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CHOGM 2026 Generates US$500 Million

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Antigua and Barbuda's diplomats based abroad as well as those at home joined Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene and senior staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a family photo at Friday's Diplomatic Encounter held at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre

CHOGM 2026 Generates US$500 Million in New Commitments and Advances US$52 Billion in Investment Projects



Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey with Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

The 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), hosted by Antigua and Barbuda, has produced significant investment commitments and new development initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the 2.7 billion people represented by the organisation's 56 member countries.

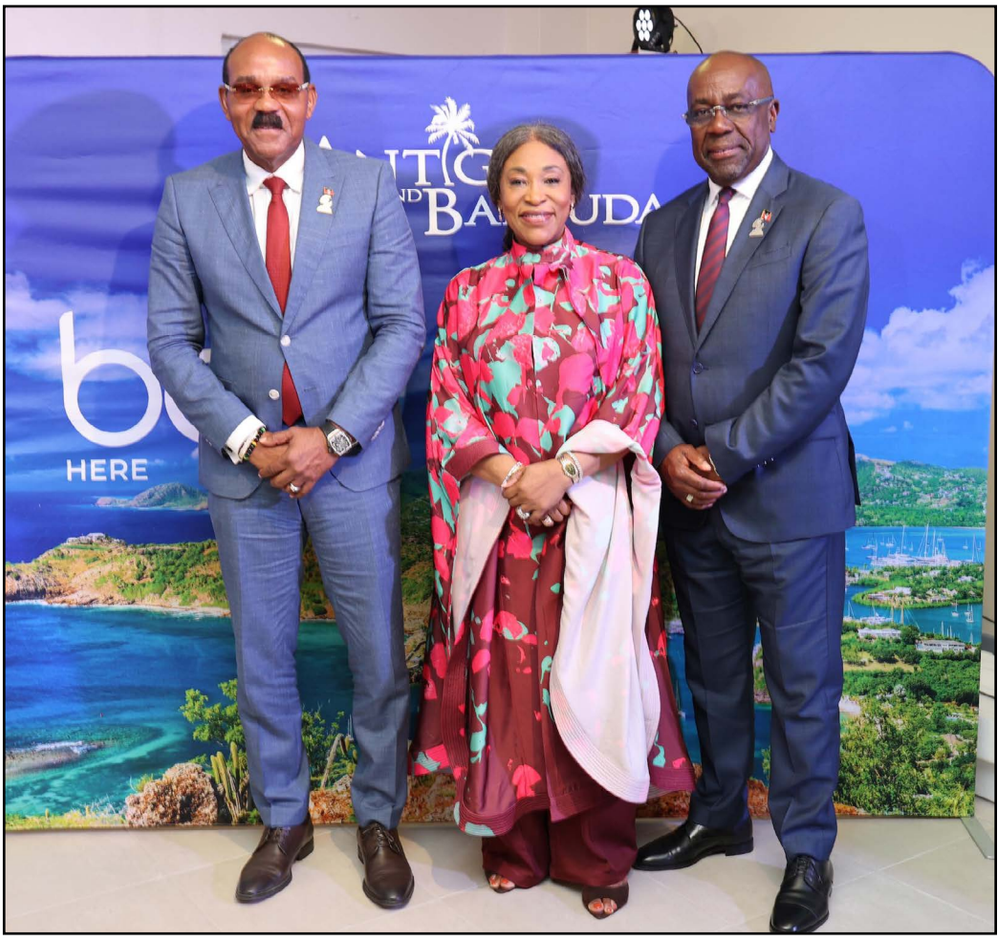
At the closing press conference, Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey described the four-day summit as one of ambition and action, reporting that investors and development partners had, for the first time at a CHOGM, sat alongside Commonwealth leaders to examine bankable projects from 28 countries with a combined value of US$52 billion.

She announced that the meeting had mobilised US$500 million in new commitments from investors, development partners and high-net-worth individuals. The commitments will support initiatives in trade, climate resilience and expanded opportunities for young people.

Among the major outcomes announced were:

- Commonwealth Trade Portal: The launch of a digital platform to help small and medium-sized enterprises connect with new consumers, investors and markets across the Commonwealth.
- Commonwealth Aspiration Fund: Progress towards a US$300 million fund intended to help 10 million young people acquire the skills required to secure employment or establish businesses.
- Commonwealth Net Zero Fund: Advancement of a US$700 million fund designed to improve access to credit for renewable energy development across the Commonwealth. The initiative is expected to attract approximately US$500 million in partial guarantees to support the expansion of the renewable energy industry.
- Commonwealth Nature Initiative: The launch of an initiative that has secured initial pledges valued at US$202 million to restore important natural habitats and address environmental degradation.
- Disaster Insurance Initiative**:** Agreement to work with the insurance industry on a mechanism that would facilitate rapid financial payouts to countries when disasters occur.
- Commonwealth Trade and Invest-





ment: Agreement for Commonwealth Trade and Finance Ministers, together with investment authorities, to meet with chief executive officers in 2027 to address barriers to trade and promote high-impact investments.

The Secretary-General also identified the achievement of US$2 trillion in intra-Commonwealth trade by 2030 as an immediate priority, noting that increased trade would create jobs, expand opportunities and stimulate economic growth throughout the organisation.

On the policy front, Commonwealth leaders adopted a communiqué reflecting their collective positions on a number of critical development and international issues.

On debt sustainability, leaders recognized the need for comprehensive reforms to ensure that debt frameworks take account of climate vulnerability. They emphasized the importance of state-contingent debt pause clauses and climate-linked debt instruments to protect national fiscal space during periods of crisis.

The communiqué also called for continued collaboration with international and multilateral institutions to develop more comprehensive measures of vulnerability beyond income classifications. This is intended to improve the assessment of countries' development financing needs and their access to concessional financing and appropriate debt treatment.

Leaders recognized the Bridgetown Initiative and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS 2024–2034 as important platforms for advancing reform of the global financial system, particularly in response to the unique circumstances and challenges confronting small island developing states.

On reparatory justice, leaders acknowledged developments since the 2024 Commonwealth meeting in Samoa, including the United Nations General Assembly resolution concerning the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialised chattel enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity. They also welcomed the United Kingdom Government's agreement to engage in structured, time-bound, inclusive and good-faith dialogue with affected parties on the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans and its historical harms.

Secretary-General Botchwey said the outcomes demonstrated the Commonwealth's ability to bring together governments, investors and development partners to pursue practical solutions to shared challenges. She noted that the partnerships and commitments secured in Antigua and Barbuda represented the beginning of work that would continue in the months ahead.

She welcomed Antigua and Barbuda as the new Chair-in-Office, succeeding Samoa, and expressed confidence that Prime Minister Browne and his Government would help advance the organisation's progressive mandate.

The Secretary-General said the Commonwealth was leaving Antigua and Barbuda with new partnerships, fresh investments and renewed purpose to build a more prosperous Commonwealth.

The outcomes of CHOGM 2026 reinforce Antigua and Barbuda's ambition to help position the Commonwealth as a more effective platform for trade, investment, climate action and sustainable development, with practical benefits for its member states and citizens.

Prime Minister Browne and AFREXIMBANK Discuss Financing Opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda



Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne on Thursday held bilateral discussions with a senior delegation from the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), as the Government of Antigua and Barbuda seeks to strengthen its development partnership with the Pan-African financial institution and advance opportunities for investment and trade.

The meeting followed Antigua and Barbuda's successful hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which Prime Minister Browne described as a highly successful undertaking that had established a stronger platform for cooperation among Commonwealth countries.

The Prime Minister highlighted the Commonwealth's ambition to increase intra-Commonwealth trade to approximately US$2 trillion by 2030, noting that the expansion of trade between Africa and the Caribbean would create significant opportunities for Afreximbank to support investment and commercial relations between the two regions.

Prime Minister Browne welcomed the opportunity to deepen Antigua and Barbuda's relationship with the Bank and pointed to a number of national development projects that could benefit from its financing and technical support. He noted that Antigua and Barbuda was among the first countries to sign a partnership agreement with Afreximbank, although the Government had not yet accessed financing under the arrangement.

He expressed the Government's intention to advance the partnership and explore the availability of funding for both public-sector and private-sector projects. Referring to the investment forum convened during CHOGM, the Prime Minister noted that several promising projects had been presented and indicated that the Government would seek to bring a pipeline of viable proposals to the Bank for consideration.

The Prime Minister also raised the importance of competitive interest rates, observing that more favourable financing terms could increase demand for the Bank's facilities and make its resources more accessible to borrowing countries.

In response, the Afreximbank delegation outlined the range of financing instruments and development-support facilities available through the institution. The delegation explained that the Bank's operations extend beyond conventional loans and advances to include concessional financing, equity investment and project preparation support.

The delegation advised that the Bank's shareholders had approved the establishment of a concessional financing window, which had received US$250 million in funding at the time of the meeting. The facility is intended to help blend financing and reduce the overall cost of funding for eligible projects. The Bank indicated that it was recruiting staff and undertaking additional fundraising to support the facility's operations.

The delegation also highlighted the Fund for Export Development in Africa (FEDA), which provides patient equity capital to support development-oriented investments. In addition, the Bank's project preparation facility assists in preparing and de-risking projects, helping to move them from the conceptual stage towards bankability and eventual financing.

Afreximbank further outlined its support for the creative industries, including film, fashion and gastronomy, with particular emphasis on opportunities for young people. The delegation noted that the Bank also



supports major infrastructure development, including industrial parks, seaports and airports.

The delegation explained that Afreximbank frequently works alongside other development finance institutions to structure major projects and mobilise financing in ways that can reduce the fiscal burden on participating governments. As an example of its infrastructure involvement, the delegation referred to its work with the Ethiopian Government on a major airport expansion project.

Prime Minister Browne welcomed the information provided and expressed interest in exploring the various financing instruments available through the Bank. He reiterated the Government's commitment to identifying projects that could attract Afreximbank support and translate the partnership agreement into tangible development outcomes for Antigua and Barbuda.

Both sides expressed a commitment to strengthening their relationship and pursuing practical opportunities for cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure development and other areas of mutual interest.

The engagement forms part of Antigua and Barbuda's wider effort to deepen economic relations with Africa and expand access to development financing and investment partnerships as the country pursues its national development priorities.



FM Greene Tells the Nation's Diplomats That Coming out of a Successful CHOGM...Their Work is Not Yet Done







With Antigua and Barbuda aglow with many commendations following the successful hosting of the Commonwealth heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) last week...Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene is calling on the nation's diplomats to redouble their efforts in the service of the interest of Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking at the annual Diplomatic Encounter and Ambassador's Meeting hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last Friday, Minister Greene told the foreign service representatives that 'achievements are not a resting place'.

"Coming out of our hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, let us agree to use that platform and the global attention gained, not merely for pageantry but to force a conversation on reparatory justice, climate justice and the adoption of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index as a fair and just matrix to account for our vulnerabilities," he urged.

The foreign minister cautioned the diplomats that their posting is not a sinecure; it is a mandate. He added that whether the diplomats are posted overseas or are based at home, he is placing in their charge three key priorities.

"Firstly, defend our sovereignty uncompromisingly. Do not allow our small size to be mistaken for silence or insignificance...secondly, pursue justice. Our foreign policy is rooted in the belief that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of fairness, and thirdly, remain resilient. Build alliances that outlast changes in administration. Deepen ties within CARICOM, the OECS and the wider Commonwealth, but always in the interests of Antigua and Barbuda as your compass."

Minister Greene emphasized that the world will not grant Antigua and Barbuda relevance out of sympathy. It will only grant the nation relevance because it is an indispensable and principled voice for justice, because it is a reliable partner and because it is not afraid to speak truth to power.

Antigua and Barbuda Set to Take On Another Critical Role To Lead the CARICOM Negotiations At COP 31

Fresh from its hosting duties at the just-concluded Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 28, Antigua and Barbuda is set to play a key role in advancing Caribbean climate priorities at the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), taking place in Turkiye this month.

Environment Minister Michael Joseph has been designated to lead climate science negotiations on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Minister Joseph will also share responsibility for CARICOM's climate finance negotiations, placing Antigua and Barbuda at the forefront of regional efforts to advance critical priorities for small island developing states.

The country's technical leadership was also highlighted during the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) preparatory meetings, where Arry Simon, AOSIS Lead Negotiator for Science and representative of Antigua and Barbuda, briefed negotiators on key scientific matters expected to feature prominently at COP31.

The discussions focused on Research and Systematic Observation (RSO), the Periodic Review of the long-term global temperature goal, and ensuring that findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) inform the second Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement. Particular emphasis was placed on maintaining the 1.5°C temperature limit, strengthening climate observation systems and ensuring that timely scientific assessments guide international climate action.



Antigua and Barbuda has also advocated for the timely delivery of the IPCC's Seventh Assessment Report to ensure that the latest scientific evidence on climate impacts, adaptation and mitigation is available to inform the Global Stocktake, which concludes in 2028.

COP31, scheduled for November 9–20 in Antalya, Türkiye, will provide an important platform for advancing these priorities. For Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean, the negotiations carry significant implications for coastal protection, water security, food systems, tourism and the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Through its technical engagement in AOSIS and ministerial leadership within CARICOM, Antigua and Barbuda continues to advocate for science-based climate policies, stronger regional representation and meaningful international action to protect the future of small island states.




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We live for this.

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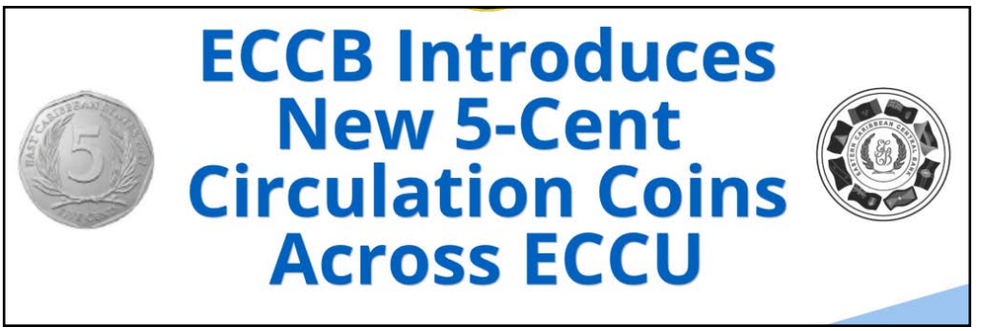
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ECCB Introduces New 5-Cent Circulation Coins Across ECCU





The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) will begin issuing its new series of 5-cent circulation coins in Montserrat this week, followed by Grenada during the week of 16 November 2026. The new coins will be introduced in the remaining participating member countries during the week of 23 November 2026.

The introduction of the new coins features a redesigned obverse (front) bearing the ECCB logo, surrounded by the flags of the participating member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU). This replaces the portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II featured on the previous coin series.

The reverse (back) of the coin remains unchanged, retaining the traditional and iconic image of the sailing ship, the Golden Hind.

The redesigned coins represent an updated visual identity for the ECCB's circulation currency while retaining a familiar feature of the existing coin series.

The ECCB will continue to provide information on the introduction of the new coins as they become available across the Currency Union.



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On Remembrance Day ...the Nation Paused to Honour the Memories of Those who fell in the 'Two Great Wars'



Sunday 8th November was observed as the National Day of Remembrance for those who fell in the World Wars 1914-18 and 1939 – 45.

The day was marked with the annual service at the War Memorial on Independence Avenue where Four Sentries were in attendance along with Ex-Service men and women and the Defence Force Band.

The Service included a blessing by the Dean of the Anglican Cathedral, The Very Reverend Dwane Cassius; Buglers sounding the Last Post, a two-minute silence, Buglers sounding the Reveille and the Sentries Ordered and Presented Arms.

Wreaths were laid by dignitaries including the Governor-General Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister the Right Hon. Gaston Browne, Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Lares Jamale Pringle, Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Telbert Benjamin, Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers, a representative of ex-service men and women, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the National Cadet Corps and other uniformed bodies.

The units on parade Marched Past and gave compliments at the Cenotaph.

India Pledges to Build On its 'Excellent' Relationship with Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda can expected further deepening of its relationship with the government and people of India, the world's most populous country and its largest democracy.

The commitment was made at the margins of last week's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in St. John's by the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishanker, during a meeting with the Indian diaspora in Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Jaishanker noted that over the past year members of the Antigua and Barbuda cabinet were invited attend several important meetings in India. These included Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene, ICT Minister, Melford Nicholas and Agriculture Minister, Anthony Smith Jnr. Additionally, both Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held discussions at the sidelines of the CARICOM Summit in Guyana.

In addition, India provided training to a number of civil servants over the past year, including senior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in areas of protocol and related subjects. "We continue to offer training for capacity-building of civil servants of Antigua and Barbuda," Dr. Jaishanker disclosed.

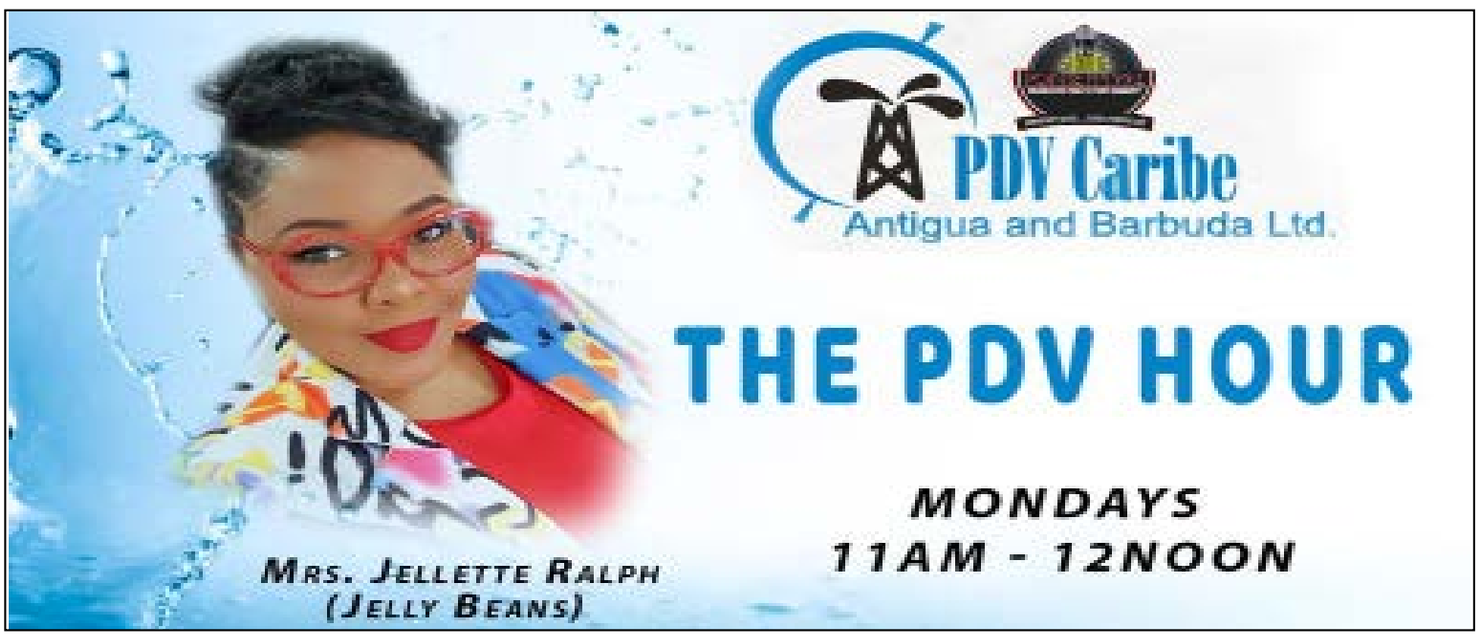
"At the political level, I want to assure you that the relationship is very close, very friendly and very engaging. In terms of the development partnership, India has supported a number of initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda over the past several years; one related to maternal and childhood health, the other was the post-Hurricane Irma recovery in Barbuda and the third is the assistance to the country with anti-COVID medicines during the pan-



demic and other post-COVID medical assistance," he revealed.

The Indian External Affairs Minister also showered praise on the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda for successfully hosting CHOGM 28, stating that he was happy to have led his country's delegation to the summit. He noted that Antigua and Barbuda has proven that it has the capacity to host major international events.

Among those in attendance at the reception were, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Dame Sandra Williams, cricket legends, Sir Richie Richardson and Sir Curtly Ambrose, the Honorary Consul of India in St. John's, Vijay Tewani and members of the diplomatic corps.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

HIGHEST COMMENDATIONS
To the Chairperson and Task Force Leads of the National CHOGM Task Force

I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National CHOGM Task Force on the successful hosting of CHOGM 2026.

There were nail-biting moments, spirited deliberations and fiscal challenges. Yet, amid it all, there were sparks of joy, laughter and camaraderie that lifted spirits along the way. In true Antiguan and Barbudan style, the Government and people rose to the challenge, inspired by the Task Force's resolve.

Many gave their last ounce of energy. Some persevered through illness; others pressed on through mental fatigue. Still, the movement remained forward, always onward, always focused on our nation.

Under the leadership of the Honourable Foreign Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, Chairperson of the National Task Force; the National CHOGM Focal Point, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, Deputy Chairperson; and the Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Task Force enabled one of the Commonwealth's smallest nations to successfully host one of the association's largest gatherings.

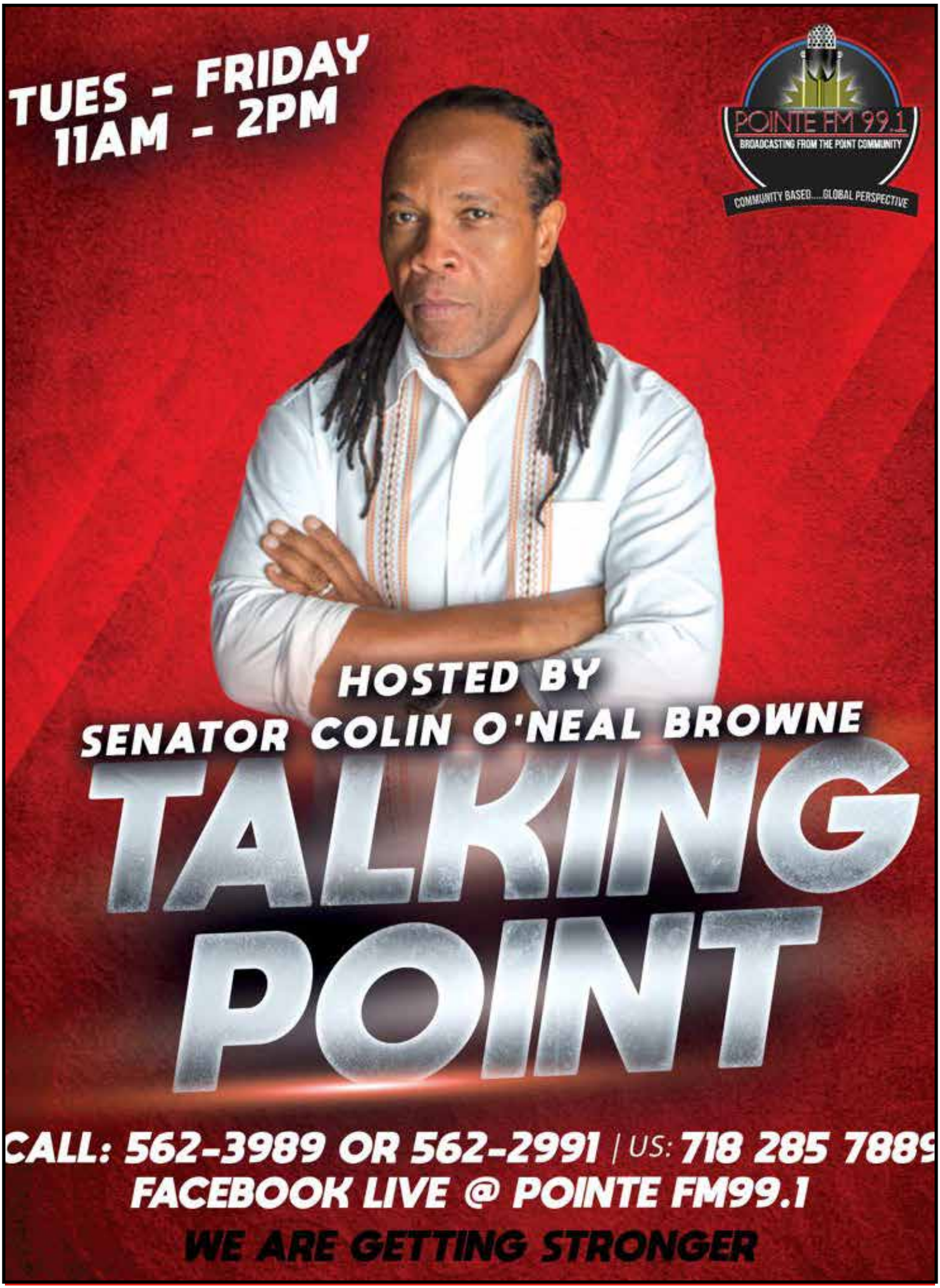
Although the Office of the Governor-General stands outside the Executive, it was our pleasure to participate, collaborate and host a CHOGM activity, Alongside the Realm Visit and engagements with communities and stakeholders across Antigua and Barbuda.

There are lessons to carry forward and areas to strengthen. With reflection and continued cooperation, we can polish the scuff marks to a brilliant shine, allowing Antigua and Barbuda to shine with the lustre of which our nation is capable.

Thank you for your sacrifice, your resilience and your service to Antigua and Barbuda.

Mrs. Paula Frederick-Hunte
Permanent Secretary
Chairperson, Realm Visit 2026 Steering Committee
Office of the Governor-General

Always forward. Always onward. Always for our nation.


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Photo Essay

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Photo Essay

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Small Island, Big Questions

The King has gone, the motorcades have disappeared and Antigua and Barbuda has returned to something resembling normality. But what did hosting the Commonwealth's biggest gathering achieve?

By Zoë Carlton

The King has gone. The Dockyard is quiet. The CHOGM Task Force group chats are no more. So what now?

After months of preparation, four days of diplomacy, an extraordinary gathering of international leaders and enough protocol to keep a small army of officials awake at night, Antigua and Barbuda has waved goodbye to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and stepped off the world stage for a while.

The flags are coming down, the security barriers are disappearing and the traffic can once again proceed without being interrupted by a passing prime minister. There were speeches, handshakes, receptions and photographs. There was a royal visit, an Independence anniversary and a great deal of talk about partnership, prosperity and the future.

It was undoubtedly an impressive occasion. More than 3,000 delegates descended upon St John's as one of the world's smallest nations hosted an organisation representing 56 countries and 2.7 billion people. For a few days, the world came to Antigua.

But hosting a successful summit and benefiting from one are not necessarily the same thing.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey put it rather neatly: "Our people will judge this meeting by what it delivers for them."

Quite so.

Beyond the handshakes

The official theme was Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth. Not exactly a phrase destined for a T-shirt, but behind it lay some important ambitions.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne was particularly clear about the challenge. "A Commonwealth connection must do more than open doors," he told delegates. He called for responsibilities, realistic timelines and measurable outcomes, rather than another collection of diplomatic promises.

It is a welcome standard against which to judge the summit. As the Commonwealth's new Chair-in Office, Browne will now have an opportunity to ensure those measurements are actually made.

The final communiqué addressed climate change, international finance, trade, democracy, maritime rights and economic resilience. These are hardly abstract diplomatic concerns for a country like Antigua and Barbuda. For small island states, securing affordable finance, protecting coastlines and surviving increasingly destructive weather are matters of economic survival.

One significant outcome was the Commonwealth's reaffirmation that countries should retain their established maritime zones and associated rights despite physical changes caused by rising sea levels.

For an island nation whose future is inseparable from the sea, that matters.

Leaders also committed to improving access to climate finance, strengthening renewable energy investment and recognising the particular vulnerabilities of small states when international financial institutions decide who qualifies for assistance.

These are familiar arguments from Antigua and Barbuda. The difference is that they were being advanced on a stage shared with some of the world's largest economies.

That is one of the Commonwealth's genuine advantages. It gives smaller nations a seat at a table they might otherwise struggle to reach. Whether the larger nations are listening quite as attentively as their speeches suggest is another matter.

Promises, promises

There is, of course, a familiar ring to some of these commitments. Year after year, the United Nations climate



conferences produce similarly earnest declarations about protecting vulnerable nations and providing the finance to do so. And year after year, questions remain about delivery.

The record is mixed. Wealthy nations eventually met their pledge to mobilise US$100 billion annually in climate finance, but two years late. Meanwhile, the gap between the funding available to help developing countries adapt to climate change and the amount they actually need remains enormous.

CHOGM is not COP and its purpose is different. But the same question applies: will the commitments translate into action? For Antigua and Barbuda, the distinction between announcing climate finance and receiving it is considerably more than academic.

The sea is not waiting for the next communiqué.

The money question

Then there is investment.

The Commonwealth announced partnerships and financial and in-kind commitments exceeding US$500 million during CHOGM, covering renewable energy, youth skills development, environmental monitoring and trade opportunities.

Among them was a US$60 million commitment from Planet Labs to provide satellite data over three years, helping Commonwealth countries monitor environmental change and strengthen climate resilience.

A new investment platform was also presented, featuring more than 60 projects from 20 countries seeking approximately US$30 billion in financing.

Impressive figures, certainly. But there is an important distinction between money committed, projects seeking investment and funds actually delivered. These announcements covered the Commonwealth as a whole, rather than funding allocated specifically to Antigua and Barbuda. Moreover, some commitments involved services and resources rather than cash.

International summits are remarkably good at announcing impressive numbers. Turning them into functioning businesses, training opportunities and sustainable employment is the considerably less glamorous part.

There were useful bilateral conversations too, giving Antigua and Barbuda opportunities to advance its interests directly with international partners.

The economic benefits of hosting CHOGM deserve similar scrutiny.

Hotels, transport operators, caterers and other businesses had opportunities to benefit from the influx of visitors. Yet a serious assessment will require evidence of the local revenue generated, the public expenditure involved and any longer-term commercial gains.

The question is not whether the meeting looked impressive. It did.

The question is whether the investment of time, money and effort will continue to pay dividends. The people beyond the podium

Perhaps some of the most important discussions took place away from the heads of government.

The Women's, Youth, People's and Business Forums brought together delegates whose lives are directly affected by the policies being debated at the top.

At the Youth Forum, more than 300 young leaders from across the Commonwealth considered economic opportunity, political participation, climate resilience and inclusion.

They were refreshingly impatient with diplomatic formalities.

In a joint message to leaders, Youth Forum Taskforce Co-Chairs Neema Sheikh Abdikadir Abdullahi and Antigua and Barbuda's Donte Walter declared that their generation was "ready to move beyond talk".

Their final policy document called for meaningful youth participation in decision-making, better routes into employment and enterprise, greater access to finance and stronger accountability from institutions.

They have done their part. The question now is whether the governments receiving those recommendations intend to do theirs.

At the Women's Forum, held at the American University of Antigua, discussions ranged from economic empowerment and leadership to climate finance and violence against women and girls.

Queen Camilla addressed the Forum, expressing solidarity with survivors of violence and calling for collective action.

The People's Forum gave civil society an opportunity to press its priorities, including human rights, inclusion and climate justice.

These gatherings matter because the Commonwealth cannot survive indefinitely as an organisation defined chiefly by its heads of government. Its future depends upon people who may never attend a diplomatic reception or shake hands with a monarch.

Their recommendations are intended to influence policy. The challenge now is to establish which are adopted, who is responsible for carrying them forward and how progress will be measured.

Consultation is a beginning. It should never be mistaken for delivery.

Small Island, Big Vibes

There was another, less easily measured benefit.

For a few days, Antigua and Barbuda was not simply a holiday destination with beautiful beaches and excellent sailing. It was the setting for discussions about the international economy, democracy, climate change and the future of a major global organisation.

King Charles captured something of the occasion when he praised Antigua and Barbuda's international contribution.

"For one of the smallest nations on Earth, your impact in the world is tremendous," he told the opening ceremony.

He then endorsed the wonderfully Antiguan expression "Small Island, Big Vibes". Clearly, His Majesty understands the place.

Behind the royal appearances, diplomatic receptions and carefully choreographed ceremonies was an army of Antiguans making it all happen.

Protocol officers managed visiting delegations, security personnel worked long hours, drivers navigated unfamiliar demands and hospitality staff ensured that thousands of visitors were fed, accommodated and looked after. Volunteers, organisers, technicians and countless others contributed to an undertaking of extraordinary complexity.

Many were doing their usual jobs under anything but usual circumstances. Most will never feature in an official photograph.

They deserve considerable credit.

There were logistical challenges, of course, but the country delivered a major international gathering while simultaneously celebrating its 45th anniversary of Independence.

It demonstrated something important: a small nation can organise, accommodate and contribute meaningfully to an event on the world stage.

That achievement cannot be measured in dollars. Nor should it be confused with the longer-term economic and diplomatic benefits that remain to be established**.**

The Commonwealth question

Then there is the wider issue: what exactly is the Commonwealth for?

It is not a government, a trading bloc or an organisation capable of compelling its members to act. Its countries vary enormously in wealth, size, politics and priorities.

Its shared history is complicated, often painful and impossible to reduce to ceremonial declarations of friendship.

The King acknowledged that history in Antigua, speaking directly about the enduring consequences of the transatlantic slave trade.

"We cannot change the actions of those who came before us," he said. "We can, however, learn from the past."

It was an acknowledgement of a difficult history, although the debate about reparatory justice goes considerably further than expressions of regret.

Browne called for the Commonwealth to continue structured dialogue on the enduring consequences of slavery and colonialism, building upon commitments made at the previous summit in Samoa.

Whether such discussions will produce tangible action remains an important question.

Yet the Commonwealth also possesses something increasingly unusual: a network of countries from different regions and economic circumstances, with established relationships and a willingness, at least in principle, to cooperate.

In a divided world, that is not insignificant.

The difficulty is ensuring that cooperation becomes more than another solemn promise. What remains?

So, was CHOGM worth it?

It is too early to deliver a definitive verdict.

Antigua and Barbuda demonstrated that it could host a major international gathering, gave its concerns a prominent platform and helped shape discussions on issues vital to small island states.

There were agreements, new initiatives, investment announcements and important contributions from people outside government. Those are genuine achievements.

But the real test begins after the departure lounge.

Will climate finance become easier to obtain? Will investment announcements produce jobs and opportunities? Will the voices heard in the forums influence decisions? Will Antigua and Barbuda's international profile translate into measurable benefits at home?

These are questions worth returning to, not in another two years when the Commonwealth meets again, but in the months ahead.

Browne himself challenged the organisation to demonstrate its relevance through results rather than history or sentiment. It is a challenge that should apply equally to the host nation.

For now, the motorcades have gone, the delegates have returned home and the Dockyard belongs to its usual inhabitants once more.

The world came to Antigua.

Now let's see what it leaves behind.


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CIU
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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
9TH JAN
2027
8:00PM
NIGHT ONE
1NE
NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
KES THE BAND
GEN $100
ROOTS
ROCK
REGGAE
LOUNGE
$350
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
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Antigua Barbuda
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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
10TH JAN 2027
6:00PM
NIGHT TWO
ONE NATION CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
JONATHAN NELSON
GEN $100
GLORY LOUNGE $250
EARLY BIRD
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ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
KEVIN DOWNSWELL
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GLORY LOUNGE $250
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Caribbean immigration advocates welcome US court ruling on ICE ban

Caribbean immigration advocates have welcomed a United States (US) federal judge's ruling in favour of a New York ban on local law enforcement officers working with agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), being able to make civil arrests.

Judge Mae A. D'Agostino also rejected the injunction on another law giving New York Attorney General Letitia James the authority to investigate sheriffs who cooperate with ICE.

Both measures were signed into law by New York Governor Kathy Hochul in May as part of a sweeping budget package that places limits on local law enforcement's ability to engage in or assist with President Donald Trump's civil immigration enforcement or otherwise perform the functions of federal immigration officers.

"The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) thanks Albany-based Judge Mae A. D'Agostino for rejecting a preliminary injunction request from a coalition of more than 15 county sheriffs claiming that the ban violates federal and state constitutions," NYIC President and CEO Murad Awawdeh told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

NYIC is an umbrella organisation of over 200 immigrant and refugee groups in New York and Awawdeh said the ruling ensures that neither federal financial incentives to local law enforcement agencies nor politics can undermine the public safety needs and priorities of all New Yorkers.

"In an environment where ICE agents are brutally attacking immigrant New Yorkers at home, on our streets, and in other public spaces, the ban prioritises the public trust that is needed to keep all New Yorkers safe," he added.

Governor Hochul has defended her policy in opposing ICE attacks in New York, particularly in the Haitian community in Brooklyn, New York.



"ICE is prohibited from going to sensitive locations. We're very focused when it comes to ICE and its devastating impact on the community. People are terrified, and it seems very un-American (ICE's tactics)," Hochul added.

Caribbean immigration advocates in New York have also welcomed a lawsuit by the governor and James against the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office in Upstate New York for failing to comply with the state's Local Cops, Local Crimes Act that prevents collusion with ICE agents.

The legislation prohibits New York State and local law enforcement agencies and local governments from entering into or maintaining 287(g) agreements with ICE for federal civil immigration enforcement and requires any agreements in place to have been terminated by August 25, 2026.

Rensselaer County Sheriff Kyle Bourgault has refused to terminate its 287(g) agreement.

"We applaud Attorney General Letitia James and Governor Hochul for taking every step necessary to ensure that New York's law enforcement agencies remain accountable to the communities they serve and focused on keeping all New Yorkers safe, not carrying out ICE and the Trump administration's deportation agenda," Awawdeh said.

"Every law enforcement agency in New York has a duty to serve and protect every resident, while upholding state and local law". (CMC)

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Regional News

Haitian gang leader killed as security forces intensify operations



Haitian security forces have intensified their offensive against powerful armed gangs, killing a notorious gang leader amid a series of coordinated operations involving explosive drones.

Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé confirmed the death of Mathias Saintil, leader of the Boston gang operating in the Cité Soleil slum.

"One less gang leader," the prime minister declared on social media, vowing that the fight to free Haiti from criminal gangs would continue.

Saintil's gang is affiliated with the powerful Viv Ansanm coalition, which controls large sections of the capital and has expanded into other parts of the country.

While Haitian police said Saintil died from multiple gunshot wounds sustained during an operation, the National Human Rights Defence Network reported that he was critically injured in an explosive drone strike targeting his vehicle on Thursday night and died Friday.

The human rights organisation said at least seven explosive drones were deployed in coordinated operations across several gang-controlled communities.

It reported that five gang members were killed and approximately 15 others injured in the attack targeting Saintil, while additional casualties were reported during separate confrontations.

The operations come amid an expanded international security presence, including the deployment of 2,500 Salvadoran troops following the disappearance of four Salvadoran aviation technicians during a gang ambush last month.

Security forces have also targeted Wilson Joseph, leader of the notorious 400 Mawozo gang, whose home was bombed during a recent operation. Joseph reportedly survived and has since gone into hiding.

The human rights organisation also raised concerns about civilian casualties from the drone attacks, as authorities continue efforts to dismantle the gangs that control large sections of Haiti.

The intensified offensive is aimed at restoring security in the violence-plagued country, although questions remain about coordination among the various national and international forces involved. (CMC)

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Instructed by ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED, We shall sell by PUBLIC AUCTION on Friday the 27th day of November 2026 at 1:00pm the above residential property at Pares.

The property is under the ownership of FERN STEWART-DYER. The land is a 0.16 acre plot with a single storey reinforced concrete building with 3-bedrooms and 2-bathrooms.

The property is in residential development with a gentle slope from its southern boundary toward the northern end of the property. It is covered with a grass lawn.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from Trevor "Teddy" Santos Inc., at telephone numbers: 562-7653 and 464-7653.

Dated this the 06th day of November 2026

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World Bank outlines 12-month reform plan to support Haiti's recovery



Haiti is to undertake a series of reforms aimed at strengthening governance, restoring public confidence and addressing the underlying causes of violence and instability under a new 12-month framework supported by the World Bank.

The Washington-based financial institution says the Compact for Prevention and Recovery, developed in partnership with the Haitian Government and international stakeholders, establishes measurable commitments designed to accelerate the country's recovery.

The agreement outlines 14 reform commitments across four priority areas: justice and security, governance and anti-corruption, economic stability and taxation, and sustainable employment and investment.

Haiti's Minister of Economy and Finance, Serge Gabriel Colin, said the initiative transforms the Government's recovery roadmap into a concrete action plan with clear targets and deadlines.

"Our focus is clear: concrete action, measurable progress and results when Haiti needs them most," Colin said.

The World Bank said implementation will be monitored through two progress reports, with the first assessment scheduled after six months, in April 2027.

If satisfactory progress is achieved, the institution will consider additional financing to support Haiti's recovery and establish a longer-term framework covering another three years.

The initiative will also involve cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, the Organization of American States and several United Nations agencies.

World Bank Country Manager for Haiti, Anne-Lucie Lefebvre, welcomed the Government's commitment, describing the proposed reforms as essential to rebuilding public trust and creating conditions for sustainable recovery.

She reaffirmed the bank's commitment to supporting Haiti in implementing the measures and addressing the country's ongoing economic and security challenges. (CMC)



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Commonwealth warns oil boom is putting US$43.5B in assets at flood risk

The Commonwealth has urged Guyana to set aside a portion of its national revenues to finance long-term coastal resilience, warning that the country's oil-driven economic boom is placing billions of dollars in assets within an increasingly vulnerable coastal zone.

The aforementioned is stated in a study published in October that was commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Climate Change and Oceans Directorate that focuses on Guyana, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Tuvalu. The study noted that none of the five countries yet has adaptation governance and finance arrangements adequate enough to deal with the scale of the threat posed by rising sea levels.

The findings of the five-country case studies on sea level rise outline that in each case, the countries' sea level rise is well above the global average of approximately 3.2–3.5mm per year. The rates range from roughly 5mm per year in Tuvalu and Kiribati to 7.3mm per year in Tonga and 4.7–10.2mm per year in Guyana.

One key point outlined is that governance weakness is the most consistent constraint on effectiveness in the five countries. It states that legal frameworks are fragmented and resource-specific rather than integrated. To this end, it was outlined that Guyana still lacks comprehensive coastal-zone management legislation and enforceable building codes.

Guyana's Low Coastal Plain is situated between 0.5 to 1m



below sea level at high tide and is home to approximately 90 per cent of the country's population and accounts for over 50 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP).

The study warns that Guyana's coastal zone is vulnerable to sea level rise and is likely to experience "catastrophic flooding" without the implementation of proper adaptation strategies.

"There has been a tendency toward maladaptation, including incompatible development in areas designed as reserves, destruction of mangrove ecosystems, poor solid waste management and habitation of 'bottom houses' in highly vulnerable zones," it further states.

It also underscores that Guyana's economic transformation through oil and gas presents a timely opportunity for incorporation of adaptation strategies to safeguard future socio-economic gains. Moreover, the study finds that Guyana's oil and gas development is contributing to the concentration of people and onshore assets in the coastal zone, which will increase the exposure of assets to flood risk.

It states, "Guyana's oil-driven boom is concentrating still more assets on the coast, lifting estimated asset exposure to episodic flooding to around US$43.5 billion."

The US$43.5 billion estimate is substantially higher than previous ECLAC studies, which placed the value of exposed assets at approximately US$5 billion. The Commonwealth study noted that the difference reflects, in large part, the growth in Guyana's GDP following the expansion of the oil and gas industry.

However, it highlighted that the US$43 billion estimate should be interpreted with caution, as applying an asset-to-GDP multiplier derived from Guyana's rapidly changing, oil-driven economy may overstate the current value of assets exposed to coastal flooding.

Further, the study spotlights Guyana's offshore oil revenues that are channelled through its Natural Resource Fund (NRF). However, it states that whether those resources are directed to adaptation will depend on the country's national budget priorities, and the oil economy that is driving up coastal exposure.

"Resource rich members such as Guyana should explicitly earmark a share of national revenues for long-term coastal resilience," it was added.

One key recommendation is for Guyana to reduce the number of people exposed to coastal hazards by developing population centres away from flood-prone areas. The study states that, "Guyana must take steps to reduce its vulnerability through a series of targeted measures, including inland expansion."

It was highlighted that while Guyana's vast hinterland offers a potential pathway for population redistribution that is largely unavailable to Pacific small island developing states (SIDS), until now, most development activities have remained concentrated along the coast. In relation to Guyana, the case study identifies several priorities for action: redistributing population centres away from flood-prone areas, sustained investment in sea defences and drainage, protection and restoration of mangrove ecosystems, improved access to economic resources and insurance, protection of critical infrastructure, investment in research and data collection, improvement of environmental quality and public health, and strengthened disaster co-ordination and community organisation. (Kaieteur News)

Stephen Miller replaces Susie Wiles as Trump's White House chief of staff after GOP's midterm defeat

President Donald Trump said Friday that Stephen Miller was replacing Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff, installing as his closest adviser a loyal, combative bulldog for his "America First" agenda as the president prepares to stare down a newly empowered Democratic Congress next year.

Miller, long a key member of Trump's inner circle, is a key architect of the administration's hard-line immigration policies.

He is one of Trump's longest-serving aides, joining his long-shot 2016 presidential campaign as a speechwriter.

He most recently has served as White House deputy chief of staff for policy and oversees a broad portfolio, though he is best known for his role in Trump's immigration policy.

The staff shuffle signals that Trump, whose Republican Party was handed monumental defeats in Tuesday's midterm elections, is resisting a conciliatory approach to Democratic lawmakers who are eager to investigate the administration — including Miller himself as a top target.

Miller, 41, is a dogged defender of Trump and has built a deep and sophisticated understanding of a president's executive power and how the federal government operates, portending a potential burst of executive actions in the final two years of Trump's presidency.

Wiles gave Trump her resignation on Thursday night, a person familiar with the events told the Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the private conversation.

Trump praised Wiles and said she'd continue to work for his political organisation.

Wiles, the steely political operator and longtime adviser to Trump, was the first woman to ever serve in that post and the longest-serving White House chief of staff for Trump, who cycled through four of them during his first four-year term.



"Serving President Trump in the White House has been the honor of a lifetime. I'm so proud to have been a part of what we've accomplished together from securing our border and cutting taxes to strengthening our economy and putting America First," Wiles said in a social media post shortly after Trump's announcement.

The departure also came months after Wiles indicated she no longer showed evidence of breast cancer after she underwent months of treatment for the disease, a diagnosis she went public with in March 2026. (AP)

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Leader of Kenyan doomsday cult sentenced to 200 years in prison

The leader of a Kenyan doomsday cult linked to the deaths of more than 400 people was sentenced on Friday to 200 years in prison for the murders of 191 people.

The High Court in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa issued the sentence for Pastor Paul Mackenzie.

He was convicted of murdering 190 children and one adult after he ordered his followers to starve themselves to death in order to meet Jesus.

Mackenzie is also facing terrorism and manslaughter charges for the more than 200 other victims, as well as child abuse and torture charges in two other courts.

Justice Diana Kavedza said that Mackenzie, leader of the Good News International Church, bore the "primary criminal culpability" for relocating his followers to a remote location and ordering them to fast to death.

Mackenzie was charged with the murders alongside 28 of his followers, including guards who enforced his fasting directives and gravediggers who helped conceal the mass graves.

All denied the charges, except for one person who confessed and pleaded for leniency.

On October 19, the court found all 29 of them guilty of the murder of 191 people.

In 2023, more than 400 bodies were exhumed from shallow graves on the 800-acre (320-hectare) Chakama Ranch in coastal Kilifi County, where Mackenzie's followers lived in mud huts, away from the scrutiny of local communities and authorities

More than 60 bodies were positively identified and reburied by their relatives, while many others remain unidentified and unclaimed.

During the sentencing, Kavedza said that 183 victims died of starvation, defined as a complete lack of food, and the deaths of the other eight were classified as murder by direct homicide.



Kavedza said the killings were "cold and calculated" and dismissed claims by some of the accused that the loss of their own children altered the fact that they had participated in the killings of many other children.

The justice said that the perpetrators didn't show remorse and declared they were ready to fast to death as well. During the sentencing, Mackenzie often smiled and chatted with his assistant pastor, Smart Mwakalama, who was sentenced to 160 years in prison.

All of those who were convicted have been granted 14 days to file an appeal.

The prosecution had argued for the death penalty for Mackenzie and life imprisonment for his accomplices.

Defense lawyer Lawrence Obonyo, who represents Mackenzie and several others who were convicted, told The Associated Press that he had already launched an appeal. He said that the decision was "circling around the constitution to give a sentence that is unattainable" since the sentences of between 160 and 200 years amount to life sentences.

A father of seven, Suleiman Ziro, who traveled 120 kilometers (75 miles) for the sentencing, lost six of his children and his wife to the cult in 2023. He said that the sentence wasn't enough especially because he has yet to recover the bodies of his loved ones, calling for the death penalty in the case.

Mackenzie's son, Dan Mackenzie, said that he felt sorry for his father over the conviction, but it was "justice served to the victims."

He said that he escaped by "rebelling" against his father's teachings and was often punished for it, but was glad he survived.

Two of his younger brothers and three sisters were rescued and are currently at a children's home.

Those sentenced to death in Kenyan courts serve a life sentence. Kenya's last execution was in 1987. (AP)

Meghan Markle's estranged father arrested and charged with possessing child sexual abuse materials

The estranged father of Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, was arrested Friday morning in Florida on a charge of possessing child sexual abuse material in storage units in California, authorities said.

Thomas Markle Sr. was arrested outside Tampa, according to people who were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Federal agents searched two storage units in the Los Angeles area and "seized approximately 78 items, including slides, film negatives, and books" that contained suspected child sexual abuse images, First Assistant US Attorney Bill Essayli said.

Markle, who has rented the units since 2008, is charged with possessing images of child sexual abuse, Essayli said. His arrest follows reports by The Sun, a British tabloid newspaper, that Meghan's half-brother found a collection of such images while clearing out their father's home in the Philippines.

That overseas discovery led to information about the US storage units, the US Attorney's Office in Los Angeles said.

"These allegations are extremely serious, and we will prosecute Mr Markle to the fullest extent of federal law," Essayli said.

Meghan, an American citizen who starred in the US television drama "Suits," married Prince Harry at Windsor Castle in 2018. They have two children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet.

She recently said she was "deeply distressed" by allegations that a collection of child sexual abuse images had been found at her father's former home. She also revealed that a letter containing "troubling allegations" about him had been sent to London police in 2018.



"It made troubling and disturbing allegations against my father and I was given assurances that these were being investigated," Meghan said of the letter. "I hope it can now be understood that, despite certain media publications' distortion over the years, any distance from my father and my choice to not allow him to have contact with our children was for one reason: to protect them."

Meghan's father, a retired television lighting and photography director, did not attend the wedding, prompting extensive coverage in the British media of Meghan's estrangement from her father.

Thomas Markle Sr. was living in the Philippines earlier this year when he suffered a stroke and had his left leg amputated. That forced him to return to the U.S.

The Sun reported that Thomas Markle Jr. recently found "hundreds, if not thousands" of child sex abuse images in boxes at his father's former home in Cebu City, in the Philippines. Markle Jr. told The Sun that he reported the images to police in the Philippines and contacted the FBI.

"I have supported, cared for him and helped him for years — but that stops now," Markle Jr. said. "I won't speak to my father ever again unless I'm called to give evidence against him." (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Trump says elections were 'giant step back in history' for US



President Donald Trump vowed Sunday to bounce back stronger after a massive midterm-election loss that he called a "giant step back in history" for the United States.

Democrats captured both chambers of Congress in last Tuesday's midterms, dealing historic losses to Trump's Republican Party in states it had dominated for decades.

"America took a giant step back in history with the results of the last election," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, saying that the stock market that had grown during his tenure took a loss after the vote.

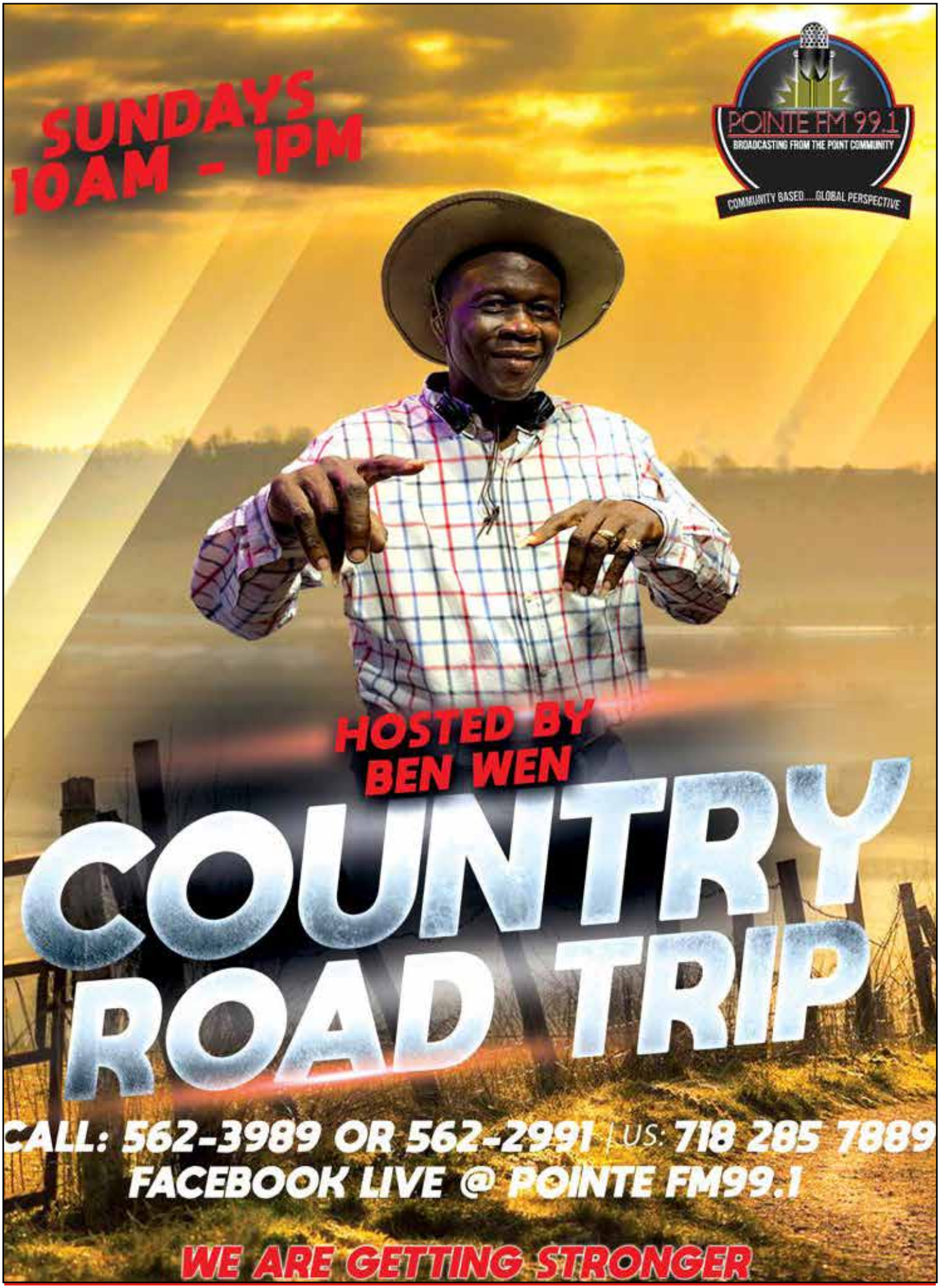
"But have no fear, we will be back, BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE!" he added.

While Republican lawmakers have been licking their wounds over the setback, Trump has sounded defiant and on Friday appointed hardline advisor Stephen Miller as his new chief of staff, signalling a bare-knuckle fightback.

Democrats have pledged to hold the Trump administration to account and fight "every step of the way" against Miller, architect of Trump's tough immigration policy. (AFP)






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Richie's Shooterz take lead in business league playoff finals

In a repeat of last year's finals, losing finalists Richie's Shooterz have taken a 2-1 lead against cup-holders Board of Education (BOE) in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Playoff Championship deciders.

After winning Game 1 68-61, the second-seeded Richie's Shooterz took a significant advantage by snatching a narrow 66-63 victory over top-seed Board of Education in Game 3 of the best-of-five finals at the JSC Sports Complex.

Richie's Shooterz were led by Cohen Desouza, who produced 21 points. Kwame Braithwaite sank 15 points, Tavarus Benta converted 11 points, and Steven Matthew scored 10 for Richie's Shooterz.

Danny Perez sank 21 points, Xavier "X-Man" Meade converted 16 points, and Adonis Humphreys scored 10 points for the Board of Education, which had leveled the series by surging to a commanding 76-59 victory in Game 2.

The Board of Education, which won the round-robin league title for the second successive year, will resume their quest for a back-to-back playoff title when they clash with Richie's Shooterz in Game 4 of finals at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening at 7:30.

Richie's Shooterz are gunning to do much better than their second-place finish in this year's round-robin league by overcoming the Board of Education in the finals and capturing the playoff title.



POINT EXPRESS ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Sports News

North Coast and Bolans maintain winning starts in Second Division



Players of the Bolans football team

North Coast FC and Bolans FC have maintained their perfect starts in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

North Coast FC notched up their third win in as many games by securing a 3-0 victory over Point Westham at the ABFA Technical Center.

Andrew Paddy opened the scoring with a sixth-minute conversion, Dale Barton scored an own goal in the 53rd minute, and Taji Wright sealed the win with a strike in the 76th minute. It was the first defeat for Point Westham after winning their previous two matches.

After being relegated from the first division last season, Bolans FC claimed their third win in as many matches by surging to a 6-0 victory against Wadadli United at the Golden Grove playing field.

David Joseph scored four goals, twice in the first half with conversions in the third and 40th minutes.

After his initial penalty kick was saved by the Wadadli United goalkeeper, Joseph pounced to convert the rebound in the 66th minute to complete his hat trick. Joseph increased his tally by scoring the sixth and final goal with a strike in the 80th minute.

The other goals for Bolans FC were scored by Sherquan Daniels in the 35th minute and Romario Christian in the 75th minute.

Amadil Prince received a red card and was expelled in the 60th minute for Wadadli United FC, which remains on one point after slumping to their third defeat in four matches.

FC Master Ballers claimed their second win in three matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory over Bethesda FC at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Andre Williams produced a seven-minute conversion, and Teejay Roberts scored in the 51st minute for FC Master Ballers, who advanced to six points, while Bethesda FC remain winless on one point after crashing to their second defeat in three matches.

Blackburn Palace picked up their second win in three matches with a 9-1 drubbing of the Young Warriors at the Fort Road playing field.

De'Aundre Ralph and Amoy James each achieved hat tricks for Blackburn Palace, which advanced to six points. The Young Warriors will remain on three points after slumping to their second loss in three matches.

After losing their previous three matches, the Liberta Blackhawks recorded their first win with a 6-1 drubbing of the Cedar Grove Blue Jays at Ball Beef in Liberta.

Ky-Mani Francis struck a hat trick, and Medwin Webster scored twice for the Liberta Blackhawks to advance to three points. Sadiq Williams scored a consolation goal in the 54th minute for the Cedar Grove Blue Jays, who plummeted to their fourth loss in as many matches.

The match between Tryum FC and Herberts FC ended in a 1-1 draw at the Cashew Hill playing field. Tevorn Henderson scored in the 33rd minute to give Herberts FC a one-nil lead at halftime.

Denison Hodge snatched the equalizer for Tryum FC with a 55th-minute conversion. The result allows Tryum FC to advance to two points after securing their second draw in three matches.

Herberts FC also advanced to two points after recording their second draw in four matches.

However, the match at Glanvilles between Bendals FC and Glanvilles FC and the game at Clare Hall between Police FC and the Urlings Golden Stars were postponed.

Unbeaten Bendals FC has seven points from three matches, while Glanvilles FC has six points from three encounters. The Urlings Golden Stars have six points from two matches, while Police FC has three points from two matches.

England Lions beat West Indies A in first ODI



Players of the England Lions

James Rew's superb century and Jack Haynes' unbeaten half-century helped England Lions snatch victory from the jaws of defeat against West Indies A team in the opening match of their One Day International (ODI) series in St. Kitts on Saturday.

Rew blasted 101 off 79 balls, while Haynes finished on 74 not out off 70 balls, as England recovered from 58 for five to post 240 for six and defeat the home side by four wickets via the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern (DLS) method in their rain-affected contest at Warner Park.

Earlier, after being sent in to bat, West Indies A reached 212 for eight after rain limited their innings to 40 overs.

Keacy Carty and Kirk McKenzie both scored half centuries to give the West Indies a strong foundation to build on, before a middle-order collapse erased their hard work.

England pacer Naavya Sharma got his side off to the perfect start when he had skipper Alick Athanaze caught for a duck off the second ball of the match. McKenzie and Carty built a 123-run partnership, scoring at over six runs an over.

Cruising on 123 for one in the 20th over, leg spinner Rehan Ahmed had McKenzie caught for 53 off 69 balls with six fours and one six, and two overs later, he bowled Carty for 57 off 54 balls, inclusive of five fours and three sixes, to see the Windies slide to 125 for three.

Shaqkere Parris scored a fighting 38 off 53 balls, but no other West Indies batter made it past 20 as they lost their last four wickets for just six runs. Sharma was the pick of England's bowlers with three for 30, while Ahmed claimed two for 18.

Set a victory target of 240 in 36 overs by the DLS, England found themselves in serious trouble with pacers Jahkeem Pollard and Oshane Thomas making early inroads.

Pollard dismissed Thomas Rew for four, and Thomas snared the wickets of Ben McKinney (24), Ahmed (2), and James Cole (5) to reduce England to 58 for five after nine overs, putting the West Indies A team in sight of their first win of the white-ball tour.

But James Rew and Haynes completely turned the match on its heels by adding 175 runs for the sixth wicket.

By the time Pollard returned to dismiss James Rew, the damage had already been done, with England needing just seven more runs to complete an unlikely victory.

Haynes, along with Mason Crane (1 not out), then carried their side across the line with 13 balls remaining to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Thomas took three for 59, while Pollard claimed two for 44. Both teams will clash in the second ODI at the same venue on Monday (today).

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Windies take control of second Test against Bangladesh



West Indies batsman Kevem Hodge celebrates after reaching his century against Bangladesh on the fourth day of the second cricket Test in Sylhet, Bangladesh, on Sunday, November 8, 2026. (Getty Images)

SYLHET, Bangladesh (AP) — Kavem Hodge struck 140 not out as West Indies established control in the second and final cricket Test against Bangladesh on Sunday in their quest to sweep two-match series.

Complemented by half-centuries from Kevin Wickham (78) and opener Brandon King (61), Hodge steered West Indies to 345 for three, extending the lead to 315 runs at stumps on the fourth day.

Bangladesh bowlers rarely troubled the West Indies' batters after the visitors resumed at seven for no loss.

"It's a pretty good wicket, so tomorrow we'll assess and see what's the best score, what's the best total, and what's the best tempo on this wicket," Hodge said. "But as of now, we're just trying to keep piling on the lead."

King and Joshua Da Silva added 85 runs for the opening stand, which was only broken when left-arm spinner Taijul Islam produced a gem to trap Da Silva leg-before for 36.

King went on to score his sixth Test fifty and looked untroubled but a rash shot against off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz cost him his wicket, leaving West Indies at 119 for two.

Two wickets in quick succession from their spinners gave Bangladesh a glimmer of hope but Wickham and Hodge used their feet well to sweep the spin bowlers' efforts with precision, gradually establishing full control of the game.

Wickham raised his second fifty in the game off 68 balls in his debut Test, cracking a boundary through extra cover.

Unlike the first innings when he was out for 61, Wickham appeared set for a hundred but was dismissed in casual fashion, chipping the ball straight to bowler Taijul on 78. Taijul ended the day with two for 118.

But Hodge kept attacking the bowlers and reached his third Test century from 142 balls, sweeping Taijul to square leg for a single.

Amir Jangoo, who hit a century in the first innings to help West Indies put up 356, was batting on 20 not out with Hodge when the game was called off for the day due to bad light.

Earlier, Towhid Hridoy struck an epic 242 not out to help Bangladesh compile 386 and a 30-run lead in the first innings.

"The start will be very important," Hridoy said. "If we can start well, I think a target of 350 is achievable. But first, we have to see how many runs they score and then plan accordingly."

Recalling his double century, Hridoy added, "I didn't think about whom I was surpassing or what I might achieve. I just tried to fight as much as possible to take the team to a good position.

"I was set, having a good day and feeling good with the bat, so I tried to contribute as much as I could for the team."

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Second wins for Hoppers and Bullets in premier league



Players of the Cool and Smooth Greenbay Hoppers starting XI

The Cool and Smooth Greenbay Hoppers and Auto Craze Pigotts Bullets picked up their second win in three matches when the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League resumes on Saturday.

The Greenbay Hoppers surged to a 3-0 victory over Garden Stars in the first game of a double-header at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

Da Paul George opened the scoring with a 32nd-minute conversion to give Hoppers a one-nil lead at halftime. Ammiel Joseph-Greenaway doubled their advantage with a strike in the 73rd minutes, and Jahzime Bartley converted a penalty kick in the 86th minute to wrap up the win.

The result allows the Greenbay Hoppers to advance to six points, the same as Garden Stars, who slumped to their first defeat after winning their previous two matches.

The Pigotts Bullets came from behind to snatch a 3-1 victory over the Aston Villa Lions in Saturday's second game. Jacques Obas produced an eighth-minute conversion to put the Villa Lions ahead in the match in which all the goals were scored in the first half.

Kenduka Challenger snatched the equalizer with a strike in the 13th minute, and teammate Kemoi Walsh gave the Pigotts Bullets a 2-1 lead with a 28th-minute conversion.

Sujae Mcbean increased their advantage by scoring the third goal for the Pigotts Bullets in the 38th minute. The result allows the Pigotts Bullets to advance to six points, while the Villa Lions remain winless and without any points after slumping to their second defeat in as many matches.

Meanwhile, Real Blizzard FC and Sea View Farm FC maintained their perfect starts to their campaigns in the ABFA's Second Division League on Saturday.

Real Blizzard FC claimed their fourth win in as many games by snatching a 2-1 victory against the CPTSA Wings at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Clinton Daniels scored in the 12th minute to put Wings ahead, and Nathan Fenton equalized for Real Blizzard with a strike in the 40th minute as both teams reached halftime level at 1-1.

Joel James snatched the winner for Real Blizard with a 74th-minute conversion as the CPTSA Wings remain winless and without any points after crashing to their fourth loss in as many matches.

The Sea View Farm FC recorded their third win in as many matches by pulling off a 4-3 victory against Fort Road FC at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Zafique Drew had a double conversion, and the other goals for Sea View Farm were scored by Leon O'Garro and Barry Samuel.

The result allows Fort Road FC to remain on one point after crashing to their second defeat in three matches.

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