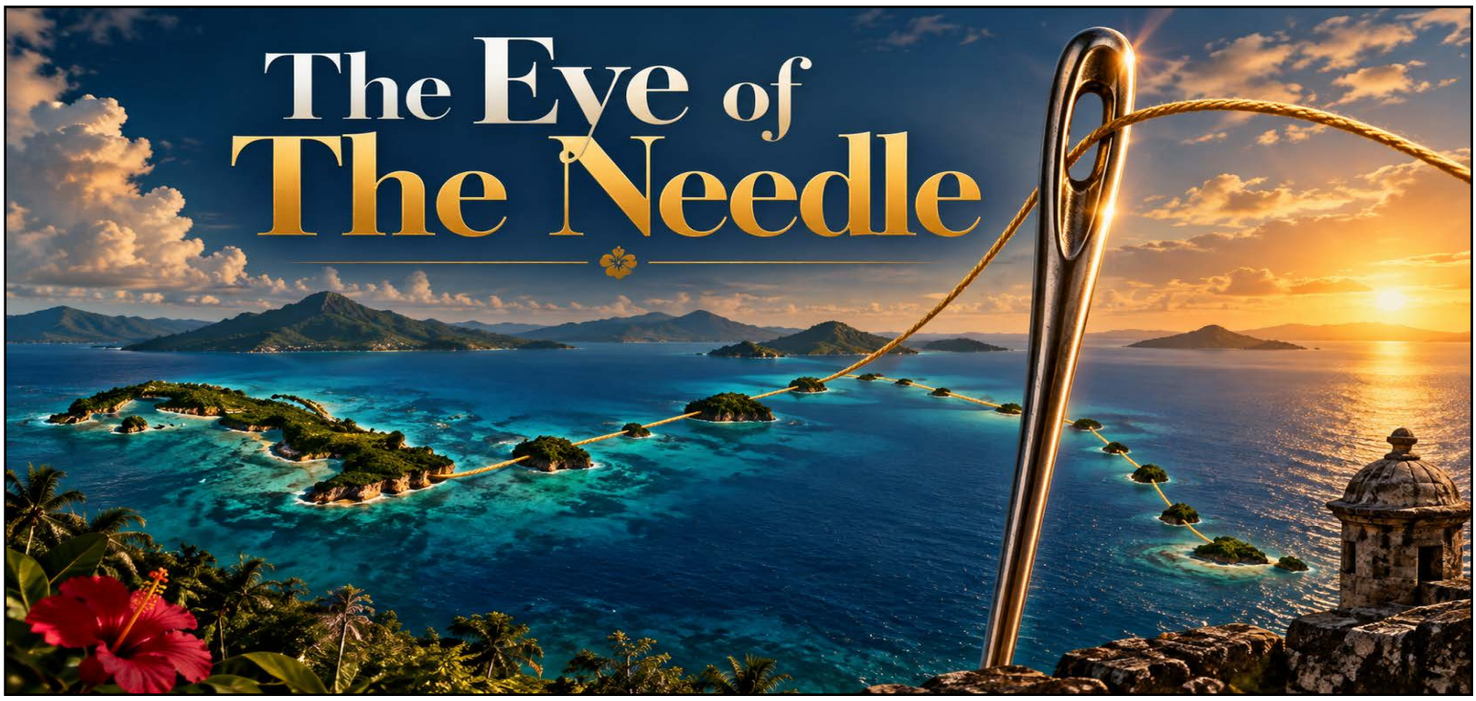
We are not living in 1938, and the careless comparisons made by commentators who should know better and some who don't diminish both the suffering of that age and the achievements of independence.

The warning signs today are different, but they are difficult to dismiss. The warnings signs manifest themselves in what I term the Triple C Crisis. The Crime Crisis, the Climate Crisis and the Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Crisis. Noncommunicable diseases account for roughly four out of every five deaths across the Americas, with a severe burden in Caribbean societies. Crime terrifies communities and erodes the trust on which civic life depends. Climate shocks can erase years of household savings and public investment in a single night, reducing the hard-won gains of decades to rubble and floodwater.

In addition, the International Labour Organization estimated Caribbean youth unemployment, excluding Haiti, at 17.6 per cent in 2024, compared with 4.7 per cent among adults. A 2025 CARICOM and World Food Programme survey estimated that 42 per cent of people in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean were food insecure.

These figures should not be taken as indicators of the failure of independence but as evidence that independence has entered a harder stage. Political authority has been nationalized and basic social services extended to many across our societies. Our current challenge is to build productive, resilient societies capable of preserving and extending those gains in a less accommodating external environment amidst the challenges of climate change and technological upheaval especially in the form of Artificial Intelligence.

However, none of this is possible if the state is primarily engaged in political tribalism. Every scarce tax dollar lost to partisan patronage is money not spent on climate resilience, crime fighting, health initiatives or AI policy. Appointments made on the basis



of loyalty over competence leads to a loss of the critical and scarce expertise needed to meet the challenges of the day.

As such political tribalism is lethal to further Caribbean development. It is a slow poison that weakens the body politic until it can no longer resist the shocks that are certain to come.

I urge you to consider my proposition that the unfinished work of emancipation and independence must start with broader economic ownership across our economies. The shadow of the plantation economy still seems to stretch across our Caribbean civilization. In the modern Caribbean economy too much land, capital, technology, distribution and strategic decision-making still lie beyond the reach of ordinary citizens. Political independence without broader economic participation leaves freedom wobbly as it stands on one leg, the political leg.

The deeper objective must be ownership in the fullest sense, genuine participation in the decisions that shape economic life, what Prof Hiliary Beckles calls Economic Democracy. Emancipation secured ownership of the self, independence secured ownership of the state and we must now secure a meaningful ownership stake in the future. Ownership must now be more widely distributed and not concentrated in tribal networks or dynastic families.

The challenge of adding economic democracy to our independence project in the Caribbean is still born when political tribalism ensures that the opportunities that exist are captured by the politically connected.

The promise of political independence is denied when we the freed people reproduce the exclusions of colonialism, only now with Caribbean faces and Caribbean flags. Today the excluded can no longer blame a distant empire. Instead, they adjust by migrating, withdrawing from civil society or join the political game as they observe the reality of prosperity through connection rather than merit.

The answers to increasing resilience and economic independence are well known to all and exists in hundreds of policy papers and the creativity of Caribbean people living at home or in the diaspora. My own view is that political tribalism is what lies between us and deliberate productive transformation that includes modern agriculture and food processing, renewable energy, digital and creative industries, health, education and professional exports, a sustainable blue economy, stronger local capital markets and policies that allow Caribbean citizens to acquire shares, land and intellectual property.

Caribbean people hold their future in their hands because Political tribalism is different from every bondage that preceded it in our history as it is a voluntary arrangement that runs on the daily consent of ordinary people.

This time nobody is compelled, there is no whip and no Colonial Office, there is only the arrangement, renewed by each of us, one small action at a time. I feel acute pain that our ancestors were denied choices we possess and we use that freedom to participate in political tribalism and volunteer ourselves into a dependency they had no means of refusing.

I conclude this series by saying that No Lord Moyne is coming people, we are the commission now. As we do the parades, waves the flags, decorate our public spaces and enjoy the beaches and the only question that remains for this Independence season is whether a people who have been legally free for one hundred and eighty-eight years, and politically free for two generations, will finally choose to govern themselves as citizens instead of political tribes.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S MAGNIFICENT CULTURAL PRESENTATION AT CHOGM 2026



Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas
Minister for Tourism, the Creative Economy and Culture -
Grenada

I wish to extend my warmest and most heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for the absolutely magnificent cultural extravaganza presented at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026.

What we witnessed Tuesday was nothing short of a world-class production, brilliantly conceptualised, professionally executed and artistically outstanding. It was a spectacular celebration of Caribbean creativity, cultural identity, artistic excellence and national pride, presented on a stage worthy of the world's finest cultural productions.

From the opening moments to the final performance, the entire presentation reflected exceptional planning, coordination, discipline and attention to detail. The seamless transitions, outstanding choreography, captivating musical arrangements, spectacular costumes, lighting and stage management all combined to deliver an unforgettable cultural experience.

Every single performer deserves the highest commendation. The musicians, dancers, singers, actors and other creative professionals demonstrated extraordinary talent, confidence, precision and professionalism. Their performances were not merely entertaining; they told a powerful story of a people deeply connected to their history, proud of their heritage and confident in their cultural identity.

I must offer special recognition to the musical conductor, whose exemplary leadership, command, precision and artistic expression were truly remarkable. The conductor's ability to bring the musical elements together with such harmony, energy and discipline added tremendous distinction to an already exceptional production.

Equally deserving of recognition are the producers, artistic directors, choreographers, technical crews, costume designers, stage managers and the many individuals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Their collective efforts demonstrated that excellence in cultural production is achieved through vision, teamwork, preparation and an unwavering commitment to the highest professional standards.

The magnificent new, state-of-the-art cultural performance centre provided an equally impressive setting for this historic occasion. It stands as a powerful statement of Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to cultural development, creative expression and the advancement of its cultural and creative industries.

As Minister responsible for Culture in Grenada, I was particularly proud to witness this extraordinary demonstration of Caribbean artistic excellence. Antigua and Barbuda has reminded the Commonwealth and the wider international community that the Caribbean is not merely a destination of beautiful beaches and warm hospitality; we are a civilisation of extraordinary creativity, rich cultural traditions and world-class artistic talent.

This production has undoubtedly raised the bar for the presentation of major cultural events throughout our region. It serves as an inspiration to cultural practitioners, event producers and creative professionals across the Caribbean, demonstrating what can be accomplished when talent is supported by investment, visionary leadership and professional execution.

Antigua and Barbuda, you have made the Caribbean proud! You did not simply stage a cultural performance; you delivered a masterpiece of Caribbean excellence before the eyes of the Commonwealth and the world.

Congratulations on a truly magnificent, memorable and world-class production!

Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas
Minister for Tourism, the Creative Economy and Culture -
Grenada

PROUD ANTIGUAN AND BARBUDAN

Good Morning Colleagues:

I agree completely with the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Culture of Grenada. That cultural extravaganza was majestic, professional and executed with surgical precision and was a performance of world class standard.

Indeed, I am very proud to be an Antiguan and Barbudan. The Cultural Renaissance has begun and all Antiguans and Barbudans, I am sure by now, have all "caught the vision" and together "we shall live the DREAM".

The cast, crew, producers and everyone who took part in that production must be highly commended for an excellent job. But, most of all, we must all give credit and very high praise to our visionary Prime Minister and his government for the bold initiative and steps taken in establishing a first class National Arts and Performance Cultural Centre in our twin island state.

That performance has set the cultural stage for great things to come. And, it was shared worldwide.


Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
CIU
CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
9TH JAN
2027
8:00PM
NIGHT ONE
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CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
KES THE BAND
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ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
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Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
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CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
10TH JAN
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6:00PM
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CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
JONATHAN NELSON
GEN $100
GLORY LOUNGE $250
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ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
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Antigua Barbuda
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The beach is just the beginning...
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CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
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POINT EXPRESS ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Caribbean seeks permanent shipping fee exemptions

The Caribbean private sector is calling for permanent exemptions from United States maritime fees, warning that any increase in shipping costs could have implications for businesses, consumers and the movement of essential goods across the region.

The call has been made by the CARICOM Private Sector Organisation (CPSO) and the CPSO-US Business Council, which have jointly submitted comments to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) supporting a further suspension of the fees affecting Caribbean short-sea shipping.

The current suspension is due to expire on November 9, 2026. The USTR has proposed extending it for another two months, from November 10, 2026, to January 9, 2027.

However, the CPSO wants the exemptions protecting Caribbean shipping services to be made permanent, rather than leaving the region dependent on repeated extensions.

The fees, introduced in October 2025, target certain vessels built in China entering US ports. While exemptions were subsequently introduced for several categories of vessels, the CPSO says these provisions are essential to maintaining the shipping services on which Caribbean countries depend.

For Saint Lucia and other CARICOM countries, the issue is particularly important because more than 90 per cent of the region's goods trade moves by sea, with no road, rail or pipeline alternatives.

The shipping routes are used to bring in food, fuel, construction materials and other essential supplies, as well as goods needed by businesses in sectors such as tourism and manufacturing.

The CPSO represents more than 6,250 businesses across CARICOM and says several member states have only two or three shipping companies serving their markets.

It warned that the original US fee proposal could have increased freight costs on Caribbean routes by between



50 and 60 per cent, potentially resulting in higher prices for consumers and losses for regional and US producers.

Since the exemptions were introduced in April 2025, no liner service to a CARICOM port has been withdrawn and no additional surcharge has been imposed on Caribbean shipping routes, according to the organisation.

The exemptions also have implications for disaster response. The CPSO pointed to the movement of food, relief supplies and building materials from Florida to Jamaica following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, using the same short-sea shipping services protected by the arrangements.

Meanwhile, trade between the United States and CARICOM reached US$30.1 billion in 2025.

US exports to the region totalled US$18.6 billion, while imports from CARICOM stood at US$11.6 billion, giving the United States a trade surplus of US$7 billion.

CPSO Chief Executive Officer and Technical Director Dr Patrick Antoine said the exemptions had helped keep Caribbean markets supplied while allowing US goods to remain competitive in the region.

He said the organisation was asking the USTR to preserve the exemptions and eventually make them permanent so that Caribbean trade would not depend on repeated extensions or negotiations in which the region had no direct involvement.

The joint submission was made on behalf of the Caribbean private sector, building on the CPSO's advocacy during the 2025 proceedings, which involved CARICOM governments, the CARICOM Secretariat, regional ambassadors, shipping companies and other stakeholders. (St Lucia Times)

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Rowley: Rejection of Trump, enablers

Former prime minister Dr Keith Rowley says the United States midterm election results represent not merely a rejection of President Donald Trump, but an even stronger repudiation of those who enabled his administration's policies.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Rowley launched an attack on Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her United National Congress (UNC) Government over their close alignment with the Trump administration, accusing them of compromising Trinidad and Tobago's foreign policy, sovereignty and long-standing diplomatic principles.

"What happened in America (Tuesday) represents not just a rejection of a leader but more so the enablers who facilitate the destructive reign. This is the lesson for the people of Trinidad and Tobago who I hope, see how much we have copied in the recent past and decide how much more we will tolerate and be silent on," Rowley stated.

His comments followed the November 3 US midterm elections, in which Democrats secured control of both chambers of Congress, dealing a major political setback to Trump's Republican Party.

Rowley described the outcome as a decisive intervention by American voters and urged citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to reflect on the direction of their own country.

"The rampage in America has been decisively addressed by the American people. This is a good time for the people of Trinidad and Tobago to pay careful attention to our own situation and take stock of where we are going and what we have done in relation to the politics that have been roundly repudiated in America yesterday."

Rowley accused the UNC of having



undermined Trinidad and Tobago's diplomatic standing through its public support for Trump and its previous criticism of Democratic leaders.

"From the Opposition the UNC reached out of our lane and openly attacked and insulted the Democratic leadership of our neighbour and major trading partner to the north. In Government they expressed open support for the vile racism, military bullying, corruption and cruelty which were the 'policies' of an administration there," he stated.

Rowley further alleged the UNC's political strategy had involved the controversial political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, accusing the party of compromising the country's dignity and sovereignty in pursuit of electoral victory.

"From the beginning the UNC used our country to spawn Cambridge Analytica to infiltrate and violate our dignity and sovereignty in order to win elections here. Now that they have shredded our foreign policy in the hope of approval and favours from those who they chose to attach themselves to even when such policies were clearly at variance with our principles," he said.

Rowley also criticised the Government's recent foreign policy decisions, particularly Trinidad and Tobago's position on the United Nations resolution calling for an end to the United States embargo against Cuba.

On October 28, Trinidad and Tobago voted against the annual resolution, departing from its previous support for the measure. The Government has defended its decision, maintaining its position was based on principle and concern for the Cuban people rather than hostility towards them.

However, Rowley accused the administration of abandoning humanitarian principles and questioned its position concerning the International Criminal Court (ICC), whose establishment was championed internationally by former Trinidad and Tobago prime minister and president Arthur NR Robinson.

"They have shamed us by voting for cruelty and collective punishment for Cuba, now they refuse to vote in defence of the ANR Robinson-led International Criminal Court. In the face of this outrageous piece of bootlicking there is a loud silence from their partners in Tobago," he said.

Rowley suggested T&T had unnecessarily compromised its independence in an attempt to secure favour with Washington. He said the country could enjoy strong relations with the United States without abandoning its own principles or becoming politically subservient to any administration.

"What should be clear to us here is that we did not need to sell our souls to anyone in Washington to have friends in authority there.

"All we needed to do was what the PNM did, have respect for ourselves and those whom we interact with and stand firmly on our principles of decency, integrity, dignity and humanity and we be friends to all and vassals of none," he added. (Trinidad Express)

POINT EXPRESS ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Africa-Caribbean trade could reach US$1.65 billion by 2030

ANNUAL trade in goods and services between Africa and the Caribbean could reach US$1.65 billion by 2030, excluding mineral fuels, as the two regions look to translate longstanding historical and cultural ties into greater commercial opportunities.

However, much of that potential remains untapped, with around 80% of Africa's annual goods export potential to the Caribbean yet to be realised, according to a new report by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank).

The report, Reshaping Africa-Caribbean Trade: Opportunities for Economic Transformation, was launched yesterday on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda.

It identifies opportunities across agribusiness, manufacturing, tourism, transport services and the creative industries, while highlighting persistent obstacles that continue to constrain trade between the two regions.

Among the findings is that Caribbean export potential is concentrated in services, estimated at US$481 million.

The report also identifies opportunities in processed food and animal feed, chemicals, minerals and metals, apparel and textiles, leather and footwear, as well as tourism and creative industries.

The findings are based on trade and export potential analysis, detailed assessments of priority sectors and a survey of 1,175 businesses and business support organisations across Africa and the Caribbean.

ITC executive director Pamela Coke-Hamilton said the changing global trade environment made it increasingly important for countries to strengthen regional relationships and invest in activities that create greater value from their exports.



"At a time of major shifts in global trade, countries need to strengthen regional ties and invest in value addition, to build resilience," she said.

Coke-Hamilton said the report provided a basis for moving beyond identifying opportunities to helping businesses capitalise on them.

"We know the major trade opportunities between Africa and the Caribbean – and now we can focus on helping businesses take advantage of those opportunities through better market intelligence, improved logistics and greater access to finance."

Afreximbank senior executive vice-president Denys Denya said the two regions needed to turn their shared history into stronger economic relationships.

"Africa and the Caribbean must transform a shared history into shared prosperity," he said. (Trinidad Express)

No big bill: Green insists new ministry will cost taxpayers little with existing staff, agencies and facilities being used to run portfolio

AS the Government tightens its belt and orders a review of public spending, it has created a new Ministry of Mining and Geology. But Minister Floyd Green insists taxpayers will hardly feel the cost, arguing that the ministry is being built largely from resources and positions that were already in place.

Green, who also has responsibility for agriculture and fisheries, said the new ministry would not require the Government to recruit additional staff, establish new agencies or provide separate office accommodation.

He made the comments at Wednesday's post-Cabinet press briefing, where he outlined the ministry's plans and defended its creation against the backdrop of the Government's drive to reduce expenditure and redirect resources towards national recovery.

Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness recently announced a series of spending restrictions, including a moratorium on non-essential overseas travel and a pause on official vehicle purchases until March 31, 2027.

The Government has also ordered a review of public-sector property leases, discouraged hotel retreats and reinstated restrictions on official Christmas parties.

The measures are part of a wider effort to control spending as Jamaica continues to recover from last year's Hurricane Melissa.

The creation of another ministry therefore raised questions by many about the cost of expanding the Government's administrative structure at a time when it is urging public bodies to spend less.

However, Green, said mining already had much of the technical structure needed to operate as a ministry because it had previously been a ministry before being reduced to a division.

"So mining used to be a ministry years ago, and then it moved and became a division. But it never changed its structure in relation to the various technical officers that you have. So we have a



director of mining who happens to be here with us, we have a commissioner of mining who is here with us, we have two deputy commissioners of mining, [and] all of those positions were already there," Green said.

He also noted that the Jamaica Bauxite Institute and Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited are also existing agencies, while the new ministry will share human resources and accommodation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

"So no new entities have been established or are being established. Additionally, we are practising a shared service model. Again, this is something that the Ministry of Finance has been pushing forward. So we are not developing new human resources and new accommodations. All of that will be shared with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. So when you look at the cost for the new ministry, it is genuinely minimal," he said.

He said the new structure was intended to speed up work in a sector that the Government believes can play a greater role in economic growth, particularly as Jamaica rebuilds following Hurricane Melissa.

He revealed that the ministry's main task will be to expand the country's mining industry beyond its traditional focus on bauxite and alumina, while improving the benefits Jamaica receives from its mineral resources.

Green said the bauxite and alumina sectors had been affected by two major hurricanes, setting back production and making a fresh approach necessary.

One of the areas being targeted is the system used to collect revenue from bauxite production. Green said the Government was reviewing the levy formula, which dates back to the 1980s, with work already involving the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, the mining division and the Ministry of Finance.

He said the proposed changes were expected to be brought to Parliament in the coming weeks.

But the Government also wants to make greater use of Jamaica's limestone resources by encouraging companies to process the material locally instead of exporting it for further manufacturing overseas.

Green said Jamaica had chemical-grade limestone, which is used in products such as antacids and toothpaste, and that the ministry would develop incentives to attract investors to process it here.

Green said the intention was to encourage companies to invest in Jamaica and create more value from the resource before it is sold.

"How do we get companies to invest in Jamaica to do the value-adding here? In order to do that, we need to craft an incentive regime that will say to investors, this is what we have to offer, this is what we think can work, and we want you to come here," he said.

The ministry is also expected to play a role in preparing the country for possible gold and copper production. Green said international companies were working with Jamaican firms to explore the potential, but stressed that it was too early to say whether commercially viable deposits existed. (Jamaica Observer)

Stranded US cruise ship Odyssey leaves Cambodia with no passengers

A US cruise ship that forced all its passengers to disembark in Cambodia after suspending its operations last week has departed the Southeast Asian nation with only crew aboard, Cambodian officials said on Wednesday.

The MV Odyssey, owned by Florida-based Villa Vie Residences, had been on an around-the-world cruise when it suspended its planned three-year voyage due to the sharp rise in fuel costs.

It had been docked for a scheduled stop at the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville on the Gulf of Thailand, when on October 28 its 203 passengers were suddenly told they had to disembark within a few hours.

The ship left Sihanoukville late Tuesday with only crew and other personnel on board, said Tang Sochetkresna, director of the Tourism Department of Preah Sihanouk province. He said he didn't know the ship's next destination.

He said that nearly 100 passengers remained in Sihanoukville, while others were visiting other parts of Cambodia or had traveled on to other countries. Most of the ship's passengers were Americans.

The ship, with its 650-passenger capacity, had 156 crew members on board, but it was not clear how many departed with the ship.

There has been no official announcement of future plans for the cruise ship. Media reports suggested that a creditor had taken over its management and was having it sailed to Singapore, Southeast Asia's main maritime hub.

The abrupt end to the ship's voyage has drawn widespread attention because it had touted itself as a floating home, combining long-term living at sea with global travel.

Several passengers said they had paid more than US$300,000 for a suite for the lifetime of the vessel.



Villa Vie Residences said monthly fuel expenses per cabin that historically averaged US$1,800 have reached an estimated US$6,000 to US$8,000 in parts of Asia due to the war in Iran.

The company said it sought to reduce fuel consumption by slowing the itinerary and spending more time in port, but was unable to offset the surging costs.

Traffic has been curtailed in the Strait of Hormuz since the war in Iran began, squeezing supplies of all kinds of petroleum-based fuels, especially in Southeast Asia, and sharply increasing prices.

Passengers had said the company had been asking them for several months for contributions to keep the ship operating, and there has been an active debate on social media over whether its operation was ever financially viable.

Built in 1993 and operated under different names by several cruise lines over the years before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Odyssey was bought by Villa Vie Residences in 2023.

Its current cruise began in October 2024 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where the ship had been refitted. A second cruise, along with the purchase of a second ship to operate in a similar capacity, had already been planned. (AP)

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NASA space telescope plunges to Earth after two decades studying cosmic explosions

One of NASA's premier space telescopes plunged to Earth on Wednesday, ending its 22-year investigation of the universe's biggest explosions.

The Swift Observatory's demise came less than three months after a long-shot rescue mission failed.

The US Space Force confirmed Swift's reentry near Indonesia after tracking its sinking orbit, the result of intense solar activity the past few years.

NASA hired a private company to whip together an orbit-boosting effort, but Katalyst Space's three-armed robotic craft ran into trouble following its July launch and came crashing down in September.

It was not immediately known how much of the one-and-a-half-ton spacecraft burned up in the atmosphere. NASA anticipated some of the denser pieces surviving.

Swift rocketed into orbit in 2004 on what was expected to be a two-year study of gamma ray bursts and exploding stars. It observed thousands of them over a mission that lasted 11 times longer than planned, serving as a first responder for other telescopes that could probe deeper.

NASA is gauging industry's interest in mounting a rescue mission for another observatory whose orbit is being chipped away by solar storms: the Hubble Space Telescope. Launched in 1990, Hubble is expected to come crashing down by the mid-2030s, according to recent analyses.

The space agency is looking for input from private companies on whether and how they might boost Hubble's orbit, upgrade its systems or guide it to a controlled re-entry – or all three. Any such mission would need to happen by 2032.

Unlike the rush job with Swift, the space agency has more time to explore options for saving Hubble, said Nicky



Fox, NASA's science mission chief.

"Hubble still has important science ahead of it," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said in a statement, "and we should be looking at every reasonable opportunity to keep it delivering for as long as possible." (AP)

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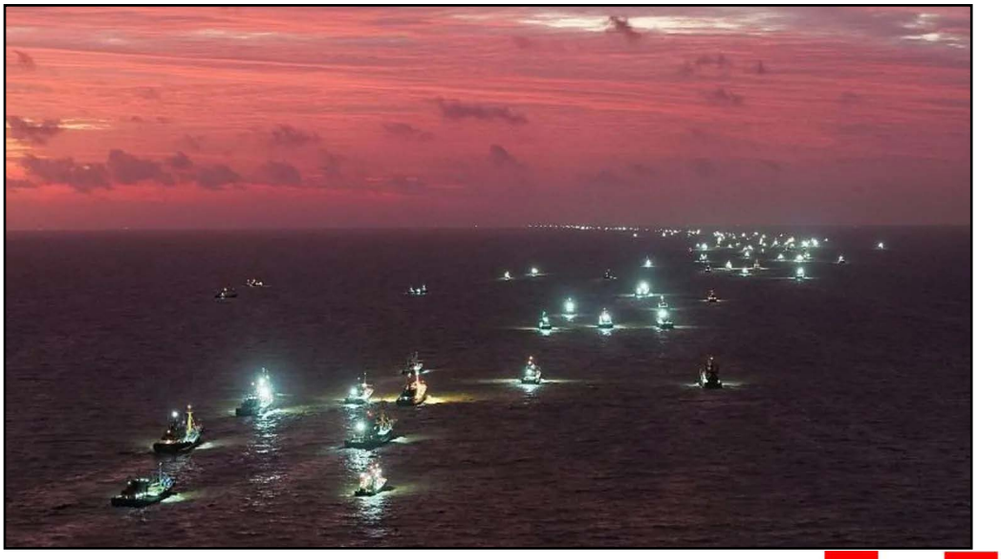
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Typhoons batter East Asia as El Niño makes Pacific 'burn with fever'



Wild weather is a way of life for people living along the coast in the Philippines, Taiwan, China and Japan. But the last few months have been extraordinary.

A wave of intense and, at times, unpredictable storms exacerbated by the El Niño weather pattern has killed dozens, shuttered major airports and wiped out crops and infrastructure across a swathe of East Asia.

In October, nearly all of Taiwan shut down as a monster storm big enough to engulf the island of 23 million roared towards its north-eastern coast. Equivalent to a category five hurricane, Typhoon Champi's 295km/h (193mph) winds had the power to flatten homes and whip up destructive waves.

Thankfully it did not make landfall in Taiwan, skirting past the island while dousing it in rain. But it had far-reaching impacts: hundreds of flights were cancelled in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. In the Philippines' Batanes archipelago, seaside highways shut as huge waves crashed onto the shore, and in southern Japan's Okinawa islands, power was cut to 15,000 homes.

El Niño is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon in which warm waters pooling in the eastern Pacific and altered wind patterns drive extreme weather events around the world.

It happens around every two to seven years, lasting for around a year. This year's El Niño, which the UK Met Office has forecast to be the "strongest in living memory", is likely to last until February or March.

In June, Japan watched two storms - Typhoon Mekkhala and Severe Tropical Storm Higos - race towards its eastern coast simultaneously, forcing one million people to evacuate. In July, Tropical Storm Narra grazed China's southern coast along Guangxi,



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submerging villages and displacing tens of thousands.

August brought Super Typhoon Dolphin, which churned across the Pacific for 16 days - before slamming into eastern China, triggering heavy floods and dozens of casualties.

Later that month Typhoon Saudel made landfall in three south-eastern Chinese cities over one week, shutting transport networks and forcing thousands to evacuate.

The Pacific Ocean, heated to record levels by El Niño, is now brimming with typhoon energy, according to the Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) metric which measures the total intensity of a season's storms. This year, the ACE reading for South East and East Asia is forecast to be nearly double the 30-year average.

El Niño also affects wind patterns and in this case, that means typhoons are tending to form further east than usual. They are also becoming stronger as they remain over warm waters for longer.

The Pacific can be likened to someone "burning with fever", says Ana Liza Solis, head of climatology at the Philippines' national weather bureau. "It can go into convulsions soon," she said at a press briefing in Manila in September.

Forecasts suggest the worst may not be over. Last month, sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific - the area monitored by the Japan Meteorological Agency for its El Niño predictions - soared to 4C above normal, the highest since records began in 1949. The previous record - 3.6C - was set in December 1997.

China's climate agency has warned of sea surface temperatures continuing to rise over the next three months because of the El Niño.

Despite typhoon season usually peaking around September to October, this is likely to raise concerns across a region that has already been battered by back-to-back storms.

In August, Typhoon Chan-Hom baffled storm watchers in Japan by crossing the country from east to west, as opposed to the usual south-to-north trajectory. Japan's well-resourced and prepared authorities were able to evacuate people swiftly, but this would be far more challenging in some neighbouring countries.

To get a better picture of how rising temperatures could amplify the risks, Manila-based climatologist Rafaela Jane Delfino and colleagues simulated the effects of warmer conditions on the Philippines' most recent monster storms, including 2013's Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) which killed more than 6,000 people.

They arrived at what she describes as "very, very scary findings": higher temperatures increased total accumulated rainfall by 26%. It's a devastating prospect in a country where flooding from monsoon rains and some 20 tropical storms per year has emerged as one of the main disaster risks.

In recent years, floods have paralysed entire cities for days, and tired of the annual ordeal, Filipinos have taken to the streets to protest against corruption which they say is gnawing away at millions of dollars from flood-control projects.

Delfino, in an article on the University of the Philippines website, insists leaders and officials must gain a better understanding of climate hazards if communities are to be better prepared.

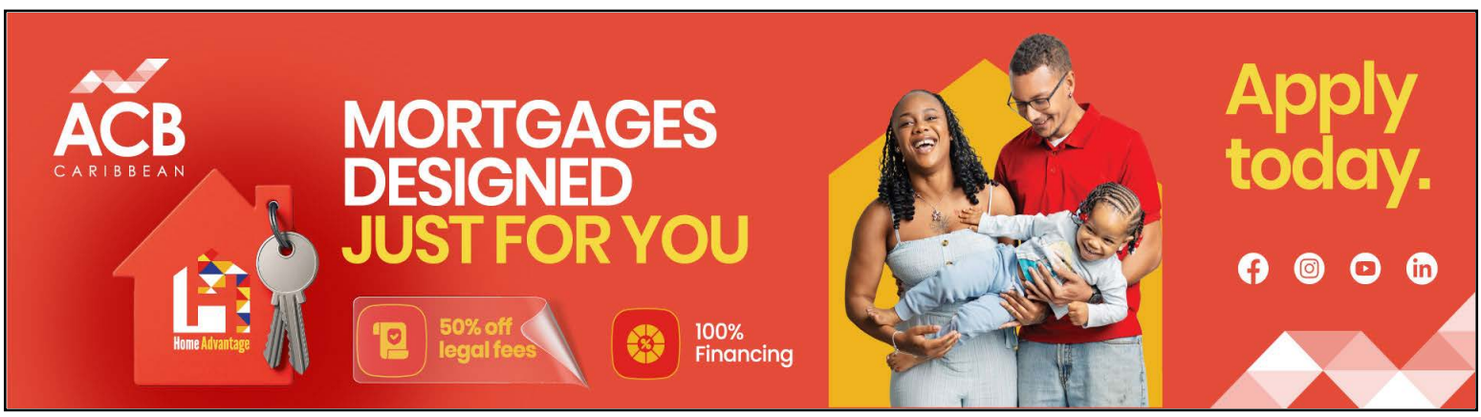
Countries are bracing for the immediate impact. Japan has urged citizens to stockpile food and essentials for the typhoon season, and to secure outdoor furniture that could become deadly projectiles when typhoon winds hit. China has asked local officials to identify vulnerable areas and is upgrading its warning and monitoring systems.

The Philippines and its South East Asian neighbours are preparing for disruptions to food production, especially rice, and have increased support for famers, including the provision of fertilisers.

But what happens in the long term is less clear. The window for governments to act on El Niño is "closing", the United Nations Development Programme in Asia and the Pacific said recently.

"How severely a community experiences an El Niño is decided years in advance, by where roads and settlements are built, how water is managed, who is covered by social protection and whether public budgets have room to absorb a shock.

"Every El Niño tests the resilience we have built; this one should also drive us to build more," it added. (BBC)



France holds new strikes and protests as unions demand immediate answers

Protests are taking place across France after five unions launched a national day of strike action, joining high school students and demonstrators criticising the rising cost of living.

More than 250,000 people had taken to the streets in almost 70 towns and cities by 13:00 (12:00 GMT) on Thursday, and that was "just the start", said Sophie Binet of the CGT union.

The unions have vowed to take the wave of protests that began in September over poor conditions and resources at lycées (high schools) "to the next level". They have since spread to include workers and the so-called "yellow-vest" movement against high prices.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said 70,000 police were being deployed, vowing "an extremely firm response" to any potential outbreaks of violence.

Some unrest was reported early on Thursday afternoon in Lyon where a car was set alight, in incidents blamed on hundreds of people belonging to the radical left-wing "black bloc".

The five unions have combined forces across the public and private sector, announcing more than 250 separate actions as part of their campaign for higher wages to combat the cost of living and protect public services.

Binet told reporters at the start of a march in central Paris that protesters had "just reached a new level in their mobilisation" and were demanding immediate answers.

Disruption was reported in schools, hospitals and public transport, and the Eiffel Tower and some exhibition rooms at the Louvre museum in Paris had to close.

Workers were also asked to halt production at oil refineries and France was expected to import more electricity than it produced on Thursday because of disruption at nuclear plants.

A coalition of unions has urged workers, pensioners and young people to join Thursday's day of strikes to intensify pressure on the government. In particular they are seeking a rise in the minimum wage, or Smic, which is currently €12.31 (£10) an hour.



The head of the CFDT union, Marylise Léon, complained that it was not just the minimum wage that needed to increase: «We are asking for a net increase of €100 a month.»

The government has sought to appease public anger over rising prices, bringing down the cost of fuel by releasing 10 million barrels of diesel from strategic reserves. Ministers have also promised school students to reform the unpopular Parcoursup university admissions platform and eventually replace it by 2028.

The education ministry said that 16% of teachers had gone on strike, and the unions said disruption had affected more than one in four lycées, which cater for 15-18 year-olds, as well as the vast majority of universities.

Large numbers are expected on the streets, especially in the capital, and the CFDT leader said she would be happy if 800,000 people turned out.

Meanwhile, a revived gilets jaunes (yellow-vest) movement that staged a revolt against the high cost of living several years ago has called for further blockades and protests on Friday and Saturday too.

Union leaders have complained that recent marches have been kept away from the centre of Paris, because of violence that broke out in towns and cities on 17 October and led to more than 2,000 stores being looted and historic buildings being set on fire.

Thursday's march was eventually allowed in central Paris, although not along the route proposed by the unions between Place de la Bastille and Place de la Concorde, which would have taken protesters near the National Assembly, the Élysée Palace, and the prime minister's residence at Hôtel Matignon.

Instead, the march was set to follow another central route from Place de la République to Place de la Nation. The CFDT union complained that getting court approval for the route only on Wednesday evening made organising the march more difficult.

The last big mobilisation at the weekend passed off with relatively little violence, and the interior minister said the police deployment would be on a similar scale on Thursday. Nuñez has spoken of three potential risks on Thursday, from radical left "black blocs" groups and looting to wildcat marches without union authorisation. (BBC)


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2027
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MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
TIAN WINTER
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ROOTS
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EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
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ANTIGUACARNIVAL
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Knockout stage to continue with Round of 16 in business football league



The Hermitage Bay Strikers football team

The knockout stage of the 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship will resume this weekend with matches in the Round of 16.

The top four teams in each of the four groups, which comprised seven teams apiece, at the end of the round-robin pool-play stage advanced to the Round of 16 knockout stage.

Defending champions APUA Telecoms, Keyonna Beach Resort, Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors, and Hermitage Bay Strikers are among the teams advancing to the Round of 16, with the matches taking place on Saturday.

APUA Telecoms, Galley Bay Ballers, Sandals FC, and American University of Antigua FC qualified from Group 2.

Keyonna Beach Resort, the University of the West Indies (UWI) Frigate Bird FC, Jumby Bay Resort, and Blue Waters Hotel advanced from Group 1.

The Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors, Immigration Department, Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), and Public Works Asphalt have qualified from Group 3.

Advancing to the Round of 16 from Group 4 are Hermitage Bay Strikers, Central Marketing Corporation (CMC), Royalton Chic Hotel, and Cocos Hotel.

The Round of 16 matches will take place with double-headers at four venues across Antigua, with the games slated for 6:15 pm and 7:30 pm.

At the Jennings playing field, Keyonna Beach Hotel will meet Cocos Hotel in the first encounter, and the Galley Bay Ballers will face Public Works Asphalt in the second match.

The Jumby Bay Resort will take on Central Marketing Corporation, and Sandals FC will tackle the CHAPA Warriors at the Golden Grove playing field.

At the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park, UWI Frigate Bird FC will oppose Royalton Chic Hotel, and APUA Telecoms will clash with Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority.

The Blue Waters Hotel will challenge the Hermitage Bay Strikers, and the American University of Antigua will meet the Immigration Department at the Fort Road playing field.

The winners in the Round of 16 matches will advance to the quarter-final stage of the competition

Barbados donates road tennis equipment to ABCAS



The donation forms part of Barbados' wider road tennis promotion during the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, where an eight-member delegation staged a showcase of the sport at the college's Eustace Hill Campus.

Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies Facilities Manager Kyla Nanton-Warren, second left, greets Barbados' Road Tennis Czar, Dale Clarke, who made the presentation on behalf of the Ministry of Sports in Barbados. The presentation to ABCAS was witnessed by players Rachel Smith, left, and Maria 'Flowers' Cumberbatch (right).

Hundreds of students at the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies are set to benefit from an opportunity to learn and play Barbados' indigenous sport of road tennis.

This follows a donation of equipment and educational material from Barbados' Ministry of Sports and Community Empowerment to the Antiguan tertiary institution.

The donation included 12 rackets, two dozen balls, a net, and educational material to support the introduction of the sport.

It was presented by Barbados' Road Tennis Czar, Dale Clarke, on behalf of the Ministry of Sports, and witnessed by players Rachel Smith and Maria 'Flowers' Cumberbatch.

Clarke says Barbados is committed to helping grow the sport in Antigua and Barbuda and across the region.

Accepting the donation, ABCAS Facilities Manager Kyla Nanton-Warren thanked Barbados, saying she looks forward to introducing the sport to students.

She also highlighted its health and wellness benefits, particularly in encouraging young people to become more physically active.



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

England Lions whitewash West Indies A team in T20 Series



Players of the England Lions

A sensational, record-equalling century chase was never on the cards for West Indies A, but nothing could detract from the sheer dominance of England Lions, who powered to a 96-run victory in the third and final T20 to complete a 3-0 series whitewash at the Conaree Sports Club St Kitts on Wednesday.

The day belonged to Rehan Ahmed, whose brutal 92 from just 46 deliveries was the cornerstone of a formidable total of 219 for seven posted by the England Lions.

After being put in to bat, the Lions lost early wickets, but Ahmed's innings, which featured five fours and a staggering eight sixes, changed the complexion of the game entirely.

Coming in at number three, Ahmed found an able ally in James Rew, and the pair launched a stunning counter-attack.

Their 112-run partnership for the third wicket took the game away from the hosts, with Rew contributing a fluent 57 off 37 balls.

The West Indies A bowlers, who had started promisingly with two early scalps, were left searching for answers as the ball disappeared to all parts of the ground.

Shadrack Descarte, Keon Gaston, and Joshua James all finished with two wickets apiece, but their figures were severely dented by the Lions' onslaught, with Zishan Motara conceding 52 runs from his three overs.

In reply, the target of 220 was always going to require an extraordinary effort. Any hopes West Indies A had of a miracle were quickly extinguished by a fiery opening spell from Adam Finch, who dismissed Zachary Carter (12) and captain Alick Athanaze (3) in quick succession.

The innings never gained any momentum. Antiguan Karima Gore offered some brief resistance with a 24-ball 37, supported by 22 from Guyanese Quentin Sampson, and 22 from fellow Antiguan Jewel Andrew.

But the spin duo of Calvin Harrison and Rehan Ahmed, continuing his magnificent day, tore through the middle order.

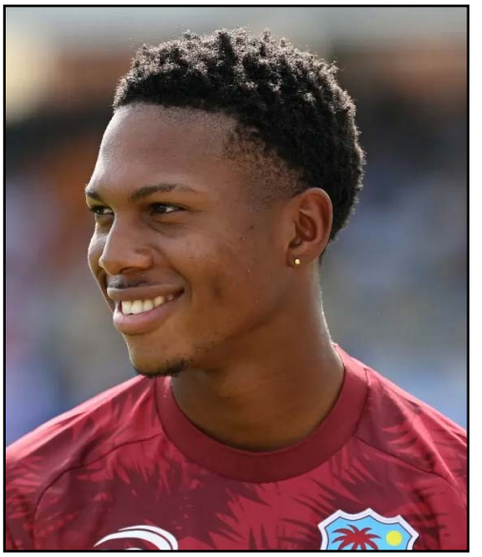
Leg-spinner Harrison was the pick of the bowlers with exceptional figures of three for 26 from his four overs, while Ahmed capped a man-of-the-match performance with two for 16.

Liam Patterson-White also chipped in with two late wickets as the West Indies A innings subsided for a mere 123 all out in the 17th over.

Three Antiguans earn CWI retainer contracts for 2026-26 season



Shawnisha Hector



Jewel Andrew

Antiguans Alzarri Joseph, Jewel Andrew, and Shawnisha Hector have all earned Cricket West Indies (CWI) retainer contracts for the 2026/27 season.

Matthew Forde, Amir Jangoo and Mandy Mangru have earned their first West Indies international retainer contracts, and John Campbell returns to the list, as Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Thursday confirmed its contracted players for the 2026–27 season.

Fifteen men and fifteen women hold senior retainer contracts, and three men hold development contracts, all running from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. The three captains, Shai Hope (ODI and T20I), Roston Chase (Test) and Hayley Matthews (women), remain at the core of the contracted group.

"Every one of these contracts is tied to a job in front of us," said CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe.

"For the men, the first job is the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in February, and we go there with every intention of making it through. For the women, it is the Pakistan ODIs in December, which give us the chance to own automatic qualification for the next ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. Matthew, Amir, and Mandy have earned their places in that work, and John has earned his way back."

Campbell holds an international retainer contract for the first time since 2019. His 2025–26 season brought a maiden Test century, 115 against India in Delhi.

It also brought a return to the ODI side after six years, which he marked with 101 from 68 balls against India in Guwahati in September.

Forde and Jangoo receive their first international contracts. Seamer Forde took more powerplay wickets than any other West Indies bowler in both white-ball formats over the past year; 10 in T20Is and six in ODIs.

Wicketkeeper-batter Jangoo made 233 against Sri Lanka in Antigua in June, and his stand of 401 with Roston Chase set a new world record for the sixth wicket in Tests.

Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Justin Greaves, and Jomel Warrican enter the final year of two-year contracts.

Jewel Andrew, Ackeem Auguste and Vitel Lawes hold development contracts. All three have already played for West Indies, and for Auguste and Lawes it is a first international contract.

"Development contracts bring players into the international set-up, where we can support them most closely and guide their progress,"said Bascombe.

"They are in contention for selection now. This gives them the best environment to keep growing while they compete for places."

Mangru, a member of the squad that reached the semi-finals of the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, receives her first international retainer contract. Deandra Dottin and Chinelle Henry enter the final year of two-year contracts.

The group goes into the December series against Pakistan under interim Head Coach Andre Coley.

Players not on international contracts remain eligible for selection for all West Indies teams. CWI will announce the 2026–27 CWI Men's Academy cohort and the regional women's contracts separately.

Senior Men retainer contracts (15): John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase (Test captain), Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Shai Hope (ODI and T20I captain), Akeal Hosein, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, and Jomel Warrican.

Men's Development contracts (3): Jewel Andrew, Ackeem Auguste, and Vitel Lawes.

Senior Women retainer contracts (15): Aaliyah Alleyne, Shemaine Campbelle, Jahzara Claxton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmond, Shawnisha Hector, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Mandy Mangru, Hayley Matthews (captain), Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, and Stafanie Taylor.

Sports
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Jangoo hits century to lead Windies revival against Bangladesh



West Indies batsman Amir Jangoo leaves the field after hitting a century against Bangladesh on the opening day of the second cricket Test in Sylhet, Bangladesh, on Thursday, November 5, 2026. (BCB)

SYLHET, Bangladesh (AP) — Amir Jangoo's century against Bangladesh helped the West Indies recover from an early collapse to reach 235 for four at the close of the opening day of the second cricket Test on Thursday.

Jangoo led the charge with an unbeaten 111 and his 131-run fourth-wicket partnership with debutant Kevin Wickham, who made 61, was critical for the visitors after the West Indies were reeling at 27 for three.

When the opening day ended due to bad light, Jangoo was at the crease with Justin Greaves, who is not out on 35. The pair shared an unbroken 77-run fifth-wicket stand in the last 19.5 overs.

"Amir batted very well," Wickham said. "For most of my innings he was guiding me and telling me that this is what test cricket is all about — staying patient.

"The bowling is much more consistent, so I just trusted my defense, and I think that worked very well for me. Kudos to Jangoo for a brilliant hundred. It's just about playing your natural game."

The West Indies captain Roston Chase won the toss and decided to bat first but the decision appeared to backfire when the Bangladesh pacers put the visitors in trouble inside the first nine overs.

Taskin Ahmed, one of the two changes by Bangladesh following an eight-wicket defeat in the first Test, and Hasan Mahmud shared the four wickets.

Taskin dismissed opener Brandon King for nine in the fifth over, and Hasan clean bowled Kavem Hodge for one in the sixth over.

Joshua Da Silva survived a few close calls before being trapped leg-before-wicket by Taskin for 12, reducing West Indies to 27 for three.

"Personally, I felt that having another fast bowler could have made our bowling unit stronger, particularly in the morning," Taskin said.

"However, it is a very good batting wicket, and everyone could understand later that batting became easier. But if we can do something extraordinary in the first hour tomorrow morning and utilize the moisture, an early collapse is possible."

Jangoo joined Wickham and they dealt with the fired-up Bangladesh attack with strong resolve during their 131-run partnership.

While newcomer Wickham from Barbados was the epitome of patience, Jangoo was aggressive, hitting 11 fours and two sixes.

Wickham achieved his maiden half-century off 123 balls with a single against off-spinner Nayeem Hasan.

He fell into trap set by pacer Hasan, who unsettled him with a barrage of bouncers before delivering a perfect length ball to dismiss him, bringing an end to the 131-run partnership with Jangoo just before tea.

But Jangoo continued attacking the bowlers and brought up his century from 149 balls with a six off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam. It was his second century in his 10th Test innings. He was out for a duck in the first Test.

Greaves supported Jangoo brilliantly in a 62-ball knock, as bad light allowed only 15 overs in the last session.

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