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PM Browne Makes the Case For A Common Regional Approach to Tax Concessions

Story on page 2



From Left to right: Mr. Colin James CEO ABTA, Mrs. Dona Regis-Prosper CTO Secretary General, Hon. Charles Fernandez Minister of Tourism A&B, Dr. Auliana Poon Featured Facilitator, and Mr. Sean Cenac PS Ministry of Tourism.

PM Browne Makes the Case For A Common Regional Approach to Tax Concessions

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne is making the case for a regional approach to the package of concessions that Caribbean countries offer to external investors.

PM Browne was speaking on the ***Browne and Browne*** show in response to criticism from the opposition United Progressive Party sources who have complained that the package of concessions that has been offered to investors was too generous.

The prime minister revealed that while on a recent trip to Qatar, he was interviewed by the media in that country and he informed them that Antigua and Barbuda has a 'very attractive' package of concessions based on the level of the investment package.

According to PM Browne when this was announced, it drew criticism from UPP sources who described the concessions as a 'giveaway'. "I spoke with the media in Qatar and indicated to them that we have very good concessions for hotels or any investment over $100 million and I see that there are people ridiculing me for speaking to the issue. The irony is that those concessions were passed by the UPP as part of the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority Act. Here is a situation where I am saying to them that we offer these generous concessions in order to reduce the hurdle rate so that they can turn a profit; so that they can get sustainability and you have UPP people who were part of their administration who now are taking an issue," he remarked.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

PM Browne said this behavior is what he describes as 'opportunistic opposition'. "Make it make sense; we know that if they were to get back into government, they would be promotion the same menu of concession," he exclaimed.

The prime minister conceded that while 20 to 25-year tax holiday may be considered excessive, the problem is that competitive pressures within the Caribbean are such that the government is forced to offer that level of concessions or the investors would go elsewhere.

"What we need to do as leaders in the Caribbean is to come together to see how we can rationalize those concessions and to reduce the lengths of time for which the concessions remain in place so that we can get a better return from these properties," he stated.



Antigua and Barbuda studying how to revive offshore financial services, PM says



Antigua and Barbuda is studying how to revive its offshore financial services sector and create jobs, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said Saturday as he outlined efforts to diversify the economy.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne Show, PM Browne described the offshore sector as "practically dead" and said a study was underway to determine "how we reposition that sector and to see how we can create additional jobs for people."

Browne disclosed the review during a discussion about the government's push to expand tourism. He said tourism remained an area where Antigua and Barbuda had particular expertise, while pointing to financial technology and businesses using cryptocurrency and block chain as examples of efforts to diversify.

He also cited the Citizenship by Investment Programme as a source of revenue that he had supported while in opposition. Browne said he backed the program at the time because it could "bring us fresh cash to make it easier to run the country."

Later in the broadcast, Browne warned that citizenship program revenue "may fall precipitously or could be eliminated." He raised that possibility while discussing the role of tourism investment and asking where alternative income would come from.

Browne did not identify who was conducting the offshore finance study, which services the government might seek to revive or when it expected the findings. He also gave no estimate of how many jobs a revived sector could generate.



Antigua and Barbuda Strenghtens National Capacity to Measure and Advance Productive Capacities through UNCTAD Training







The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), has commenced a two-day National Capacity Building Training on the Statistical, Methodological and Computational Aspects of the Productive Capacities Index (PCI), aimed at strengthening the country's institutional and technical capacity to assess and advance its productive potential.

The training, being held on 23–24 November 2026 at the Trade Winds Hotel, is convened under the project "On Stronger and Greener Productive Capacities for Just Transitions in Antigua and Barbuda." It brings together representatives from government ministries, departments and agencies to deepen national understanding of the PCI and strengthen the capacity to generate, analyse and apply statistical evidence in development planning and policymaking.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Joy-Marie King, Director of International Trade and National Project Lead for Antigua and Barbuda, underscored the importance of strengthening the country's productive foundations in response to its structural economic realities and evolving development priorities.

She noted that for small island developing States such as Antigua and Barbuda, sustainable development requires more than economic growth. It demands a deliberate strengthening and diversification of the productive base, enhanced human and institutional capacities, and an enabling environment that promotes innovation, competitiveness and resilience.

Ms. King emphasised the strategic value of the PCI in supporting this process, noting that:

"The value of this exercise will not be measured solely by our ability to calculate the Index, but by how effectively we use its findings to guide strategic interventions, address structural constraints and advance national development priorities."

She further highlighted the relevance of the initiative to the implementation of Antigua and Barbuda's Medium-Term Development Strategy, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) 2024–2034. She encouraged participants to view the training as an opportunity to strengthen national expertise and ensure that the application of the Index contributes meaningfully to the country's long-term development objectives.

Delivering the featured remarks, Permanent Secretary Statistics, Mr. Colin O'Keiffe, emphasised the indispensable relationship between reliable statistics, sound development planning and effective public policy.

He observed that the ability to measure accurately, interpret objectively and understand the underlying conditions shaping national development is fundamental to effective policymaking. He stressed that the credibility and usefulness of the PCI depend on the quality, availability, consistency and comparability of the statistical information underpinning its construction.

Mr. O'Keiffe underscored that the strengthening of national statistical capacity must extend beyond the technical production of data to encompass institutional collaboration, methodological rigour and the effective application of evidence. He stated:

"Statistics are not simply about collecting and presenting numbers. They are about generating knowledge, revealing structural realities and providing the evidence upon which sound public policy must be built."

He further highlighted the importance of strengthening coordination across the national statistical system, improving administrative data arrangements and fostering sustained collaboration among statistical institutions and sectoral ministries. Such efforts, he noted, are essential to ensuring that the PCI becomes a credible and practical resource for national planning, policy formulation and monitoring development progress.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Ms. Karen Cabrall, Deputy Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration, expressed appreciation to UNCTAD for its continued technical cooperation and support to Antigua and Barbuda through the project.

Ms. Cabrall also acknowledged the contributions of the speakers, technical experts, participating government institutions and all stakeholders involved in the organisation of the training. She emphasised that the success of the initiative would ultimately depend



on the extent to which the knowledge and technical competencies acquired are translated into institutional practice and meaningful policy action.

She noted that:

"The ultimate value of this initiative will be realised through our ability to translate the insights and technical knowledge gained into stronger institutional capabilities, more informed policy decisions and measurable improvements in our national productive capacities."

The two-day training focuses on the statistical foundations, methodological considerations and computational requirements of the PCI. Through technical presentations and practical engagement, participants will strengthen their understanding of the Index, including the data requirements, indicator selection, measurement approaches and analytical processes involved in its application.

The PCI provides a multidimensional framework for assessing the productive capacities that enable countries to achieve sustained economic growth, structural transformation and sustainable development. Its application offers Antigua and Barbuda an important opportunity to identify productive strengths, assess structural constraints and inform policy interventions aimed at improving competitiveness, diversifying the economy and strengthening resilience.

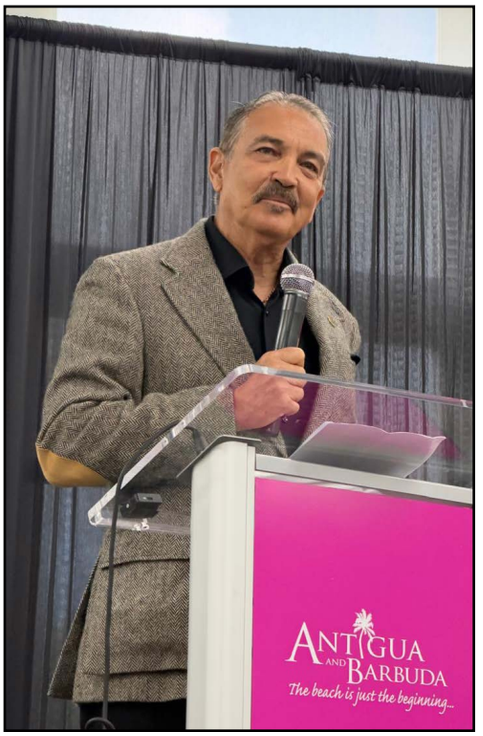
The initiative is particularly timely as Antigua and Barbuda advances its national development priorities and seeks to strengthen productive opportunities in areas such as renewable energy, agro-processing, digital services, fisheries and the wider blue economy. It also reinforces the importance of ensuring that the transition towards greener production systems is inclusive and creates meaningful opportunities for businesses, workers and communities.

Through its collaboration with UNCTAD, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda continues to advance efforts to strengthen national institutional and technical capacities, ensuring that evidence-based approaches inform the development of a more diversified, competitive, greener and resilient economy.

The delegation from UNCTAD include Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, Andrzej Bolesta, PhD Economic Affairs Officer Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes and Rachid Bouhia, Economist and Statistician Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes.



National Tourism Symposium Examines Opportunities and Challenges Shaping the Future of Tourism







The Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment successfully hosted its National Tourism Symposium today, bringing together regional and local tourism leaders, industry professionals, government representatives, students and other stakeholders for an engaging discussion on the future of tourism and the opportunities available to strengthen the sector and expand its benefits for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

The symposium formed part of the Ministry's Tourism Week 2026 activities and was held under the theme "Empowering Our People for the Future: Embracing AI, Building Skills and Securing Careers."

The gathering provided an important platform for examining the changing global tourism landscape, the influence of emerging technologies, the need for sustainable growth and the importance of ensuring that Antiguans and Barbudans are equipped to participate meaningfully in the evolving tourism economy.

In his opening address, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, the Honourable Charles Fernandez, emphasized that while the tourism industry continues to evolve, its greatest asset remains its people.

"Our people have always been our greatest tourism asset, and they must remain at the heart of tourism's future," the Minister stated.

Minister Fernandez noted that artificial intelligence is already transforming how businesses communicate, market their services and respond to customers. He acknowledged the opportunities technology presents for improving service delivery, understanding visitor needs and helping small businesses reach wider markets, while stressing that technological advancement must be accompanied by investment in training and human capacity.

The Minister also highlighted the success of the Love Link series as an example of the creative potential within Antigua and Barbuda. He noted that the production's use of authentic Antiguan storytelling, local talent and digital media demonstrates how homegrown creativity can contribute to destination promotion and reach audiences beyond the country's shores.

He further encouraged a broader understanding of tourism careers, pointing to emerging opportunities for filmmakers, digital content creators, graphic designers, software developers, marketing professionals, data analysts, entrepreneurs and storytellers. He reminded employers, educators and policymakers of their shared responsibility to ensure that training and opportunities keep pace with the changing demands of the industry.

A key feature of the symposium was the contribution of Ms. Dona Regis-Prosper, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), whose participation underscored the importance of regional collaboration and the shared Caribbean ambition of developing a stronger and more resilient tourism industry. Workforce strengthening capacity through regional organizations such as the CTO and the resources offered were





outlined during her presentation.

The featured regional and international guest facilitator, Dr. Auliana Poon, Founder and Chief Strategist of Leve Global, led an important engagement that challenged participants to examine the global state of tourism, emerging industry trends and the factors influencing changes in traveller behaviour and the wider tourism marketplace.

Her discussion encouraged participants to consider how destinations can incorporate emerging trends into their tourism strategies while developing appropriate responses to mitigate potential negative effects.

Among the important questions explored were how Antigua and Barbuda can capture more value from tourism expenditure, retain a greater share of tourism earnings locally and grow the industry more sustainably. The discussion also examined how individuals and businesses can benefit more directly from tourism, identify new business opportunities and use artificial intelligence to become more competitive.

Participants were further encouraged to consider the types of careers and skills that will be relevant in the future, and how young people, existing workers and entrepreneurs can better position themselves to take advantage of the opportunities emerging within the sector.

The discussions reinforced the importance of ensuring that tourism growth extends beyond visitor arrivals and traditional industry operations, creating meaningful opportunities for local businesses, entrepreneurs, workers and communities.

The symposium also highlighted the need to balance technological innovation with the personal service, creativity and genuine human connection that distinguish Antigua and Barbuda as a tourism destination.

The Ministry recognizes that preparing the country for the future of tourism requires a collaborative approach involving government, the private sector, educational institutions, tourism organizations and the wider community. Continued investment in skills development, innovation and local enterprise will be essential to strengthening the industry's competitiveness, resilience and long-term sustainability.

Ministry Thanks Major Symposium Partners

The Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment extends sincere appreciation to its major partners whose support and collaboration contributed to the successful hosting of the National Tourism Symposium.

Special recognition is extended to **Antigua Cruise Ports Ltd., the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Facility, INET Antigua, Flow and Antigua Computer Technology (ACT)** for their invaluable partnership and support.

The Ministry acknowledges that the successful execution of initiatives of this nature depends on strong partnerships and the collective commitment of stakeholders who share a vision for the continued growth and development of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry.

As Tourism Week 2026 continues through November 28, the Ministry remains committed to advancing conversations and initiatives that strengthen the tourism sector while ensuring that its benefits translate into meaningful opportunities for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

In closing, Minister Fernandez offered a reminder of the broader purpose of the country's tourism development efforts:

"For the true measure of our tourism success must never be simply how many people visit our shores, but how many of our own people are empowered to prosper because of it."

Governor-General and Dame Sandra Meet with World Monuments Fund Representatives

Governor-General Sir Rodney Williams and Dame Sandra Williams recently welcomed representatives of the World Monuments Fund (WMF) to Government House.

The visitors were Stephanie D. Ortiz Solla, WMF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and architect Zach Watson Rice. They were in Antigua and Barbuda working with the Historical and Archaeological Society of Antigua and Barbuda (HAS) to advance plans for the conservation and rehabilitation of the historic courthouse in St. John's, which houses the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda.

During the courtesy call, Ortiz Solla and Rice briefed Their Excellencies on the studies and design work undertaken since 2025 and discussed the museum's future.

"We now have a strong understanding of the building and museum's needs. Together with HAS, we hope to build momentum and local support to deliver a revitalized Museum of Antigua and Barbuda for generations to come," Ortiz Solla said.

Government House was included on the 2018 World Monuments Watch, WMF's heritage advocacy programme. Ortiz Solla reflected on the transformation of Government House and the growing recognition of St. John's historic buildings as an important part of the island's cultural life.







DEWS

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2x4x12 Dressed Treated
2x4x14 Dressed Treated
2x4x18 Dressed Treated
2x6x14 Dressed Treated
2x6x18 Dressed Treated
2x8x12 Dressed Treated
2x8x14 Dressed Treated
2x8x18 Dressed Treated
4x4x16 Dressed Treated



ROUGH TREATED LUMBER

1x4x14
1x4x18



SIDING

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1x6x14



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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
10TH JAN 2027
6:00PM
NIGHT TWO
ROXY - BEVERLEY DANVERS - PSALMIST ROBYN
RICHIE PELLE - DAWN JNO-LEWIS
MELONNIE SADLER - MADELYN LEWIS
GEN $100
GLORY LOUNGE $250
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
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FLOW

Six Fires in Less Than Six Hours...Arson Suspected!

The police are seeking the public's assistance as investigations continue into a series of suspicious fires that occurred between the evening of Sunday, November 22, and the early morning hours of Monday, November 23.

At approximately 8:40 p.m., firefighters responded to a construction site at Epicurean Drive, where several wooden pallets were found engulfed in flames. The fire was extinguished, and the scene was processed by officers from the Forensic Evidence Recovery Unit (FERU).

At approximately 9:00 p.m., also on Sunday, another fire was reported at the St. John's Catholic Primary School compound. A wooden structure housing the school's library was extensively damaged by fire. Firefighters and police officers responded to the scene of the fire.

Later that said night, at approximately 11:40 p.m., firefighters were called to a compound on Friars Hill Road, where several pieces of heavy equipment, including a backhoe and an excavator, were damaged by fire.

At approximately 11:50 p.m., firefighters were again called to a second fire at Epicurean Drive, where several additional wooden pallets at a construction site were found burning.

The blaze was extinguished with water. Meanwhile, the police and firefighters later responded to two separate fires involving unoccupied wooden houses in the Sutherlands area. The first was reported near Spencer's Service Station at approximately 12:50 a.m., while the second occurred near Christo's Supermarket and Wholesale at approximately 1:20 a.m, on Monday 23rd November.







One witness reported hearing an explosion before observing flames inside one of the buildings. All six scenes were processed, and investigations are continuing to determine the cause and circumstances surrounding the fires. Searches were also conducted in the affected areas; however, no suspicious persons were located. The police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity, persons or vehicles in the areas of Epicurean Drive, Friars Hill Road, the St. John's Catholic Primary School compound, or Sutherlands during the relevant period to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, or the nearest police station.

Flow Antigua and Barbuda employees volunteer at the Sunshine Home for Girls during Mission Week 2026



Flow Antigua and Barbuda employees volunteer at the Sunshine Home for Girls during Mission Week 2026, repainting and refreshing sections of the facility as part of the company's ongoing commitment to supporting the organization and the young girls in its care.


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Legendary 10
CARNIVAL CITY | 05 JAN 2027 | 6PM
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EXOTIC ANTIGUA
ROTI KING
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MENS WORLD
TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
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10TH JAN
2027
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ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
KEVIN DOWNSWELL
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The beach is just the beginning...
1 NATION CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
10TH JAN 2027
6:00PM
NIGHT TWO
ISLAND TRIBE COLLECTIVE
GEN $100
GLORY LOUNGE $250
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
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TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
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THE ABSURDITY OF IT ALL

When Did Proposing an Idea Become an Offence?





Sometimes I wonder whether common sense has become an endangered species.

The recent controversy surrounding Education Minister Daryll Matthew's suggestion that secondary school hours could be changed from 8 am until 1:30 pm to 9 am until 3 pm provides an interesting example.

The minister raised the possibility during a radio programme, suggesting that the change might reduce the time students spend unsupervised after school, ease morning traffic congestion, and create opportunities for extracurricular activities. He also indicated that consultations would follow.

It sounded like an idea worth exploring.

Yet the president of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers, Casroy Charles, responded with a strongly worded statement, criticizing the minister's approach and raising concerns about consultation and teachers' working conditions.

But what exactly had the minister announced?

Had he announced that the hours were being changed? No. Had he declared that teachers would be required to work longer hours? No. Had he ruled out consultation? Quite the opposite.



He had simply introduced an idea for public consideration.

Are we now suggesting that a Minister of Education cannot publicly discuss a possible reform of his ministry without first consulting the teachers' union?

Surely there is a difference between proposing a change and implementing one.

Consider a business that operates from 8 am until 5 pm but wishes to change its opening hours to 9 am until 6 pm. Would management be unreasonable merely for suggesting it?

Certainly, the implications for employees would have to be considered, including contractual obligations and applicable employment laws. But changing operating hours does not necessarily mean increasing employees' working hours. Different shifts, adjusted breaks, and other arrangements might be possible.

Similarly, the proposed school day would be thirty minutes longer, but does that automatically mean teachers would work thirty additional minutes?





Could timetables, breaks, or extracurricular activities be adjusted?

These are matters for discussion and negotiation, not assumptions.

Teachers have legitimate rights, and their professional expertise is essential. But education does not exist exclusively for teachers. It serves students, parents, and the wider society, all of whom have a legitimate interest in how schools operate.

The union is entitled to insist on proper consultation before changes affecting employment conditions are implemented. But that is not the same as insisting that consultation must precede the public expression of an idea.

Perhaps the proposed hours will prove beneficial. Perhaps they will create more problems than they solve. That is precisely what consultation should establish.

What concerns me is the tendency to turn even the consideration of change into a confrontation over rights, authority, and established arrangements.

Rights are important. So are reason, flexibility, and the public interest. They should complement one another, not compete.

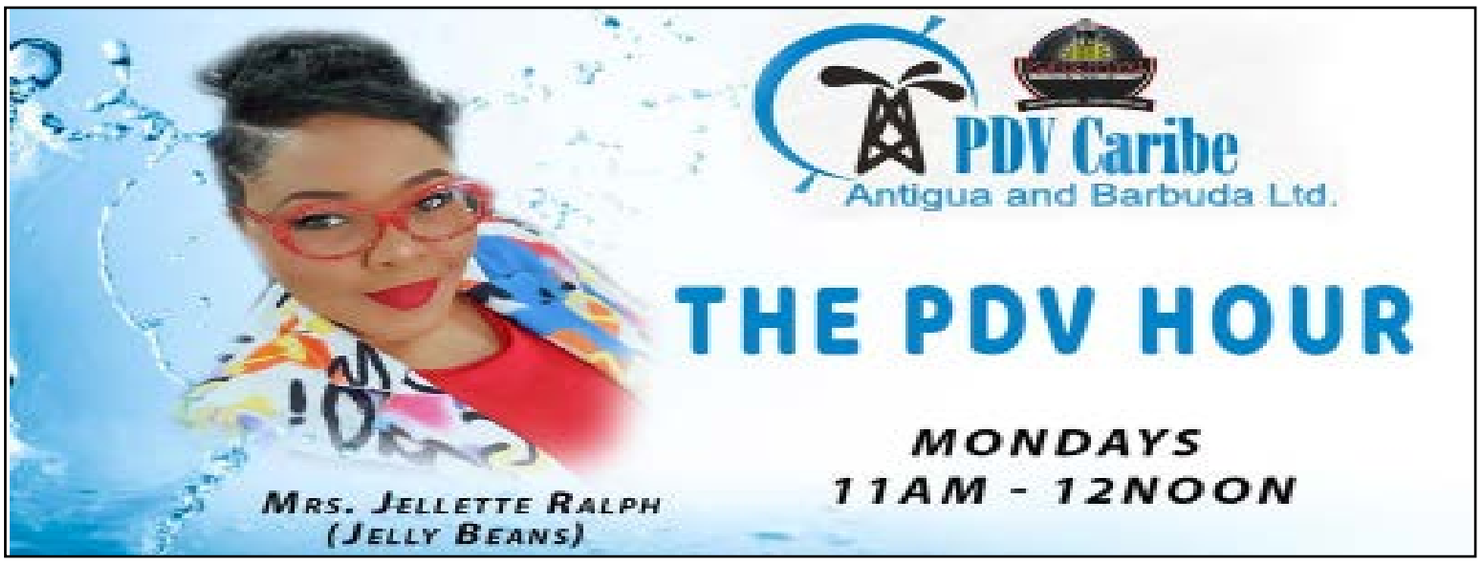
I am of the view that adjusting secondary school hours could have a positive impact on education. Interestingly, days before the Minister of Education publicly raised the possibility of changing the hours, I heard some random individual suggest extending the school day from 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. That got me thinking that perhaps the Ministry could instead consider shifting the hours to 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m., maintaining the same number of instructional hours while reducing the amount of unsupervised time students have in the afternoons. My reasoning is simple: students may be less inclined to engage in fights or other mischief before school, when they still have to attend classes, than after school, when they have the rest of the afternoon at their disposal. Such a change may therefore have benefits that extend beyond the classroom. Perhaps my assumptions are incorrect.

But surely we should be able to discuss an idea before deciding whether it deserves to become policy.

If proposing a possible solution has itself become a controversy, perhaps our problem is not a shortage of ideas. Perhaps it is a shortage of common sense, a shortage of critical thinking, and a shortage of the imagination needed to think outside the box. In short, we are not short of ideas. We are short of the willingness to entertain them. And that "in short" is the absurdity of it all.

WRITTEN BY AL

Al is the host of Triple AKA - The Smartest Show on Radio, airing on Pointe FM 99.1



A Little Buzz About the Future

By Zoë Carlton

As Antigua ventures into the world of api-tourism, Zoë Carlton takes a closer look at the extraordinary lives of bees, why the world needs them and the remarkable substance they produce that can outlast civilisations – but apparently not a British best-before date.



There's a buzz about Mercers Creek in Antigua, and for once it has nothing to do with politics.

The GARD Centre (Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development) has launched a US$35,000 project to encourage sustainable beekeeping, restore habitats and introduce something called api-tourism. Visitors will be able to discover the fascinating world of bees, sample local honey and perhaps develop a new respect for an insect most people would rather not find inside their shirt.

And bees certainly deserve respect.

These industrious creatures are responsible for far more than providing something delicious to spread on toast. Around 75 per cent of the world's food crop types depend, at least partly, on animal pollination.

Professor Simon Potts, a biodiversity scientist at the University of Reading, put it rather neatly:

"Without pollinators, many of us would no longer be able to enjoy coffee, chocolate and apples." A world without coffee or chocolate? Suddenly the situation becomes considerably more alarming.

Unfortunately, the world's bees are in trouble.

Habitat destruction, pesticides, parasites and climate change are taking their toll. Wild bee populations are declining in many regions, although the picture varies between species and countries. Managed honeybee colonies are another matter, and their numbers have actually increased globally over the longer term.

So it isn't quite a case of the world's bees disappearing tomorrow, but enough are struggling to make scientists seriously concerned.

And here's something surprising. There are more than 20,000 known species of bees, but most don't produce honey. Many are solitary creatures, quietly going about their pollinating business without hives, queens or the elaborate social organisation of honeybees.

Honeybees, meanwhile, are remarkably sophisticated communicators. When one discovers a promising source of nectar, it returns to the hive and performs a *waggle dance*, using movement to tell its colleagues the direction and approximate distance of the food.

All this without Google Maps, a mobile phone or anyone arguing about which turning they should have taken.

And then there's honey.

One of nature's most remarkable creations, properly stored honey can remain edible for thousands of years. Its exceptionally low moisture content, acidity and natural antimicrobial properties make it thoroughly inhospitable to most

microorganisms.

Honey discovered in ancient Egyptian tombs has helped inspire its reputation for immortality.

Naturally, the British authorities insist that jars of honey carry a best-before date.

One imagines the ancient Egyptians would have found this rather amusing. Having survived several millennia, their honey would apparently have failed a modern supermarket inspection.

Honey also has genuine medicinal properties. Medical-grade honey is used in certain wound dressings, while ordinary honey can help soothe a cough. It contains antioxidants too, although nutritionally it remains mostly sugar. Even miracles have their limitations.

There is one important warning: honey should never be given to babies under twelve months because of the risk of infant botulism.

Back in Antigua, the GARD project offers something rather more valuable than another tourist attraction.

S. Natalya Lawrence, National Coordinator of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, explained: "The beauty of this project is that it responds directly to those challenges by promoting biodiversity conservation while simultaneously generating economic opportunities for local people."

The initiative promises opportunities for local beekeepers, young entrepreneurs and environmental education, while helping to protect the plants and insects on which our island depends.

After all, bees have been quietly keeping the natural world functioning for millions of years, without committees, conferences or strategic development plans.

Perhaps it's time we returned the favour.




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Friday, 27 November 2026
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(near St. John's Police Station)
8:30 AM – 2:00 PM
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
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Have at least three (3) CSEC subjects, including English, or an equivalent qualification
Be physically and mentally fit for service
Possess strong moral character and integrity
WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE OPEN DISPLAY
Speak with recruitment officers
View and learn about our specialized units, equipment and vehicles
Get information on the application process, fitness and selection requirements
Have your questions answered
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BURNING FLAMES
GEN $100
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ROCK
REGGAE
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ANTIGUACARNIVAL
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1NATIONMUSICFESTIVAL


Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
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CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
10TH JAN 2027
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ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
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Antigua Barbuda
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CARICOM expresses deep disappointment over COP31 outcome

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has expressed deep disappointment following the failure of international negotiators to reach an overarching climate agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye.

The conference concluded on Sunday following two weeks of negotiations, with disagreements surrounding fossil fuels preventing countries from reaching a consensus.

The outcome represents a significant setback for Caribbean small island developing states, which remain disproportionately vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change despite contributing relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions.



CARICOM highlighted the growing threats posed by rising sea levels, coastal flooding, coral reef degradation and increasing pressure on freshwater resources.

Throughout the negotiations, the regional bloc advocated for a clear pathway towards tripling climate adaptation financing by 2035, alongside increased financial support to assist vulnerable countries in recovering from climate-related disasters.

The Community also emphasized the need for grants and accessible financing mechanisms that would not further exacerbate the debt burden of developing nations.

Despite the disappointing outcome, CARICOM reaffirmed its commitment to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and advancing the interests of small island developing states in international climate negotiations.

For Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean nations, the failure to secure stronger climate commitments underscores the urgent need for international cooperation, adequate financing and decisive action to safeguard vulnerable communities, economies and ecosystems.

Source: CARICOM Secretariat.



Two Americans sentenced to life imprisonment in Dominica

ROSEAU, Dominica – Two United States nationals have been sentenced to life imprisonment without parole for the murders of Canadian businessman Daniel Langlois and his partner, Dominique Marchand, in a case that attracted widespread international attention.

High Court Judge Justice Sejilla McDowall handed down the sentences on Monday to Jonathan Lehrer and Robert Thomas Snider Jr., who were convicted by a nine-member jury on July 28, 2026.

The couple's bodies were discovered in a burnt-out vehicle on December 1, 2023, following reports that they were missing.

Langlois, a successful technology entrepreneur, founded Softimage, an animation software company whose technology was used in several major Hollywood productions.

He and Marchand had lived in Dominica since 1997 and were widely recognised for their philanthropic contributions, investments in sustainable tourism and support for community development.



Court documents revealed that Langlois and Lehrer had been involved in a longstanding dispute over access to a road connecting their neighbouring properties.

Both convicted men have maintained their innocence.

Director of Public Prosecutions Sherma Dalrymple welcomed the sentencing, describing it as fair and consistent with the Eastern Caribbean's sentencing guidelines. Prosecutors have expressed confidence in the convictions and sentences.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) and CBC News. Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation



Trinidad and Tobago to ban scrap metal exports by December 31



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – The government of Trinidad and Tobago has announced plans to impose a complete ban on the export of scrap iron, copper and brass by December 31, 2026, amid growing concerns over organised criminal activity and the destruction of critical infrastructure.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar announced the decision on Sunday, citing persistent thefts of public and private property associated with the industry.

Among the items frequently targeted are electrical cables, road signs, manhole covers and fire hydrants.

The Prime Minister noted that the theft of infrastructure belonging to the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) has resulted in significant disruptions to essential services, affecting thousands of citizens.

According to Persad-Bissessar, successive administrations have attempted to address criminal activity within the sector over the past two decades, with limited success.

She maintained that protecting citizens, businesses and critical national infrastructure must take precedence over the financial interests of the scrap metal export industry.

The Prime Minister also indicated that national security agencies are prepared to respond to any developments arising from the implementation of the ban.

The proposed measure represents a major policy intervention aimed at curbing infrastructure theft and safeguarding essential public services across the twin-island republic.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) and TTT News. TTT News



Trump threatens renewed military strikes against Iran if negotiations fail



WASHINGTON, United States – United States President Donald Trump has signalled that Washington could resume major military operations against Iran in early 2027 if ongoing diplomatic negotiations fail to produce an acceptable agreement.

Speaking during an interview with Fox News, Trump expressed frustration with the progress of negotiations, accusing Iranian authorities of becoming increasingly aggressive following the November 3 US midterm elections.

The president reiterated his administration's determination to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, insisting that any agreement must provide lasting guarantees against the development of such capabilities. Tehran has consistently denied seeking nuclear weapons.

Trump also alleged that Iran had intensified its missile and drone attacks in recent weeks, claiming that American defence systems had successfully intercepted the threats.

Meanwhile, Iranian officials maintain that diplomatic channels remain open, despite continued economic sanctions and military pressure from Washington.

Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are pursuing diplomatic efforts to bring both countries back to the negotiating table and prevent a further escalation of hostilities.

The possibility of renewed military action has raised concerns about global economic stability, particularly regarding international oil supplies and commercial shipping through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz.

For Caribbean nations heavily dependent on imported petroleum products, further instability in the Middle East could contribute to higher fuel prices, increased transportation costs and additional inflationary pressures.

While Trump has indicated that a decision could be delayed until the new year, no definitive timetable for renewed military operations has been announced.

Sources: Reuters, Gulf News and Iran International. Reuters



POINT EXPRESS ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Zelenskyy warns of renewed Russian attacks, calls for stronger air defences

KYIV, Ukraine – Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that intelligence reports indicate Russia is preparing fresh military strikes against Ukraine, renewing calls for greater international assistance to protect civilians and critical infrastructure.

In his evening address on Monday, Zelenskyy urged citizens to remain vigilant, respond promptly to air raid warnings and take necessary safety precautions. However, he did not specify when the anticipated attacks could occur.

The Ukrainian president appealed to the United States and other international partners to accelerate the delivery of air defence systems, particularly Patriot interceptor missiles.



Russian aerial attacks have intensified in recent months, causing widespread damage and disruption across several Ukrainian cities. An attack in central Kyiv on Monday injured five people, while a separate strike in the surrounding region on Sunday claimed 11 lives.

Concerns are also mounting over the destruction of Ukraine's energy infrastructure as the country prepares for the winter months. Damage to electricity, heating and water distribution systems threatens to further worsen humanitarian conditions.

Meanwhile, Zelenskyy reiterated Ukraine's aspirations to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), arguing that the country's membership would strengthen the military alliance.

Russia continues to oppose Ukraine's admission to NATO, an issue that remains a major point of contention in diplomatic negotiations.

The latest warning comes amid renewed discussions involving Ukraine, Russia and the United States aimed at securing a resolution to the conflict, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, a lasting peace agreement remains elusive, with continued hostilities raising concerns over humanitarian conditions and wider European security.

Sources: Reuters, Ukrinform and Ukrainska Pravda. Reuters



Democrats secure largest US House majority in more than three decades

WASHINGTON, United States – The Democratic Party has secured its largest majority in the United States House of Representatives since 1992, claiming at least 258 seats following the November 2026 midterm elections.

The milestone was reached on Sunday after Democratic candidate Chuck Hubbard defeated veteran Republican Congresswoman Virginia Foxx in North Carolina's fifth congressional district.

With four congressional races still undecided, Republicans have secured at least 173 seats in the 435-member chamber, representing a significant shift in the balance of political power in Washington.

Democrats have also secured control of the Senate with 56 seats, positioning the party to control both chambers of Congress when the new legislative session begins in January 2027.

The election results represent a major political setback for President Donald Trump and his Republican administration. Concerns over the rising cost of living, economic management and US military involvement in Iran were among the key issues influencing voters.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries is expected to become the first African American Speaker of the House of Representatives, should he be formally elected in January.

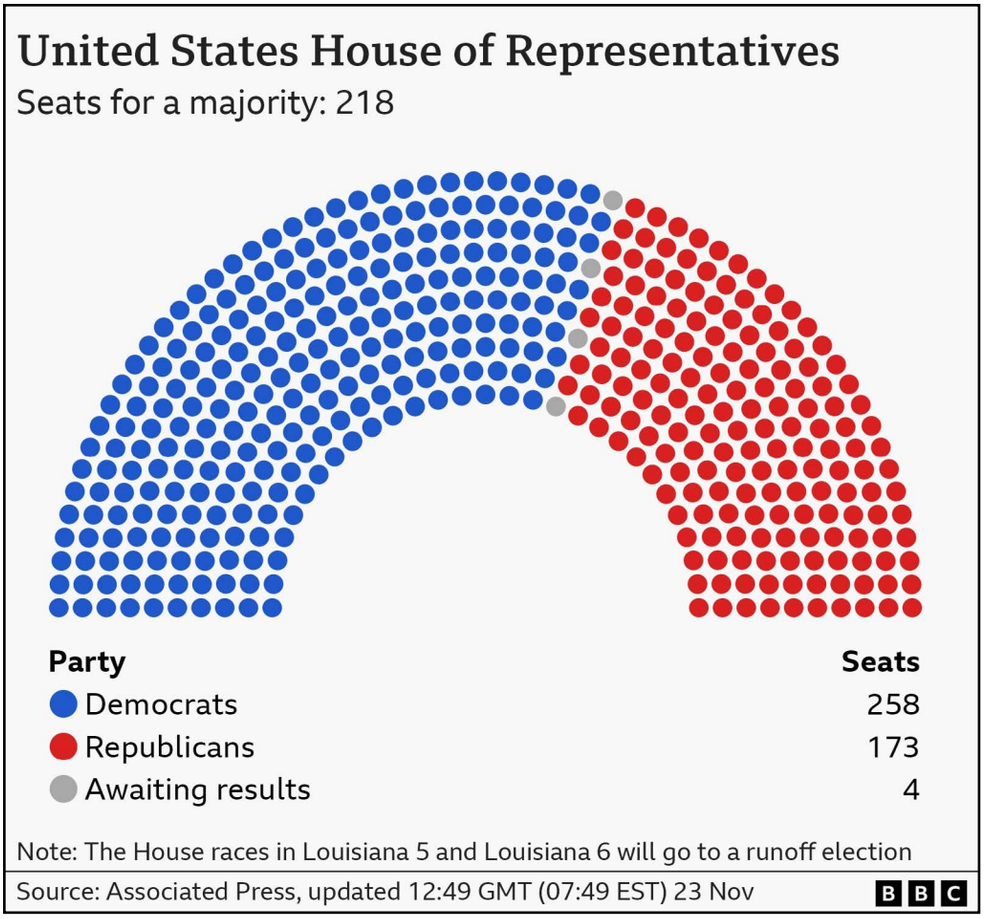
Democratic lawmakers are preparing a legislative agenda focused on healthcare affordability, reducing household expenses and strengthening congressional oversight of the Trump administration.

Meanwhile, Republican lawmakers have pledged to challenge Democratic policies and work towards regaining control of Congress in future elections.

Despite their congressional gains, Democrats will still face the challenge of advancing legislation under a Republican president who retains presidential veto powers.

The election outcome sets the stage for a period of divided government, with potentially significant implications for US domestic policy, immigration, international trade and foreign relations over the remaining two years of Trump's presidency.

Sources: Associated Press, Reuters, CBS News and ABC News. AP News



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Hermitage Bay reclaims business football league title



The Hermitage Bay Strikers football team

The Hermitage Bay Strikers have recaptured the JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

Hermitage Bay Strikers, which won the title in 2024, reclaimed their championship by snatching a 3-2 victory over the Galley Bay Ballers in the final at the Pigotts playing field on Saturday night.

Barrington Blake scored twice for Hermitage Bay to finish as the league's chief marksman and golden boot winners with 15 goals.

Blake scored in the 72nd minute after converting a penalty kick in the 31st minute. Teammate Rodney Lawrence scored the goal to snatch victory for Hermitage Bay Strikers in the 68th minute.

Ordel Samuel produced a 27th-minute conversion, and Ajarnie Thomas scored in the 56th minute for the Galley Bay Ballers.

Both teams advanced to the final by surging to commanding wins in the semi-finals at the Radio Range playing field.

Hermitage Bay Strikers pulled off a 3-0 victory over Cocos Hotel in the first semi-final. The Galley Bay Ballers recorded a 3-1 victory against the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors in the second semi-final.

Cocos Hotel claimed their bronze medals by cruising to a 5-1 victory against the CHAPA Warriors in the playoff for third place at the Pigotts playing field on Saturday evening.

Sherquan Daniels struck a hat trick for Cocos Hotel with conversions in the fourth, 43rd, and 50th minutes. The other goals for Cocos Hotel were scored by Adonijah Dyette in the second minute and Jean-Pierre Williams in the eighth minute.

Holister Anthony scored a consolation goal in the 51st minute for the CHAPA Warriors.

APUA Telecoms, which won the title in 2025, was ousted in the quarter-finals in a one-nil defeat against the Galley Bay Ballers.

A total of 28 teams, four less than last year, participated in the 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

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Wins for Villa Lions and Scorpions in Premier Division league



Players of the Aston Villa Lions starting XI huddle before the start of a premier division match.

The Aston Villa Lions and the Freemans Village Scorpions recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

After losing their first two matches, the Aston Villa Lions FC recorded their second successive win, coming from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory over the Cool and Smooth Greenbay Hoppers in the first game of Sunday's double-header at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

The Villa Lions got off to a poor start by being reduced to 10 men in the 33rd minute with the expulsion of Dahvia Hughes, who received a second caution (yellow card) that resulted in an automatic red card.

The Greenbay Hoppers capitalized on their one-man advantage to take a one-nil lead at halftime via Javorn Stevens' 38th-minute conversion.

The Greenbay Hoppers were also reduced to 10 men in the 49th minute, with the expulsion of Rodney Lawrence, who received a red card.

The Villa Lions went on to score two late goals to snatch victory. Jacques Obas scored the equalizer in the 82nd minute, and Jahlanie Barzey struck the winner with a conversion in the first minute of added time.

The result allows the Villa Lions to advance to six points from four matches, while the Greenbay Hoppers remain on nine points after crashing to their second defeat in five encounters.

Promoted Freemans Village Scorpions picked up their first win in three matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against struggling former champions All Saints United in Sunday's second encounter.

D'Andre Bishop achieved a hat trick by scoring all three goals for the Scorpions with strikes in the 22nd, 51st, and 59th minutes.

Nazir McBurnette scored in the 12th minute, and Shafeeq Joseph had a 42nd-minute conversion for All Saints United.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to advance to four points from three matches.

All Saints United remain winless and second from the bottom of the standings on goal difference without any points after crashing to their fourth defeat in as many matches.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Success for Antiguans at Caribbean Beach Games in Jamaica

Team Special Olympics Antigua and Barbuda (SOAB) delivered commendable performances at the Caribbean Beach Games in Jamaica from November 18 to 22, securing two podium finishes in Bocce and Women's 5v5 Basketball.

Darius March-Charles claimed silver in the Men's Bocce Singles Division A, while Christopher Lewis placed seventh in Division C. The pair also joined forces to secure fifth place in Men's Bocce Doubles.

Darius March-Charles and Christopher Lewis both competed in Men's Bocce (Ball Game) Singles Divisioning on Friday.

Following the Divisioning Round, March-Charles remained undefeated after four matches in Division A, becoming the first athlete in history to defeat Michael Detouche of Dominica in Bocce at the Special Olympics Caribbean Beach Games.

With a record of 4-0, March-Charles advanced to the sub-final with a chance to close out the competition 5-0. However, Antigua and Barbuda suffered its first defeat to Guyana.

This set up a final with 2 strategists who both ended with records of 4-1. The final saw Darius March-Charles being overcome by his challenger from Guyana, earning the silver medal in Division A.

Antigua and Barbuda's Christopher Lewis ended in the cellar position in Division C.

In Women's 5v5 Basketball, Team SOAB battled to a thrilling 20–18 victory over Trinidad and Tobago to capture the bronze medal.

The Antigua and Barbuda women's 5v5 basketball team had a record of 1-3, winning the final preliminary game against Haiti after losing to Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados, respectively.



Team Special Olympics Antigua and Barbuda (SOAB) with their medals at the Caribbean Beach Games in Jamaica from November 18 to 22. (Photo courtesy Joy-Ann Harrigan)

In the semi-final round, Team Special Olympics Antigua and Barbuda (SOAB) was defeated by Barbados, setting up the bronze medal match against Trinidad and Tobago.

Adding to the nation's achievements, Antigua and Barbuda was selected to host the second edition of the Caribbean Beach Games in 2028, marking another significant milestone for sports development in the country.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent comprised: Men's Bocce -Darius March-Charles, Christopher Lewis, and Esau Harrigan (Unified Partner).

Women's 5v5 Basketball - Aaliyah Rogers, Moraima James, Kanijah Sweeney, Shernice Henry (Unified Partner), and Tyea Ladoo (Unified Partner).

Management - Joy-Ann Harrigan (Head of Delegation), Jamille Nelson (Head Coach), and Ayanna Shadrach (Parent Coordinator).

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CWI and HiTZ Cricket forms partnership to create smarter training facilities

HiTZ Cricket has agreed a strategic partnership with Cricket West Indies (CWI) to modernise cricket training, expand participation and promote pathway talent identification in the Caribbean region.

The new deal will see HiTZ's automated cricket training experience installed across regional CWI Performance Hubs, with an ambition to place a HiTZ lane on every island within the next five years.

The objective of the partnership is to enable the West Indies to more effectively find and develop talent in each of its member countries, by using smarter technology and providing high-quality performance analytics. This will in turn give a wide range of players, recreational and serious cricketers alike, more unimpeded access to training facilities.

Each HiTZ lane, powered by BatFast technology, combines automated bowling, ball tracking and instant video replays, putting players in complete control of their training.

Players can choose from more than one million deliveries and set the seam, spin, pace, line and length they face. Every ball is tracked and recorded, meaning players can review their data and video on the HiTZ app after each session, and coaches and selectors can use it to track progress.



From left to right: West Indies and Antiguan Legend Sir Richie Richardson, CWI CEO Chris Dehring, and Founder and CEO of HiTZ Dominic Reed, share a moment during the recently held Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda from November 1 to 4, 2026.

The announcement comes just weeks after King Charles, Prime Minister Andy Burnham, and Commonwealth leaders departed the Caribbean following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), held in St. John's, Antigua, from November 1 to 4.

The new partnership follows a series of visits by West Indies cricket figures to see HiTZ in action in the UK, including Sir Clive Lloyd and Jimmy Adams. The West Indies Women's squad, led by Hayley Matthews, also trained using HiTZ technology after their World Cup semi-final and before their tour of Ireland.

Dominic Reed, Founder and CEO of HiTZ Cricket, said, "Being in Antigua for CHOGM was a brilliant experience and it was fascinating to see first-hand the role that cricket plays in Caribbean life. The West Indies has produced some of the game's greatest cricketers and there's more talent across the Caribbean than any selection system has been able to see.

"With HiTZ lanes across every territory, a young player can get more reps, choose the bowling they face and build a record of their progress that selectors can see. Our mission is to help players of all abilities reach their full potential and our ambition is that this partnership with Cricket West Indies becomes the blueprint."

HiTZ was launched to solve everyday problems in cricket training, such as sessions lost to the weather and the lack of quality bowlers at every level. Lanes are fully automated, with smart entry and no need for staff on site, so venues can open up to 24 hours a day, all year round. That model suits the Caribbean, where talent is spread across many islands and territories.

Chris Dehring, CEO of Cricket West Indies, added, "Antigua and Barbuda welcomed leaders from across the Commonwealth to talk about partnership and investment. Our partnership with HiTZ puts that into practice for cricket in the West Indies.

"Our players are spread across many territories and every one of them deserves a fair chance to hone their skills and be seen. We believe this technology solution is critical at this juncture and will be of particular benefit to our female cricketers who have never been given the same opportunity as our boys when it comes to developing their skills from an early age.

"Automated, data-led training hubs will help us widen our talent pool, give coaches and selectors consistent information and get more young people playing the game."

The Caribbean is the latest step in HiTZ's international growth, cementing HiTZ's position. The cricket training network has the largest footprint of any automated cricket training network, with 17 venues across the UK and in Australia.

Sports
TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2026
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

APUA Inet recaptures business volleyball league title

APUA Inet has recaptured the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship.

The fourth-seeded APUA Inet, which won the title in 2023, reclaimed the crown by surging to a 2-0 (25-20, 26-24) victory over third-seed Sandals in the playoff final at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night.

APUA Inet and Sandals ousted the two top seeds in the semi-finals to advance to the playoff final.

APUA Inet booked their spot in the final by pulling off a 2-0 victory against top-seed Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) in the first semi-final.

After finishing fourth in the round-robin league, which was won by ECAB, APUA prevailed 25-23, 25-20 over the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank during their meeting in the knockout mixed-team playoff competition.

Sandals secured their berth in the final by snatching a 2-1 victory against second-seed Nate's Burton Photography in the other semi-final.

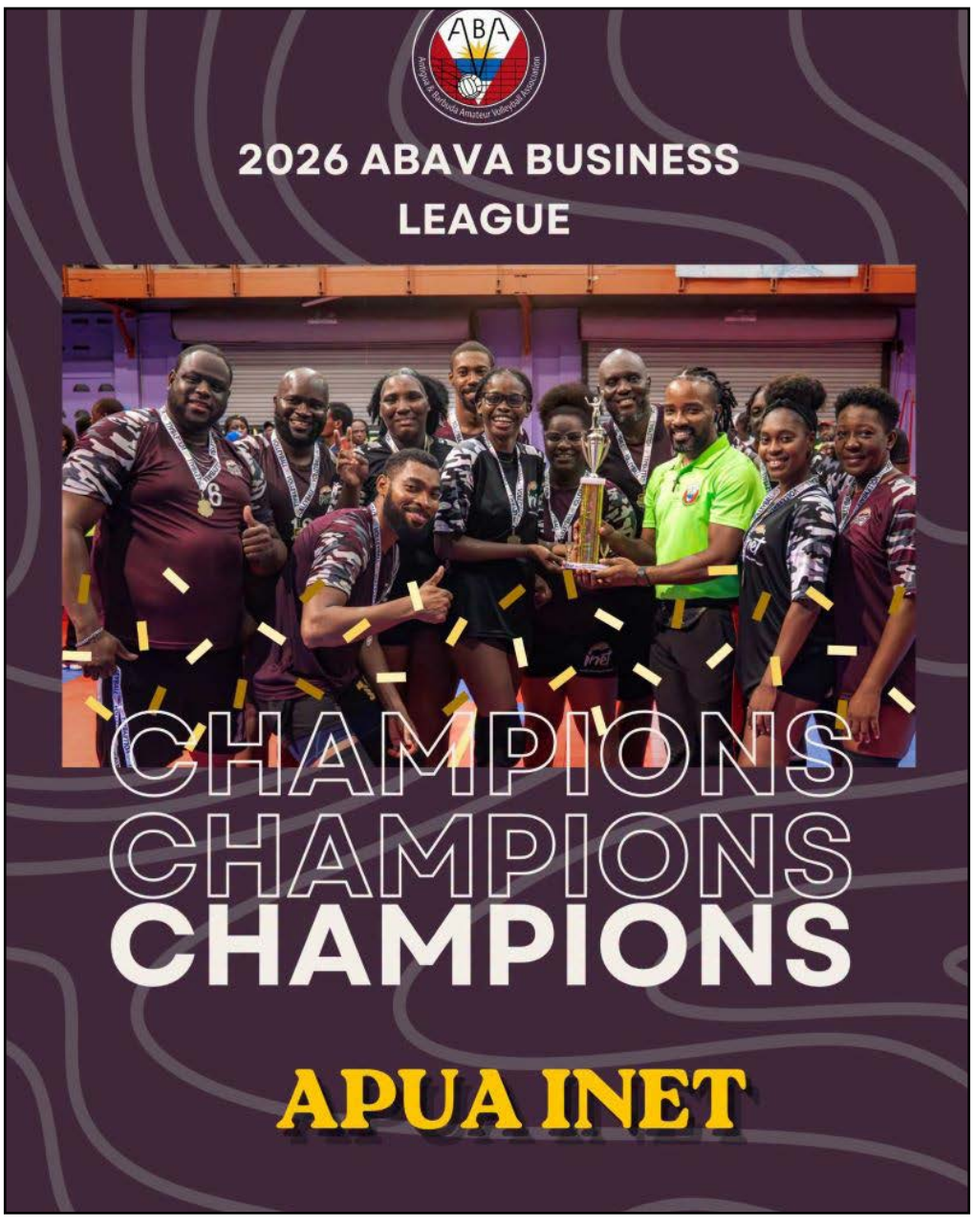
After losing the opening set 19-25, Sandals rebounded to win the next two sets, 25-15 and 15-13, to clinch victory.

Nate's Photography claimed the bronze medals by snatching a 2-1 (23-25, 27-25, and 15-11) victory over ECAB in the playoff for third place.

It was another year in which ECAB fell short of securing the title. ECAB's fourth-place position in 2026 ends three successive years of finishing in the runners-up position in the business volleyball league.

No competition was held last year, and ICONS, which won their maiden title in 2024, did not participate to defend their crown in this year's competition.

Nine teams participated in the 2026 ABAVA Business League Championship.



APUA Inet captures this year's ABAVA Business League Championship at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, November 21, 2026.

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