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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA SECURES EXTENDED TIMELINE FOR CIU PROGRAMME

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The Miss St. Mary's North Pageant 2026, presented by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) St. Mary's North Youth Arm, will take place on Saturday, December 12, at People's Place, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SECURES EXTENDED TIMELINE FOR CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA, 26 November 2026

Following representations by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the European Commission has agreed to accommodate an extended timeline for the operation of Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP).

In correspondence dated 25 November 2026, responding to the Prime Minister's letter of 30 October 2026, the Commission acknowledged the economic and fiscal challenges associated with the discontinuation of the Programme and agreed to a revised timetable for its orderly conclusion.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda welcomes and accepts the revised timetable, which provides additional time to address the economic and fiscal implications of the transition.

The Government also welcomes the Commission's expressed willingness to continue working with Antigua and Barbuda throughout the transitional period, including through engagement to support the country's economic diversification efforts.

Accordingly, the Citizenship by Investment Unit advises all applicants, authorised agents, investors and other stakeholders that the Programme remains open and fully operational.

The Unit will continue to accept new applications until 31 January 2029. Applications duly submitted by that date may continue to be processed until 31 December 2029, with the Programme concluding on 1 January 2030.

The Government remains committed to constructive cooperation with the European Commission, including the implementation and maintenance of agreed safeguards, in the mutual interest of preserving the integrity of the Programme during the transitional period and maintaining visa-free travel to the European Union for citizens of Antigua and Barbuda.

CIU

CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

END



Inland Revenue Department Underscores the Need formproved Tax Collection and Greater Tax Compliance

A delegation from the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has provided the Cabinet with a comprehensive overview of the state of the country's finances especially as it concerns revenue collection, tax compliance and measures being pursued to strengthen the Government's revenue base.

The Cabinet was informed that significant improvements have been recorded in property tax collections over the years, with revenues increasing from approximately $17 million to $19 million in previous years to approximately $30 million. However, the Department indicated that there remains considerable scope for improvement, particularly in securing greater compliance among domestic property owners.



The Inland Revenue Department outlined measures being pursued to recover outstanding property taxes, including the utilisation of enforcement mechanisms available under the law. Cabinet reiterated that property owners have a statutory obligation to pay their taxes and that the non-receipt of a property tax assessment does not absolve them of that responsibility.

Cabinet also discussed the use of modern technology, including satellite imagery, to improve the identification and assessment of properties across Antigua and Barbuda, thereby ensuring greater accuracy and comprehensiveness in the property tax register.

Cabinet took a policy decision that, in instances where the Government grants long-term leases of Crown lands, the lessee shall be responsible for the payment of all applicable property taxes, unless expressly exempted or otherwise waived by the Cabinet. Agricultural leases will be excluded from this requirement. Cabinet further agreed that the necessary amendments be made to the Property Tax Act to give legislative effect to this decision.

The decision is intended to broaden the Government's revenue base, address existing gaps in property tax collection and ensure that individuals and businesses benefiting from the use of Government-owned lands fulfil their tax obligations.

The Cabinet further reaffirmed its position that businesses benefiting from Government concessions must remain compliant with their statutory tax obligations. Businesses that fail to remit the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) collected on behalf of the Government, or otherwise fail to meet their tax obligations, risk having all concessions withdrawn until full compliance is achieved.

The Inland Revenue Department also presented proposals aimed at simplifying the administration of the ABST, reducing the Government's exposure to refund claims and improving the efficiency of the tax collection system.

Cabinet welcomed the report that corporate tax collections have exceeded projected targets and encouraged the Department to intensify its efforts to recover outstanding revenues and promote voluntary compliance.

Cabinet emphasised that improved tax collection is essential to the Government's ability to finance infrastructural development, deliver essential public services and expand social programmes. All individuals and businesses are therefore encouraged to honour their tax obligations and contribute equitably to the continued development of Antigua and Barbuda.



Minister Fernandez Celebrates Global Success of Love Link Caribbean



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, has extended heartfelt congratulations to Watkins Media Group, the producers of *Love Link Caribbean*, on the phenomenal success of the groundbreaking regional reality series as it approaches the conclusion of its inaugural season.

The first production of its kind to emerge from Antigua and Barbuda, the locally produced, filmed and distributed series has captured the attention of audiences across the Caribbean and around the world, generating more than 5.2 million YouTube views across 162 countries and territories.

With over 1.2 million watch hours and more than 76,000 subscribers recorded by mid-November, the series has demonstrated the tremendous potential of locally created content to compete on the international stage.

Minister Fernandez described the achievement as a moment of immense national pride, commending the producers, cast, crew and wider production team for their creativity, vision, professionalism and commitment to excellence.

"What makes the success of *Love Link Caribbean* particularly special is that it was conceived, produced, filmed and distributed right here in Antigua and Barbuda. To see a home-grown-production command this level of international attention is a powerful testament to our talent, ingenuity and capacity as a people. I am exceptionally proud of Watkins Media Group and everyone who contributed to bringing this vision to life," Minister Fernandez stated.

The Minister underscored the significant value the production has brought to Brand Antigua and Barbuda, noting that its organic exposure to millions of viewers has showcased the destination's natural beauty, vibrant culture, hospitality and creative talent in an authentic and engaging manner.

He further highlighted the importance of embracing innovative approaches to destination marketing, recognizing the growing influence of entertainment, digital storytelling and locally produced content in shaping global perceptions and inspiring travel.

In recognition of the series' outstanding achievements and its potential for further growth, Minister Fernandez has committed the support of the Tourism Authority towards the production of Season Two. The Tourism Authority is responsible for marketing Antigua and Barbuda as a destination.

"The value that *Love Link Caribbean* has brought to Brand Antigua and Barbuda cannot be overstated. This production is a shining example of what is possible when we invest in our own people and believe in their abilities. We must move beyond simply being a destination where international productions are filmed and recognize our capacity to create, own and export world-class content. I hope this success inspires more of our local media and creative professionals to pursue ventures of this magnitude, knowing that being from a small island does not limit the size of their ambitions or the reach of their talent," the Minister added.

Minister Fernandez expressed his optimism that the success of *Love Link Caribbean* will serve as a catalyst for greater investment, innovation and entrepreneurship within Antigua and Barbuda's creative industries, creating new opportunities for employment, skills development and international exposure.

As the inaugural season draws to a close, Minister Fernandez extended his very best wishes to Watkins Media Group, the cast, crew and all those associated with the production, wishing them continued success and expressing his enthusiasm for an even bigger and more successful second season.

Electric Vehicles Utilized during CHOGM 2026 are now up for sale



The electric vehicles that were made available by Octopus and Geely for use during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) are now up for sale.

The vehicles are not owned by the Government. However, Geely and Octopus have agreed to offer the vehicles for sale in support of the transition to electric mobility in Antigua and Barbuda. The Government will facilitate the sale of the vehicles by receiving expressions of interest and coordinating the transaction on behalf of the owners.

The following vehicles are available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis:

Geely Vehicles

- 20 ZEEKR 7X vehicles at **US$50,000** each, plus any fees and charges imposed by the owner.

BYD Vehicles

- 4 BYD Yuan Pro vehicles at **US$25,000** each
- 4 BYD Sealion 7 vehicles at **US$46,000** each
- 5 BYD Seal vehicles at **US$50,000** each
- 5 BYD Sealion Comfort vehicles at **US$50,000** each

Prices are exclusive of any fees or charges that may be imposed by the owner.

The government has further agreed that the vehicles would be sold free of applicable duties and taxes, consistent with the Government's policy of encouraging the transition away from fossil fuel-powered vehicles and promoting the adoption of cleaner and more environmentally sustainable transportation technologies.

Persons interested in purchasing a vehicle should submit an Expression of Interest by email to:

fs.office@ab.gov.ag

Subject: Purchase of Electric Vehicle –*[Applicant Name]*

The email should include:ull name

- Address
- Telephone number
- Vehicle model of interest

Important Information

- Expressions of interest must be submitted by 10 December.
- Submission of an expression of interest does not constitute approval, reservation, or sale of a vehicle.
- Successful applicants will be contacted and must be able to make payment promptly upon approval.
- Vehicles will only be released after full payment has been received and confirmed.
- Funds received from purchasers will be remitted to the respective vehicle owners
- The Government reserves the right to establish and apply criteria for the allocation of vehicles and to discontinue or amend the process at any time. A committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Works, Solicitor General's Office, Transport Board, and the Procurement Board will oversee the sale of the vehicles based on guidelines approved by Cabinet.

The government noted that the initiative forms part of the Government's broader strategy to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels and advance Antigua and Barbuda's transition towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable economy.

more ways to win

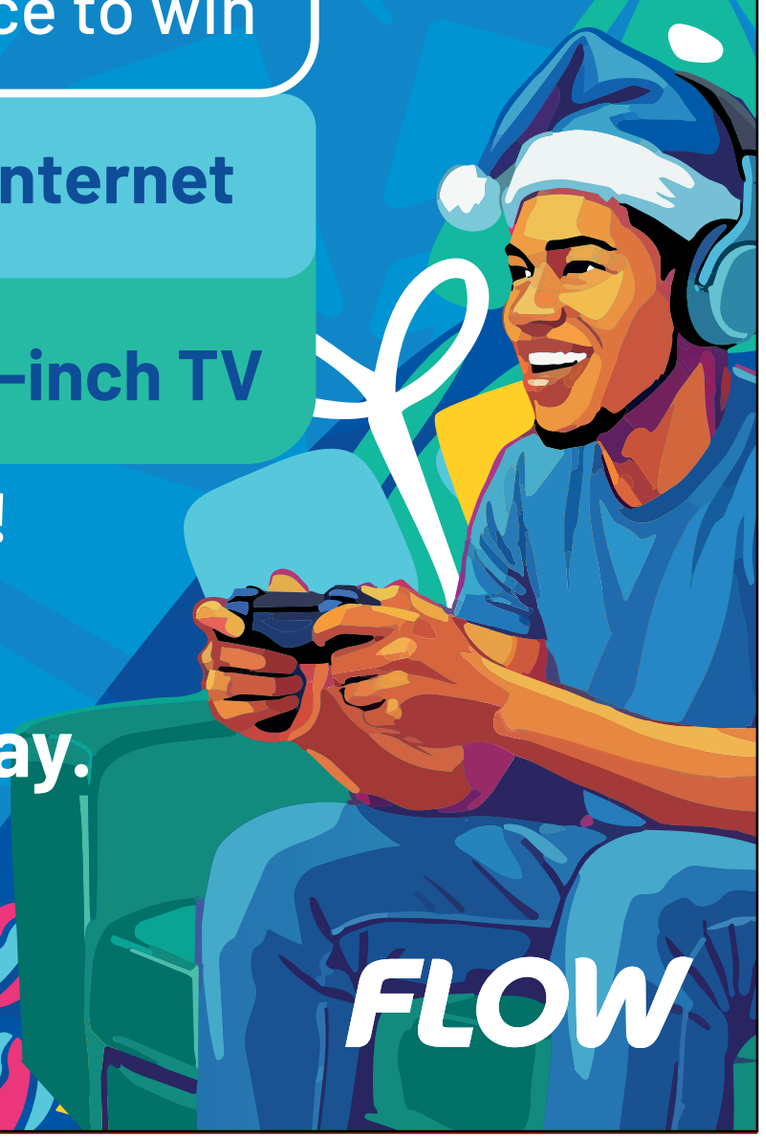
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The beach is just the beginning...
9TH JAN
2027
8:00PM
NIGHT ONE
ONE
NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
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1NATIONMUSICFESTIVAL

ABLP's Mary's North Branch to Host First-Ever Miss St. Mary's North Pageant

Presented by the ABLP's St. Mary's North Pageant Committee

A new chapter in the story of St. Mary's North is about to unfold as the constituency prepares to host its first-ever pageant, creating a platform to celebrate its young women, cultural heritage and community identity.

The Miss St. Mary's North Pageant 2026, presented by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) St. Mary's North Youth Arm, will take place on Saturday, December 12, at People's Place, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Guided by the theme **"Rooted in Resilience"** and the slogan **"Celebrating Our Heritage. Empowering Our Youth, Building Our Legacy,"** the event represents more than an evening of pageantry. It marks an important milestone for the constituency and introduces an initiative with the potential to become a lasting tradition of youth participation, cultural appreciation and community engagement.

For the four young women preparing to take the stage, this is an opportunity to become part of something greater than a competition. As the inaugural delegates, they will forever be connected to the beginnings of the Miss St. Mary's North Pageant, helping to establish a foundation upon which future generations can build.

St. Mary's North is making history, and the occasion offers the entire constituency an opportunity to celebrate that achievement.

ROOTED IN RESILIENCE: A CELEBRATION OF IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

The theme, "Rooted in Resilience," carries a message that extends well beyond the pageant stage.



Being rooted means understanding one's beginnings, appreciating one's heritage and recognising the people, experiences and traditions that shape individual and collective identity. Resilience, meanwhile, speaks to the strength to overcome challenges, embrace opportunities and move forward with determination.

Together, these principles reflect the importance of progressing without losing sight of the values and cultural foundations that define us.

The pageant's slogan further expresses the vision behind the initiative. Celebrating our heritage means preserving the traditions and cultural expressions that connect Antiguans and Barbudans. Empowering our youth means providing opportunities for young people to discover their abilities, build confidence and contribute meaningfully to society. Building our legacy means creating opportunities today that can benefit generations tomorrow.

It is a vision that extends beyond the contestants and speaks to the collective responsibility of families, communities and the wider nation.

FOUR YOUNG WOMEN, ONE HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

At the centre of the evening are four young women who have stepped forward to embrace the opportunity to represent St. Mary's North.

Each brings her own personality, perspective and experiences to the competition. Their willingness to participate reflects a commitment to personal growth and a readiness to develop the confidence, discipline and self-expression that come with representing a community.

While one contestant will ultimately receive the crown, the value of the experience extends far beyond the final announcement.

Participation provides an opportunity to strengthen communication skills, build self-assurance, explore cultural identity and develop a greater appreciation for community representation.

As the first group of delegates in the pageant's history, these young women will occupy a special place in the development of the initiative. Their

participation will serve as an example for future contestants who may one day follow in their footsteps.

Their courage to step forward and willingness to embrace this opportunity deserve recognition in their own right.

A CONSTITUENCY UNITED BY HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY

St. Mary's North is home to communities with distinct histories, identities and contributions to the wider story of Antigua and Barbuda.

From Jennings, Yorks and Bendals to Ebenezer, Cashew Hill, Hermitage, Dunnings, Brown Hill, Golden Grove, Emanuel Village, Bath Lodge, Martin's Village and Brown's Avenue, the constituency represents a diverse network of communities connected by shared experiences and a strong sense of belonging.

The pageant creates an opportunity to bring this collective identity into focus, encouraging residents to celebrate the people, traditions and places that make St. Mary's North distinctive.

It also reinforces the importance of community participation in shaping the future. Strong communities are built through cooperation, mutual support, cultural preservation and a willingness to invest in the development of young people.

The progress of a constituency cannot be measured solely by its infrastructure or physical development. Its greatest strength is also reflected in the character of its people, their achievements, their values and their commitment to future generations.

LEADERSHIP AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN YOUTH

St. Mary's North is represented in the House of Representatives by the Honourable Dr. Philmore Benjamin, Member of Parliament for St. Mary's North and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

With a professional background in medicine and responsibilities in Parliament, he serves within the wider framework of public service and national representation in Antigua and Barbuda.

As the constituency prepares to celebrate its young people, the occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of creating meaningful platforms through which the next generation can develop, participate and contribute to national life.

Young people need opportunities to discover their strengths, express their ideas, assume responsibility and become active participants in their communities.

The future of St. Mary's North will depend not only on the decisions and achievements of today, but also on the encouragement, guidance and opportunities made available to its young people.



Lions Club of Antigua thanks the Public for Continued Support and Announces Upcoming Events

The Lions Club of Antigua extends heartfelt appreciation to the general public, our valued sponsors, partners, supporters and friends of Lions for their continued support and generosity over the years.

Your contributions, participation and encouragement have played an important role in enabling the Club to carry out its community initiatives and humanitarian efforts throughout Antigua and Barbuda. We sincerely appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in us.

The Club wishes to inform the public that there will be no Takeaway Dinner hosted this year. While this annual event will be taking a break, our commitment to serving the community remains unwavering.

However, there are several exciting activities and fundraising events on the horizon, and we invite the public to support and participate in the following:

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Lions Club Golf Tournament – Saturday, November 28, 2026.

* Bingo Night at the Den – Saturday, December 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



* Trunks & Treasures Thrift Market – December 19 & 20, 2026 at the Den

These events provide wonderful opportunities for the public to come together, enjoy fellowship, and support the Club's ongoing community service projects.

We encourage everyone to stay connected with the Lions Club of Antigua through our social media platforms for additional information and event updates.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, generosity, and partnership. Your contributions help us make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our community.

Together, let us continue to make a difference.

WE SERVE!

Lions Club of Antigua

PUBLIC NOTICE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

The management of Zen Long Bay Hotel cordially invites members of the public, residents of surrounding communities and all interested stakeholders to attend a Public Consultation Meeting regarding the proposed Zen Long Bay Hotel Development.

Date: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Glanvilles Community Center

The consultation will provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the proposed development, ask questions, express concerns and provide feedback.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate.

Cabinet Considers Proposals for A Comprehensive Prison Reform Programme

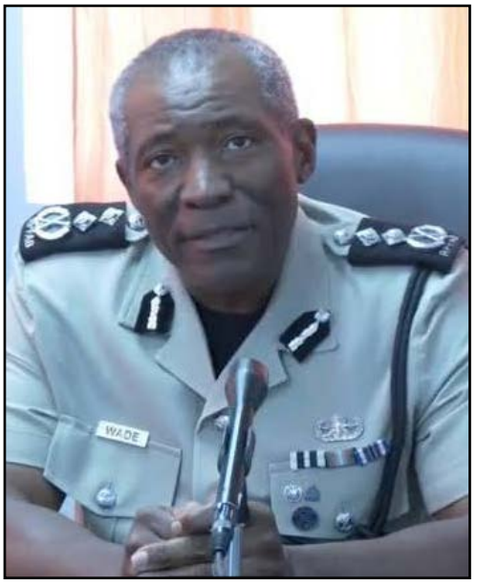
The Superintendent of Prisons, Deputy Commissioner of Police Albert Wade, on Wednesday presented to the Cabinet a proposed comprehensive reform programme aimed at modernising the country's correctional system, improving prison conditions and transforming inmates into more productive members of society.

The proposed reform programme is expected to span three years, from 2026 to 2029, and will be structured around eight pillars designed to address the operational, rehabilitative, infrastructural and developmental needs of the prison system.

A central feature of the proposed reforms is the expansion of rehabilitation and skills-training opportunities for inmates. Cabinet emphasized that imprisonment should not be limited to confinement, but should provide individuals with opportunities to acquire practical skills, develop discipline and prepare for meaningful reintegration into society upon their release.

The HAPPI Programme was discussed as an important component of the rehabilitation initiative, with emphasis on expanding opportunities for inmates to participate in productive activities and acquire skills that can improve their prospects for employment and self-sufficiency. Cabinet underscored the importance of combining rehabilitation with practical training and apprenticeship opportunities, rather than focusing exclusively on treatment programmes.

During the presentation, reference was made to Rule 197 of the Prison Rules, which provides that every sentenced prisoner shall be put to useful work. Cabinet was reminded that productive engagement is an important part of the correctional process and that inmates should be afforded



The Superintendent of Prisons, Deputy Commissioner of Police Albert Wade

opportunities to contribute meaningfully through agricultural production, skills training, maintenance and other constructive activities.

The Superintendent outlined plans to expand agricultural production at the prison farm, where approximately 50 inmates could be engaged in cultivation and related activities. The initiative is intended to increase food production, reduce the cost of feeding inmates and make the prison farm a more productive operation.

Cabinet discussed the need to improve the supply of agricultural inputs, including seeds and fertilisers, and to strengthen the farm's water-storage capacity to support cultivation throughout the year. The acquisition of a large-capacity water-storage tank was also raised.

Cabinet also discussed the need to increase the daily stipend paid to inmates who participate in productive work programmes. The proposed adjustment is intended to provide greater recognition and incentive for inmates who contribute through their labour and training activities.

A daily payment of EC$25 was discussed, but Cabinet considered the financial implications and favoured a more conservative initial adjustment of EC$10 per day, subject to further examination of the cost and administrative arrangements. The discussion also acknowledged that some inmates have family dependants and that the stipend could provide assistance to their households.

The presentation also addressed the importance of exploring alternative sentencing arrangements and developing a parole programme as part of a broader approach to correctional reform.

These measures are intended to support a more rehabilitative justice system, reduce unnecessary reliance on incarceration where appropriate and provide structured opportunities for eligible prisoners to reintegrate into society under suitable supervision.

Cabinet recognised that the implementation of these reforms may require legislative adjustments, administrative changes and clearer procedures governing sentence remission, prisoner conduct and eligibility for release.

The proposed reforms reflect the Government's recognition that a modern correctional system must balance public safety and accountability with rehabilitation, skills development and the preparation of inmates for productive lives beyond incarceration.

Cabinet welcomed the presentation by Deputy Commissioner Wade and expressed support for the continued development of the reform programme, emphasizing that successful implementation will require adequate resources, effective management and sustained oversight.

YOUR WASTE HAS A NEXT CHAPTER. LET'S HELP WRITE IT



Kelisha Pigott

Logistics Coordinator

Good Humans 268 Inc

Phone: +1 (268) 789-(GOOD)4663

Email: logisticscoordinator@good-humans268.org

Website:https://goodhumans268.org/

Address: P.O Box #W1460, St. John, Antigua W.I



Every day, businesses, households and events across Antigua and Barbuda generate waste. What if more of it could become an opportunity?

At Good Humans 268 Inc., we are exploring interest in three practical solutions:

Turning discarded glass into sand.

Diverting cans and plastic bottles from the landfill.

Educating your staff, family or event team about waste.

We have hundreds of educational videos. Let's start with this playlist: "Things We Know About Waste That You Should Know About Waste." It includes a closer look at sewage disposal, other videos from the landfill, and why what happens to our waste matters.

We want to work with you to transform how you manage waste—turning everyday disposal into opportunities for recycling, education and meaningful local impact.

Explore our pitch deck and see where you fit in

Let's get started. Reply "I'M INTERESTED" with your name, contact number and whether you're enquiring for a business, household or event. We'll contact you to discuss your needs and the next steps.



DEWS

Build • Renovate • Improve

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

DRESSED TREATED LUMBER

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

1x8x16
1x6x14



STEEL ROD

3/8" Steel Rod
(296)



METAL STUDS & TRACKS

6" Studs @ 24 gauge
6" Tracks @ 18 gauge
3-5/8 tracks @ 24 gauge
1-5/8 tracks @ 24 gauge



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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
ONE NATION CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
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
CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
1NATIONMUSICFESTIVAL


Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS
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CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
TICKET
OUTLETS
EXOTIC ANTIGUA
ROTI KING
COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD
TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
CLICCASH OFFICE
ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
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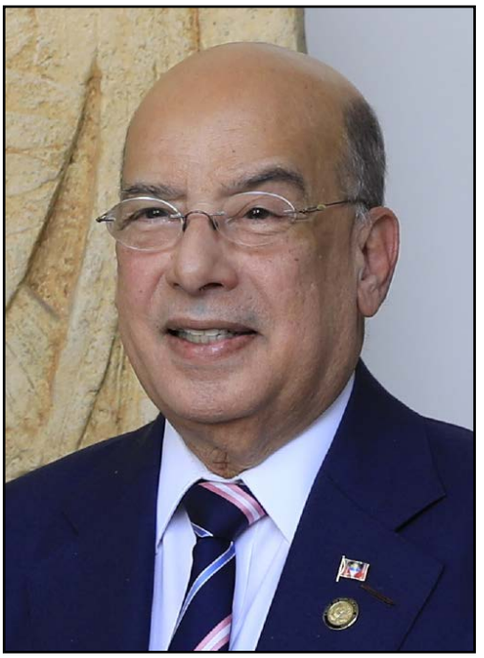

Antigua Barbuda
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CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
ADMISSION
FREE
ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL
LAUNCH
Legendary 10
CARNIVAL CITY | 05 JAN 2027 | 6PM
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
ANTIGUA CARNIVAL


Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
CIU
CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
ONE NATION CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
9TH JAN 2027
8:00PM
NIGHT ONE
POPCAAN - KES THE BAND - ANTHONY B
TIAN WINTER - CLAUDETTE PETERS
BURNING FLAMES
YOUNG LYRICS - YOUNG VICE - KID FRESH - EMPRESS
BALLO - SOCA VILLAN - ISLAND PRINCE - BLESS EYE
GEN $100
ROOTS ROCK REGGAE LOUNGE
$350
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
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FESTIVALS COMMISSION
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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
10TH JAN
2027
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MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
KEVIN DOWNSWELL
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GLORY LOUNGE $250
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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
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ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
10TH JAN 2027
6:00PM
NIGHT TWO
ISLAND TRIBE COLLECTIVE
GEN $100
GLORY LOUNGE $250
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
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EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
1NATIONMUSICFESTIVAL

After COP31: The World's Vulnerable Nations Must Unite to Make Their Numbers Count



By Sir Ronald Sanders

The failure of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Antalya, Türkiye, to agree on an overarching decision addressing fossil fuels and adequate climate financing should occasion serious reflection among the governments of the Caribbean, Central America, Africa and the Pacific.

These regions contain many countries most exposed to climate change. Yet, despite their numbers and the scientific evidence supporting their case, they have been unable to secure commitments commensurate with the dangers they face.

Is there something more they could do collectively?

COP31, which ended on 22 November, was not entirely without achievement. Decisions were taken on adaptation, technology and a just transition, alongside voluntary initiatives on electrification and investment. But agreement proved impossible on the overarching decision intended to give direction and urgency to international action.

But references to fossil fuels, whose burning is the principal driver of global warming, were also removed from the proposed final decision. Also a proposed target of US$120 billion annually for adaptation financing by 2035 was removed from successive drafts. Even that financing target would have covered only part of developing countries' estimated adaptation needs.

The United Nations Environment Programme's report this month estimated those needs at US$305 billion annually by 2035. International public adaptation financing from developed to developing countries amounted to between US$28.2 billion and US$31.7 billion in 2024.

Financing for climate-related loss and damage is equally disturbing. The first round of applications to the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage produced requests amounting to US$2.8 billion against an initial funding envelope of US$342 million.

What are governments expected to do about the remainder?

Where Caribbean governments borrow for building climate resilience and for reconstruction, the burden passes to future generations, who will themselves be exposed to further disasters.

Much the same predicament confronts Central America. Floods, droughts and storms threaten agriculture, food security and employment. The consequences extend beyond national borders as people deprived of their livelihoods seek refuge elsewhere.

In Africa, droughts, floods and deteriorating agricultural land strain economies that already face serious developmental challenges. The African Group sought stronger adaptation financing at COP31. So, like Caribbean and Pacific countries, African nations have good reason for dissatisfaction.

However, African countries and small island states do not hold identical positions on every aspect of climate policy. Several African countries depend heavily on oil and gas revenues. Others have substantial populations without reliable electricity. Their governments understandably regard affordable energy as essential to economic development. Similar considerations apply to some Caribbean countries.

Ghana, speaking for the African Group, indicated that it would not obstruct consensus despite the proposed decision's shortcomings. Several small island states could not accept it. Belize and Panama also rejected it.

But these differences need not preclude closer association on matters of common interest. Whatever their positions on fossil fuel production, vulnerable African, Caribbean, Central American and Pacific countries need adequate financing to protect their populations and economies without adding to burdensome debts.

Surely, something is fundamentally wrong when countries that contributed relatively little to global warming must incur further indebtedness to protect themselves from its consequences.

These countries have experience from which to draw.

The greatest negotiating success of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries was their joint negotiation of the Lomé Convention in 1975 with the European Economic Community, the predecessor of today's European Union. That idea was born in Guyana and nurtured by all the member states of CARICOM.

Acting together, 46 countries secured trade preferences, development assistance and arrangements to stabilise agricultural export earnings. Their unity gave them bargaining strength far beyond what most could have exercised separately.

The subsequent fragmentation of ACP trade negotiations into separate regional arrangements weakened that collective strength. The EU continued

negotiating as one bloc while ACP countries faced it in smaller groups. Advantages secured through unity were diluted. Changing international trade rules also affected those arrangements, but fragmentation reduced the ACP's capacity to defend its common interests.

That lesson should inform future climate negotiations. Regional interests need not be surrendered, but they should not displace collective bargaining on shared priorities.

There was evidence at Antalya that broader cooperation is possible. According to Carbon Brief's account, 126 countries, including small island states, least developed countries, Latin American nations and EU members, jointly proposed revisions to the draft decision.

The challenge is to sustain such cooperation well before future conferences, rather than assemble it as negotiations approach their conclusion. Ethiopia will host COP32 in November 2027. Between now and then, CARICOM, the African Union, Pacific island countries and interested Central American governments could explore a sustained partnership.

It need not replace existing negotiating arrangements or require agreement on every climate issue. Its purpose would be to establish common positions on predictable adaptation financing, increased resources for loss and damage, greater access to grants and concessional loans, and financing eligibility that properly accounts for economic and environmental vulnerability.

These objectives must also be pursued beyond annual climate conferences.

International financial institutions have considerable influence over vulnerable countries' capacity to withstand climate change. Their lending policies and eligibility criteria deserve as much coordinated attention as COP negotiations.

No country should imagine that greater numbers alone will overcome the economic and political influence of major powers. But sustained coordination across international institutions would provide greater bargaining capacity than separate efforts.

Their numbers would count through common proposals, coordinated diplomacy and political pressure, rather than votes alone. A small joint team, mandated to pursue agreed priorities, could ensure that common positions are advanced consistently between conferences. There is no merit in abandoning the multilateral system. For small countries especially, there is no satisfactory alternative to international cooperation. But there is considerable merit in examining how effectively they use the influence available to them.

In the nearly eleven years since the Paris Agreement, climate dangers have become more pronounced, protection costs have increased and financing has remained woefully inadequate.

Another year will pass before governments assemble in Ethiopia. For the world's most vulnerable countries, that year should be spent not merely preparing for another conference but determining how they might collectively secure a better result from it. CARICOM leaders could again champion this cause alongside their counterparts in Africa and the Pacific, joined by those Central American governments willing to participate.

Their people cannot afford an indefinite succession of disappointed expectations.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS, Chair of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and Chancellor of the University of Guyana.)



POINT EXPRESS
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BUDGET WATCH 2027

BUDGET BASICS 2

Taxes, Fees, Gifts and Passports

EXPLAINER 2: WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

The UWI Five Islands Campus Budget Watch

Prof. C. Justin Robinson, Dr. Cleopatra Gittens & Ms. Tessa Browne

A government has four main sources of income.

1. Tax
What residents and businesses pay.
Sales tax (VAT, ABST), import duties, income and property taxes.

2. Non-tax
Everything else the government earns.
Fees, licences, dividends and, in five of our countries, Citizenship by Investment (CBI).

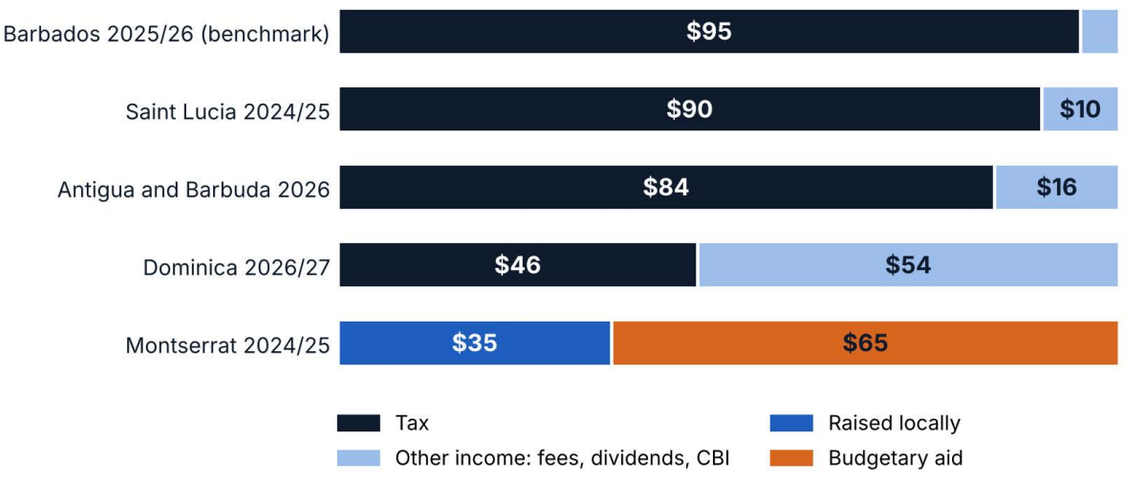
3. Grants
Gifts from other governments and agencies.

4. Borrowing
Anything still missing is borrowed.

Why it matters. Tax revenue is the steady part: it rises and falls with the economy, but it does not vanish. Non-tax revenue and grants can change quickly, because they depend on decisions made somewhere else. A budget built mostly on taxes is slower but safer, while a budget built on one large outside source is exposed.

The mix varies widely

Out of every $100 of recurrent revenue in the budget.



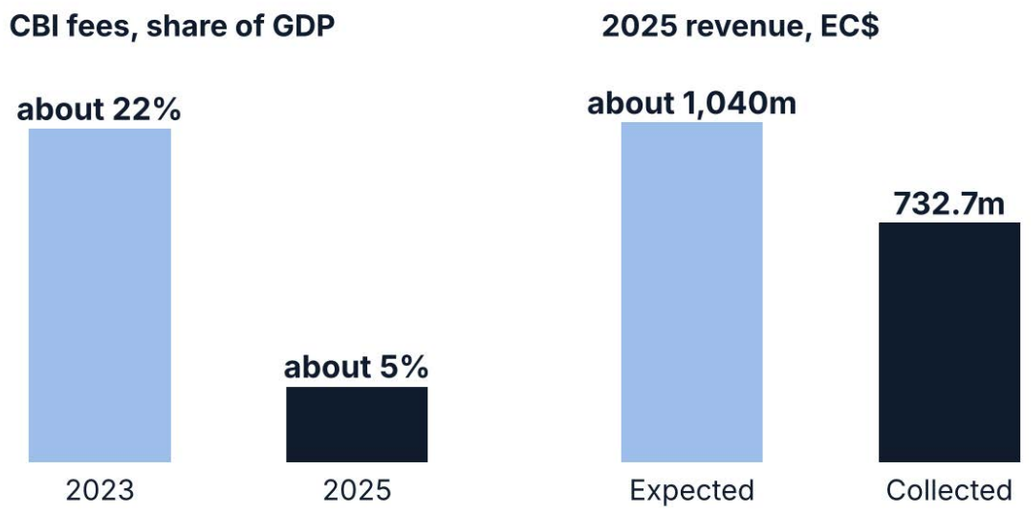
Source: national budget documents; Barbados is the SIDS benchmark. Antigua and Barbuda: tax revenue of EC$1.25 billion in EC$1.49 billion. Dominica: non-tax revenue of EC$558.6 million and tax revenue of EC$473.5 million. Montserrat: budgetary aid of EC$100.2 million. Barbados: tax revenue of BB$3.66 billion in BB$3.86 billion of total revenue.

63%
of Dominica's recurrent revenue in 2024/25 was budgeted to come from CBI: EC$760 million.

EC$168m
from sales of the .ai internet domain in Anguilla in the first nine months of 2025.

What happens when one source falls

In St Kitts and Nevis, CBI fees fell from about 22% of GDP in 2023 to about 5% in 2025, on IMF figures. The 2025 budget expected about EC$1.04 billion in recurrent revenue, while the estimated outturn was EC$732.7 million.



Source: IMF; St Kitts and Nevis 2025 and 2026 Budget Addresses. Expected is recurrent revenue; collected is the estimated outturn.

What to watch in 2027

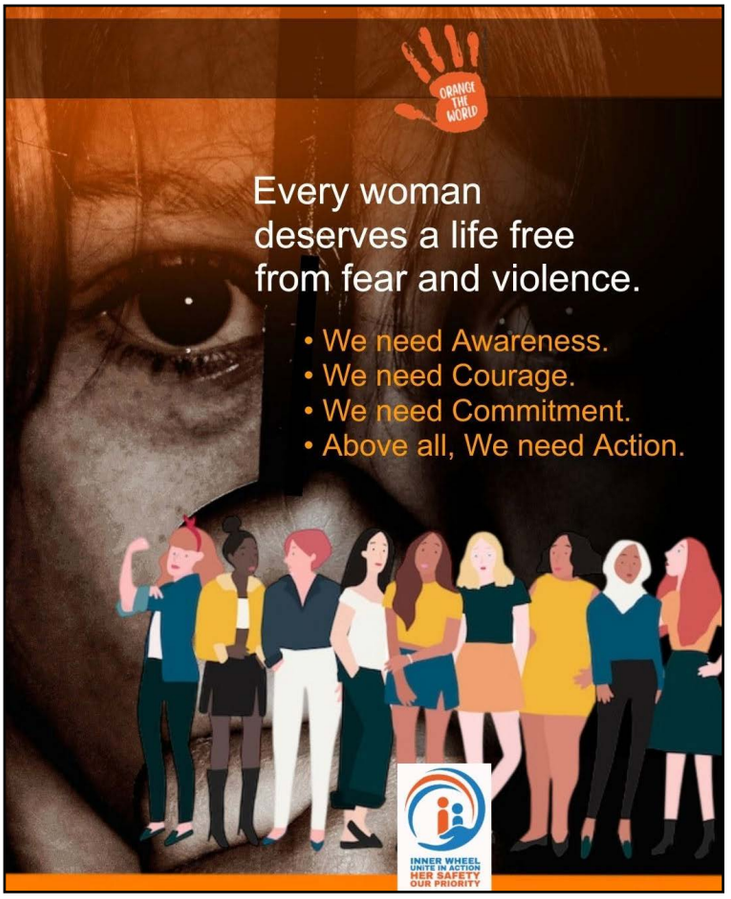
Ask how much of the revenue estimate comes from a single source the government does not control.



Her Right to Safety, Her Courage to Stand Days 4 and 5 of 16 Days of Activism

By Joshuanette Francis, Good Humans 268 Inc.

A woman's right to safety should never depend on the steps she takes or the help others lend. Her voice deserves respect, her choices deserve space, her dignity belongs in every public place. As our Orange Series moves through Days Four and Five, we ask what protection means in the lives women live. One day centres women with disabilities and their right to be free; the next honours women defending rights throughout our community.



Day Four, November 28, carries a message clear and true: her disability never excuses what someone chooses to do. Abuse can hide behind the language of care, when someone controls her movements or refuses the support that should be there. A wheelchair withheld, medication kept away, a trusted person deciding whom she sees each day. Dependence can become a weapon when assistance comes with fear, leaving freedom looking distant though the doorway stands near.

Protection must reach beyond a promise on a page; it must meet a woman wherever she stands, whatever her age. Can she enter the station? Can she explain what occurred? Will someone provide the support that allows her account to be heard? A shelter with steps may close the way; inaccessible transport may delay her escape another day. Safety needs planning, resources and care, so every woman can reach the protection declared there.

Let us recognise her knowledge of her own life, her ambitions beyond the struggle and strife. Women with disabilities are workers, leaders and mothers too, creating, teaching, organising, bringing fresh ideas through. Their voices must guide the services we build, so gaps are recognised and promises fulfilled. When women help shape the decisions that affect their days, inclusion becomes something practised in meaningful ways.

Day Five, November 29, turns towards those who take a stand, defending women's dignity across our island land. They accompany a survivor, challenge an unfair rule, or teach a child about respect within a school. They organise a meeting, make a difficult call, and insist that justice must be available to all. Their courage may be quiet, their efforts rarely shown, yet through their work, another woman learns she is not alone.

But who supports the women who continually appear when others need an advocate, a listener, someone near? Defending rights can bring hostility, exhaustion and strain, especially when speaking means revisiting personal pain. Appreciation must become practical support along the way: shared responsibilities, resources, rest and room to have their say. No woman should carry every burden on her own simply because her courage has so often shown.

These days belong together because rights need voices, and voices need protection to preserve their choices. A woman seeking safety may become the leader opening another door; an advocate with a disability may help a nation understand much more. Let us listen without assuming, support without control, and recognise each woman as a person, valued and whole.

Good Humans 268 Inc. calls for action that will stay beyond the orange banners and the campaign's final day. Make services accessible. Stand beside those who speak. Build communities where seeking help never makes a woman weak. From Antigua's neighbourhoods to Barbuda's shore, let safety, opportunity and justice reach every door. Her disability does not diminish her right; her courage deserves support as she brings injustice to light.

Joshuanette Francis

Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.

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A Fragmented World, and the Partnerships Small Islands Need



In a fragmented world, small islands need practical partnerships to bring down the cost of food, water and energy

By H.E. Theon Ali, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the State of Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic, and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda in the United Arab Emirates

On a small island, world events are never abstract. We feel their impact at the petrol pump, in the market and when we turn on the kitchen tap. That is why I am bringing one simple question to Tangier this week, where I am accompanying the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda, to the 18th MEDays Forum: Will the agreements we reach here help make life more affordable back home?

The bill on the kitchen table

Start with electricity. Most of our power is generated using imported fossil fuel, so shifts in global markets quickly affect households. This year, electricity costs have risen by 44.3 per cent, adding pressure to every home, hotel, hospital and business.

Then there is food. Like many small islands, we import much of what we eat. Ordinary people have little say over geopolitical events, but they feel the consequences as those events ripple through the supply chain: higher fuel and shipping costs can mean a more expensive loaf of bread. Then there is water. Desalination, which supplies much of our drinking water, depends on the same costly energy.

Food, water and energy are not three separate problems. Together, they make up one bill. That is the test I would apply to any partnership: can it lower that bill or make its costs more predictable?

Last weekend, climate talks in Antalya ended without consensus. Global agreements remain essential, but a family's electricity bill cannot wait for nearly 200 countries to reach agreement.

This year's MEDays theme, Fragmented World: Time for Choices, captures the question well. For small states, the choice is not whether to build new partnerships, but what those partnerships should deliver. They must be practical, grounded in shared values and common priorities, and focused on concrete projects, one sector at a time.

Partners with shared priorities

Many of those partners will be in Tangier. Qatar, a Gulf partner that has long made the developing world's priorities its own, has spent the past decade building up domestic food production, strategic food reserves and water storage in a land with little arable soil and scarce fresh water. Its experience with food and water speaks directly to an island facing the same pressures, while its energy expertise can help us with





the third.

Across Africa, Morocco has become a reference point for large-scale solar power and water innovation, and countries across the continent are pairing agricultural ambition with new trade corridors and climate-smart farming, work that could help lower what our households pay for power and food. For the Caribbean, Africa is more than a diplomatic partner: it is family, bound to us by history and by a shared stake in the future.

What could practical partnerships look like? Solar and storage partnerships that move our grid away from fossil fuel. Co-operation on desalination that uses less energy for every litre. Shared purchasing or storage arrangements that steady the price of staple foods. Each is modest on its own. Together, they change what lands on the kitchen table.

Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne's vision is of a small state that helps shape the global agenda rather than simply receiving it. He has carried that case to this very forum, calling in Tangier in 2022 for deeper South–South partnerships to restore justice and equity, and urging last year that the countries bearing the brunt of conflict, inequality and climate damage should lead the reform of the systems that shape their future. For him, reform has always been measured by its effect on people's lives.

In Tangier, I will work alongside Minister Greene and our delegation to turn conversations into concrete partnerships with friends in the Gulf, across Africa and throughout the Global South. Guided by the leadership and vision of our Honourable Prime Minister, we will pursue partnerships that strengthen our resilience and deliver practical benefits for our people. In a fragmented world, small states cannot afford to wait to be included; we must build the partnerships we need. And we will measure their value as our people do: at the petrol pump, the market stall and the kitchen tap.

About MEDays: MEDays is an annual international forum held in Tangier, Morocco, under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. Founded in 2008 by the Amadeus Institute and often called the "Forum of the South", it brings together heads of state, ministers, business leaders and experts, mainly from Africa and the Global South, to discuss the major political and economic questions of the day. Its 18th edition takes place from 25 to 28 November 2026.

Antigua Yacht Club: The Course Is Set

Few institutions have contributed more to establishing Antigua as one of the world's premier sailing destinations than the Antigua Yacht Club. From its modest beginnings to its role in internationally acclaimed regattas and the development of home-grown sailing talent, the Club's influence extends well beyond its waterfront. Following its recent AGM, Zoë Carlton looks at the opportunities ahead and the importance of ensuring that the Club's facilities and ambitions reflect its international standing.

In April, members of the Antigua Yacht Club were presented with an ambitious vision for the future of their much-loved but ageing clubhouse. Seven months on, the Club's AGM has provided renewed grounds for optimism.

A resolution to move forward with the redevelopment initiative, championed by outgoing Vice Commodore Richard Fear, was passed at the AGM – a welcome development for a project that received overwhelming support from members back in April.

Considerable groundwork has already been undertaken. Concept plans by local architect Andrew Goodenough go far beyond repairing deteriorating concrete and refreshing tired facilities. Modern amenities and a thoughtfully redesigned clubhouse could transform the

Club into a vibrant destination, better equipped to serve its members and the wider sailing community while preserving its character and maritime heritage. Although retiring, Andrew has generously pledged his continued support for the project.

Built in 1969, largely through the efforts of volunteers, the clubhouse has served generations of sailors and helped establish Antigua's extraordinary international sailing reputation. But sentiment alone cannot sustain an ageing building, and the need for redevelopment is becoming increasingly pressing.

In the meantime, Rear Commodore Sandy Mair has overseen substantial remedial works to keep the existing facilities operational, buying valuable time to develop the plans and secure fund-



ing. These essential interim measures were never intended as a substitute for a longer term solution.

Yet renewal must be about more than bricks, mortar and commercial tenancies. While its restaurants are an important part of the Club's appeal, they should complement its identity rather than define it. The Club's greatest assets remain its authenticity, its commitment to developing young Antiguan sailors and its role in ensuring that the opportunities afforded by Antigua's remarkable maritime heritage are accessible to future generations.

The AGM also brought changes to the Board and the introduction of term limits for senior officers. Commodore Dr Clarence Pilgrim, who has steered the Club through a challenging period in its history, now enters his final year in office under the new arrangements. With several important initiatives now poised to move forward, his remaining term offers an

opportunity to build on the work undertaken during his tenure and help shape the Club's future.

The Vice-Commodore, who chose not to stand for another term, leaves behind several promising initiatives. Beyond the clubhouse redevelopment, these include proposals to address the longstanding sewage problem, plans for a waterfront boardwalk connecting the Club with South Point and Maia and efforts to foster a more constructive relationship with the neighbouring Superyacht Marina.

Recognition must also go to the outgoing Board for the considerable work undertaken to keep sailing at the heart of the Club's activities. From the racing programme and international regattas to the development of young Antiguan sailors, these efforts have helped sustain the Club's reputation and nurture the next generation of sailing talent.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board, which inherits both significant opportunities and responsibilities. There is no shortage of ideas, expertise or enthusiasm among the Club's membership and plenty of goodwill upon which to build.

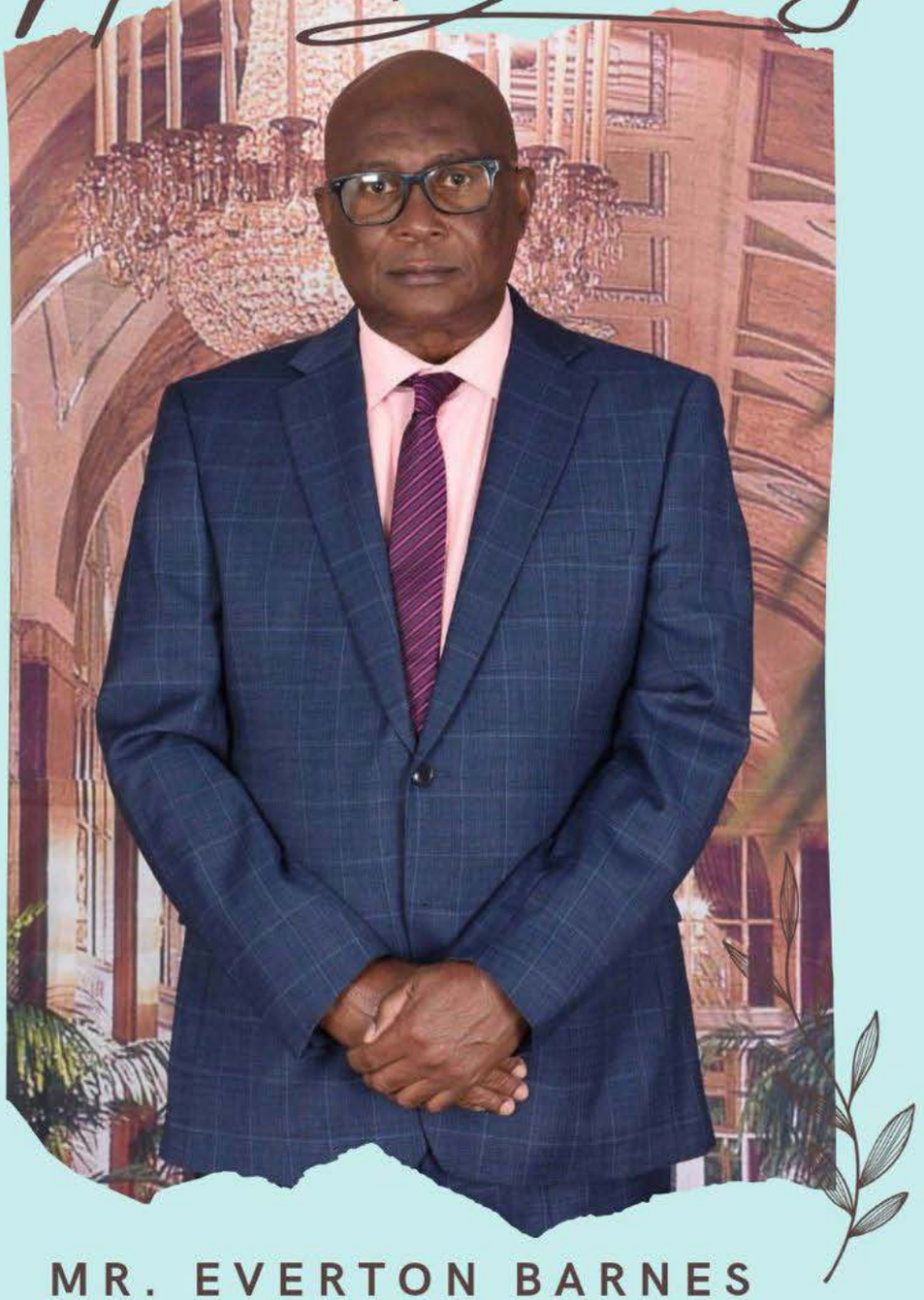
The vision has been articulated, the members have spoken and the foundations for progress have been laid. What matters now is delivery.

Antigua deserves a yacht club that reflects not only its remarkable sailing heritage but also its ambitions for the future.


Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
CIU
CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
9TH JAN
2027
8:00PM
NIGHT ONE
ONE
NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
BURNING FLAMES
GEN $100
ROOTS
ROCK
REGGAE
LOUNGE
$350
EARLY BIRD
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND
CLICCASH
TICKET LOCATIONS:
EXOTIC ANTIGUA | ROTI KING | COOL & SMOOTH
MENS WORLD, TOWN HOUSE PLAZA
CLICCASH OFFICE, ROYAL PALM, FRIARS HILL RD
ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
1NATIONMUSICFESTIVAL

28th November

Happy Birthday



MR. EVERTON BARNES

Today, we celebrate not only another year of life but also your leadership, dedication, vision, and unwavering commitment to excellence in journalism. Your guidance and passion continue to inspire the Pointe Xpress team as we work together to inform, educate, and serve our readers.

- The Management and Staff of Pointe Xpress

27th November

Happy Birthday

Best wishes on your special day!



CALEB GARDINER

28TH NOVEMBER

HAPPY Birthday



JAMAL PRINCE

Wishing you a wonderful birthday and continued success in the year ahead.
– The Office of the Prime Minister


Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVALS COMMISSION
CIU
CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...
10TH JAN 2027
6:00PM
NIGHT TWO
ONE NATION CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
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
ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
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
6:00PM
NIGHT TWO
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NATION
CARIBBEAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ONE PEOPLE ONE LOVE
SHERWIN GARDNER
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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ANTIGUACARNIVAL
ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL
1NATIONMUSICFESTIVAL

CROCHU RESIDENTS CALL FOR ACTION OVER SAFETY CONCERNS

Residents and business owners in Crochu, St. Andrew Grenada, are asking for greater attention to safety in their community, following reports of threats and alleged theft.

The concerns have left some community members worried about their personal safety and the security of their property. Several residents have spoken to GBN about their experiences, sharing why they believe action is needed to address the situation.

For people living and working in the area, concerns about crime can affect their ability to go about their daily activities with peace of mind. Business owners also have to consider the safety of their establishments, their employees and the people who visit their premises.

Residents are now calling for the situation to be addressed, as they seek greater reassurance that their concerns are being taken seriously.

The reports of alleged theft have added to the unease among some community members, while claims of threats have raised further questions about safety in the area.

However, the circumstances surrounding the reported incidents, including whether formal complaints have been made and what steps may be taken in response, would need to be confirmed by the relevant authorities.

Community members are hoping that their concerns will lead to meaningful action and help prevent further incidents.

For residents and business owners, the issue goes beyond protecting their belongings. It is also about being able to live, work and carry out everyday activities without fear.

The calls for action highlight the importance of addressing residents' concerns, investigating reported incidents and ensuring that those affected have a way to seek assistance.



As the community continues to voice its concerns, residents are looking for a response that will help restore confidence and improve their sense of security in Crochu.



SINT MAARTEN PLANS CHANGES TO MARITIME RULES

Sint Maarten is looking to take a firmer approach to maritime business activities, with plans to strengthen the rules governing commercial arrangements with neighbouring Anguilla.

The issue has been brought into focus by Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication Minister Grisha Heyliger Marten, who has signalled that the territory is considering changes to the way commercial maritime operations are regulated.

The proposed overhaul could lead to closer scrutiny of the arrangements under which businesses provide maritime services between the two territories.

Maritime transportation remains an important part of economic activity across the Caribbean, connecting islands and supporting tourism, trade and the movement of passengers and goods. For Sint Maarten and Anguilla, sea connections also provide an important link between neighbouring communities.

However, the minister's position suggests that Sint Maarten wants a stronger framework to govern these commercial activities and ensure that operators meet the requirements established by its authorities.

The proposed changes could affect discussions surrounding the conditions under which maritime businesses operate, although the specific measures being considered have not yet been confirmed in the information available.

A review of the existing arrangements could also bring renewed attention to the responsibilities of businesses providing services across territorial waters and the rules that apply to commercial operations.

For operators, any changes to the regulatory framework could mean having to pay closer attention to licensing requirements, operating conditions and other rules that may apply to their services. The actual impact, however, will depend on the details of any measures eventually introduced.



The development is particularly significant for businesses and travellers who depend on reliable maritime connections between Sint Maarten and Anguilla.

Ferry services and other commercial vessels play a role in moving people between the islands, supporting tourism and allowing residents and visitors to travel for work, business and leisure.

Maintaining clear rules is therefore important for both the authorities responsible for overseeing maritime activity and the businesses that provide these services.

At the same time, a tougher regulatory approach could prompt discussions between the two territories about how commercial maritime arrangements should operate and what requirements businesses must meet.

Further details are needed to determine whether the proposed changes will involve new licensing conditions, revisions to existing agreements or other measures affecting maritime operators.

It is also not yet clear when the revised framework could be introduced or whether consultations with affected businesses and Anguilla's authorities will form part of the process.

For now, attention is on Minister Heyliger Marten's position and what it could mean for the future of commercial maritime relations between the neighbouring territories.

As Sint Maarten considers its next steps, businesses and travellers will be watching for clarification on the proposed rules and whether they could change the way maritime services are provided between the islands.

The outcome could have implications for the region's maritime sector, particularly for operators whose services depend on connections between Sint Maarten and Anguilla.

Further announcements from the government are expected to provide greater clarity on the scope of the proposed changes and how they may be implemented.

FEAR GROWS IN AMITY HALL AS SECURITY FORCES SEARCH FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS



Residents of Amity Hall in St. Thomas, Jamaica, are expressing growing concern following a joint police and military operation in the community, as security forces search for a group of Haitian nationals reportedly arriving on the island by sea.

The operation follows reports that the group came ashore between Wednesday night and Thursday morning, prompting officers and soldiers to begin searches in Amity Hall and surrounding areas.

The increased security presence has left some residents uneasy, with reports that several businesses closed earlier than usual as concerns about the situation spread throughout the community.

For people living and working in the area, the uncertainty surrounding the operation has raised questions about their safety and what the reported arrival could mean for the community.

The situation has become more concerning following claims that some of the individuals being sought may be armed. However, these reports have not been independently confirmed, and the circumstances surrounding the group's arrival remain under investigation.

Security personnel have reportedly expanded their searches beyond Amity Hall to nearby communities, including Golden Grove and Hector's River, as efforts continue to locate the individuals and establish what happened.

The operation has also drawn attention to Jamaica's coastline and the challenges faced by authorities in monitoring maritime borders. Unauthorised arrivals by sea can present difficulties for security agencies, particularly when information about those arriving and the circumstances of their journey is still being established.

Meanwhile, the developments have raised concerns about the possible impact on local businesses and residents' daily routines. Reports of businesses closing earlier than usual reflect the unease being experienced in parts of the community as the security operation continues.

Residents are now waiting for further information from the authorities, including clarification about the reported arrival and whether any arrests have been made.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force has urged members of the public to remain calm and avoid spreading unverified information. The appeal comes amid reports circulating about the possible presence of heavily armed Haitian gang members in the area.

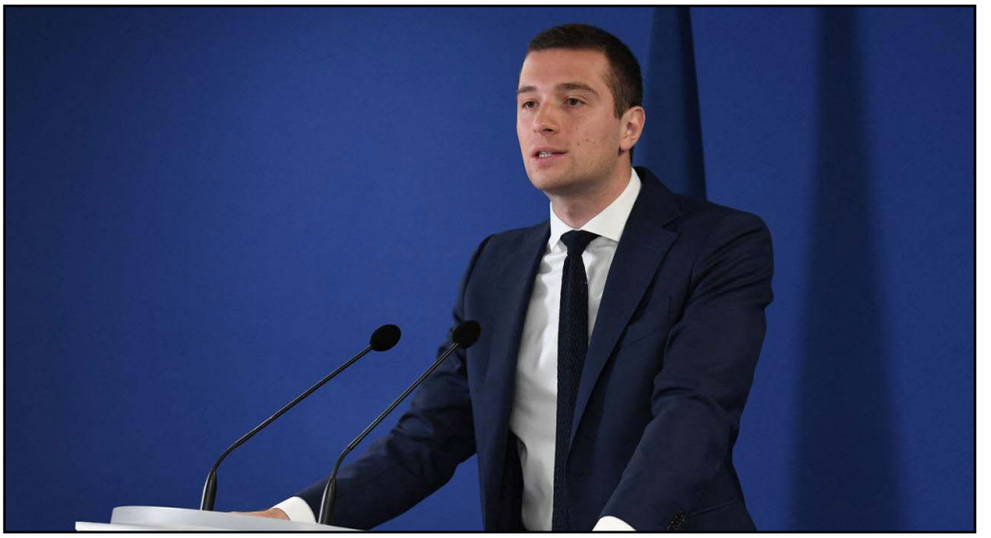
Police have indicated that these claims remain under investigation, highlighting the need for caution when sharing information that has not been confirmed by official sources.

The situation also raises the importance of ensuring that public concerns are addressed without encouraging hostility towards migrants. While authorities work to establish the facts, information about the individuals involved and the circumstances of their arrival should be based on verified findings.

For residents of Amity Hall and surrounding communities, the immediate concern remains their safety and the restoration of a sense of normality.

As the joint operation continues, attention will be on the outcome of the searches, any official statements from the security forces and further information about the reported arrival.

JORDAN BARDELLA FACES FRESH ALLEGATIONS OVER PAST COMMENTS



French far right politician Jordan Bardella is facing renewed criticism following the release of previously unaired recordings that have raised fresh questions about remarks he allegedly made as a teenager.

French media published extracts from online conversations on Thursday, bringing the issue back into the spotlight and prompting further scrutiny of the politician's past statements.

The latest allegations follow claims that emerged in September, accusing Bardella of making conspiratorial comments about Jewish people on Facebook in 2013.

Bardella, who is now 31, has denied any wrongdoing. He is a leading figure in France's National Rally party and a close political ally of Marine Le Pen, who has been a prominent figure in the country's far right movement.

The new recordings have added to the controversy, with attention now turning to the content of the conversations and the circumstances surrounding the remarks attributed to him.

The allegations are particularly significant given Bardella's growing influence in French politics. As a prominent representative of the National Rally, his public image and statements have attracted considerable attention as the party continues to push for greater political support.

The controversy has also renewed discussion about antisemitism in France and the responsibility of political leaders to address allegations involving discriminatory remarks.

However, Bardella has rejected the accusations, and the claims surrounding the recordings remain allegations.

French media continue to examine the material, while the latest developments are likely to keep the politician's past comments under public scrutiny.



KENYAN COURT RULES US BACKED EBOLA QUARANTINE PROJECT UNCONSTITUTIONAL



A Kenyan court has ruled against the government over plans to establish a United States backed Ebola quarantine facility at a military base in Laikipia, finding that the decision to allow its construction violated the country's constitution.

The ruling, delivered on Thursday, has raised questions about the legal process behind the project and whether the government followed the constitutional requirements before allowing the facility to be built.

The proposed site was intended to serve as a quarantine centre in preparation for a possible Ebola-related public health emergency. However, the project has now become the subject of a legal dispute, placing the government's decision under increased scrutiny.

The case highlights the importance of ensuring that government decisions comply with the law, particularly when projects involve public health, military facilities and the safety of surrounding communities.

Ebola is a serious viral disease that can cause severe illness and death. Health authorities rely on early detection, isolation and other public health measures to help prevent outbreaks from spreading.

Quarantine facilities can form part of these preparations by providing a place for people who may have been exposed to an infectious disease to be monitored. Such facilities are particularly important during outbreaks, when health officials need to limit possible transmission while assessing individuals who may be at risk.

However, establishing a facility of this nature also requires careful consideration of the legal and administrative procedures involved. Governments must ensure that public health preparations are carried out in accordance with the country's laws and constitutional protections.

The court's decision therefore puts the spotlight on how the Kenyan government handled the approval of the proposed centre and the requirements that should have been met before construction was permitted.

The involvement of the United States has also drawn attention to the project's international backing, although the specific terms of that support and the responsibilities of each party would need to be confirmed.

The ruling now leaves questions about the future of the facility and what steps the government may be required to take in response to the court's findings.

It remains unclear from the information available whether construction will be halted, whether changes will be required or whether the authorities will pursue further legal action.

The decision serves as a reminder that even projects intended to strengthen emergency health preparedness must follow the legal framework governing government action.

As the matter develops, attention will be on the government's response and the implications of the ruling for the proposed quarantine centre in Laikipia.

INDIA TURNS CROP WASTE INTO ELECTRICITY IN FIGHT AGAINST AIR POLLUTION



For years, the burning of leftover crops has contributed to serious air pollution in northern India. But farmers in the state of Punjab are now finding another use for the waste, turning it into a source of electricity and income instead of allowing it to go up in smoke.

After harvesting rice, farmers are collecting the remaining straw and transporting it to biomass power plants, where it is used to generate electricity. The change is offering an alternative to a practice that has contributed to the heavy smog affecting the region, including the capital, New Delhi.

In Punjab's Faridkot district, farmers and local businesses are working together to collect the crop waste. Machinery is used to gather and compress the straw into bales before it is transported to facilities where it can be processed into fuel.

For farmers, the new approach is creating an opportunity to earn money from material that was previously burned after the harvest. The growing industry is also providing employment for tractor operators, truck drivers and other workers involved in collecting and processing the straw.

One farmer, Rajinder Singh, says the change has improved earnings in his community, with more families now benefiting from the work.

The development comes as authorities continue efforts to reduce farm fires during the annual harvesting season. Government figures show Punjab recorded 5,114 farm fires in 2025, a decrease of 53 per cent compared with 2024 and 86 per cent compared with 2023.

However, despite the reduction in fires, air pollution remains a serious problem. New Delhi experienced hazardous air quality again in November, showing that crop burning is only one of several factors contributing to the region's pollution.

Environmental experts say biomass power projects could make a greater difference if the industry expands. At present, the amount of crop waste being used remains too small to significantly improve air quality across the wider region.

There are also calls for more government support to encourage farmers and businesses to participate. Suggested measures include better purchasing arrangements for crop waste and guaranteed prices that would make collecting and selling the straw more attractive.

For now, the initiative is providing a possible way to address two challenges at once: reducing the burning of agricultural waste while creating jobs and producing electricity.

While the approach has shown promise, experts say wider investment and expansion will be needed before it can make a major difference to India's air pollution problem.


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Nathaniel and Spencer Are Representing Antigua and Barbuda at Weight-Lifting Competition in Barbados

The Antigua and Barbuda Weightlifting Federation has announced the selection of Mr. Ijauni Nathaniel and Mr. Javier Spencer to participate in the Regional Winter Training Camp – Competition Readiness Training, currently taking place in Barbados from November 23rd to December 1st, 2026.



The athletes will train alongside weightlifters from St. Lucia, Jamaica and Guyana, enhancing their techniques, developing their competitive skills and gaining valuable regional exposure.

On Monday, November 30th, the athletes will participate in a Street Weightlifting showcase and friendly competition, providing an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the camp.

President Cliff Williams says initiative represents another important step in the Federation's commitment to athletes' development and advancing the sport of weightlifting in Antigua and Barbuda. With funding from the International Weightlifting Federation.

The Weightlifting Federation wish both athletes safe travels and every success. Embrace the experience, maximize every opportunity and represent our nation with pride.



POINT EXPRESS ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

North Coast FC moves to the top of ABFA's Second Division

The North Coast FC maintained their unbeaten start to surge to the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

After pulling off a 3-0 victory over FC Masterballers on Friday, North Coast FC notched up their sixth win in as many matches to move to 18 points by snatching a 2-1 victory over Bendals FC at the Bendals playing field.

Bendals FC made a bad start to the game, going down to 10 men in the 11th minute due to the expulsion of Glenroy Bartley, who received a red card.

Mario Lewis scored both goals, on either side of halftime, with strikes in the 20th and 73rd minutes to give North Coast FC a two-nil lead. Ken Murray reduced the deficit for Bendals FC by scoring a consolation goal in the 88th minute.

The result allows North Coast to move three points ahead of second-placed Sea View Farm FC, which has 15 points by virtue of winning all five matches so far.

Bendals FC remains on 11 points after their unbeaten run was ended in their first defeat in six matches.

Glanvilles FC continued their successful start, claiming their fourth win in five matches to advance to 12 points by pulling off a 3-1 victory against Tryum FC at the Glanvilles playing field.

Roshaun Martin struck twice with conversions in the 15th and 31st minutes, and Clarence Johny scored in the 64th minute for Glanvilles FC.

Darrie Matthew scored a consolation goal in the 80th minute for Tryum FC, which remains on five points after slumping to their third defeat in six matches.

Bethesda FC picked up their second consecutive win in six matches to advance to seven points with a 5-0 drubbing of Wadadli United FC at the ABFA Technical Center.



Players of the North Coast FC starting XI in a huddle before the start of a match

O'Shale Simon struck twice, scoring the opening goal in the 19th minute and converting a penalty kick in the 34th minute.

The other goals for Bethesda FC were scored by Calvin Goodwin in the 24th minute, Theo Edwards in the 35th, and Kyano Goodwin in the 55th minute.

The result ensured that Wadadli United FC remains second from the bottom of the 21-team standings with one point after crashing to their fifth defeat in six matches.

The Liberta Blackhawks and Blackburn Palace battled to a 3-3 draw at Ball Beef in Liberta. The goals for the Liberta Blackhawks were scored by Ky-Mani Francis in the seventh minute, Medwin Webster in the 37th minute, and Brent Joseph in the 73rd minute.

The goals for Blackburn Palace were converted by De'Aundre Ralph in the 10th minute, Amoy James in the 26th minute, and Michael Roberts in the 83rd minute.

The result allows Blackburn Palace to advance to eight points after securing their second draw in five matches. The Liberta Blackhawks move on to seven points after salvaging their first draw in six encounters.

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FIFA victim of cyber attack, files related to World Cup stake selloff unaffected

PARIS (Reuters) - FIFA said on Thursday it had been the victim of a criminal cyberattack that gave unauthorised access to personal and business information.

A person with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters that no files from the abandoned FIFA Forward Enterprise project were accessed.

"FIFA can confirm that it has been the victim of a criminal cyberattack resulting in unauthorised access to a limited set of personal and business information," a FIFA spokesperson told Reuters.

FIFA strongly condemned the unlawful acquisition and publication of information, particularly personal data, adding that such actions were "a serious and unacceptable violation of privacy."

FIFA did not say how many people or organisations were affected, when the attack took place or what the business information included. Its reference to publication did not say whether any data had appeared online, or where.

The person with knowledge of the matter said less than 0.1% of the total data held by world soccer's ruling body was affected.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in July that his organisation had scrapped plans to sell a stake in the World Cup to private investors following a widespread backlash.

The plan had been to raise up to US$4.2 billion by selling a 20% stake in a new unit that would run FIFA events, including the World Cup.

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Sutherland says Cricket Australia did the best it could on Sandpapergate investigation



James Sutherland

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Former Cricket Australia (CA) boss James Sutherland said on Thursday the governing body did the best it could with the information available to it during the investigation into the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

The scandal was reignited this month after Usman Khawaja said the whole team had known about the ball-tampering plan during the tour of South Africa, not just the three players found culpable by CA's integrity unit.

Batter Cameron Bancroft, one of the three players sanctioned, said last week he had witheld important details about the ball-tampering in order to avoid implicating others.

"I don't look back on if things could, or should, have been dealt with differently," Sutherland, who stepped down in 2018, told the Herald Sun.

"We did the best we could with the situation that was in front of us and the information in front of us. It's a long time ago."

Sutherland, now the CEO of Golf Australia, chose not to weigh in on the recent furore about the scandal.

"I've made that personal commitment that I wouldn't make comments from afar on current cricket issues. I've been true to that so far," he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"It's fair to say it brings back some memories and not too many happy memories. I just recall it being an incredibly intense and stressful period."

CA has ruled out another investigation, but last week attempted to draw a line under the scandal by announcing an independent forum for all the players to give their accounts without fear of sanction.

Sinner to miss Australian Open after undergoing surgery on knee injury



Jannik Sinner

ROME (Reuters) - Two-time Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner will miss the Melbourne Park Grand Slam in January, organisers said on Thursday, after the world number two underwent surgery on a persistent knee injury.

Sinner said on Tuesday that he had had a minor operation, with Italian sports daily Corriere dello Sport reporting he was facing up to four months out, extending his long absence from the tour.

The 25-year-old has been out of action since claiming his fifth Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in July, but the Italian had initially been expected to return in time for next year's Australian Open, which starts on January 17.

"We've been in regular touch with Jannik's team and they've confirmed he won't be joining us for the AO in January following his recent surgery," Tennis Australia CEO Andrew Abdo told Reuters in a statement.

"Jannik loves competing here in Melbourne and is looking forward to returning for AO 2028. We wish him all the very best with his recovery and look forward to seeing him back on court soon."

Sinner, who recently parted ways with coach Darren Cahill after over four years together, won the Australian Open in 2024 and 2025 and lost to Novak Djokovic in this year's semi-finals.

He began the season in good form, winning all five Masters events he played in and running up a 44-3 match record before cutting his season short.

Alexander Zverev replaced Sinner as world number one earlier this month after the German won his first two Grand Slam titles at Roland Garros and the US Open.

World number three Carlos Alcaraz, who missed several months of action due to a wrist injury, will be the defending champion in Melbourne.

The Spanish seven-times Grand Slam winner has enjoyed a thrilling rivalry with Sinner over the last few years and said on Wednesday that the sport is missing Sinner.

Sports
FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2026
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

PMS stay unbeaten in school girls Under-20 league



The Princess Margaret School girls under-20 squad. (File photo)

Defending champions, Princess Margaret School (PMS), extended their unbeaten run in the Girls Under-20 Division in the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth JOMA Caribbean Schools Football League on Wednesday.

Princess Margaret School remained at the top of the standings with 21 points by surging to their seventh win in as many matches with a 10-0 drubbing of the All Saints Secondary School (ASSS) at the PMS playing field.

Gimel Samuel scored five goals, Jah Kayla Bellot achieved a hat trick, and Rolesha Humphreys scored twice for PMS.

The result allows All Saints Secondary School to remain at the bottom of the 10-team standings with one point after losing for the sixth time in seven encounters.

The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) maintained their unbeaten run to stay in second place by pulling off a 4-2 victory over Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) at Antigua Grammar School's (AGS) playing field.

Mia Lake and Abigail McDonald each produced a double conversion for ABCAS, which advanced to 19 points after recording their sixth win in seven matches.

The league's chief marksman Nafisa Quashie scored both goals for Antigua Girls High School, which remain in third place on 15 points after suffering their second defeat in seven matches.

Pares Secondary School (PSS) moved from fifth to fourth place with 10 points after picking up their third win in seven matches with a 4-2 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School (SMSS) at the Golden Grove playing field.

Keitonya Skepple converted twice, and the other goals for Pares Secondary School were scored by Malika Donawa and Alair Elmes.

Zahkiyah Morgan and N'shia Williams each scored once for St. Mary's Secondary School, which remains second from the bottom of the standings on four points after suffering their fifth defeat in seven matches.

Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) slipped from fourth to fifth place on eight points after salvaging their first draw in seven matches in a 2-2 result against St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) at the PMS playing field.

Jonica Mathias scored both goals for CHSS, while Alyssa Jardine and Chloe Davis each converted once for SASS, which remains in seventh place on goal difference with seven points after securing their fourth draw in seven matches.

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) and Jennings Secondary School battled to a goalless draw at the Golden Grove playing field. Ottos Comprehensive School remains in sixth place on goal difference with seven points after picking up their first draw in seven matches.

Jennings Secondary School remains third from the bottom of the standings with six points after recording their third draw in seven matches.

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