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Strong Endorsement For Proposed Extension of School Hours

Story on page 2



All smiles at the American Airlines Aviation Expo held on Tuesday on the campus of the University of the West Indies FIC that was attended by approximately 250 students

Strong Endorsement For Proposed Extension of School Hours



Education Minister, Daryll Matthew

Last Saturday, Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, announced that the government is giving strong consideration to adjusting the school hours for secondary schools but that this would only happen if there was support from the public for the initiative.

He also announced that the government will hold a series of town hall meetings in the new year to gauge the views of the public on the proposal. The ministry is proposing new school hours from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Less than a week after Minister Matthew made the announcement, a former Cabinet colleague, Samantha Marshall, has given the proposal her full backing.

In a front page commentary, Point Express publishes the comments from former Minister Marshall.

Support for Proposed Lengthening of School Hours

By Samantha Marshall

At 1:30 every weekday afternoon, our secondary schools open their gates and release thousands of teenagers into the island. Their parents are at work until four or five. For three hours or more, nobody is in charge. We should stop pretending that this is fine.

The Ministry of Education wants to move our schools to a 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. day, with consultations starting in January. Students would start an hour later and finish ninety minutes later. Less unsupervised time. Less morning traffic. I support it fully, and I hope you will too.

In 2025, the Acting Commissioner of Police called youth violence a national emergency. The Government kept a curfew on under-18s through the summer. Overall crime fell by about ten per cent that year, which is welcome news, but aggravated robberies rose from 28 to 46 and shootings from 25 to 31. Juveniles turned up among those arrest-





Ambassador Samantha Marshall

ed for firearm offences. This month a Cabinet minister was calling for age limits on social media because videos of school fights are fuelling more violence.

Crime in general is being pushed back. Crime involving our young people is not. A curfew deals with the night. The danger is in the afternoon.

United States justice data found that violent crime by juveniles peaks between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., and only on school days. The researchers' conclusion was plain: after-school programmes do more to cut youth crime than curfews.

Barbados runs its school day to around 3 p.m. Saint Lucia's primary schools run 9 to 3. St Kitts and Nevis has long gone to 3:30. In Jamaica, where most schools close at 2:30, the argument is about adding hours, not cutting them. Our 1:30 dismissal is earlier than all of them.

Older Antiguans will remember when our own schools let out at three. This is not a radical experiment. It is a return to common sense.

Before the pandemic, UNICEF found that only 36 per cent of our young people were in work, compared with 87 per cent of adults. One in four young people in the labour force could not find a job.

Ninety extra minutes a day is seven and a half hours a week, several weeks of extra contact time over a school year. Use it for coding, technical and vocational skills, agriculture, entrepreneurship, sport, music and supervised homework. The pilot at SNRA and Glanvilles already showed what that looks like. That is how we turn idle afternoons into employable young people.

Support for the idea is not a blank cheque. Teachers must be properly consulted and fairly compensated for any extra hours, and the afternoon must be filled with real enrichment, not just more of the morning. Buses and school meals have to fit the new day. The Ministry should publish the pilot results and commit to tracking attendance, exam results and youth incidents after any change.

Get those right, and the case is overwhelming.

Parents, teachers, principals, students, churches and employers: go to the town halls and make your voice heard. The choice is simple. We can keep ending the school day while the working day is in full swing and hope for the best, or we can give our children a full day of learning, activity and adult guidance.

Let us give them the afternoon back.



American Airlines Aviation Expo Inspires Over 250 Students to Explore Careers in the Sector



More than 250 students and supporters gathered at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus on Tuesday for an engaging and interactive Aviation Expo, spearheaded by the American Airlines Caribbean Team Member Resource Group, aimed at inspiring the next generation of aviation and tourism professionals.

The Expo brought together representatives from American Airlines, British Airways, the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), Air Traffic Control (ATC), the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Live and Give Foundation, and other aviation industry stakeholders.

Throughout the day, students were exposed to the diverse career opportunities available within the aviation and tourism industries through interactive displays, hands-on demonstrations, competitions, flight simulation experiences and direct engagement with industry professionals.

Delivering remarks at the opening ceremony, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, the Honourable H. Charles Fernandez, encouraged students to look beyond the traditional roles associated with aviation and tourism and consider the many career paths that support these interconnected industries.

"Think of the technicians who maintain the aircraft, the dispatchers who help plan the flight, the ground crews who load it safely, and the air traffic controllers who guide its departure," Minister Fernandez stated, reminding students that every successful flight and visitor experience depends on a network of skilled professionals.

The Minister emphasized that continued growth in airlift and visitor arrivals must translate into meaningful opportunities for Antiguans and Barbudans, particularly young people seeking to enter the workforce.

"Those questions matter to me because they tell us who is benefiting from the growth we work so hard to achieve," he noted, underscoring the importance of training, entrepreneurship, mentorship and professional advancement.

He also challenged participating industry partners to extend their engagement beyond the Expo by offering mentorship, workplace exposure and guidance to students interested in pursuing careers within their respective fields.

The opening ceremony also featured remarks from Ms. Krystle Kertzious, Global Lead of the American Airlines Caribbean Team Member Resource Group, whose involvement helped underscore the airline's commitment to community engagement and youth development.

Airline Pilot, Co-Founder and President of the The Live and Give Foundation Inc of the Live and Give Foundation, Timothy Russell, also addressed attendees, highlighting the Foundation's participation in the initiative. The Foundation is additionally involved in a school donation exercise scheduled for Wednesday, which will benefit two primary schools and one secondary school in Antigua and Barbuda.

Adding a particularly inspiring local perspective was Antigua and Barbuda's own Captain Brian Chase, an American Airlines pilot and Tourism Ambassador, who delivered a motivational presentation to the students. His participation provided a powerful example of the opportunities available to young Antiguans and Barbudans who aspire to build successful careers in international aviation.





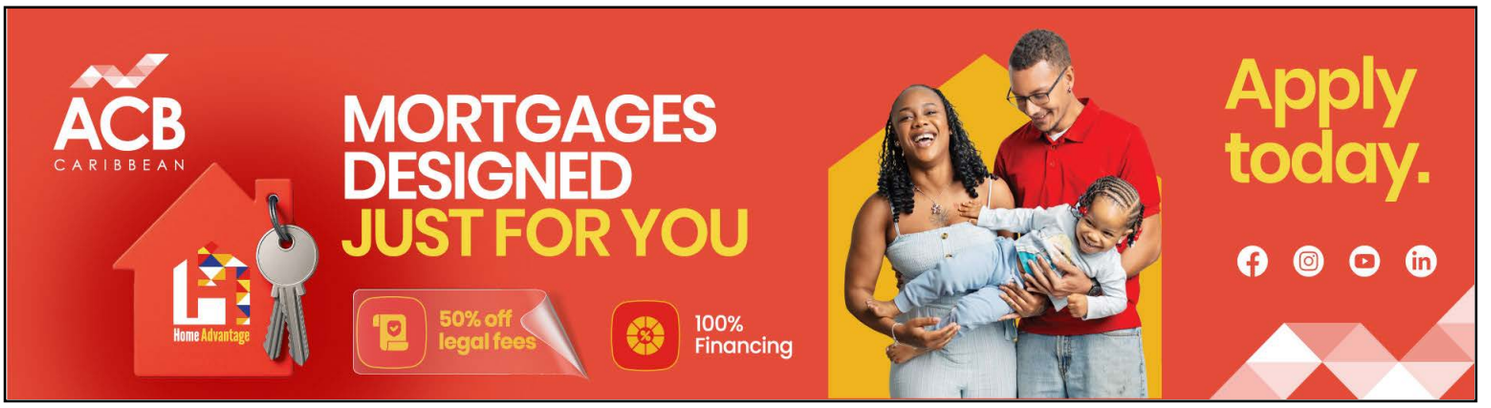
The opening ceremony was hosted by Government Senator Angelica O'Donoghue, who expressed appreciation to the organizers, participating schools and industry stakeholders for their commitment to making the initiative a reality. She commended the collaborative effort to provide students with meaningful exposure to an industry that plays a critical role in Antigua and Barbuda's economy.

The atmosphere throughout the Expo was one of enthusiasm, curiosity and discovery, as students engaged with aviation professionals, explored career possibilities and gained a greater appreciation for the skills and qualifications required to succeed in the sector.

In closing his remarks, Minister Fernandez offered students a practical challenge: "Before you leave today, ask someone whose work interests you one simple question. 'What should I do next if I want to do what you do?' Then write down the answer and follow up."



The Aviation Expo demonstrated the value of collaboration between international airlines, regional aviation organizations, educational institutions and local stakeholders in creating pathways for youth development, career exploration and future employment.



Antigua and Barbuda proposed for World Economic Forum quantum technology pilot

Antigua and Barbuda could become the first small island state to participate in a World Economic Forum initiative aimed at preparing countries for quantum computing and strengthening the security of government and financial systems. The country has been proposed as one of three pilot sites for the World Economic Forum's Quantum Economy Blueprint, alongside Kenya and Ghana, according to a November 2026 briefing note prepared by Innovation Network Global.

The proposal, submitted for consideration by the ministry responsible for information and communication technologies, outlines a 12-month programme designed to help Antigua and Barbuda prepare for emerging quantum technologies and the potential cybersecurity threats they pose.

Quantum computing is an emerging technology that could eventually allow computers to solve certain complex problems much faster than conventional machines. However, sufficiently powerful quantum computers could also break some of the encryption methods currently used to protect sensitive information.

The briefing warns that the technology could threaten the security of banking systems, government records and digital identities.

It also raises concerns that encrypted information collected today could be stored and decrypted in the future when more advanced quantum computers become available.

Under the proposed pilot, Antigua and Barbuda would assess its readiness for quantum technology and develop a national plan to address potential risks.

The programme would identify government institutions, businesses and international partners involved in artificial intelligence and quantum technology while examining areas where the country may depend heavily on individual technology suppliers.

It would also establish national priorities and develop a strategy for moving government payment systems, identity records and health information to encryption designed to withstand future quantum computing threats.

Between 20 and 30 government officials and professionals would receive training as part of the initiative.

The country would also participate in international discussions on technology standards through the International Telecommunication Union and the International Organization for Standardization and International Electrotechnical Commission.

According to the briefing, the World Economic Forum would publish the results of the three pilot programmes.

The proposal comes as governments worldwide prepare for the potential impact of quantum computing on cybersecurity.

The document notes that the European Union has set 2030 as a target for migrating high-risk systems to quantum-safe encryption, while Canada and the United Kingdom have established their own transition timelines.

Innovation Network Global said the initiative would build on Antigua and Barbuda's National Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment, published in 2026 in collaboration with UNESCO and the International Telecommunication Union.

The proposed pilot would extend that work into quantum technology, potentially giving Antigua and Barbuda an early role in international efforts to prepare governments and industries for the emerging field.

Saudi Arabia was the first country to pilot the World Economic Forum's Quantum Economy Blueprint, according to the briefing.

The document does not indicate whether the government of Antigua and Barbuda has formally accepted the proposal.

It also provides no details on the cost of participation, funding arrangements or a proposed start date.

The initiative is being advanced by the World Economic Forum's quantum team and Innovation Network Global, with the latter identifying Dr. May Siksik, its chief executive officer, as the contact for the proposal.



ABHTA Wins Prestigious CHTA CHIEF Award for Social Responsibility

Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Academy Recognised for Investing in the Next Generation of Hospitality Professionals





The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) is proud to announce that it has been awarded the ***Social Responsibility Award*** by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) during the CHIEF Awards Ceremony held on Monday, November 16, 2026, in Barbados, as part of the Caribbean Hospitality Industry Exchange Forum (CHIEF), taking place from November 16–19, 2026.

The regional recognition celebrates the success of the Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Academy 2026, an initiative developed by ABHTA to empower young people, nurture local culinary talent and create meaningful pathways into Antigua and Barbuda's hospitality industry. The award represents a significant achievement for Antigua and Barbuda, recognising the collective efforts of the tourism industry to extend its impact beyond traditional hospitality operations and make a lasting contribution to community development.

The **Social Responsibility Award** recognises initiatives that demonstrate a meaningful commitment to community development and responsible tourism. Our Academy exemplifies these principles through its focus on youth empowerment, skills development, professional mentorship, community partnerships and measurable social impact, creating opportunities for young people while strengthening the connection between tourism and the communities it serves.

Launched in July 2026, the Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Academy welcomed 15 students between the ages of 15 and 18, representing 15 secondary schools across Antigua and Barbuda. Over six weeks, from July 13 to August 21, participants were immersed in professional hotel and restaurant kitchens, receiving hands-on culinary training and mentorship from experienced chefs. Each student completed a minimum of 96 hours of practical training, collectively achieving more than 1,440 hours of culinary education and industry exposure.

More than a culinary training programme, the Academy was designed to bridge the gap between education and employment, introducing students to the discipline, teamwork, creativity and professionalism required to succeed in the hospitality industry.

The initiative also placed special emphasis on preserving Antigua and Barbuda's culinary heritage. During the programme's final challenge, students were tasked with creating innovative dishes featuring locally significant ingredients, including breadfruit and sweet potato, encouraging them to celebrate and reinterpret the flavours of Wadadli.

"This award is a tremendous honour for the ABHTA and, more importantly, a recognition of what can be achieved when our tourism industry comes together to invest in our young people," said Patrice Simon, Executive Director of the ABHTA.

"The Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Academy was created with a simple but powerful purpose: to give young people an opportunity to discover their potential, learn directly from industry professionals and see a future for themselves in hospitality. Our greatest achievement is not simply this region-



al award, but the doors that have been opened for these 15 young people. This recognition reinforces our belief that tourism must continue to create opportunities that positively impact our communities."

A defining element of the Academy's success was the extraordinary commitment of its participating Chef Mentors, hotels and restaurants, who generously opened their kitchens, shared their expertise and invested countless hours in guiding the students.

ABHTA extends its sincere appreciation to every Chef Mentor and participating hospitality property whose dedication, patience and encouragement helped transform the programme into a meaningful learning experience. Their contributions went far beyond teaching culinary techniques; they helped build confidence, instill discipline and inspire the next generation of culinary professionals.

Special appreciation is also extended to the family of the late Theodore "Ted" Isaac, in whose honour the competition was held; the Ministry of Education for its valued support; and Antigua Cruise Port, a key partner in the initiative, for its commitment to youth development and invaluable contribution to the Academy's success.



ABHTA also acknowledges the participating schools, parents, industry partners and all individuals who contributed to the programme's success.

The Academy has already created opportunities for continued professional development. Aleka Lewis, the Academy's Top Junior Chef for 2026, has earned the opportunity to undertake a culinary internship in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2027 through a partnership with the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association's Lit'l Chef Programme.

The reciprocal exchange will also welcome Roneiko Rowe, the Turks and Caicos Islands' Top Lit'l Chef, to Antigua and Barbuda for practical culinary experience. Aleka will additionally join the Antigua and Barbuda National Culinary Team as an understudy in 2027.

These opportunities demonstrate ABHTA's commitment to ensuring that the Academy is more than a one-time experience, but a foundation for continued learning, regional exposure and career advancement.

As ABHTA celebrates this regional achievement, the Association remains committed to building on the success of the Academy and strengthening the partnerships that will allow the programme to continue in 2027 and beyond.



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Minister Joseph calls for urgent action to safeguard the future of small island states)

Minister of Health, Wellness and Environment and Civil Service Affairs, the Honourable Michael Joseph, had a busy day of engagements at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), using a high-profile press conference and subsequent media interviews to bring attention to the urgent climate concerns facing small island developing states.

Minister Joseph participated in the AOSIS–LDC press conference, held under the theme "SIDS & LDCs Defending 1.5 and Science", where representatives of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) highlighted the need for stronger international action to address climate change.

A central message was the importance of keeping global warming as close as possible to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This is the internationally agreed temperature limit that countries are working to achieve because exceeding it increases the risks of rising sea levels, extreme heat, stronger storms and other climate impacts. For small island nations like Antigua and Barbuda, these threats have serious implications for coastlines, homes, livelihoods, tourism and national development.

The Minister stressed that countries cannot treat the possibility of exceeding this limit as an acceptable outcome. He called for greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, alongside increased support to help vulnerable countries prepare for climate impacts and respond when those impacts cause damage.

He also underscored the importance of climate financing which would allow countries, particularly those most vulnerable to climate change, to strengthen infrastructure, protect



communities, improve resilience and recover from climate-related losses. This includes ensuring that the Loss and Damage Fund, established to support countries experiencing climate-related harm, is adequately funded and accessible.

Minister Joseph's contribution attracted further interest from members of the international media. Following the press conference, media representatives approached him for additional engagement and requested individual interviews, providing further opportunities to discuss the concerns of small island states and the priorities being advanced at COP31.

Among these engagements was an interview with CNC3 Television of Trinidad and Tobago, through which the Minister further amplified the Caribbean's call for meaningful climate action, accessible financing and the protection of vulnerable nations.

These responsibilities place Minister Joseph among the regional voices helping to ensure that the particular circumstances of small island states are reflected in the decisions emerging from the negotiations.

Reflecting on the responsibility of his generation, Minister Joseph emphasised that the time for repeated



promises without meaningful action has passed.

"COP31 is a defining test of whether this process can deliver for humanity. We cannot normalise exceeding the 1.5°C limit, and we cannot continue to defer action. Our survival depends on results, not promises."

As negotiations continue, Minister Joseph will maintain his engagement with regional and international partners, working to advance the priorities of Antigua and Barbuda, CARICOM and the wider community of small island developing states.

NSWMA Says Its Waste Collection Personnel Are to Undergo Specialised Training

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is apologising to members of the public following reports and observations of waste collection personnel mishandling waste receptacles at several locations during the delivery of collection services.

"We recognize that the manner in which waste receptacles are handled forms an important part of the service experience, and we understand the concerns and dissatisfaction that such conduct may cause. The Authority takes these matters seriously and regrets any inconvenience or frustration experienced by residents and businesses.

"We wish to emphasize that this conduct does not reflect the Authority's established standards, policies, or expectations for service delivery," the NSWMA said in a public statement.

It said its commitment is to provide reliable, professional, and respectful services to the public. However, individual choices and actions that fall below these expectations will not be accepted as representative of the standards we seek to uphold.

"In response, the Authority will be engaging waste collection personnel in targeted customer service and professional conduct training sessions to reinforce the importance of proper handling of waste receptacles, respect for customers' property, and maintaining a high standard of service delivery. Supervisors will also be engaged and reminded of their responsibility to provide active oversight of daily collection activities, address unacceptable conduct, and ensure that established operational standards are consistently maintained," the statement added.

In conclusion, it said the Authority values the public's feedback and remains committed to continuous improvement in the quality of services provided. "We appreciate the community's patience and cooperation as we continue to strengthen our operations and reinforce a culture of accountability, professionalism, and respect," it declared.





Liberty Caribbean Mobilises Employees Across Region for Annual 'Mission Week'



Leading telecoms provider Liberty Caribbean has launched its annual Mission Week initiative, bringing employees together across the region for a week of volunteerism and community engagement under the theme "Powered by Purpose."

The initiative reflects the company's belief that its responsibility to the Caribbean extends beyond connecting people and businesses. It is also about making a meaningful contribution to the communities it serves and helping create opportunities for people to thrive.

"As a company, we are proud of the role we play in connecting Caribbean people, communities and economies. But our responsibility goes far beyond connectivity," said Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty Caribbean.

"Across the region, we see the resilience, ambition and potential of the people and communities we serve. Mission Week gives our employees an opportunity to put our shared values into action, contributing their time, skills and energy to causes that make a tangible difference. It is a powerful reminder that building a stronger Caribbean is a collective responsibility, and that meaningful progress happens when we work together."

Liberty Caribbean are the operators of Flow, Liberty Business and BTC.

Mission Week is parent company Liberty Latin America's flagship employee volunteer programme, bringing colleagues across Latin America and the Caribbean together to support schools, community organisations, environmental initiatives and vulnerable groups. Through a range of local activities, employees are encouraged to contribute their talents and time to address needs within the communities where they live and work.

Across more than 21 markets, Liberty Caribbean employees will participate in projects that support social and community development, with a focus on four Corporate Social Responsibility pillars: Learning, Environment, Access and Disaster Relief.

These priorities guide the company's efforts to expand educational opportunities, promote environmental stewardship, improve access to essential resources and support communities in times of need.

The "Powered by Purpose" theme also speaks to Liberty Caribbean's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, recognising that stronger communities are built when people can participate, contribute and reach their full potential.

The impact of this commitment is reflected in the contributions of employees across the region. In 2025, more than 1,100 employees dedicated over 3,500 volunteer hours to community initiatives aligned with the company's CSR pillars, helping to strengthen communities and improve lives.

Jennings Resident Named to Police 'Wanted List'

The police are seeking the public's assistance in locating 22-year-old Vernon S. Challenger of Jennings Village, who is wanted for questioning in connection with ongoing investigations into allegations of shooting and robbery.

He is described as being approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall.

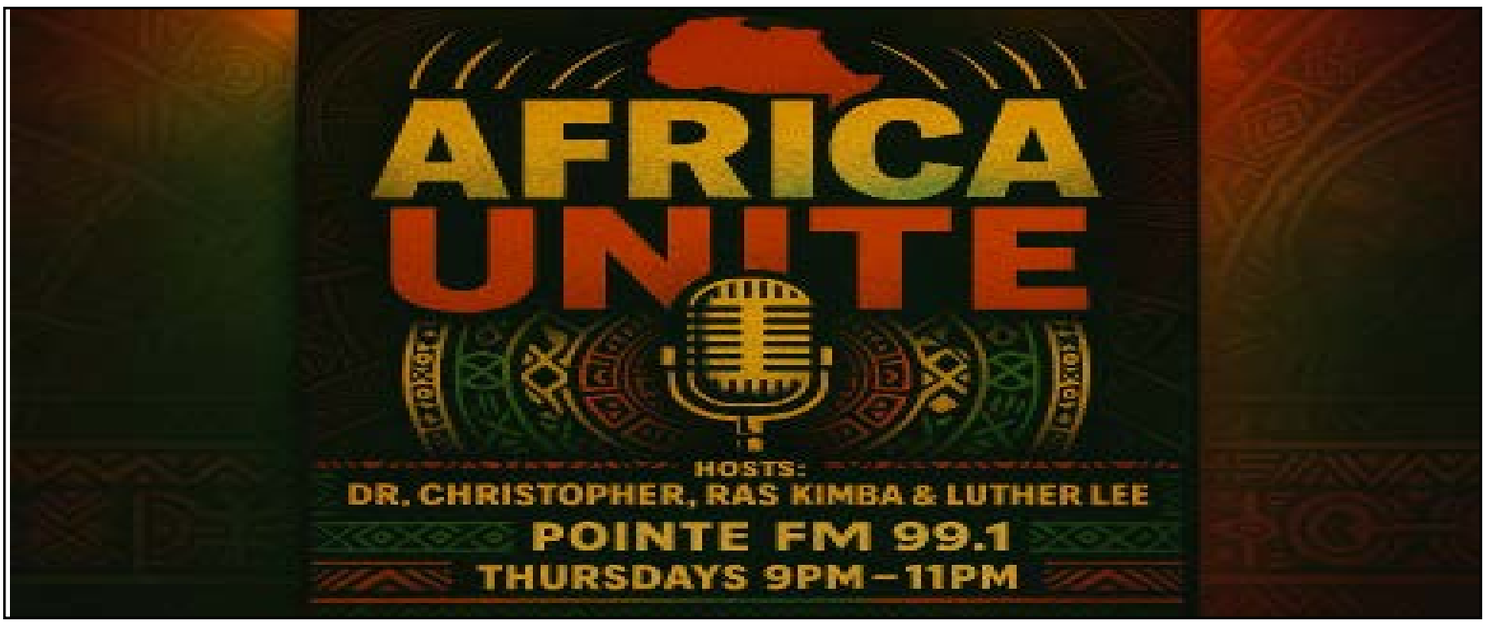
The police have conducted several operations in search of the suspect without success.

Anyone who knows his whereabouts or has information that may assist the investigations is asked to contact the nearest police station or call the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.

Members of the public are advised not to approach Challenger if seen, but to contact the police immediately. He is further advised to surrender himself peacefully at any police station without delay.

The police are also cautioning the public that it is a criminal offence to harbour or knowingly assist anyone who is wanted by law enforcement in evading arrest.





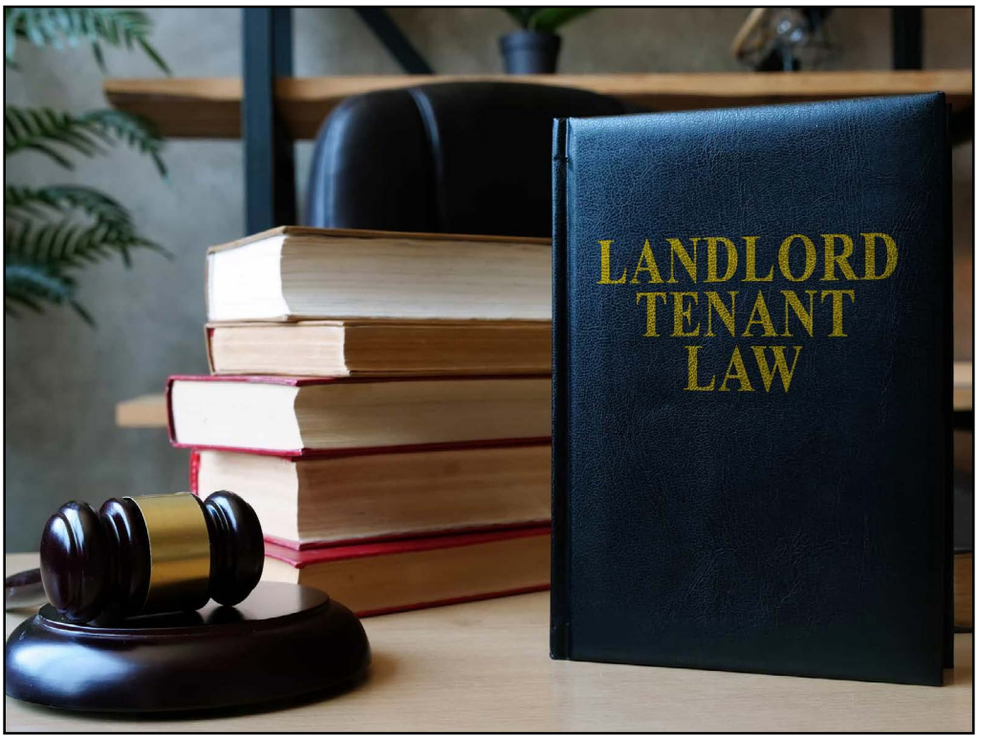
Consultation on Landlord and Tenant Relations Bill 2026 set for Thursday

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Attorney General, advises the public that the consultation on the proposed Landlord and Tenant (Residential Tenancies) Bill 2026 will now take place on **Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Parliament Building.**

All members of the public are invited to attend, particularly landlords, tenants and other interested stakeholders such as Bar Association to participate in the discussions surrounding the proposed legislation.

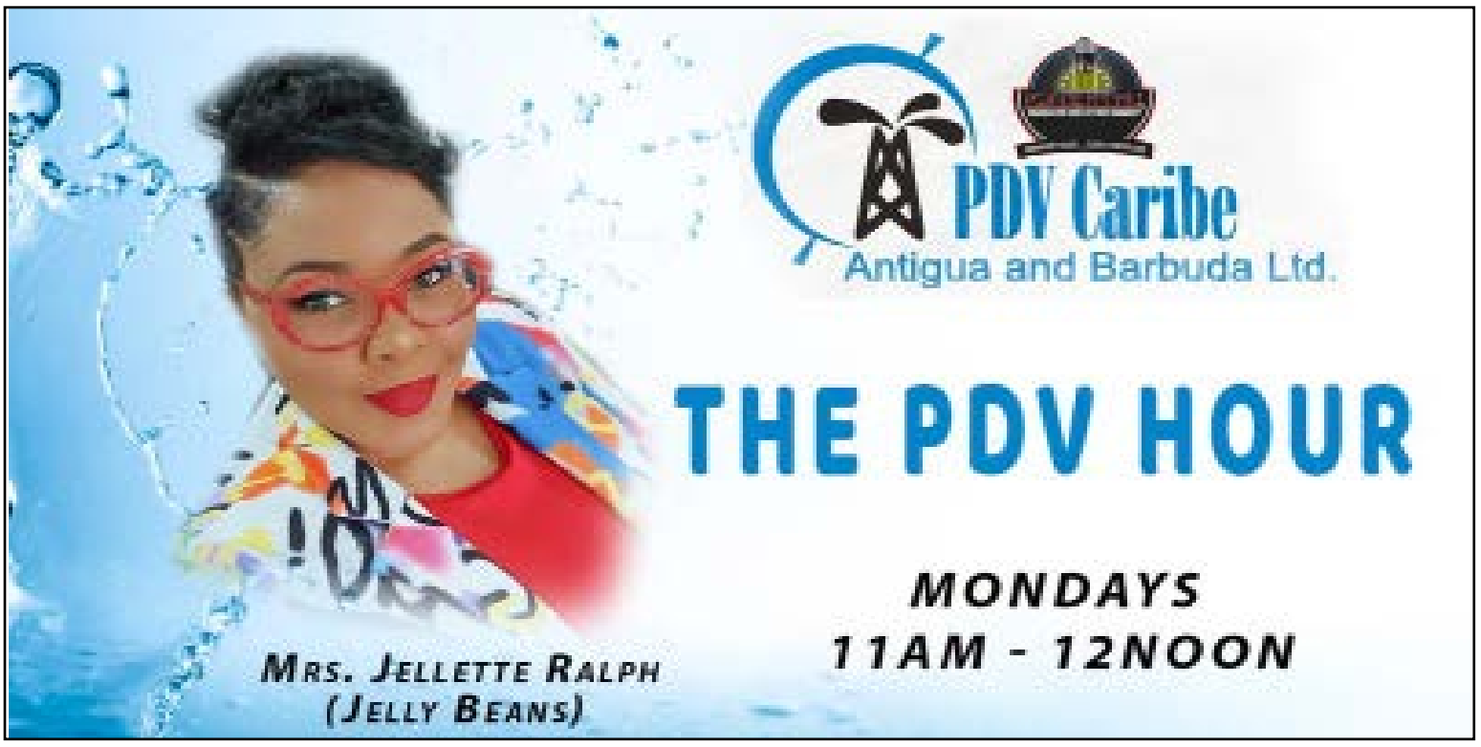
The proposed Bill seeks to establish a clearer and more modern legal framework governing residential rental arrangements in Antigua and Barbuda.

The initiative follows numerous complaints received by the Ministry from both landlords and tenants concerning matters such as rental increases, arbitrary late-payment fees, unpaid rent, outstanding utility bills and the respective responsibilities and obligations of both parties.



The consultation will provide an opportunity for members of the public to share their experiences, express concerns and make recommendations to help shape the proposed legislation.

The Government encourages widespread participation as it continues efforts to modernise existing legislation and develop a framework that better reflects the realities of today's rental housing market.




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Your Business Can Help Protect Our Island



What does your business leave behind at the end of the day? There may be completed transactions, satisfied customers, meals served, deliveries received or an event successfully concluded. There will probably also be waste. Empty bottles, cans and other discarded materials form part of the daily activity that keeps businesses operating. Yet how often does their destination receive the same attention as purchasing, customer service or presentation? Could the way your business handles waste become another expression of the standards it values?

Good Humans 268 Inc. wants to work with businesses that are ready to examine that question. Our invitation is practical: discuss recycling collection for cans and plastic bottles, explore staff education and learn about our longer-term vision for turning discarded glass into sand. We are seeking interest, participation and conversations that can become workable arrangements. Whether an organisation occupies one small room or operates across several locations, understanding its waste is a useful place to begin.

The first conversation does not need to be complicated. What materials does the business generate? Where do staff and customers use them? What happens when containers are full? Who currently makes the collection arrangements? These questions reveal the difference between having a recycling idea and having a system people can use. An attractive container is helpful, but it cannot explain every instruction, organise every pickup or answer every question. Successful participation depends on the arrangements around it.

Staff education is therefore central to the offer. Workers need to understand what should be separated, where materials belong and whom to contact when something is unclear. The person cleaning at the end of a shift should not have to guess what management intended. The person supervising a department should be able to explain the arrangement consistently. When information reaches everyone involved, waste practices have a better chance of becoming a routine that survives changes in shifts and personnel.

Businesses also differ, and those differences deserve attention. The needs of a warehouse may not match those of a restaurant. An office may generate materials in different quantities and locations from an event venue. A sensible conversation allows these circumstances to be considered before an arrangement is proposed. What would make participation easier for your team? Where would containers be useful? How could staff be introduced to the system? Practical questions help turn general interest into clear next steps.

There is a wider reason to take those steps. The island where businesses earn their income is also the island where their staff live, their customers raise families and their communities gather. Environmental responsibility is connected to everyday life. When we speak about protecting Antigua and Barbuda, we are speaking about a shared home. Should the care a business shows inside its premises extend to the materials that leave those premises? What would that care look like in practice?

Our educational resources help open that discussion. Good Humans 268 Inc. has hundreds of videos, including the playlist “Things We Know About Waste That You Should Know About Waste.” It includes sewage disposal, activities at the landfill and questions about why waste management matters. We encourage businesses to watch, discuss and reflect. Sometimes a useful change begins when someone sees a process they had never considered before. What happens beyond the collection point can make the need for better habits much clearer.

Our vision also looks ahead. A small sample of sand made from recycled glass by Glass Half Full in Louisiana demonstrates what discarded glass can become under the right conditions. Good Humans 268 Inc. wants to explore that possibility for the future. It is an ambition that requires preparation, investment and suitable partnerships. We should be clear about that

distinction while remaining open to innovation. The fact that a solution requires work is a reason to investigate it carefully and build support.

Participation in our environmental work also connects to a wider social purpose. Good Humans 268 Inc. works to create golden opportunities for individuals with disabilities through Community Outreach, Climate Action and Sustainable Farming. Our mission asks communities to recognise ability, encourage involvement and make room for contribution. Supporting conversations about waste can therefore sit alongside conversations about inclusion. How can a business participate in work that values both the environment and the people whose opportunities are too often limited?

If your business is interested, the next step is to contact us. Tell us who you are, where you operate and what you would like to discuss. Explore our pitch deck, ask about recycling collection and consider education for your team. A conversation can establish what is possible now and what needs further planning. Your business already shapes our island through the people it employs, the customers it serves and the choices it makes. It can help shape a better next chapter for waste too.

Joshuanette Francis
Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.
Mobile: +1 (268) 789 GOOD (4663)
Website: https://goodhumans268.org/









More Than 700 Creatives Make History as Antigua and Barbuda Delivers Outstanding Cultural Showcase at CHOGM 2026

National cultural leadership celebrates a remarkable display of artistic excellence, collaboration and national pride.



By Khan Cordice

Antigua and Barbuda has emerged from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026 with much to celebrate, not least the extraordinary contribution of more than 700 creatives whose talent, dedication and professionalism brought the nation›s culture to life before the Commonwealth and the world.

Across the historic gathering from November 1–4, and the many associated engagements leading up to it, the twin-island nation's musicians, dancers, actors, singers, designers, artisans, cultural practitioners and production specialists delivered an exceptional demonstration of national creativity.

The crowning achievement was the spectacular Opening Cultural Production at the National Performing Arts Centre, under the artistic directorship of Zahra Airall. Supported by her outstanding creative and production team, the presentation was a powerful expression of Antiguan and Barbudan identity, weaving together the nation's history, traditions and contemporary artistic excellence.

The production provided a defining moment for the country's cultural sector, demonstrating its ability to deliver world-class creative experiences on one of the most prestigious international stages.

Equally memorable were the outstanding performances of the internationally renowned Hells Gate Steel Orchestra and the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO), whose musical excellence reflected both the strength of the nation's cultural traditions and the promise of its next generation.

The ABYSO's participation in the CHOGM Interfaith Service, alongside visiting musicians from The Commonwealth Resounds, Canada and other parts of the Commonwealth, was particularly significant. Their collaboration, under guest conductor Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, celebrated the power of music to unite people across cultures and generations.

Other notable contributions across the wider CHOGM cultural programme included numerous community-based performing groups such as Choirs, Dance Companies, Steel orchestras, theatre groups, iron bands, Vocal Artistes, Visual Artistes and dozens of artisans across the CHOGM Forum.

The cultural footprint extended far beyond the main ceremony. From the Interfaith Service and Joint Forums Opening to the Commonwealth Youth, Women's, People's and Business Forums, the pre-Independence and CHOGM receptions at Government House, official diplomatic dinners and dozens of accompanying engagements, local creatives helped shape the experience of visiting dignitaries and delegates.

The cultural villages and artistic spaces offered additional opportunities for local artisans, designers and entrepreneurs, while airport arrivals entertainment transformed the welcome experience into a vibrant celebration of national identity.

At historic Nelson's Dockyard, the CHOGM Closing Reception delivered another outstanding display of music, dance, traditional masquerade, visual arts and cultural heritage, including the Commonwealth Dance Relay performed by the National Combined Dancers.

Together, these presentations represented far more than entertainment. They demonstrated the value of culture as an instrument of diplomacy, economic opportunity, education and national development.

Minister Celebrates National Achievement

Minister responsible for the Sports and Creative Industries, Dwayne George, described the cultural achievements as a defining demonstration of Antigua and Barbuda's extraordinary national potential.

"Antigua and Barbuda has every reason to be immensely proud. We have shown the Commonwealth that while we may be small in geographical size, we are a nation of extraordinary talent, creativity and ambition. More than 700 of our creatives answered the call to represent their country, and they delivered with excellence.

"I commend every performer, every creative professional and every person who contributed to this historic achievement. I also extend special appreciation to the Department of Culture, the National Events Department and the Ministry of Sports and the Creative Industries and support teams for their commitment and exceptional service. This success reinforces why

we must continue to invest in our people, strengthen our cultural institutions and create meaningful opportunities for our creative industries to flourish."

Permanent Secretary Commends Exceptional Teamwork

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, highlighted the tremendous coordination, discipline and sacrifice required to deliver cultural engagements of such magnitude.

"What has been accomplished is a testament to the remarkable dedication and collective strength of our public officers and creative community. Behind every outstanding presentation were countless hours of planning, rehearsals, logistical coordination, problem-solving and personal sacrifice.

"As Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for Creative Industries, I am immensely gratified and I extend my sincere commendation to the leadership and staff of the Department of Culture, the National Events Department, our Ministry and the many partner agencies, schools, community organisations and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda was represented with distinction. Their efforts reflect the very best of public service, teamwork and national commitment."

Director of Culture: 'Our Creatives Were the Stars of This Achievement'

Director of Culture Khan Cordice reflected on the historic undertaking with particular appreciation for the hundreds of artists and cultural practitioners who gave so generously of their time and talent.

"For me, the greatest success of CHOGM was not simply the scale of the productions or the international audience before us. It was seeing hundreds of our creatives come together with a shared determination to make Antigua and Barbuda proud. And they did exactly that.

"I want to especially commend all creatives across our nation for what they contributed. Your contributions will be remembered for years to come.



To our musicians, dancers, singers, actors, artisans, designers, community groups and every creative who performed across the dozens of engagements, thank you for showing up and delivering at such an exceptional standard.

"I am equally proud of the people who worked behind the scenes: our teachers, schools, community organisations, production crews, technicians, coordinators, volunteers and, particularly, the hardworking officers of the Department of Culture. Many worked extraordinarily long hours, often moving between multiple venues and responsibilities, simply because they believed in what we were trying to accomplish.

"CHOGM has shown us what is possible when we trust our creatives, provide them with opportunities and work together towards a common goal. Our challenge now is to ensure that this extraordinary achievement becomes a foundation for greater investment, development and international opportunity."

As Antigua and Barbuda reflects on the success of CHOGM 2026, the Ministry of Sports and the Creative Industries celebrates the extraordinary national effort that transformed the historic gathering into a powerful showcase of the nation's cultural identity.

Antigua and Barbuda did not simply welcome the Commonwealth. We gave the Commonwealth an unforgettable experience and showed the world who we are.

Together for a Period-Friendly World: Scrub Life Cares Brings First Mural to Life at AGHS

By Tonya Ambrose

After months of planning and creative development, Scrub Life Cares' first mural project is coming to life at Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS), bringing together student creativity, menstrual health advocacy, and a commitment to making Antigua and Barbuda more period-friendly.

Work began this week on the initiative, which uses public art to encourage conversations about menstruation, challenge stigma, and promote dignity. The design will be revealed upon completion.

A period-friendly world is one where people can manage their periods with confidence, access essential products and accurate information, and participate fully in school, work, sport, and community life. For Scrub Life Cares, achieving this means addressing both practical barriers and the silence, shame, and misinformation that too often surround menstruation.

The mural was designed by Caralee Nicholas, Project Manager and Creative Director at Scrub Life Cares, with AGHS visual arts students helping to bring the vision to life. Their participation connects artistic expression with advocacy, giving young people an active role in communicating a message that matters to their health and wellbeing.

For Tanya Ambrose, Founder and CEO of Scrub Life Cares and an AGHS old girl, the location carries personal significance and an opportunity to reach people beyond the school community.

"As an old girl of Antigua Girls' High School, it felt only right to begin this journey here. There is something deeply meaningful about returning to a place that helped to shape me and contributing to a message I want every student to grow up knowing: periods are natural, and everyone deserves dignity, information, and support," said Ambrose.

"With the school situated next to a major tourist attraction in the capital, we also recognised an opportunity for this message to reach a wider audience. Even as we were preparing the wall, tourists were already stopping to ask questions about what the team was doing. That interest reinforced our belief that we had chosen the right location. We want students, residents, and visitors to see that here in Antigua and Barbuda, we are taking steps towards a period-friendly world."

The project also coincides with Antigua and Barbuda Art Week, an unexpected connection that the team only discovered when someone pointed it out a few days before the start of Art Week. After months of preparation, the timing adds meaning to an initiative that demonstrates how art can bring public health messages into everyday spaces.

Scrub Life Cares expressed its gratitude for the support of the Ministry of Education and the AGHS leadership and teaching team in making the initiative possible.

The organisation extends sincere appreciation to Principal Rosalin Beazer, Deputy Principals Ellis and Joseph, and Visual Arts Teacher Dosher Williams for their blessing, encouragement, and collaboration. It also recognises Director of Education Clare Brown and Education Officer for Visual Arts Bernard Peters for supporting the initiative and the connection between creative learning and health education.

"The support from the Ministry of Education and the AGHS team has been instrumental in helping us move this project from an idea to something tangible," Ambrose added. "Creating a period-friendly Antigua and Barbuda requires collaboration across our schools, communities, workplaces, and institutions. We are grateful to everyone helping us make that vision visible."

As painting continues, Scrub Life Cares hopes the mural will become a lasting invitation to ask questions, challenge harmful attitudes, and take shared responsibility for menstrual health. The project marks a first for the organisation and another step in its ongoing work to ensure that no one is held back, excluded, or humiliated because of their period.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

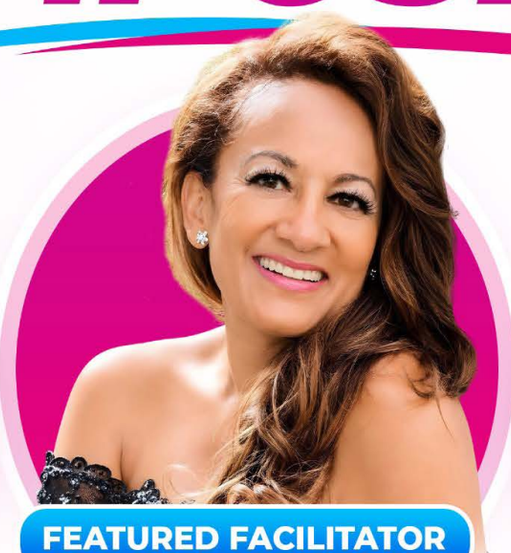
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
TOURISM WEEK
2026

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NATIONAL TOURISM SYMPOSIUM



REMARKS BY
Hon. H. Charles "Max" Fernandez
Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation Transportation & Investment



FEATURED FACILITATOR
Dr. Auliana Poon



GUEST SPEAKER
Ms. Dona Regis Prosper

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre
Factory Road



This will be an interactive session. Participants will be required to use an AI assistant on their device.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SCAN TO REGISTER

For more details contact:
Ms. Shanaka Savory
Ministry of Tourism and Investment
468-4083
Shanaka.savory@ab.gov.ag


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2027
6:00PM
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ONE
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CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
ISRAEL & NEW BREED
GEN $100
GLORY LOUNGE $250
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
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Haitian trafficking network: Police suspect organised smuggling behind illegal arrivals here



EAD of the Portland police Superintendent Ainsley McCarthy has charged that the frequent arrival of Haitians on the shores of the parish is part of a broader trafficking network across Jamaica.

"We have a Haitian population here in Jamaica. For example, in Montpelier, St James, we have Haitians there. So these Haitians who come in from time to time, some of them are trafficked. They pay to get here, and then there are persons who pick them up to take them to other locations, most times outside of the parish," McCarthy said during the latest episode of the Jamaica Constabulary's Force4good podcast.

McCarthy was supported by head of Police Area Two Assistant Commissioner McArthur Sutherland, who told the podcast that many of the Haitians are being employed by Jamaicans to conduct farming in the hills of Portland.

He said police have done numerous operations targeting that practice and, "We believe some level of coordination is outside of the Portland parish."

According to Sutherland, last year the police had to intervene after a dispute between two of the immigrants during a party held on one of the farms left one of them dead.

Superintendent Ainsley McCarthy, commanding officer for the Portland Division of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), speaking on an episode of the JCF's Force4good podcast. Superintendent Ainsley McCarthy, commanding officer for the Portland Division of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), speaking on an episode of the JCF's Force4good podcast.

"The matter is still before the court and that [Haitian] is still in custody. From an organised approach, we have sufficient reason to suspect — or I would say believe — that it is organised, to an extent. One of the evidence of that organisation is the fact that we



see returnees — persons who were removed [and] returned. The last trip we had one such case, and we are dealing with it," Sutherland added.

Last month, police apprehended 22 Haitians across Area 2 — which covers Portland, St Mary, and St Ann — within a one-week period, raising concerns about a possible human-smuggling operation along Jamaica's north-eastern coastline.

In June, 17 Haitians arrived in the Passley Gardens area of Port Antonio. Days later an additional 11 landed on Jamaica's shores. They were taken to Port Antonio Police Station for health and immigration processing.

According to Sutherland, Jamaica requires "infrastructural support" to successfully tackle the issue as there are multiple uncontrolled ports across the island.

"The maritime coastal domain awareness is critical, [and] Portland is no exception. We have been looking at this from several years back — from the days when we were looking at it as gun-for-drugs [trade]… where they bring down the weapon and in exchange they get the marijuana. We have not seen much of that activity. But the emergence now of, what I'd say, either people smuggling or people seeking refuge, whichever category you look at it from, we definitely need the right infrastructural support as a country to really handle that," added Sutherland as he argued that an ongoing cross-border collaboration is needed.

That collaboration, he explained, would be "a very solid intelligence network that can identify the triggers and alert us so we can mobilise and respond to these situations as quickly as possible".

"We know that at times they will get off the boat, out in the water, and swim towards shore in order to avoid detection. So it's not necessarily that [the] boat [is] coming up on the shore. They have different approaches to getting here," explained Sutherland.

He underscored that the Haitians do not arrive through a controlled port, making it difficult for law enforcers to conduct risk assessment and, in instances, health risks came to the surface and had to be treated with appropriately.

Meanwhile, McCarthy reported that through the support of the Portland Disaster Risk Management Committee and other agencies, law enforcers are better able to deal with the arrival of immigrants.

"Although it's considered disaster risk management

— dealing with hurricane, earthquake — we also come together to deal with the influx of illegal Haitians coming into the island. And we have the Red Cross that provides food, clothing, and meals also on a daily basis to these people while they're here.

"We have the health department, who I just [need to] pick up my phone and I call Dr [Sharon] Lewis [medical officer of health for the Portland Health Department] and I say, 'Doc, we have some visitors to the island and she should make special arrangement to get them medically examined.' Then I will call PICA (Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency) and PICA comes in, does the interviews, and we get them out of the island as quickly as possible, in most cases. And where people apply for asylum, the matter goes through the court," said McCarthy. (Jamaica Observer)

AUCTION NOTICE

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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

Trevor "Teddy" Santos Inc.

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United Church criticises Jamaica's abstention on Cuba embargo vote

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) has criticised the Government's decision to abstain from a recent United Nations General Assembly vote calling for an end to the United States' economic embargo against Cuba.

In a statement issued on Monday, the church said it was joining the Jamaica Baptist Union in expressing deep disappointment with Jamaica's position, arguing that the embargo is unjust and should be removed.

The UCJCI said the decades-old economic restrictions have continued to burden the Cuban people, deepening suffering among children and the wider population.

It also reaffirmed its support for Cuba's sovereignty and the right of its people to determine their own political direction and pursue development without external coercion.

The church argued that the principles of sovereignty and self-determination that Jamaica values for itself should be upheld equally for neighbouring countries, regardless of their size, economic strength or relationship with more powerful nations.

It said Jamaica's abstention risked "comforting the powerful while withholding much-needed solidarity from a vulnerable neighbour".

The church also pointed to Cuba's longstanding relationship with Jamaica, highlighting its contributions to education and healthcare through scholarships, professional training and the service of Cuban healthcare workers and educators.

It acknowledged the Government's stated preference for dialogue and constructive engagement to improve conditions in Cuba but argued that this did not prevent Jamaica from voting against the embargo.

"Pursuing dialogue is entirely consistent with a clear vote against the embargo," the church said.

The UCJCI further argued that access to opportunities and the essentials of a dignified life should not be used as instruments of political pressure against the Cuban people.



The statement was issued by the church's moderator, Reverend Dr Collin Cowan, who called on Jamaicans to demonstrate the courage and conviction required to advocate for an end to the embargo and the alleviation of suffering among the Cuban people.

The Government's decision to abstain from the October 28 vote marked a departure from Jamaica's longstanding support for resolutions calling for an end to the US embargo, which have been brought before the United Nations annually since 1992.

The resolution was supported by 130 countries, while 17 voted against it and 25 abstained. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Ozempic approved for local distribution



Ozempic, a prescription medication used to treat Type 2 diabetes and support weight loss, has been approved for distribution on the island as the Government moves to expand treatment options for obesity.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Christopher Tufton, made the disclosure while addressing the launch of the Ministry's Lifestyle Clinic at the Sandy Bay Health Centre in Hanover on November 12.

Ozempic helps to control blood sugar levels and promote weight loss by reducing appetite and slowing digestion. It is usually administered through a once-weekly injection.

Tufton informed that other branded medications to manage obesity are being considered for approval.

"We hope that by next year, they will be approved, and also the generic equivalent to those," he said, noting that the medications will be available through pharmacies.

The minister noted that individuals seeking obesity treatment have been purchasing these medications informally, including from overseas, often at higher prices.

"What used to happen in the past is that it was a black market. People used to buy it in Miami and those places or wherever, and take in and sell it at [higher] costs," he pointed out.

"So, over the next quarter or so, those drugs should be available, and the generic version would be the cheaper version," he stated, noting that consideration will be given to facilitating access through the National Health Fund (NHF).

Meanwhile, Tufton said that the Lifestyle Clinic will target people whose health is at risk due to obesity.

Patients will be referred to the clinic by doctors after medical assessment and will get support from specialists, including psychologists, nutritionists, physical activity specialists and social workers, to assist them in making healthier lifestyle choices and reduce their risk of serious illnesses.

He cautioned that medication should not be viewed as a replacement for healthy lifestyle practices, emphasising that managing obesity calls for a broader approach which includes proper nutrition, exercise and medical supervision.

"That's part of controlling obesity. It's not the full picture. So, I'm not here prescribing the one solution to the problem," Tufton said. (Jamaica Observer)

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Gonsalves rejects exit calls, asserting 'Unconquerable Spirit'



Leader of the Opposition Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has firmly dismissed calls for his political retirement following the election defeat of the Unity Labour Party, declaring during a national radio address that he possesses an "unconquerable spirit" and remains fully energized to lead public advocacy both at home and abroad.

Addressing widespread speculation following the end of his nearly twenty-five-year tenure as Prime Minister, Gonsalves rejected suggestions from political opponents that he should withdraw from active governance. The veteran political leader pushed back against critics who expected him to fold his tent, retreat into a hole as a recluse, or hand over party leadership as if it were a poison chalice. Instead, Gonsalves emphasized that faith, history, and circumstance have accorded him a new parliamentary role, which he intends to carry out with dedication and to the best of his ability alongside a developing generation of younger leaders.

Drawing upon more than fifty-eight years of continuous public activism, Gonsalves asserted that he has never considered himself defeated in life. He explained his political philosophy that election losses and national setbacks must be systematically transformed into future gains and strategic advances. Defining his concept of an unconquerable spirit, Gonsalves stated that his outlook is not dictated by political detractors, but is derived from his solidarity with the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, his advocacy for marginalized communities globally, and the gifts granted to him by Almighty God.

Reflecting on his resilience and mortality, the former Prime Minister declared that the only time he will experience defeat on earth is when he is ultimately called home by God. He added that physical death itself is not a final defeat, but the beginning of a new chapter and a spiritual promise of immortality.

Citing his continued good health and intellectual sharpness, Gonsalves affirmed that he remains fully capable of writing, researching, and engaging on national, regional, and international stages.

As evidence of his ongoing work, Gonsalves detailed a robust international itinerary undertaken immediately following the elections. His recent missions included high-level side events alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Antigua, creative economy discussions at the Creative Africa Nexus event in Nigeria, and bilateral meetings in the United Kingdom focused on reparations and global financial architecture reform. He noted that international media outlets and global organizations continue to seek his participation, demonstrating his continued relevance on major world issues.

Closing his address, Gonsalves rallied his supporters and the wider citizenry, urging young people in particular to cultivate their own unconquerable spirits. Reminding listeners that the Unity Labour Party secured forty-four percent of the vote in the recent polls, he called on citizens not to cower before political pressure or parliamentary bullies, but to stand up with determination and work in solidarity for the collective development of the country. (St Vincent Times)

Grassroots student movement takes control as Serbia's new parliament convenes

Serbia's new parliament met on Tuesday for the first time since the stunning election victory last month by a grassroots student-led movement that ousted then President Aleksandar Vucic and his party.

The National Assembly's inaugural session marks the first step toward the formation of Serbia's new government. It's also the first time ever in the Balkan country that a newly-formed protest movement makes up the parliamentary majority.

The lawmakers are set first to choose a parliamentary speaker, his or her deputies and various assembly bodies. A new government then must be voted into office within 90 days.

The Students' List movement holds 140 parliamentary seats in the 250-member parliament, compared with 103 belonging to Vucic's right-wing Serbian Progressive Party. Vucic himself is now one of the opposition lawmakers after serving as defense minister, prime minister and president over the past 14 years.

The remaining parliamentary seats belong to the parties of Serbia's ethnic minorities.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the parliament building in central Belgrade to see off the student-backed lawmakers, who are mostly teachers, professors and other experts with respected careers but little or no political experience.

Serbian media have reported that the lawmakers spent days practicing and preparing for the session, where they will face well-versed and experienced opposition lawmakers notorious for aggressive verbal attacks on opponents.

The Students' List group on Oct. 25 defeated Vucic's right-wing SNS



in the early parliamentary vote that came after two years of anti-corruption protests in the Balkan country. The SNS party's caretaker government remains in office until a new Cabinet is confirmed.

Serbia also must hold an early presidential election by the end of the year. The date for the vote has yet to be determined. It was triggered by Vucic's resignation in September as president to pursue a failed attempt to become the new prime minister.

The protests erupted first in November 2024 in response to a train station tragedy, which involved the collapse of a concrete canopy, in Serbia's north that killed 16 people. Many in Serbia blamed the collapse on flawed renovation work and rampant graft.

Students have promised to restore democracy and the rule of law, and to terminate deeply rooted corruption, cronyism and alleged organized crime links that they say thrived under Vucic.

Observers have predicted that the Students' List group will face resistance within the system, and strong opposition in parliament. The students have said they won't allow the session to turn into a "reality show."

The parliamentary meeting's live coverage on the state-run RTS television station is expected to be widely watched. Some bars in Belgrade and elsewhere in Serbia advertised special prices for people to watch it.

Vucic has accused the students of "revolutionary terror" in daily appearances on loyal media and social networks following a surge in post-election arrests that included officials, police officers and a private bank owner who allegedly attempted to siphon off money.

Serbia is a candidate nation for European Union membership, but the effort has stalled under Vucic because of democratic backsliding and close ties with Russia. EU officials have offered to help the future Serbian government through the promised reforms. (AP)

France braces for fresh public sector strike over pay

Demonstrators gathered across France on Tuesday after unions called a nationwide strike by public sector workers in a bid to secure pay rises, despite government efforts to ease tensions as demonstrations roil the country.

France's 5.8 million public sector employees have been called to mobilise after talks with Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu on Friday failed to satisfy unions, which have been pushing for across-the-board pay rises since last week's boost to the minimum wage for private-sector workers.

Tuesday marks the third call for a united day of action and strikes in the public sector since September, including one earlier this month that saw hundreds of thousands of workers march and police firing tear gas as clashes broke out in some cities.

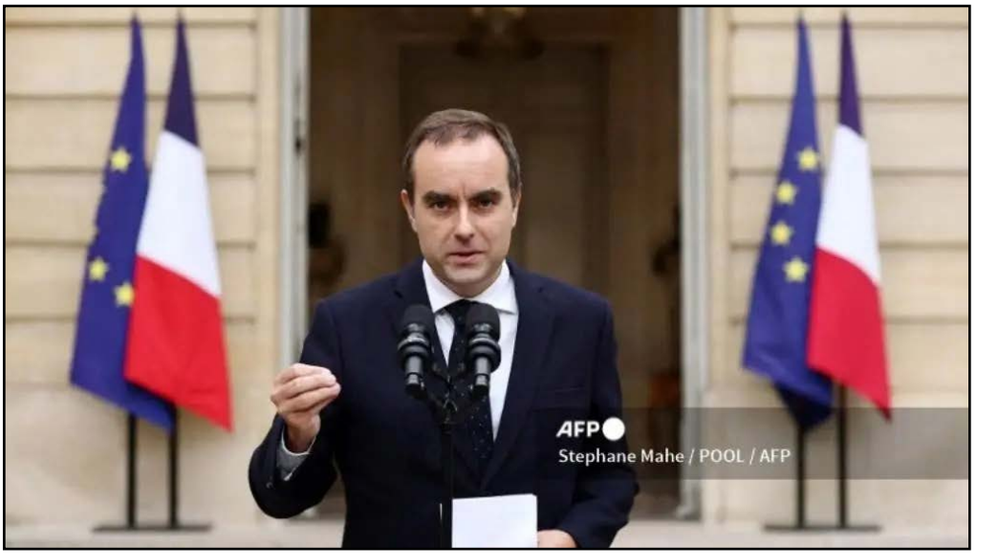
More unions joined the call after the meeting organised by Lecornu, which union representatives left saying proposed measures failed to address the urgency of the pay situation.

In Paris, unions gathered in the east of the city where a rally was scheduled to begin at 2:00 pm (1300 GMT), with dozens of other demonstrations planned across the country.

Between 40,000 and 80,000 people are expected to demonstrate in the capital, and between 220,000 and 300,000 nationwide, a police source told AFP.

Gatherings began in the morning in several cities, including Lyon in the southeast, where thousands rallied.

At the Paris rally, university professor Nicolas Prevot stood amid a cluster of demonstrators blowing away on large conch shells streaked with white and pale pink.



"It's about defending human rights first and foremost, but also protecting public services, which are being torn apart," he said.

Prevot also hoped to see the far right kept out of power in next year's presidential election.

"Above all, we mustn't let the far right take power," he said.

The European Union's second-largest economy has been rocked by more than a month of high school blockades and cost-of-living protests, with presidential elections looming next year and the far right hoping to seize power.

Youth union organisations and Yellow Vest activists also plan to join the latest demonstrations, which come after weekend protests over grievances ranging from inflation to a proposed police law.

Some of the largely peaceful rallies have seen fringe violence, as well as accusations of police brutality.

Huge cost of living protests across France a month ago degenerated into the worst rioting seen in the country for years, with thousands arrested, hundreds of shops looted and public buildings attacked and torched.

Security forces were at the ready in Paris near the rally starting point, an AFP journalist saw.

Authorities have imposed restrictions on undeclared gatherings near several schools and universities in Paris and temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers, citing concerns about possible violence during protests.

The protests come as France races to adopt a 2027 budget under pressure to reduce its deficit.

Public-sector staff aim to pressure the government to unfreeze the pay scale point used to calculate their basic salary. In its draft budget, the government has ruled out any general pay rise for the fourth consecutive year.

This is unacceptable for the unions, which put the loss of purchasing power for public servants at 16 per cent since 2017, leading to increasing numbers of public employees ending up on or close to the minimum wage against a backdrop of inflation. (AFP)

Mozambique's opposition leader stands trial over deadly 2024 protests



Mozambique's opposition leader has arrived at the country's Supreme Court to stand trial over his alleged role in deadly protests that followed 2024's disputed election results.

Venancio Mondlane addressed reporters outside the court in Maputo on Tuesday. He faces five charges, the most serious of which is instigating "terrorism". If found guilty, he could be jailed for up to 24 years.

"I arrive calm and confident in my legal team," Mondlane said.

Months of antigovernment protests broke out in Mozambique in 2024 after Mondlane came second in national elections. President Daniel Chapo and his Frelimo party beat Mondlane, extending Frelimo's time in power to more than 50 years. Mondlane disputes the results, and his allegations of harassment of the opposition have been echoed by rights groups, including Human Rights Watch.

Following the elections in 2024, the organisation said the vote had been marred by political killings, widespread irregularities, and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly. Frelimo denies any wrongdoing.

Amnesty International says more than 300 people were killed during protests against the election results. It accused authorities of waging a crackdown against demonstrators, with police allegedly using unlawful force, mass arbitrary arrests and suppression of information.

Mondlane has also been charged with inciting "terrorism", advocacy of crime, public incitement to a crime, and incitement of civil disobedience.

Thousands of people gathered for protests in response to calls by Mondlane to organise against the results. While preparing to challenge the vote, Mondlane's lawyer and aide were shot dead.

Before Tuesday's trial, Mondlane accused the government of attempting to silence him during a livestream on Facebook.

"The message being sent is that you must remain silent. You must remain in captivity, in prison, in darkness," he said.

"In truth, Venancio is being used as an example to an entire generation: A warning that nobody should dare to rise up against the regime, against an empire of kleptocracy, or against the system of oppression that we have lived under for 50 years."

Mondlane denies all charges against him. (Al Jazeera)

Trump lands in Asia ahead of talks with Russian and Chinese presidents

President Trump has arrived in the Philippines' capital on the first leg of a trip to Asia, which will end in a meeting in China with its President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

A red carpet was rolled out for Trump as he walked off Air Force One in Manila. A band played one of his favourite songs, Y.M.C.A., before he was whisked away by helicopter to a hotel.

Trump's first meeting at the Asean Summit was with America's partners in the Quad - India's Narendra Modi, whom he described as a "very tough man", Japan's Sanae Takaichi, who "may be even tougher", and Australia's Anthony Albanese.

"Our countries are the four corners of the free, open, stable, prosperous Indo-Pacific," the US president said.

"We have outstanding relationships and co-ordinate closely... my phone is always open," Trump added.

Many countries in South East Asia have been hit hard by Donald Trump's tariffs and his war on Iran - but their exports to the US rose 30% last year thanks to the AI boom for which the region manufactures many of the components.

The US is hoping to draw more countries here into its "Pax Silica" tech and AI ecosystem, and away from China.

But China's huge influence in this region cannot easily be challenged, and certainly not in the few hours Trump is in the Philippines.

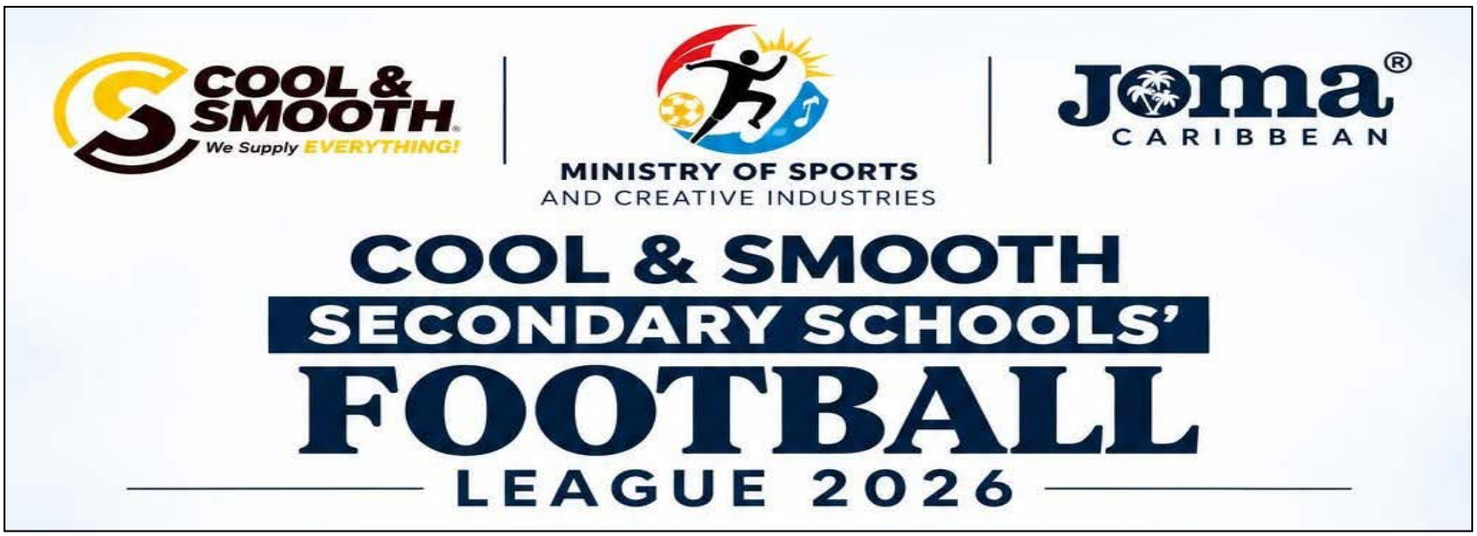
After an overnight stay in Manila, the US president will fly to Shenzhen in China to attend a summit of Asia Pacific leaders and have nuclear talks with Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin.

Asked if he would also be open to a one-on-one meeting with Putin, Trump said: "If it's available, I would". (BBC) V






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PMS maintain winning form in school girls under-15 league

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) maintained their unbeaten start in the inaugural Girls Under-15 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League on Monday.

Princess Margaret School made it four wins in a row with a 9-0 drubbing of Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) in their fourth-round encounter at the Clare Hall playing field.

J'kayla Bellot scored seven goals with conversions in the 19th, 21st, 26th, 32nd, 44th, 49th, and 52nd minutes, while Gimel Samuel had a double conversion with strikes in the 10th and 13th minutes for PMS.

The Princess Margaret School consolidated their position as leaders of the Under-15 girls' division by advancing to 12 points. The Sir Novelle Richards Academy remains winless and in the cellar of the six-team standings without any points after crashing to their fourth defeat in as many encounters.

The Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) also kept their unbeaten run intact, claiming their third win in four matches with a 4-0 drubbing of Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) at the Clare Hall playing field.

Corniah Jean-Pierre had a double conversion with strikes in the third and 30th minutes. The other goals for OCS were scored by Diondre Batchelor in the second minute and Iresha Mason in the 13th minute.

The Ottos Comprehensive School remains in second place by advancing to 10 points, while Clare Hall Secondary School remains in third place with six points after losing for the second time in four matches.

The Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) and St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) played to a goalless draw at the Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

The result allows AGHS to remain in fourth place with four points after securing their first draw in four matches. The St. Mary's Secondary School remains in fifth place with two points after salvaging their second draw in four matches.

Meanwhile, defending champions Harrison Center picked up their second win in three matches in the Under-20 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League.

The Harrison Center advanced to seven points by snatching a 1-0 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School at the Bolans playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Obediah Browne broke the deadlock by scoring the winner with the only goal of the match in the 74th minute. The St. Mary's Secondary School remains on three points after slumping to their second loss in three matches.

All Saints Secondary School (ASSS) also claimed their second win in four matches to advance to seven points with a 9-4 drubbing of Pares Secondary School (PSS) at the Freemans Village playing field.

Karmalie Benjamin scored four times for ASSS with conversions in the 22nd, 24th, 31st, and 51st minutes. Zion Christopher scored twice with goals in the third and 28th minutes, while Jaden Joseph had a double-conversion with strikes in the 45th and 80th minutes.

The other goal for ASSS was converted by Jaheeon Joseph in the fourth minute. The goals for Pares Secondary School were scored by Khyrie Padmore in the sixth minute, Ameri Lake in the 61st minute, and Jahdiel James in the 68th minute.

Pares Secondary School benefitted from an own goal, which was converted by All Saints' Leraune Percival in the 73rd minute.

Pares Secondary School remain winless and in the cellar of the 11-team standings without any points after crashing to their third defeat in as many games.

The Antigua Grammar School claimed their first win in three matches to advance to four points by pulling off a 2-0 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary (IBWS) at the Antigua Grammar School's playing field.

The Irene B. Williams Secondary remains on three points after tumbling to their third loss in four matches.

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Empire FC drops more points in ABFA's First Division League



Players of the Empire football team

Leaders Empire FC dropped points in back-to-back matches but maintained the unbeaten start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League on Monday.

After winning their three previous matches, Empire FC failed to win in successive matches after being held to a 3-3 draw by newly promoted Jets Football Academy at the ABFA Technical Center.

Kamali Looby scored twice with goals in the 10th and 24th minutes to give Empire FC a two-nil lead. Kamari Hewlett scored in the 32nd minute, and Michael Peters converted a penalty kick in the 35th minute to equalize for Jets Football Academy as both teams reached halftime level at 2-2.

Ivan Grant produced a 48th-minute conversion to give Jets a 3-2 lead, and Marckens Dorisca scored an equalizer in the 68th minute for Empire FC to salvage the draw.

The result allows Empire FC to remain at the top of the 13-team standings by advancing to 11 points from five matches. Empire FC is just one point ahead of second-placed Ottos Rangers, who have played four matches.

It also means that the Jets Football Academy maintained their unbeaten starts during their debut season in the First Division League.

The Jets Football Academy advances to seven points after recording their first draw in three matches.

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

The Sea View Farm FC recorded their fourth win in as many matches by pulling off a 3-1 victory against Point Westham FC at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Zafique Drew struck twice in the second half with conversions in the 65th and 89th minutes after teammate Azari Edwards scored the opening goal for Sea View Farm FC in the fifth minute of play.

Ellsworth Mack scored a consolation goal in the opening minute of added time in the first half for Point Westham FC.

It was the second successive defeat for Point Westham FC after winning their previous two matches.

The result allows Sea View Farm FC to join Real Blizzard as joint leaders of the second division with 12 points from four matches, while Point Westham FC remains on six points from four encounters.

ECAB clinch top spot in business volleyball league



The ECAB volleyball team

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) has finished at the top of the standings during the round-robin preliminary stage in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank finished at the top of the standings with an unassailable 19 points among a field of nine participants in the mixed team competition at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

With the top four teams advancing to the playoffs, the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank secured top sport by snatching a 2-1 victory over former champions APUA Inet in the final league outing.

After losing the opening set 25-27, ECAB recovered to clinch the match by taking the next two sets, 25-18 and 15-10, and finished their quota of eight round-robin encounters with seven wins and one defeat.

ECAB suffered their only defeat in their penultimate league outing, losing 2-0 to Nate's Photography, who prevailed 25-22 and 25-18.

Nate's Photography leapfrogged APUA Inet to clinch second place by securing a 2-1 victory over bottom team 77 Bus Service in their final league match.

Nate's Photography prevailed 26-24, 23-25, and 15-12 to secure second place with 18 points, one less than ECAB. Nate's Photography and APUA Inet finished with identical records of six wins and two losses from their quota of eight matches.

APUA Inet finished in third place with 16 points after suffering their second loss in a 2-0 (7-25, 22-25) defeat against the University of the West Indies (UWI) in their penultimate outing.

The University of the West Indies moved into fourth place by pulling off a 2-0 (25-15, 25-16) over Zamine Enterprises in their final league outing.

The result allowed UWI to finish with 15 points and a record of five wins and three losses from their quota of matches. But UWI can be overtaken by Sandals, who have 14 points and a record of five wins and two losses from seven matches.

Sandals, who are currently in fifth place, can secure the fourth and final playoff spot by winning their remaining match.

Sandals won their penultimate league match, surging to a 2-0 (25-18, 25-15) victory over the Media, who remain in sixth place with seven points and a record of two wins and five losses from seven encounters.

Zamine Enterprises moved into seventh place by securing their second win in their final match to finish with five points. Zamine Enterprises claimed a 2-1 win against Royalton, prevailing 25-0, 17-25, and 15-13.

The Royalton remains second from the bottom of the standings with four points after suffering their sixth loss in seven matches.

The 77 Bus Service remain winless and in the cellar with four points after losing all seven matches, with one game left to play.

Head, Starc among players released before IPL 2027 auction



Mitchell Starc

MUMBAI (Reuters) - Travis Head, Mitchell Starc, Jacob Bethell and Trent Boult were among the high-profile names released by their Indian Premier League franchises on Tuesday ahead of the IPL 2027 auction on December 16.

Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals released Head and Starc respectively, with ESPNcricinfo saying the Australians want to manage their workloads amid a demanding schedule leading up to next year's One-Day International World Cup.

Australia are due to play a four-test home series against New Zealand from December, followed by the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India in January and the 150th anniversary test in March, before IPL 2027 begins.

After the league concludes, Australia could face an equally demanding run, with the World Test Championship final followed by the Ashes in England.

Mumbai Indians released 13 players including New Zealand fast bowler Boult and India seamer Deepak Chahar. They also traded captain Hardik Pandya to Punjab Kings in exchange for left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh ahead of IPL 2027.

Holders Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who secured a second successive IPL title in 2026, retained Virat Kohli and captain Rajat Patidar.

Bethell, meanwhile, will miss IPL 2027 after suffering a setback in his recovery from injury. The England all-rounder has been sidelined since July and is set to undergo knee surgery, ruling him out of next month's tour of South Africa.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni was released by Chennai Super Kings after bringing down the curtain on his IPL playing career and taking up a mentoring role with the franchise.

All-rounder Prashant Veer was the most expensive player released as Chennai parted with him despite his 142 million rupees (US$1.52 million) price tag.

Head, whose previous retention fee was 140 million rupees, was the next most valuable player among those released.



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Antigua lose CONCACAF Nations League Play-In against T&T



A starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda senior men's national team.

The Antigua and Barbuda senior men's national team failed to qualify for the Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF) Nations League Gold Cup Preliminary Tournament on Monday night.

Antigua and Barbuda failed to secure one of four spots from the relegation/promotion Play In after being knocked out by Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidadian Soca Warriors won the CONCACAF League A+C Play-In 4-3 on aggregate.

After claiming a 3-2 victory in the first leg of the CONCACAF Nations League A+C Play-In series at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound in Antigua on November 12, Trinidad and Tobago secured their berth in the Gold Cup Preliminaries by pulling off a 1-1 draw with Antigua and Barbuda in the second leg at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port-of-Spain on Monday, November 16.

Midfielder Daryl Massicot put Antigua and Barbuda ahead as his right-footed blast deflected past the Trinidadian goalkeeper Denzil Smith in the 13th minute.

Dantaye Gilbert netted the equalizer for the Soca Warriors in the 44th minute as he pounced on a rebound off the Antiguan goalkeeper Shahoi Dorsett and poked it into the back of the net.

Host Antigua and Barbuda's senior Benna Boys qualified for the League C Championship and the League A+C Play-In after beating Aruba in a top-of-the-table clash to win Group B of League C in the 2026/27 CONCACAF Nations League in Antigua in September and October.

Trinidad & Tobago earned their place in the CONCACAF Nations League Play-In by virtue of finishing in fifth place in Group A of League A.

Trinidad and Tobago will be among a total of 14 teams that will contest the Gold Cup Preliminaries, which comprises seven two-legged, home and away series in March 2027.

The seven winners will advance to the CONCAF Gold Cup Finals, which will comprise 16 teams. The draw for the CONCACAF Gold Cup Finals will take place on April 8, 2027.

The host nation and venues for the 2027 CONCACAF Gold Cup Finals are yet to be determined. However, it is expected that the tournament will be hosted in the United States of America (USA) or Mexico from June 17 to July 11, 2027.

Antigua and Barbuda, which has been promoted to compete in League B during the next CONCACAF Nations League, will face St. Martin in the semi-finals of the inaugural CONCACAF League C Championship in March 2027.

Aruba and Montserrat will clash in the other semi-final of the CONCACAF League C Championship.

Editor: Everton Barnes. Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua
Tel: (268) 562-4989 Editorials and Reporting: evertonbarnes@gmail.com; advertising: Sales@pointville.ag.