

Antigua and Barbuda

th

**ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**

“Resilience, Reflection and Recovery”





**CELEBRATING  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S**

**40**  
**YEARS**  
**INDEPENDENCE**

*RESILIENCE, REFLECTION AND RECOVERY*





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**40 YEARS**

*of*

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**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

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# Foreword



# Why do we Celebrate?

The question was posed during the production of this 40th Anniversary commemorative publication. Why indeed do we celebrate? The question is at once visceral, as it is simple.

For this special magazine, the reason for the celebration is to mark a highpoint in our development as a nation and as a people. It is a celebration of a journey that began as enslaved people to their descendants taking their rightful place among the other nations on earth. It is also a celebration of the people upon whose shoulders we stand in the continuing journey of becoming.

For those of us who were privileged to witness the celebrations of 1981, when the British Union Jack was lowered, and the Antigua and Barbuda National Flag was raised for the first time as the flag of an independent nation; the moment was both surreal and magical. It was the culmination of the hopes and dreams of many generations before us. Many had sacrificed their lives and liberty to ensure that we were able to

experience that moment. Each time we celebrate our national independence and especially during landmark celebrations such as the 40th anniversary, we should remember those who laid the foundation for what we today celebrate.

Independence 1981, was preceded by two weeks of celebrations that included a festival of choirs; an appearance by paratroopers from a plane in flight overhead, who landed at the Antigua Recreation Grounds; and the country's first 'glow' march that took place at night. It was capped off on Independence night with a glorious celebration with fireworks.

When Sir VC Bird accepted the Instruments of Independence from the Queen's representative that night, he did so on behalf of a proud nation and people. Our constitutional development had progressed from being a colony, to internal self-government, to full independence.

However, it is important that we recognize that Independence is a journey and not simply the

destination. We have weathered many challenges over the past forty years from natural disasters, economic shocks, and even the view held by some that, somehow, we do not belong.

Through it all we have displayed remarkable resilience and ingenuity to have survived and, in some cases, thrived. In this our fortieth year of political independence our nation has faced its severest test - the COVID-19 pandemic. This has presented the country with a double threat: a health crisis, and a severe economic fallout challenges we did not create, yet we must face.

So, as we observe this remarkable milestone in our nation's history, we do so with heavy hearts noting that, as of 15th October, 95 persons have lost their lives as a result of this deadly virus; approximately 3,918 cases have been confirmed; and thousands have lost their livelihoods.

As we celebrate, let us remember those who laid the foundation as well as those impacted by the pandemic.

In spite of all let us all celebrate!



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Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of Independence  
from  
The Hadeed Group Of Companies





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

**40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE FROM THE  
GOVERNOR GENERAL**

Dear Citizens and Residents of Antigua and Barbuda,

Congratulations on the achievement of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of our Nation.

Forty years as a sovereign state is a momentous milestone and one which is worthy of celebration. A nation's independence means more than freedom from political reliance on another. It also means that the nation is considered to have the capability of enabling its citizens and residents to live in an environment that is safe, stable, and supportive of those who wish to engage in meaningful endeavours. Independence means that within the nation exists the maturity, competence, and skills to develop policies and programmes which will enhance the socio-economic aspects of everyday life for its citizenry in a sustainable manner.

We celebrate the achievements of all the notable past recipients of national awards in various fields- including culture and the arts, education, sports, and humanitarian feats. Some 650 national honours of various categories have been distributed in Antigua and Barbuda over the past 40 years. Few can deny that our country has made significant progress, and we must applaud the insightfulness and hard work of those who have gone before us, having contributed in a meaningful way to the development of our twin-island "little bit of paradise". We must also commend and encourage those who continue to do their part to preserve Our Nation so that future generations can exist in a wholesome and winsome environment.

We acknowledge the reality that Our Nation has also had its fair share of difficulties. In spite of the seemingly endless litany of COVID-19 related ailments, one fact is apparent: Antiguan and Barbudans are a resilient people. Let us continue to focus upon the realignment of Our Nation to one where all citizens and residents have a reduced risk of illness; where everyone can work in safe and healthy places of employment; where our hospital beds are empty of patients with infectious diseases; and where our economy begins to remarkably rebound.

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence to all.

*Rodney Williams*

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams GCMG, KGN, KSt.J, DSc, PhD, MBBS  
Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda







# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE

Congratulations to the people of Antigua and Barbuda on the 40th Anniversary of Independence!

The country which our ancestors began reinventing, after defeating colonialism, differs remarkably from the sparse building blocks inherited on 1st November 1981. Those forty years until the present have been a marvelous experiment; the people and government created a better life for the citizens and residents through innovation, courage, and resilience.

For a colonial outpost, peopled and economically designed purposefully to extract wealth for absentee owners, beginning nearly four centuries ago, the relatively short period of sovereignty demonstrates collective brilliance. Our people have been yearning for the opportunities to manage their own affairs and to express their nationhood by astute leadership. The evidence demonstrates that the political maturity and social cohesion displayed during the forty years of independence are highly-valued behaviours that have become deeply ingrained in the sovereign consciousness of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

There have been 16 general elections since 1946, when political parties first emerged. Never has there been a resort to violence or to force, in order to change the outcomes of those democratic expressions. In the eight general elections since 1981, governments have been changed with power passing from one political party to another, no violence or disturbance. Political maturity and social cohesion have been at work. Our cultural traditions, including the annual Carnival and the Christmas celebrations, enrich and

bind our people. These celebrations allow for all other incidental identities to be submerged temporarily, even as competition for excellence shines through. Our people have learned, through Christian values and socialization, to be tolerant and patient with each other.

The novel Coronavirus disease, or the Covid-19, the resulting vaccines that prevent hospitalization and death, and the securing of a sufficient supply of those vaccines now approved, have tested every country's people, worldwide. In Antigua and Barbuda's case, sufficiency of supply of the vaccines has been achieved. Yet, a significant cadre of our people seem determined to challenge the nation's leadership and to remain unvaccinated. This disagreement in the 40th year of Independence is surprising. Achieving national immunity will, nevertheless, continue as a national ambition. I am confident that our people will triumph over Covid and restore normalcy, good health, and prosperity for future generations.

I congratulate the people of Antigua and Barbuda for forty years of excellence, and I promise to take our country forward in the years ahead, turning the nation into an Economic Powerhouse.

Long live Antigua and Barbuda! Long live our people!  
Long live sovereignty!

Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.  
Prime Minister  
November 1, 2021



# Antigua and Barbuda 40th Anniversary of Political Independence

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION HONOURABLE JAMALE PRINGLE

November 1, 1981 was the start of our political independence from Britain. It is important to note too, as with all beginnings, what was to come surely would have created some degree of uncertainty and doubt among our people, even as we bravely raised our own flag and charted a future in which each would aspire so all could achieve.

Forty years later, we are at the point where we can look back and assess, while we look forward and plan how we can do better and achieve even more. Taken in the regional and international contexts, Antigua and Barbuda has managed its own affairs well in certain areas, especially in those instances where its sons and daughters have taken our brand to the world stage.

While democracy has stumbled in some instances, compared to many parts of the world, we have made a good showing. Further, while our social progress and economic development might have been uneven, the diversity of our population proves we have done well enough to attract others to these shores, carrying bags packed with their dreams.

How did we get to this stage? On the backs of our ancestors, on the shoulders of our grandparents and parents, and through opportunities created or capitalized upon by my generation. While politicians, as policy-makers, have had their part to play, it is through the efforts of the people that this country has survived and thrived.

In these 40 years, Antigua and Barbuda has gone through challenges that included - Periods of serious brain drain, when many of our bright and progressive minds left for better opportunities abroad and never returned; Financial shocks brought on by the world economic crisis and the crash of local investors; Political scandals that smeared our name in international circles; A series of hurricanes that devastated infrastructure and wiped out livelihoods; and droughts that punished humans, animals, and crops - And now, COVID-19, whose story is still being written ... But we never retreated nor surrendered. We are still going forward; still on the attack; still determined to do better and

win. We are a resilient people whose willingness to build back and whose ability to laugh and make a calypso out of dire circumstances have served us well through 40 years of varied political fortunes. There is nothing to suggest that the next year or decade will be any easier. As we struggle to disentangle our society and economy from this pandemic, the global competition will only get fiercer. Our people will have to decide where they want to go and how they want to get there, because the wrong decisions taken today will only blight the next 40 years.

So as we look forward, I invite all nationals, citizens, and residents who call these 170 square miles home, to do an examination. I encourage you to look at your leaders - all of us - over these four decades of Independence, and apply the test articulated by the late Joseph 'Calypso Joe' Hunte: Have we been true to our citizens? Are we worthy of blame or criticism? Have we satisfied the majority? Have we done our duty efficiently? Moreover, since democracy is also 'government by the people', I now ask you to do some introspection. Search yourselves to see whether you have been the good, good, good, good citizens that Sir McLean 'King Short Shirt' Emmanuel described. Have you cast away victimization, corruption, nepotism, and set an example of a just society for the world to admire and follow?

Where the honest answer does not satisfy, may I encourage you, Brothers and Sisters, to lean on the words of the late Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo, and let us work together, through the stormy weather, and file our motion into one direction. The future of this country and the fortunes of Antigua and Barbuda depend on what we, who are here now, do now. So, I conclude with the words of Sir Paul 'King Obstinate' Richards, who exhorted us to Get up, I say; Stand up, I say. Let's plan and build for a brand new day.

Happy 40th Anniversary, Antigua and Barbuda. May we never fail to defend your liberty!

**Stay safe, My People!**





# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE

## M E S S A G E

Our national health, education, financial, and commercial systems continue to feel the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. Nonetheless, as we commemorate our ‘Ruby Jubilee’ – Antigua and Barbuda’s 40th Independence Anniversary, it is imperative that we collectively ponder on the theme for this year, “**Resilience, Reflection and Recovery**”. In doing this, we shift our focus back to the past, while pursuing a future of continuing the work of Nation-building, laid out by our forefathers.

Forty years later, our traditions and values that we consider uniquely Antiguan and Barbudan should not only be remembered, and celebrated during our Independence or Carnival celebrations, but as an ongoing effort, as we strive to continue the preservation and development of our cultural heritage.

Just like 2020, this year, has been quite challenging for our Nation in almost every sector, more specifically Education, Sports, and the Creative Industries. However, the work of the individuals working in these industries should not go unnoticed. By their unwavering commitment and outstanding performances, it is a clear indication that despite the odds and uncertainties, greatness can be achieved – they are our Nation’s unsung heroes, and you have made Antigua and Barbuda immensely proud.

Much emphasis should also be placed on recognizing the contributors, who continuously strive to develop other sectors within our Nation, and the continued efforts to keep transforming our Nation, in today’s ever-changing environment. In this moment, we pause to honour the thousands of persons who have answered the clarion call to serve their country, despite the challenges we now face in 2021.

This year, which is considered a milestone celebration, should remind us that within the last year, our **Resilience** as a Nation is unmatched, we should never cease to **Reflect** on our National goals, and the only way for us to **Recover** is to stand together, work together, and advance together.

At this time, I would like to congratulate the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Independence.

Honourable Daryll S. Matthew  
Minister of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries



# Congratulations Antigua and Barbuda on the 40th Anniversary of Independence.

It is my pleasure to also congratulate the editors, writers and contributors to this 40th Anniversary magazine published for this momentous occasion in our nation's history. The past ten months of 2021 have been very challenging for all of us as we merge our efforts to fight the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, there is much for which we must give praise and thanks to our Heavenly Father. Our celebration of the 40th Anniversary, focusing on the theme, Resilience, Reflection, Recovery is designed to take a look at our past, evaluate our current circumstance and plan for the task ahead of continuing nation building. On November 1,

1981, the people of Antigua and Barbuda set off on a journey into sovereignty. Today, forty years later, the nation can be proud of its multiplicity of achievements, following the November day which Vere Cornwall Bird called: the finest hour in our people's history. The challenges have been many, but the resilience and courage of the Antigua and Barbuda people have been legendary. We are a wise people, full of imagination, guided historically by outstanding leadership, and unafraid of challenges. Today, we are confronted by the challenges occasioned by the Covid-19 virus – this too we shall overcome with a determined spirit to not only return to a state of normalcy but to reenergize our nation to achieve greater things. Our theme of Resilience, reflection and recovery offers us the perfect guide for what can be achieved if we combine all our intellect and efforts. It is through our

linkages and oneness of purpose that we shall build a more resilient Antigua and Barbuda. May each of us continue to hold high that flame that propelled our forefathers who toiled to build a successful nation! As we celebrate this momentous occasion, may the God who provided us with the strength and power to overcome slavery, to battle colonialism, to proclaim sovereignty, to advance opportunities for training and education to our people, to fortify our resolve, and to demonstrate worthiness, continue to guide and protect us during Independence and going forward.

Do enjoy this 40th Independence anniversary publication.

Maurice F. Merchant  
Chairman  
Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission

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*The Management and Staff of Total Imports (Antigua) Ltd, wish to extend*

**Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence**

*To the Citizens and Residents of Antigua and Barbuda*

**As we stand firm and endeavour to build our Nation, may we continue to be resilient while we reflect and recover as one going forward.**

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# HAPPY 40<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT OFFER WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ON THE MILESTONE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF 40 YEARS OF POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.**

Shoulder to shoulder we move forward in lockstep towards  
a sustainable and prosperous future.

*"Build firm on a solid foundation  
Let naught from this goal you deter,  
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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



# The Caves, Barbuda



**HAPPY**  
*Independence*  
**ANTIGUA &  
BARBUDA**

In 1991, Sandals Resorts International made the beautiful island of Antigua & Barbuda home to the first ever Sandals Resort outside of Jamaica.

It was a historic moment that meant the world to our late Founder and Chairman, Gordon "Butch" Stewart, OJ, CD, Hon. LLD, who had a longstanding love affair with the island's beauty and charm. It was no coincidence that brought Sandals to Antigua - it was a desire to showcase it to the world.

Over the last 30 years, we have been proud to bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to Antigua's shores and to support Antiguan and Barbudan nationals and communities through the work of the Sandals Foundation..

We are happy to celebrate your 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence as we look forward to celebrating our own 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the role you have played in our story.

**Happy Independence Day Beautiful Antigua & Barbuda!**

*Sandals Sandals*  
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OUR SIX NATIONAL HEROES

# **Knight of the Order of the National Hero (KNH)**





**PRINCE KLAAS**

On October 20th 1736, Prince Klaas, who was also called King Court was brutally executed for being one of the masterminds behind an elaborate plot, hatched late in 1735, to overthrow white rule on Antigua and to abolish slavery. The plan was well hatched and more than ten huge plantations were involved in the plan. During an Akan ceremony at one of the planning meetings, Klaas was initiated as King of the black community. The planned rebellion was uncovered and evidence was found against Klaas and his men.

They were sentenced to execution through horrifying means. 87 of his men were executed one after the other in groups. The killings came to a stop during the Christmas period and continued until March 8, 1737. A monument stands on Independence Drive in his honour. Its colours symbolise the black men who were killed for their rebellious attempt and the blood that was shed.

The monument was designed by Barry Davis, while Sir. Reginal Samuel, designer of the National Flag, fashioned the statue.



**SIR VERE  
CORNWALL  
BIRD Sr.**

Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr. KNH, OCC. was born on 9th December, 1909. He was Antigua and Barbuda's only Chief Minister (2nd January, 1956), first Premier (27th February, 1967), and first Prime Minister (1st November, 1981 to 1994). He was one of the founding members of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union [ATLU] (16th January, 1939) (generally referred to as the '39'ers), and its second president (1944-1969). He also formed the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) on 18th May, 1946.

He achieved national acclaim politically for the first time when he was elected to the colonial legislature in 1945. Bird was unique from other West Indian politicians, lacking in any formal education except primary schooling. He attended the St. John's Boys School, now known as the T.N. Kirnon Primary School. He was an officer in the Salvation Army for two years, interspersing his interests in trade unionism and politics. He gave up the Salvation Army because he saw the way the land owners were treating the local black Antiguan and Barbudans; and decided to leave

his post to fight for the freedom of his people, which he succeeded in doing. Sir Vere was known for his fierce patriotism, and dedication to ensuring fair wages and working conditions for the poor classes.

In 1985 Antigua and Barbuda's international airport, which was first named Coolidge, was renamed V.C. Bird International Airport in his honour. A statue, in his likeness, can be seen in front of the St. John's Public Market Complex; and in the 39ers Square, opposite the General Post Office. Sir Vere retired from active politics in 1994. On 4th July, 1998 the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC) was bestowed upon him; and on 23rd August of that same year, he was declared the country's first National Hero.

Sir Vere died on 28th June, 1999, at the age of 89 years, and was the first National Hero to be interred at the National Heroes Park. An annual celebration, in his honour, is held on the 9th December, V C Bird Day, which has been declared a public holiday. He will always be affectionately remembered as "Father of the Nation, Papa Bird, and Papa VC".





**DAME  
GEORGIANA  
'NELLIE'  
ROBINSON**

The sole female National Heroine, Dame Georgiana 'Nellie' Robinson, DNH, MBE, was born on 7th December, 1880 and died on 29th April, 1972 at the age of 92 years. Her earliest days were spent on Newgate Street, St. John before moving to the United States, where she spent most of her childhood. There she worked as a child nurse, house worker, and governess from age 13 years. She returned to Antigua in 1894 and continued her education at the Coke College on East Street, and at the age of 18, began teaching her siblings, and other children. This was the start of the Thomas Oliver Robinson

(TOR) Memorial School, which still educates the nation's children today.

The TOR Memorial was the only mixed (co-educational) school on island at that time. 'Miss Rob', as she was affectionately called, "broke down colour and class barriers, believing that all children should have access to learning". She continued teaching for the next 57 years, eventually retiring in 1955. This school, which she founded, has produced some of the Nation's finest citizens.

Dame 'Nellie' Robinson was the country's third citizen to receive this prestigious honour.



**SIR ISAAC  
VIVIAN  
ALEXANDER  
RICHARDS**

Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, KNH, KCN, OBE, born on 7th March, 1952, is a former West Indian Cricketer. Popularly known as Viv, he is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen of all time, especially in the One Day International (ODI) format of the game. Richards was voted one of the five Cricketers of the Century in 2000, by a 100-member panel of experts, along with Sir Donald Bradman, Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Jack Hobbs and Shane Warne. In February 2002, Richards was judged by Wisden Cricketers' Almanac to have played the best ODI innings. In December 2002, he was chosen by Wisden as the greatest ODI batsman, as well as the third greatest Test batsman ever, after Sir Donald Bradman and Sachin Tendulkar.

As chronicled in <https://www.britannica.com>, Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards began his Cricket match career for the West Indies Team at the age of 22 years. This continued to include 121 Test matches; 8,450 runs averaging

more than 50 runs per innings in Test competition; a record of 24 centuries; and a total of 32 wickets. He was truly the acclaimed "Master Blaster." Sir Viv's cricketing career came to an end in the 1990s, but he continues to be recognised worldwide for his cricketing attributes. He retired from Test cricket as the third most successful captain of the West Indies team. His autobiography, Sir Vivian: The Definitive Autobiography, written by Bob Harris, was published in 2000.

In 1994, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to cricket. He was also knighted in 1999 for his contribution to cricket, and became the fourth National Hero on 1st November, 2006. Our National Stadium is named in his honour. Sir Viv is our sole living National Hero.

A bust of Sir Viv is erected in front of the family home where he grew up; and that street, formerly Drake Street, has been renamed Sir Vivian Richards Street, in his honour.





## SIR GEORGE HERBERT WALTER

**S**ir George Herbert Walter, GCMG, who was born on 8th September, 1928, served as the second Premier of Antigua and Barbuda from 14th February, 1971 to 1st February, 1976. He was also founder of the Antigua Workers Union (AWU), and founder and leader of the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM). He was also the former General Secretary of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU). Also noteworthy are his more than 40 years of service in the trade union and politics movements in Antigua and Barbuda. In <http://www.caribbeanelections.com>, which details his biography, Sir George Walter served for 10 years in politics, 5 years as Premier and 5 years in Opposition. His contributions to the Nation and in the House of Representatives have

been described as being in a class of their own. The Social Security Act, the Labour Code that was copied in every Caribbean territory, the Representation of the People's Act, and the founding of the Antigua & Barbuda Development Bank were all the work of his PLM government.

Sir George was bestowed with the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in the 2000 Millennium honours. The former Airport Road was renamed Sir George H. Walter Highway in 2006, as a permanent memory of his life's work in the development of the Nation.

Sir George Herbert Walter became the Nation's fifth Hero on 1st November, 2008 following his death at the age of 79 years, on 4th March that year.



## SIR LESTER BRYANT BIRD

**S**ir Lester Bryant Bird, KNH, born on 21st February, 1938, was an heroic figure in the country's recent history, pointing out that arguably he has made the second largest contribution to the socio-economic advancement of Antigua and Barbuda. He was an outstanding athlete, cricketer, and footballer during his youth. He earned his spurs in high and long jump. He subsequently graduated from Grays Inn, London, as a Barrister of Law, before returning to Antigua.

Sir Lester served the nation in excess of 40 years as a Parliamentarian, including 18 years as Deputy Prime Minister

and 10 years as Prime Minister. He was a committed regionalist and the first chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). He was also a gifted orator who helped focus attention on the special needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) whenever he addressed forums such as the United Nations.

He was our country's sixth National Hero. His passing, at the age of 83 years, took place on 9th August, 2021, the 40th year of our country's political Independence. The Mount St. John's Medical Centre has been renamed The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) in his honour.

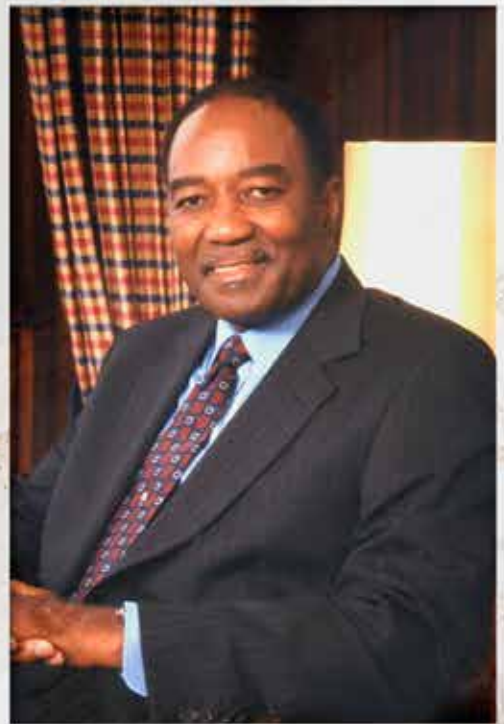


# Our Governors General



**Sir Wilfred Jacobs**

FROM: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 1981  
TO: THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1993



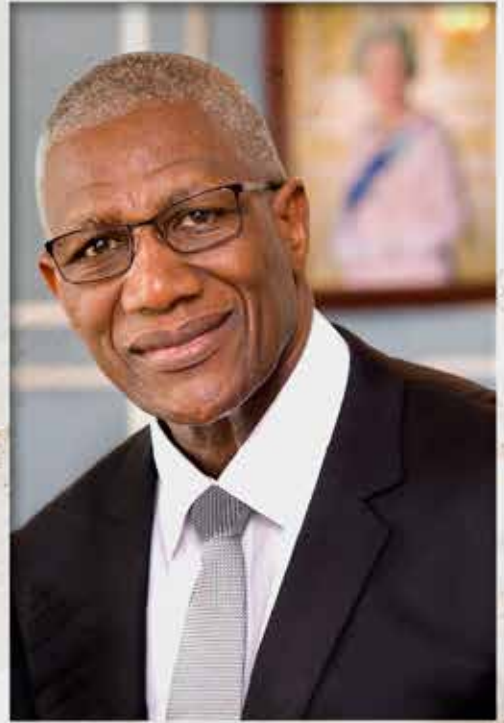
**Sir James Carlisle**

FROM: THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1993  
TO: TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007



**Dame Louise Lake-Tack**

FROM: TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007  
TO: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014



**Sir Rodney Williams**

FROM: THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014  
TO: PRESENT



# Our Prime Ministers



## Vere Cornwall Bird Sr.

Birth: 1910 -1999

Term of Office: 1 November 1981 - 9 March 1994

Political Party: ABLP

Election Years: 1984, 1989



## Lester Bryant Bird

Birth: 1938-2021

Term of Office: 9 March 1994 - 24 August 2004

Political Party: ABLP

Election Years: 1994, 1999





A portrait of Winston Baldwin Spencer, a man with short grey hair and a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

## Winston Baldwin Spencer

Birth: 1948

Term of Office: 24 August 2004 - 13 June, 2014

Political Party: UPP

Election Year: 2004, 2009



A portrait of Gaston Alphonso Browne, a man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and purple patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

## Gaston Alphonso Browne

Birth: 1967

Term of Office: 13 June 2014 - present

Political Party: ABLP

Election Year: 2014, 2018



# Our National Symbols...



## National Flag

*Designed by:*  
**Sir Reginald Samuel**

The seven point  
**Golden Sun** symbolises  
the dawn of a new era.



## National Coat of Arms & Motto

*Originally Designed by:*  
**Mr. Gordon Christopher**  
*Modified by:* **Mr. Don Cribbs**

- The **PINEAPPLE** surmounting the arms represents the famous Antigua Black Pineapple.
- The red **HIBISCUS** flowers are symbolic of the many varieties that bloom in the Nation.
- The golden **SUN** and the wavy blue and white **BANDS** symbolise the Sea, Sun, and Beaches.

**Red:** symbolises lifeblood of our enslaved forefathers and dynamism of the people.

**Blue:** symbolises hope.

**Black:** symbolises the soil and African heritage.

**Gold, Blue and White:** Antigua and Barbuda's tourist attraction - sun, sea and sand.

**"V":** Victory at last!

- The central **SUGAR MILL TOWER** and the stem of **SUGAR CANE** echo the historic production of sugar, once the main industry.

- The Century Plant or **DAGGER POLE** with its stem and showy golden yellow flowers was a part of the historic emblem of Antigua and the Leeward Islands.

- The two rampant **DEER** depict the only large animal within the Eastern Caribbean and that is unique to Antigua and Barbuda.

- The **SCROLL** bears the Motto of the Nation...  
**"EACH ENDEAVOURING, ALL ACHIEVING"**  
- composed by Mr. James H. Carrot M.B.E.



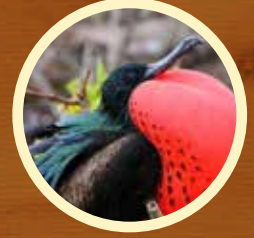
National Animal  
The Fallow Deer



National Fruit  
Antigua Black Pineapple



National Tree  
The Whitewood



National Bird  
The Frigate Bird



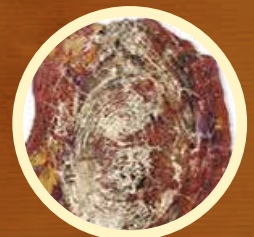
National Sea Creature  
The Hawksbill Turtle



National Dress Designed by:  
Mrs. Heather Doram



National Flower  
The Dagger Log



National Stone  
Petrified Wood



# Our National Anthem

Lyrics by: Novelle Hamilton Richards  
Music by: Walter Garnet Picart Chambers  
Adopted: 1967

## First Verse:

Fair Antigua and Barbuda  
We thy sons and daughters stand,  
Strong and firm in peace or danger  
To safe guard our native land.  
We commit ourselves to building  
A true nation brave and free.  
Ever striving ever seeking  
Dwell in love and unity.

## Second Verse:

Raise the standard! Raise it boldly!  
Answer now to duty's call  
To the service of thy country,  
Sparing nothing, giving all;  
Gird your loins and join the battle  
'Gainst fear, hate and poverty,  
Each Endeavouring, All Achieving,  
Live in peace where man is free.

## Third Verse:

God of Nations, let Thy blessings  
Fall upon this land of ours;  
Rain and sunshine ever sending,  
Fill her fields with crops and flowers;  
We her children do implore Thee,  
Give us strength, faith, loyalty,  
Never failing, all enduring  
To defend her liberty.



# Meet Alfonsina Olmos

Winner of the 40th Independence Logo Competition

Alfonsina Olmos is a 25 year old Antiguan citizen, who is also bilingual in English and Spanish.

In 2007, she attended the Christian Faith Academy, and upon completion, in 2012, she received her high school diploma. Further to this, she also attained a Business Ethics Training and Development Certificate from the Macedonia Business Ethics and Language Institute.

Previously, she worked as a secretary at the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from 2013 to 2020. However, at the age of 20, she was offered the opportunity to be an unofficial translator for the Eye Care Program, Miracle Mission, at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center. This opportunity opened other doors for Miss Olmos as she traveled to Venezuela to further assist the Mission, and was also recommended to take part in a sub-regional news network based in Venezuela with ABS Television.

Quite recently, Miss Olmos developed a keen interest in graphic designing, mainly as a hobby, during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was further encouraged by her partner, who is a well-known professional digital artist, and he willingly shared his knowledge, creativity and expertise with her.

Motivation propelled her to demonstrate her capabilities by entering the 40th Independence Logo Competition, and winning first place for the best designed logo was tremendously rewarding.

Currently, Miss Olmos is attending the University of the West Indies Open Campus pursuing a certification in Cosmetology with the intention of becoming a successful Entrepreneur.





# Meet Gamal Goodwin

Winner of the 40th Independence Theme Competition

Gamal Goodwin is the CEO of GProductions, which is a Graphic and Website Design Agency, based in Antigua and Barbuda. He is also a "family man"- a loving husband, loyal brother, and a devoted father to two amazing girls.

Gamal is a former student of the St. Andrew's Primary School, the Antigua Grammar School, and the University of the Virgin Islands. Although Gamal graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Computer Information Systems, he has always had a passion for Entrepreneurship, and he has been an entrepreneur for almost all his adult life.

Since graduating from University, he started three companies including: WarDadli SouLahs, Party Bands R Us, and GProductions. In his profession at GProductions, he specializes in the development of branding concepts, designs, production, and marketing. Part of his work includes developing branding Taglines and Slogans for many new businesses and products - this he says is a great joy to him:

"This joy has now been put on national display as my slogan has been adjudged the winner of the Antigua & Barbuda 40th Anniversary of Independence. I hope to continue developing branding strategies for Companies, local and abroad, and encourage anyone who wishes to reach me to visit my website [gproductionsonline.com](http://gproductionsonline.com) or find me on Google Gamal Goodwin."







We at Medical Surgical Associates are proud to have been a part of the incredible growth of our nation's healthcare sector and look forward to even greater strides in the future. We take the opportunity to wish every Antiguan and Barbudan a Happy 40th Independence Day.



# The Journey to Political Independence

*by Everton Barnes*

It can be argued that the journey towards Political Independence for Antigua (and Barbuda) began on August 1, 1834. For that was the day when the enslaved people, who were brought here to be subjugated to the worst form of human degradation possible, chattel slavery, were told that they were free men and women. Certainly, the word 'free' has to be placed in context, for without land or capital they were still tied to the plantations.

Britain had ensured that the plantation owners were properly compensated for having to 'give up' their enslaved people, who the law considered to be property. In the same way as they viewed their lands and other possessions, the same was the attitude they had towards those they had enslaved. The planters demanded and were duly paid by the British government. This ensured that these landowners lived luxurious lives for several generations, after slavery's dark chapter was closed.

The dispossessed and 'free' people ended up having to stay on the plantations - the scenes of this vicious crime against them, as they had no lands, no money, and now had to find subsistence on their own. This condition continued largely unchanged for roughly a hundred years. But there were signs of discontent, as the 1918 strike and riots in St John provided clear evidence. This unrest was among a series of similar events across the British West Indies over the next two decades that gave rise to the trade union movement and a deep sense of nationalism in the 1930's that, two decades later ... by 1958, would culminate in the formation of the West Indies Federation.

The trade union movement was the vehicle used to secure better working conditions for the working-class people. Elections to the Legislative Council was reserved for propertied owners. However, following agitation from the union, the restrictions began to fall away one by one. By 1951 there was universal adult suffrage and by 1956 there was the introduction of

Ministerial Government, in 1960, with Vere Cornwall Bird as the first Chief Minister.

By 1967, Antigua negotiated semi-independent status with Britain; where Britain retained responsibility for defense and external affairs while the local administration held responsibility for internal self-government.

VC Bird, as head of the government, assumed the role of Premier. It was the first of such arrangements negotiated with Britain. The other countries of the Eastern Caribbean followed Antigua's lead and negotiated similar arrangements for themselves.

An internal conflict within the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU) one year later, over whether VC Bird should remain as President while still serving as Premier led to a breakaway faction forming a rival trade union, the Antigua Workers Union (AWU) under the leadership of the charismatic George Walter, the former ATLU General Secretary.

From the bowels of the AWU came the Progressive Labour Movement





*Princess Margaret flanked by Prime Minister, VC Bird (l) and Governor General, Sir Wilfred Jacobs (r) with other parliamentarians on the step of the newly opened parliament building*

(PLM) which won all four seats contested in a by-election in 1968 called by VC Bird in a bid to placate the demands of the PLM/AWU, which had grown in popularity and influence in a very short time. The PLM went on to win the 1971 general elections, handing VC Bird his only electoral defeat.

The PLM served one term in office, undermined by the oil crisis of 1973 and internal wrangling when Premier George Walter fired his brother, Selvyn Walter and firebrand, Donald Halstead from his Cabinet. These events coupled with the collapse of the sugar industry forced the government to close down the Antigua Sugar Factory, putting thousands out of work while providing political fodder for the Antigua Labour Party (ALP). VC Bird was back; his party rode these events to political victory at the polls in 1976. Interestingly, the PLM had 'taking Antigua into independence' as one of its campaign promises leading up to the 1976 general elections, while, for the ALP, its campaign focus was on

rebuilding the economy. Borrowing from a term popularized by the then ALP chairman, Lester Bird, it was not the 'right psychological moment' for independence. That became a popular slogan on the campaign trail.

After returning to office, the ALP went about its campaign promise of 'back to work with labour' utilizing the Puerto Rican model of 'development by invitation'; that is, inviting foreign investments into the country for the main purpose of providing employment for locals.

However, two years later, as if bitten by the independence bug itself, the ALP established a high-level committee to begin a series of national consultations on the issue of independence. The committee held meetings throughout the length and breadth of the country listening to people expressing their thoughts on independence and what citizens would want to see included in the Independence Constitution. As part of its remit, the committee also visited Barbuda to hear from residents there.

However, the PLM would not have any of this. It argued, convincingly, that the ALP did not campaign with 'Independence' as part of its manifesto - its social contract with the electorate - and therefore, it had no mandate to take the country into political independence. It was a powerful argument and one that seemed to have convinced the person who needed to be convinced the most VC Bird. Being the astute politician, VC Bird called for general elections, in 1980, one year early, catching the PLM off-guard and unprepared.

The results, ALP won with a bigger mandate. And at the stroke of midnight on November 1st, 1981, one year later, VC Bird would accept the Instruments of independence from Princess Margaret, Her Majesty the Queen's representative. The journey that started centuries earlier and which continued for close to 150 years of colonialism, would culminate at that moment: Independence for the Nation State of Antigua and Barbuda.





*VC Bird takes the Oath of Office in the presence of Sir Wilfred Jacobs*

## 'Hands Across the Water'

Prior to the attainment of independence, while practically everyone in Antigua accepted that independence was inevitable, there was very strong pushback coming from a single source Barbuda. After what they saw as neglect from the central government in St. John, the people of the isle were adamant that they did not want to enter into independence with Antigua. Some leaders on the island openly advocated for secession from Antigua. It appears to have been a popular movement on the island.

This was a matter of concern for VC Bird who decided to put his enormous political skills and influence to the test. He put together a delegation that included the Minister of Barbuda Affairs, Adolphus Freeland, as well as several high-profile Barbudans who held senior positions in the government, to visit Barbuda to meet with leaders there. Included in the delegation were: Chief Education Officer, Whitfield Harris Snr., and the Director of Agriculture, McKenzie Harper. The visit did little to change minds. The Barbudans dug in their heels.



# Lancaster House and the Barbuda Dilemma

The negotiations for independence for Antigua and Barbuda took place at Lancaster House in London with a 30-member delegation representing both islands. Barbuda was adamant that it wanted to pursue a separate future even if that meant remaining a ward of the United Kingdom. Both the British government and the

Antigua government were of the view that both islands should enter into independence as a unitary state. Under statehood, the official name of the country was Antigua to include Barbuda and the off-shore islands. In a compromise gesture, the government offered to name the country Antigua-Barbuda.

But this did not find favour with the Barbuda delegation and finally, **Antigua and Barbuda** was accepted along with certain assurances from the British government.

*(Arthur Nibbs, one of the members of the Barbuda delegation, offers the Barbuda perspective in an accompanying article).*

## The Journey continues...

Independence must never be seen as a destination but as a journey; Antigua and Barbuda must always be seen as in a constant state of 'becoming'. Even after independence, many of the vestiges of the nation's colonial past remain. The Queen remains head of state; we swear allegiance to her and her heirs; and we seem incapable of ridding ourselves of the Privy Council. We still refer to our police force as 'the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda'. The great Jamaican poet, writer, reggae artist, the late Robert 'Bob' Marley called on people in these parts to 'emancipate themselves from mental slavery' but that seems to be a goal that may take generations to achieve. Many of the laws passed in the colonial era to curtail the rights and privileges of our people remain as part of our legal system.

Independence is more than a flag or national anthem and the annual

ceremonial parade. For the past two years, COVID-19 has proven that to see independence in this simplistic manner is folly as there are no parades, no food fair, nor youth rally. In a word COVID-19 has turned the 'traditional' independence activities on their collective heads. At forty years old, Antigua and Barbuda must be seen as a mature nation state, and must approach the future as a developing nation facing the exigencies of an increasingly difficult world demand.

The 40th year has been one faced with new and recurring challenges. Certainly, no one could have anticipated the emergence of a pandemic that has brought nations large and small to their knees. The era when nations such as Antigua and Barbuda could rely on the generosity of our former colonial masters, the United Kingdom, or the powerful neighbor to the north, the United States of America, to help us

out of economic difficulties is, for all intents and purposes, over. We now have little choice but to 'paddle our own canoe'.

How well we navigate the uncharted waters ahead with challenges such as climate change and its impact on small island states, or a pandemic that has run amok, is up to us as citizens and residents of this fair land. The usual cut and thrust of partisan politics is expected and welcomed. However, there are likely to be other challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and 2021 that may present themselves as new challenges to overcome. COVID-19 is a once in a century pandemic and equally, requires extraordinary efforts to effectively combat this disease. National unity and not partisan politics is what is required to defeat this virus.

"Gird your loins and join the battle" says a line from Our National Anthem. The time is now!



SITTING AT THE TABLE AT

# Lancaster House

*By Arthur Nibbs*

*(Arthur Nibbs\* was a member of the Barbuda delegation to the Lancaster House Negotiations in London. He is one of a handful of survivors of these talks. His reflections are an important recording of the history of our country).*

## 1. Introduction:

The Barbuda Delegation to the Constitutional Conference in December 1980, tabled a Document containing 21 Issues of content and disagreement with the Central Government on Antigua.

## Members of the Barbuda Delegation:

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hon. Sir Eric Burton, MP | - Leader of the Delegation  |
| Sir T. Hilbourne Frank   | - Council Chairman          |
| Sir McChesney George     | - Secretary & Legal Advisor |
| Arthur Nibbs             | - Council Member            |
| George Morris            | - Council Member            |
| Samuel Harris            | - Council Member            |
| Ernie Teague             | - Council Member            |
| McKenzie Frank           | - Council Member            |
| Rueben James             | - Council Member            |
| Milford Beazer           | - Council Member            |

The Barbuda Council's delegation was mandated by the majority of the people of Barbuda to seek a separate future from the State of Antigua. **"Separation or Nothing:** if we have to suck salt, we will suck salt," was the cry of the Barbudan people. The delegation prepared and presented to the conference a document containing 21 issues of dissatisfaction with the Central Government.

## 2. Chief among the 21 issues were:

- a) Land: ownership, management, and control of lands in Barbuda
- b) Finance
- c) Power of the Council



### **3. The Issue of Land**

Government's position: The lands in Barbuda are Crown Lands, held by the Crown, on behalf of the State of Antigua and Barbuda.

Position of the Barbuda Delegation: The lands in Barbuda are Crown lands held by the Crown, on behalf of the People of Barbuda.

### **4. The Matter of Finance**

The Chairman to the Conference, Sir Nicholas Ridley MP, responsible for Overseas Territories, reminded that looking through the documents presented by the Council, wherever there were issues of finance they were fraught with problems. As a consequence, Conference agreed to make available to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Barbuda Council a senior government expert to assist the Council with budget perpetration. This would mean that with the Council assuming more responsibilities, it would necessitate more funding to allow it to effectively carry out its additional functions.

### **5. Position of the Conference**

There is no final determination, because nothing was finally determined. Conference selected a special committee and mandated that they bring back to the Conference, a framework that is acceptable to all parties. Conference also indicated that there was a failure on the part of the special committee to report back to Conference, due to a breakdown between the parties and their inability to arrive at a position mutually acceptable by all parties.

The breakdown was on the position of the Government's delegation, namely: Central Government would agree to the formula where the Council will be responsible for the management and control of Crown lands in Barbuda, provided that Council would guarantee equal access to Crown lands in Barbuda, by citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, born in Antigua - The same way as access to Crown lands in Antigua, by citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, born on the island of Barbuda. The Barbuda delegation declined to agree to the foregoing.

### **6. The Issue of Powers of the Barbuda Council**

Conference agreed to a greater devolution of powers to the Barbuda Council in that, there will be 5 areas under the Local Government Act, where the Council has exclusive power to act without the sanction and approval of the Cabinet/Government

These are the 5 areas under the Act, where Council has exclusivity:

- Agriculture & forestry services
- Health, medical, and other statutory services and facilities
- Maintenance, repairs, and construction of roads
- Raising and collection of revenue, pursuant to the Act: such monies are to cover cost of services of Council.
- Administration and regulation of the provisions of electricity and water services, and other utilities.

### **7. The Decision of Conference**

Nothing was final because nothing was determined.

However, Conference recommended to the parties that they should utilize two systems to settle dispute over Lands:

1. Legislation (Parliament)
2. The Courts (Settle disputes)





Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.  
Prime Minister  
November 1, 2021

The evidence is clear. Antigua and Barbuda has made life much better for its people during our 40 years of Independence. The measurement of the small island-nation's success can be reasonably determined by the economic, the social, and the political indicators that have been recorded in 40 years.

### ***THE BEGINNING OF THE ECONOMIC ADVANCES: 1939 - A Watershed Year***

When the struggle against oppression and unfair labour practices began to intensify, "a fair wage for a fair day's pay" was the primary objective. For three hundred years, the harvesting of sugarcane - which was then turned into sugar, molasses, and rum, for export - was the driver of economic activity. However, the achievement of collective bargaining, commencing with the founding of the Antigua and Barbuda Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) in 1939, made it evident that control of the law-making machinery was absolutely necessary if more economic choices were to be made available to Antigua and Barbuda's workers.

In 1950, passage into law of the ***1950 Pioneer Industries Act*** served as

# THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

NOVEMBER 1, 1981 - TO NOVEMBER 1, 2021  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

recognition that sugarcane farming would be supplemented by other economic activity. The trade union leaders, elected to Parliament, were putting into practice their belief that economic diversity would provide increasing wealth-making options to a poor and downtrodden people.

In 1952, two years following the first glimmer of hope, ***The 1952 Hotels Aid Ordinance*** served as further evidence of the movement towards diversification of the economy; by the introduction of additional wealth-creating sectors, Antigua and Barbuda would become less poor, our forebears surmised.

In 1967, when the sugar industry went into receivership, it was purchased for a paltry sum of less than \$6,000,000 (six million BWI dollars) by the semi-independent Government, led by the ambitious trade union leaders. They had been pressing for control over the life-making decisions of the nation, and succeeded. Colonial rule was dying and those who wished for a greater future with more choices for the workers of Antigua and Barbuda, were fast becoming the ultimate decision-makers.

### ***THE POLITICAL ADVANCES: New Constitutions - 1967 & 1981***

The 27th February 1967 was the day when the colonials left and domestic

affairs were placed in the hands of the elected officials, under a new constitution. Fourteen years later, on 1st November 1981, when sovereignty was achieved, another constitution was promulgated that has remained unchanged. (In 2018, my Government tried to remove the U.K. Privy Council as the final Court in the Constitution, and to make the Caribbean Court of Justice the apex court in Antigua and Barbuda, by referendum, without success).

The Antigua and Barbuda people also expressed tremendous faith in the performance of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) leaders, such that from 1946 to 1971 - a twenty-five year period - the people chose them overwhelmingly to sit in the parliament. Though in the minority at first, reform in February 1967 led to a new constitution and the elected parliamentarians were transformed into a majority.

A split in the trade union in April 1967 caused a weakening of the support enjoyed by the ABLP when, instead of joining hands to solve the challenges created by the failed sugar industry, bought by the Government, union leaders sought to advance their own political careers by undermining the measures set out to achieve a long-lasting solution.



(In the fight against Covid-19, where the unions ought to be assisting in securing lives and livelihoods, union leaders are seeking to undermine the government's efforts by actively creating barriers to achieve herd immunity - a repeat of 1967). They split the union, weakening the course selected.

**THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS:**

***A New Antigua and Barbuda***

The ABLP leaders were not deterred

in their effort to further development, despite the split. A deep-water harbour was completed in 1968; in 1969, a 9,000-foot lengthened runway facilitated the biggest jet aircraft to land at Coolidge; in 1968, a desalinating plant enabled several million gallons of potable water to reach homes and hotels daily, defeating drought; an earthen dam capable of storing 1,200,000,000 gallons of water from rainfall and run-off, was completed in 1968. This continued with approximately 100 miles of newly-paved roads over

ten years - 1958 to 1968 - to enable hotels to be serviced on beach-front land that before had no economic value; a hotel and hospitality training institute to equip youth to efficiently manage the new jobs at the 33 luxury hotels, built by 1971; loans to taxi drivers to purchase their own vehicles, and not allow a well-capitalized foreign firm to employ them as drivers; and, not the least, the expansion of LIAT (1974) Ltd. which, based in Antigua, served as a hub to ferry passengers both to the south and north of its base.

**Antigua and Barbuda  
Gross Domestic Product - 1981 to 2021  
Constant 2010 Prices  
(Measured in US Millions/Billions Dollars)**

|                                     |                          |                          |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>1977 - \$323.050*</b>            | 1986 - \$569.625         | <b>1995 - \$769.224</b>  | 2004 - \$1.079b         | 2013 - \$1.157b                    |
| 1978 - \$337.211                    | <b>1987 - \$607.371*</b> | 1996 - \$820.027         | 2005 - \$1.149b         | <b>2014 - \$1.201b</b>             |
| 1979 - \$364.457                    | 1988 - \$639.035         | <b>1997 - \$864.896*</b> | <b>2006 - \$1.295b*</b> | 2015 - \$1.247b                    |
| 1980 - \$394.202                    | 1989 - \$672.599         | 1998 - \$905.815         | 2007 - \$1.416b         | 2016 - \$1.316b                    |
| <b>1981 - \$409.050<sup>1</sup></b> | 1990 - \$692.856         | 1999 - \$939.399         | <b>2008 - \$1.416b</b>  | 2017 - \$1.357b                    |
| <b>1982 - \$408.897*</b>            | 1991 - \$707.936         | 2000 - \$997.675         | 2009 - \$1.246b         | 2018 - \$1.451b                    |
| 1983 - \$430.830                    | 1992 - \$716.137         | <b>2001 - \$952.300</b>  | 2010 - \$1.149b         | 2019 - \$1.500b                    |
| 1984 - \$474.624                    | 1993 - \$753.949         | 2002 - \$962.084         | 2011 - \$1.126b         | <b>2020 - \$1.260b<sup>2</sup></b> |
| 1985 - \$510.904                    | 1994 - \$804.288         | 2003 - \$1.021b          | 2012 - \$1.164b         | <b>2021 - \$1.070<sup>E</sup></b>  |

**Notes:** 1Year of Independence; 2The Covid-19 Pandemic struck; E Estimated 1995 Hurricane Luis; 2001 Terrorist Attack on NYC; 2008 Global Financial Crisis; 2014 New Administration  
**Source:** World Bank Figures with asterisk \* showing a doubling of GDP: (Website)

***A NEW ECONOMY: Tourism, Financial Services, Offshore Schools, and The CIP***

By 1972, the growing of sugarcane for the export of its products came to an abrupt end after 300 years; tourism, twenty years in the making, suddenly became the most dominant economic activity. Economic growth began to sparkle. The Table above

tells the story of Antigua and Barbuda's economy. Growth in 40 years transformed it by a factor of ten. ***Moving from approximately US\$409,050,000 (four hundred and nine million dollars) in 1981, to US\$1,070,000,000 (one***

***billion, seventy million dollars) by the start of 2021,*** the growth of the gross domestic product of an independent Antigua and Barbuda has been exceptional. A mix of economic activity accounts for the success.



Antigua and Barbuda was at one point the Offshore Gaming capital, outmaneuvering Costa Rica and Australia, second and third in the race. Our neighbour to the north virtually ended that role, and imperiled our banks by enacting harsh de-risking penalties. Offshore Banks, Trusts and Wealth Management were very much a part of our success, after 1982 - no more. Several offshore schools have helped to throttle economic activity by having large numbers of students attend classes in Antigua. They bought cars, rented apartments, bought food, and paid for entertainment, swelling demand that caused many nationals to become entrepreneurs. The Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP) has earned nearly EC\$1,000,000,000 in operational income and through the National Development Fund contributions, since 2013 when made law.

**CONCLUSION**

Antigua and Barbuda has been a story of astounding success economically, politically, and socially. The death of Sir Lester Bird in August 2021 allowed for his legacy to be recalled and for the outstanding accomplishments of several ABLP administrations to be brought to the fore - since he entered the political arena in 1971. It was a celebration of 50 years of governance with three brief interruptions.

The record of the current administration over the past 7 years is also outstanding, but the Covid-19 disease has spawned new challenges that will continue to cause disruptions, to test the leadership of the political institution charged with making Antigua and Barbuda shine.

In due course, the current administration is working on turning this micro-state into an Economic Powerhouse. A new era has dawned, with new expectations and new achievements.

**HAPPY 40<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE**  
**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

FROM THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF  
OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
NATIONAL PARK

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# Messages from Abroad





# UK congratulatory message

on the occasion of Antigua and Barbuda's 40th Anniversary of Independence



His Excellency Scott Furssedonn-Wood MVO,  
British High Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda

As British High Commissioner I would like to send the United Kingdom Government's warmest wishes and congratulations on Antigua and Barbuda's 40th Anniversary of Independence.

Over four decades our countries have worked together closely in pursuit of our common values and shared ambitions. This year, as the UK hosts COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference; and Antigua and Barbuda is Chair of both AOSIS and CARICOM, our close co-operation has never been more vital.

Despite the difficult times in which we live, there is much to celebrate. I look forward to returning to your beautiful country for the 1 November events. Congratulations on 40 remarkable years!



Lindsay Thompson,  
Resident British Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda

Happy 40th Anniversary of Independence! It's a testament to how important Antigua and Barbuda is to the UK that we opened our High Commission in St John's in 2019.

Since then the relationship between our countries has gone from strength to strength. And on a personal note, having got to know its people and stunning natural beauty, it's an honour and privilege to call Antigua and Barbuda my adopted home. I'm delighted to be able to celebrate your 40th Anniversary with you!





Dominican Republic Embassy  
in Antigua & Barbuda



Ambassador Raquel Jacobo



Counselor Ely Marleny Perez



Minister Counselor Marlene Vásquez



Counselor María Isabel Fernández

On behalf of the President of the Dominican Republic, His Excellency Luis Abinader, The Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Antigua and Barbuda, and from me personally, it is my pleasure to extend warm wishes to the people of Antigua and Barbuda as you celebrate your International Independence Day.

In Dominican Republic we have always perceived Antigua and Barbuda and its people with special warmth, respect and interest, taking into account its history, prominent culture and spiritual heritage.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to wish Your Excellency Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, good health and successes in your most responsible state activity, and for the friendly people of Antigua and Barbuda, peace, wealth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Raquel Jacobo**

Ambassador of the Dominican Republic  
in Antigua and Barbuda

@embrdayb | @EMBRDAYB | @embrDAYB

Paradise View Drive, Paradise View, St. John's | Phone: 1-(268)-562-9372 | Email: embdantiguaybarbuda@gmail.com





Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

# Communiqué

The government and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela extend their most sincere congratulations to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of independence, with which the country obtained full sovereignty to exercise its rights and duties as a free nation.

We celebrate the anniversary of the peaceful process that took this independence in 1981, through a democratic vote in that parliament. At the same time, it is necessary, to highlight the management of the Antigua and Barbuda Labor Party (ABLP) and its authorities, who have dedicated themselves to forging the political and justice pillars for the Antigua and Barbuda people; following the principles of equality, equity, cooperation, solidarity and mutual respect.

We also take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of your government, which, following these principles, has worked for the development and well-being of the country, particularly in the midst of this global COVID-19 pandemic, seeking to return to a new normal that guarantees the stability and prosperity of this great nation.

It is necessary to continue working together for the independence of our great region. Although each of our countries is free and independent, we must strive to defeat those imperialist attempts to subdue and subjugate the region and its peoples, and in that sense, Antigua and Barbuda is a worthy example in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To conclude, Venezuela reaffirms its firm support for the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda and the commitment to work hand in hand, always with the objective of achieving a prosperous future, of equity and justice for the peoples, and successfully addressing the challenges and current events that threaten regional stability. Long live the people of Antigua and Barbuda!

Caracas, November 1, 2021





डॉ के. जे. श्रीनिवासा  
Dr. K.J. Srinivasa



भारतीय उच्चायुक्त  
जार्जटाउन, गयाना  
High Commissioner of India  
Georgetown, Guyana

**MESSAGE**

On the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Antigua and Barbuda on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, I extend best wishes on behalf of the Government & people of India and the High Commission of India in Guyana accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, to Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Gaston Browne, the Government and all sisters and brothers of Antigua and Barbuda.

Bilateral relations between Antigua & Barbuda and India have been growing steadily and have seen greater visibility and enhanced momentum in all areas. India is a valuable and trusted partner in Antigua and Barbuda's growth story. India is committed to further strengthen and deepen the warm and friendly ties with Antigua and Barbuda. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi had clearly signalled the great importance and priority that India attaches to Antigua and Barbuda as a valuable partner and friend in the CARICOM. Antigua and Barbuda looks towards India for collaborations in many sectors including infrastructure healthcare, agriculture, education, hospitality, manufacturing, personal care services, renewable energy, SMEs etc. Government of India will be happy to support Antigua and Barbuda in all possible ways to assist in its requirements & continued growth and encourage Indian companies to work with Antiguan companies with offers of technology support and knowledge-sharing. India is also offering training and capacity building for the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda for enhancing the skill level of its people for nation building.

India will always be a strategic partner and a friend in need and deed for Antigua and Barbuda. We pray for the progress and well-being of its people.

Long live India-Antigua and Barbuda friendship.

(Dr. K. J. Srinivasa)





H.E. Sir Rodney Williams  
Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda  
St.John's, Antigua and Barbuda

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in my own name, I extend warm congratulations and best wishes to you and, through you to the government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua and Barbuda is China's traditional friend in the Caribbean region. Over the past 38 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, bilateral relations have grown smoothly with pragmatic cooperation yielding fruitful results and friendship deepening between our peoples. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Antigua and Barbuda have assisted each other and risen to the challenge side by side, writing a new chapter of friendship between our two countries. I highly value China's relations with Antigua and Barbuda, and stand ready to work with you to further bring the friendly relationship between our two countries to a new level.

I wish for prosperity for your country and happiness for the people.

Xi Jinping  
President of the People's Republic of China  
Beijing, November 1 , 2021



# A Look at the Economy

By Gail Imhoff-Gordon

Antigua and Barbuda is a country blessed with people who have thrived on pursuing a better quality of life for ourselves and our loved ones. Indeed, like any other country, the economy has progressed because as individuals, as families, as communities, as a nation, we work, we spend, we plan, we revise our plans, we invest, we collaborate, we build, we sacrifice, we overcome, we adapt, we fail, we learn, we rebuild, we position and finally we reposition, if necessary. As a small, open and vulnerable economy, Antigua and Barbuda has exhibited unique features. By November 1, 1981, the country had already overcome shifting exogenous factors and had already felt some of the effects of a changing physical climate. Today, climate change has added a new and permanent dimension to our vulnerabilities.

As a small island state in the Caribbean Sea just transitioning away from a plantation economy to a service-based economy in 1981, our economy was then characterized as structurally vulnerable primarily because we depended (then, as we do today) heavily on one sector – first agriculture and then tourism and its related services. We are geographically vulnerable to storms and hurricanes developing off the coast of Africa, dusts, pests, and

bugs that invade our environment. In addition to traditional challenges, climate change is now something of an overarching challenge to achieving and sustaining growth and development; yet we continue our march towards development, towards a better quality of life for ourselves and generations yet unborn.

Economists tend to look at development as a process of changes and improvements taking place over time. These changes include both economic and social changes. Development will be taking place if, there is advancement in the capital stock of the country through investment.

Development will also take place when, over time, incomes (wages and salaries) earned and the purchasing power of those incomes increase; if there are more and better employment opportunities available; if there are improvements in the quality, range, and access to healthcare and education services; if existing inequalities (including gender) are being reduced, among other things. Development is essentially about improvements in the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities across the economy, including and especially as it relates to the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable among us.

**Economic Growth Over the Last Forty Years.** If we imagine all the goods and services that are produced by private sector businesses and the goods and services produced by the public sector, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can be thought of as the (dollar) value of this output. With the measure of GDP used here (GDP at constant prices), when the value of our output increases over time it is because we are producing more.

Data from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below, highlight the following:

1. That we have enjoyed some measure of success in growing the economy over the last forty years. Comparing where we started (1981) with where we are today in 2021, we can see in 1981 our GDP was approximately EC\$987.5 million. Today, even with the damage that the Covid-19 pandemic has done to our economy, GDP is projected to amount to EC\$2.98 billion. Before the pandemic hit, our GDP at the end of 2019 was roughly EC\$3.67 billion. Antigua and Barbuda is currently characterized by the United Nations Human Development Index as a country of high human development. (Life expectancy, for example, has increased from approximately 69 years in 1981 to 77 years today.) Antigua and Barbuda is also considered by the World Bank to be a high-income country.



## GDP 1981 -2021: Measured in EC\$M

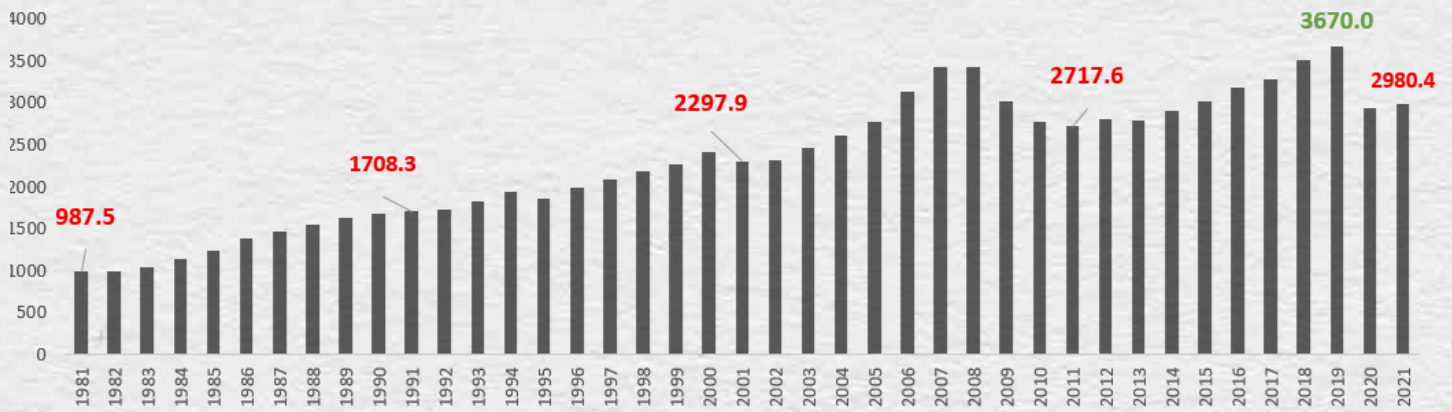


Figure 1.

2. That progress in growth and development has been interrupted by setbacks that are somewhat foreseeable (hurricanes and storms), and setbacks that are unpredictable and protracted and brought on by different world events, wars, and economic crises way outside of our control. Figure 2 below measures the rate of growth of the economy. Put simply, it expresses how much we have produced this year in comparison with what we produced last year. The growth rate of 3.8% in 1981 means that we produced 3.8% more than we did in 1980. Where the curve (in Figure 2) dips but is still above zero, the economy is still growing - just at a slower rate than it did the previous year. More importantly, though, the diagram below shows the economic vulnerability of the economy: 1995 - Hurricane Luis; 2001 - World Trade Centre Terrorist Attack (9/11); 2009 (to 2011) - the global financial crisis, the collapse of the Stanford Group, and the BAICO fallout; and 2020 - the COVID-19 pandemic.



Figure 2.

What is Climate Change and What Does It Mean for Us? Climate change is quite literally changes in the climate brought about by increasing global temperatures. Though we are not unfamiliar with preparing for and enduring hurricanes, the only Category 5 hurricanes in recorded history to affect us are hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. Small island developing states and low-income countries have done very little to cause and even contribute to climate change but will be most affected by it. For us here in Antigua and Barbuda, like other small island developing states, climate change means sea level rise (gradual, over time); increase in the number and severity of heatwaves; more severe droughts; more powerful storms; and hurricanes.

The most apparent and immediate response to climate change is, understandably, to make our infrastructure better able to withstand more intense storms. This includes the buildings in which we live; the buildings in which we work; the buildings where we receive medical care; the buildings where our first responders operate from; the buildings where our children are educated; our roads, our utilities infrastructure, and the like. As necessary as this is, however, it is not enough.





Climate change will also bring new public health challenges to a framework that is already overwhelmed. Apart from the direct effects of injury and death from storms, flooding, and heatwaves, climate change is anticipated to change the patterns of some infectious diseases - warmer periods combined with periods of intense rainfall support the growth and spread of many infectious diseases. Vector borne diseases such as dengue fever, chikungunya, zika, malaria, and tick-borne diseases are likely to occur with greater frequency. Building Resilience - Small Size, Vulnerabilities, and High Income. Small size does not only mean a small landmass (or a small pool of resources) which we can use to generate income and revenues. Small size also means a lot of other constraining things like a heavy dependence on export markets

Responding to climate change will require fundamental changes in what we do and the way in which we do it – at the governmental level, private sector, and within communities, and households. For example, architects, contractors, plumbers, electricians will need to expand and upscale their skillsets to design and build for more intense storms. Farming and livestock

rearing will be affected by climate change as warmer temperatures, droughts, floods, intense storms will affect both crop production (and yields) and livestock. Inasmuch as the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of at least subsistence type agriculture, climate change considerations insist that our approach cannot be business as usual.

The Board, Committees, Management and Staff of  
**St. John's Co-operative Credit Union** on behalf of our Members  
take this opportunity to wish our People a very

*Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
of INDEPENDENCE

Resilience, Reflection and Recovery



**ST. JOHN'S  
CO-OPERATIVE  
CREDIT UNION**

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because the local market is too small. It also means that costs of public infrastructure, public administration, communication, energy, and transport will be disproportionately high when compared to larger economies. Small size means that the rules of engagement are probably not set up to see you thrive. Small economies are expected to grow and develop even as they are impeded by small size.

There are very little meaningful handouts or carveouts available in the world for small economies with high incomes and high levels of human development. To make the challenge even more perplexing, we should also appreciate the fact that while there is little that we can do to increase our small size, coastal erosion and sea level rise are very real threats to the 108 square miles of Antigua and 62 square miles of Barbuda that we have come to rely upon. All of this means that reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience is not only urgent; it is also necessary. And it is a team effort.

Diversifying our economy would make us less vulnerable and though still very much necessary, it has been elusive. We have experimented and experienced slivers of hope with manufacturing and offshore services, but this did not last primarily because success at diversification depends not only on our capacity to be competitive but also on how well we are able to adapt to a very unsympathetic global system. Diversification options, currently under active consideration, include the blue economy, the orange economy (creative industries), and medicinal cannabis. We also continue to pursue foreign direct investment that can expand and diversify our tourism product in cruise, yachting, and accommodations. The search for feasible diversification options will remain an ongoing and active one.

Looking forward to the next ten years; achieving growth that can be sustained; and navigating our way to an improved standard of living will depend on how well we wrestle with our vulnerabilities; how resilient we become as individuals, as families, as communities, and as a nation. As individuals, as families, and as communities our efforts have allowed us to build on the gains of the past and to surmount challenges, but we know that continued efforts will secure our advancement, socially and economically.





# Antigua Cruise Port Cruising into the Future



Antigua Cruise Port (“ACP”), as part of the Global Ports Holding network, operates the main cruise port of Antigua & Barbuda which comprises of picturesque Heritage Quay and Nevis Pier, renowned Falmouth Harbour and the impressive new 5th berth near the Point Community. Since the launch of operations in 2019, ACP has undertaken extensive projects to transform the twin-island nation into a major and flourishing cruise destination. As we celebrate Antigua and Barbuda’s 40th Anniversary of Independence under the theme “Resilience, Reflection and Recovery”, we reflect on the many trials presented by the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted us all globally, but particularly the Cruise Industry. However, inspired by the resilience and strength of Antiguan and Barbudans, we have pressed on with our innovative yet necessary plans for Antigua Cruise Port, and are excited by the hope of a promising recovery of the sector with more sustainability and a value-created relationship tailored to suit the needs

of our cruising communities. We have now completed a 30-million-dollar facility to accommodate the Oasis Class vessels, a phenomenal project in itself, which includes an investment consisting of a mooring dolphin, a brand-new boardwalk which connects the new pier to Heritage Quay, a security building and new pier increasing the port’s daily maximum capacity from 10,000 to 15,000 passengers with a total of five (5) berths as well as positive opportunities for Homeporting. In addition to accommodating the largest cruise ships in the world, we have also upgraded our physical infrastructure investment by providing training programs for all port users inclusive of customer service, port security, port history, retail strategies and Covid-19 Health Protocols. This series of training has resulted in the certification of seventeen (17) Antigua Cruise Port Ambassadors including tour guides, taxi drivers, retailers, security officers and custodians. As we focus on the port aspect, we wish to highlight the upland development of the 5th berth,

the upgrade of Heritage Quay and the master plan for Antigua Cruise Port which includes additional retail shops, food and beverage outlets and entertainment featuring Antigua and Barbuda’s talented, creative and exciting entertainers. Once accomplishing these feats, we are prepared to enhance the local product by introducing a fresh mix of locally created wares indigenous to the island, and providing a venue where the local talent can be displayed for the viewing and listening pleasure of those who will eagerly await this presentation.

We note the difficulties ahead as we continue to adjust to the new realities of working through a pandemic, however, we are inspired to provide creative opportunities for our local audience and are excited to embrace the future of cruising within the twin-island paradise of Antigua and Barbuda.

Happy Independence Day to the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda!!





*Happy*

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Antigua & Barbuda**







# Growth and Development in Education Over Last

# 40 Years

*By Kadian Camacho*

**E**ducation in Antigua and Barbuda began way before 40 years ago. Dating back to the 17th century, educational provisions were meagre, limited to the white and free section of the population and were confined to the basic level. Later, coloureds gained a foothold in this privately delivered, scant basic education provision. Education was therefore delivered by private, fee-paying, single-teacher schools that were uncoordinated. Only those whites who could afford it sent their boys to England and Scotland to grammar schools.

The 1834 emancipation of the enslaved marked a major climacteric in education in Antigua and Barbuda, because with emancipation came the creation of the education system. Anchored by the Moravian Church in the 1830s and other denominations by the 1860s, educational provision was religious in nature. The Mico Normal School in Antigua and Barbuda was founded in 1837, and by 1842, Antigua and Barbuda became the teacher training center for male elementary school teachers of the Eastern Caribbean.



Public elementary schools for the masses were also provided, while public secondary education was established through the Middle-Class Education Act of 1882, which provided the legal basis for the founding of the Antigua Grammar School in 1884, and the Antigua Girls High School in 1886. Later, there would even be the creation, in the late 1950s, of an indigenous teacher training college, The Leeward Island Teachers College, which was transformed into a single tertiary institution: Antigua State College in 1977. Schools and learning were now accessible to all segments of the society.

Of note is that the earlier provisions for the whites soon morphed into private elementary schools such that a dual education system of public and private was created. Some of these elements dating back to the commencement of schooling in the country in the 17th century, and after emancipation in 1834, still exist today. So much so, that a great percentage of privately run schools are still religious in formation and practice. However, Education has grown exponentially over the last 40 years, to the point of universal early childhood and primary education for at least 30 years, and universal secondary education since 2013. Schooling is compulsory for children between the ages of 5 to 16 years.

Therefore, it is fair to say that Antigua and Barbuda provides basic education for its population and has therefore met the 'Education for All' goal that was set for 2015. Daycare and Early Childhood schooling is still predominantly private with a total of approximately 80 establishments inclusive of 4 government-run facilities, with both the daycare centre as well as the pre-school in Barbuda being run by the Barbuda Council. A fifth government pre-school and early

childhood training centre is also about to be opened in Antigua, which will continue to ensure solid foundational learning in the state.

Globalization and technological progress have led to the world changing at an unprecedented pace, affecting the way we live, work, and learn. Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) therefore "strives to align itself with labour market forces and often serves as the learning bridge between education and the world of work by 'developing knowledge, skills, and competences of individuals for their employment, careers, livelihoods, and lifelong learning'" (UNESCO, 2015). TVET in Antigua began with the National Technical Training Centre (NTTC), the brainchild of Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, Father of the Nation. Not only was the institution purpose-built for TVET offering, but the NTTC also became the institution where adult education was formalized. The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) opened its doors later in 2007, as a merger between Golden Opportunity and Youth Skills (both created in the 1990s).

The present curriculum is modular competency-based which leads to a Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ), awarded by CXC through the Antigua and Barbuda National Training Agency (NTA). ABICE acts as a viaduct between secondary schooling and college education, while preparing individuals for entrepreneurship and the job market, increasing upward mobility, public sector human resource upgrading and development. This clearly shows the understanding that there is no one path to civic success and development in Antigua and Barbuda. Higher education and training are mentioned among the key factors that will determine

the country's ability to sustain its competitiveness and further secure increased human development in the Government's Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS).

Therefore, in assessing growth and development in education for the last 40 years, credence must be given to the 1988 launch of the first-year University of the West Indies Undergraduate Program; the creation of the division/school of pharmacy; the 2001 expansion of the department of teacher education to include secondary teacher education offering not only in-service but also pre-service training; and the forged partnership with LIAT to offer an aircraft engineering program that will lead, after three years, to an Associate Degree as well as a basic license and a Level 3 CVQ, all within the Antigua State College.

The founding of other tertiary institutions such as Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute [ABHTI] (1977); Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology [ABIIT] (2001); and off-shore institutions such as The American University of Antigua [AUA] (2004); The American International College of Arts and Sciences [AICASA]; and the University of Health Sciences Antigua [UHSA] (1982) - all play a major role in creating the envisioned *harmonious, prosperous, and modern Antigua and Barbuda founded on the principles of sustainability and inclusive growth; where equality of opportunity, peace, and justice prevail for all citizens and residents* (MTDS 2015).

The pinnacle of development of tertiary education in Antigua and Barbuda however, is arguably seen through the opening of the fourth landed campus of the University of the West Indies - Five Islands Campus (UWIFC) in 2019.



According to the Services Sector Policy and Expansion Plan of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Industry, Sports, Culture, and National Festivals (2017), the global shortage of talent combined with the increasing demand for higher education; the tightening of visa restrictions in some traditional education exporting markets; and the emergence of new services in the education sector, provided openings for Antigua and Barbuda to be incorporated into the global education services value chain. This means that Antigua and Barbuda can forge pathways to supplying training and development courses to meet the varying needs of global businesses. Thus the focus of UWIFC is to create and offer courses relevant for the present and future development of the region, such as the establishing of the Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy, and the upgrading of the Teacher Education Program from Associate Degrees to Bachelor Degrees.

Further, one cannot look at growth and development without a scrutiny of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education. A number of policies and programs have been introduced in this regard to include: the formulation of an ICT Policy (2013); the Government Assisted Technology Endeavor (GATE 2103); Computer Access Centers (2014); multiple initiatives to provide technological devices to students and teachers; and a focus on Internet penetration in schools, where all public schools now have access to the Internet albeit with varying bandwidth, speed, and spread across compounds. One must concede that more needs to be done in this regard, especially in light of the global pandemic

(Covid-19) and the growing importance of online teaching and learning. Governments are faced with the dual swords of the economic implications of the pandemic, as well as the repercussions for education, which undoubtedly affect the sustainable development prospects of the State. Thus, the strength and involvement of the private sector in educational provision, which has always reflected the high value placed on education by the citizens, cannot be understated, as this was needed in order to bear the educational ramifications of Covid-19.

Although there is much evidence of growth, there still exists imperious impacts of globalization such as the brain drain of highly skilled/ trained teaching personnel from the education system. There are still some systemic problems that must be addressed such as ensuring an effective monitoring and evaluation framework of teachers and teacher education. Monitoring as an invaluable tool for good management provides a critically important base for evaluation. Thus teachers must be encouraged to avail themselves of the annual training offered at the Educator's Summers Institute which would support the creation of a community of practice in education. Additional development in, and the use of CVQs are needed, such that more focus is placed on TVET areas and the provision of other pathways of learning for students toward being successful citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. Further ICT injection especially in Barbuda is required.

Additionally, although secondary school candidates perform reasonably well in CSEC and CAPE examinations, enrolment at the tertiary level continues to be miniscule, when compared with

enrolment at the other levels of education. The gender disparity still exists especially at the secondary level where, in all forms on average, girls are younger than boys and more boys still age out of the system. Although boys perform on par with females whenever they do complete their secondary tuition and sit CSEC, more than 60% of students in tertiary institutions on island are girls. This could be an indication of approximately 92% and 75% of teachers in primary and secondary institutions respectively being females as well as more and more males entering the workplace or traveling overseas to study.

Therefore, if Antigua and Barbuda is to thrive in this globalized environment, where the brain drain is rampant in our region, education offerings must continue to evolve. Social education programs such as the Schools Meal Program, School Uniform Grant, and the provision of free textbooks must continue in order to bolster access to basic education. Other 'second chance' programs, such as Youth Education and Empowerment Program (YEEP), continue to be necessary educational boosters of economic growth. As Robert Zemsky states, education must be "mission centred and market smart" (Altbach, Gumport and Johnstone 2001).

This will ensure that our citizens can compete globally. Students ultimately are in search of *preparation for good job, some knowledge about a wide variety of topics relevant to their lives and the world ... and a modicum of self-discovery in the form of a broader understanding of themselves.* (Altbach et al 2001 p. 283). Where this occurs one can assert that student success in education has indeed taken place, which is synonymous to growth and development in education.



# THE UWI FIVE ISLANDS: MOVING ANTIGUA & BARBUDA FORWARD

It was a historic occasion in May 2019 when the University of the West Indies Finance & General Purposes Committee voted to establish a fifth (5th) landed campus in Antigua and Barbuda. Just two years prior, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda had made a presentation to the University Council and so the process began to establish what we know today as The UWI Five Islands Campus.

The UWI and Antigua & Barbuda have a long history. In the first class of the then University College of the West Indies in 1948, there were three Antiguans: Donald E. Christian, R. Alford Walwyn and Ruby Lake. All three would graduate from the Faculty of Medical Sciences and go on to have successful medical practices. There have been several prominent Antiguans who have graduated from the various campuses of The UWI.



*First Class of UWI in 1948*

Historically, only two (2) in ten high school graduates in the OECS pursue higher education. There were various with access to high quality education at an affordable cost being a major one. The UWI Five Islands was established to help citizens of Antigua & Barbuda as well as the OECS access higher education.



*Opening of The UWI Five Islands Campus. Governor General Sir Rodney Williams (centre) with (L-R) Hon. Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin, Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor, Professor Stafford Griffith and Hon. Michael Browne.*

In September 2019, the eyes of the region descended on Antigua and Barbuda as The UWI Five Islands Campus was officially opened. Amidst the pomp and ceremony, stood the dreams and aspirations of a country and a region eager to educate and move its people forward.



*Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne exchanges a handshake with Vice Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles as the Governor General looks on.*

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the operations of The UWI Five Islands but the campus was able to make the switch to the virtual environment to ensure its students received the world class education offered by The UWI. The campus also hosted its first Campus Council meeting led by the Chairman of the Campus Council, Mr. Aziz Hadeed.



*Mr. Aziz Hadeed, Chairman of Campus Council*

The campus, through the regional institution's UWI CARE initiative was able to assist vulnerable persons affected by the pandemic. The Five Islands UWICARE project was an undertaking of staff and students that was coordinated by the Campus' COVID-19 Working Group.



It provided UWCARE hampers of food and other items to the elderly and single mothers with young children in the Five Islands community. With cash contributions that the Group was able to raise for the purchase of items and a significant contribution of food items by the First Choice Foods Supermarket chain, 48 care packages were prepared and distributed to the community in time for Mothers' Day.



*Students after packing care packages for distribution.*

2021 was a historic year for The Five Islands Campus. In January, The UWI Five Islands held its first Presentation of Graduates. It was an extraordinary occasion as the Class of 2020 was not only the first class to be awarded Postgraduate diplomas from the institution, but it was also a class of women only. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries including Governor General Sir Rodney Williams. The feature address at that ceremony was Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda.



In July 2021, the campus awarded its first honorary degree to Dr. Ruby-Lake Richards, the first Antiguan female to graduate from The UWI. She was a member of the class of 1948. Dr. Lake-Richards, who is the widow of the late Sir Novelle Richards, had a long and illustrious

in medicine in Antigua, Trinidad and Canada.



*Dr. Ruby Lake-Richards (right) listens with her son Barry as the citation is being read by the Five Islands Campus Public Orator, Andrea Veira.*

In August 2021, the Five Islands Campus launched a fourth school, the School of Science, Computing and Artificial Intelligence. This school aims to help develop graduates with the knowledge and skills to propel Antigua forward in the digital world.

In October 2021, the Five Islands Campus held its Presentation of Graduates for the class of 2021. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the ceremony was held virtually and 43 graduates received degrees and diplomas. Also honorary degrees were awarded to two sons of the soil. Sir Andy Roberts was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree while Dr. George Mansoor was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

The UWI Five Islands Campus is continuing its mission to develop Antigua and Barbuda through its offerings. In addition to the degrees and postgraduate diploma programmes, the Campus has launched its Lifelong Learning Unit which will offer short courses and collaborations with other institutions to offer credentials such as with Harvard Business School.



**The UWI Five Islands Campus:  
Moving Antigua & Barbuda Forward  
through Education.**





# YOUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS STARTS AT THE UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

*Now more than ever, education is key.*

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# Health Forty<sup>at</sup>

*by Dr. James Knight*

**L**ife, some say, begins at 40 years. But how we manage our health, even from a much earlier age, is a most important factor in the quality of life we experience. That is as true for any nation as it is for any individual.

When Antigua and Barbuda became an independent nation of forty years ago, healthcare had not advanced significantly from where it was in 1967 - the year in which we took over control of our internal affairs from Britain.

Whatever had been established many decades before, with a small handful of dedicated doctors and a modest core of hard-working and caring nurses, was what still constituted the major features of our national healthcare system.

At the old Holberton Hospital, at the time of Independence, there was a rudimentary emergency service. There was a single general surgeon, a physician specialist, a paediatrician, and a gynaecologist. There were no other specialists. About half a dozen house officers were on staff. A social service nurse would normally do an assessment of a patient's home circumstances

before discharge, and at times instruct household members in the appropriate home care.

The Mental Hospital (now The Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital) had on staff a psychiatrist and nurses trained in mental health management.

Our ambulance service at that time was nothing more than a conveyance or transport, with a siren and a stretcher, driven by someone who didn't mind driving fast. But there were, at times, volunteers from the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, and possibly, a remnant of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

The St. John's Health Centre was the flagship of the community healthcare, offering mental health consultation, dental extractions, and vaccinations, as well as regular medical clinics and wound dressing services. The Gray's Farm community already had a clinic too.

However, there were some satellite clinics in some rural areas. Bolans had a major one within a house where the doctor once resided, and later the District Nurse Midwife. Others were at Swetes, Carty's Hill, Newfield, Judge's Hill

and a few other small ones in other places. (One, more recent, which has become important for the southern rural district, is the Health Centre at Jennings). A doctor has, since then, also paid routine visits to the Fiennes Institute, Her Majesty's Prison, and the Boys' Training School.

District doctors visited the satellite clinics weekly to see children and the elderly, primarily; and the nurses worked all week, assessing persons living with hypertension, diabetes, other chronic patients/illnesses, as well as following up on pregnant women. The District midwives still regularly did deliveries in the community. The Central Board of Health, headed by the Chief Health Inspector, responsible for national sanitation and hygiene, operated out of the St. John's Health Centre, as did the Chief Medical Officer of the country.

Over in Barbuda, up until the 1980s, there was no change in a century-old healthcare system which consisted of a senior pharmacist from Antigua, a nurse/midwife, a doctor visiting monthly, and an occasional dentist from Antigua; although a small hospital, called Spring View



Hospital, had been constructed in Codrington by 1981. The Barbuda Council, since its inception, guarded the responsibility for healthcare on the island. But resources were not available for adequate management. So Dr. Nicholas Fuller, an Antiguan physician, began flying over to see patients each Friday.

A change came to that situation when an American doctor, who visited the island, decided to organize a programme in which American doctors would visit on a monthly basis, spending a working vacation on the island. This initiative came in 1981. But even with that, very few cases were managed at that small hospital.

The Council found itself paying, sometimes two or more times in a week, for chartered flights to take patients to the Emergency Room in Antigua, often with fairly minimal complaints for which they were simply written prescriptions.

In November of 1997, an Antiguan doctor who applied to the Council, was employed as the first doctor to work and reside fulltime on the island. That doctor, having worked for some years at the Holberton Hospital, and being familiar with the colleagues and the general operations in the healthcare system in Antigua, was able to avail himself of both professional and material support, and in that way, manage most cases at the local hospital.

Along with the great relief that the new service represented for the people and for the Barbuda Council, came another very welcoming development. For years, there had been no dental care available on the island. However, near the beginning of the year 2000, with a major contribution from the Medical Benefits Scheme, the Barbuda Council opened a new dental clinic with two chairs, offering extractions, fillings, and a dental hygiene service.

Great leaps have been made in healthcare on both islands since then. For the Barbudans, there was no turning back, and after the first resident doctor, others were satisfied that one could actually live and work there. Other important boosts to healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda, have been the opening of community clinics with doctors working daily; the many young persons offered medical training by Cuba; the upgrading of the ambulance service, with paramedics and emergency medical technicians; and, of course, in 2009, the opening of the modern Mount St. John's Medical Centre (MSJMC), now renamed the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) in honour of one of our national heroes, the late Sir Lester Bryant Bird.

In response to a significant influx of Montserratians into Antigua, escaping the volcanic eruptions on their island, in the mid 1990's, the British Government offered material assistance to the Government here. This assistance came in the form of four clinic structures – The Browne's Ave, All Saints, and Clare Hall Clinics, as well as a smaller one at Piggott's. The Government then built a new clinic structure in Johnson's Point. All were opened between 2001 and 2004. Then some years later, a new Gray's Farm Health Centre was opened. Two of these, All Saints and Gray's Farm, in addition to the St. John's Health Centre, offer dental care.

Eye examinations and the provision of spectacles came to the community clinics also, with the assistance of the Caribbean Council for the Blind. Other medical professionals include a community-based pediatrician, a nephrologist, and an internist. Meanwhile, the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre has been growing in the specialist services offered, especially in the

last few years. Referrals are made from the community clinics to the outpatients department, for specialist intervention in the areas of nephrology, ophthalmology, urology, oncology, and neurology; in addition to the ear, nose and throat (ENT), orthopedics, obstetrics/gynaecology, internal medicine, general surgery, and paediatrics. Physiotherapy, or rehabilitation therapy, is also offered - All this with the recent addition of highly qualified emergency medical specialists in the Emergency Department.

Given the rise in motor vehicular accidents and gun violence, a most notable addition to the services offered at the hospital in recent years, is maxillofacial surgery. Also, referrals are made to that service from the community dental clinics.

Supporting all other specialties in the hospital, are those of radiology and pathology, operating from a modern radiology or imaging department and from a laboratory of highly qualified professionals and technicians, respectively.

A real game changer in the management of critically ill patients came with the employment, in recent years, of highly trained intensive care specialists for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and primarily dedicated and hardworking Cuban doctors.

Additionally, a hyperbaric chamber, primarily for treating persons who suffer from diving accidents (bends), has recently come into operation at the SLBMC.

Situated right next to the hospital is the modern Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean (TCCEC), with which the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has a special arrangement, and where nationals receive radiotherapy at special rates, paid mostly by the Government through the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS).



Then, with the arrival of the SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) Pandemic, an eleven bed Infectious Disease Control Centre, contemplated for a few years, has been established on the compound of what was the old Holberton Hospital, and is operated as an extension of the new Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre. In addition, the former National Technical Training Centre on Nugent Ave, has also been renovated as the Sir Cuthwyn Lake Medical Centre and retrofitted with seventy additional beds to enhance the Country's management of infectious diseases.

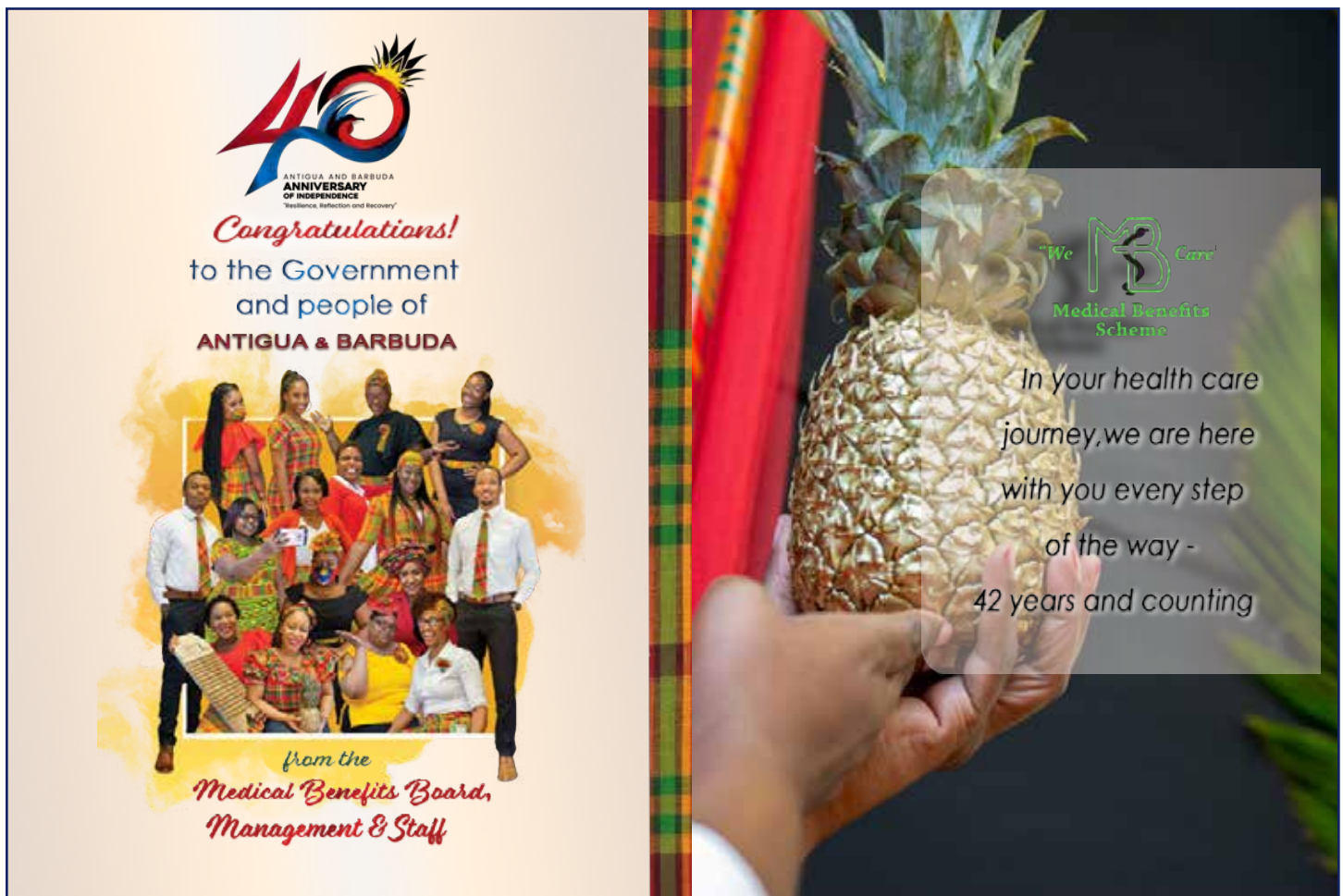
Wellness, however, in this materially modern population, is what really needs promotion. Though the Medical Benefits Scheme covers the cost of treating

about a dozen chronic ailments, and has provision for special requests for help with cancer therapy and other health interventions, expenditure on treating lifestyle illnesses is becoming overwhelming to the system. The ever-swelling number of candidates for treatment at the Dialysis Unit of the hospital is the clearest example of that.

In the last three years or so, a few kidney transplants have been performed at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre. In the long run, a kidney transplant is less costly than the continued kidney dialysis of a patient. But it is quite expensive in the short run, and cannot keep pace with the incidence of chronic renal disease, or kidney failure, among the population. This is the area in which the weakness

of our primary healthcare is most exposed. Though we have the basic infrastructure, and enough available healthcare professionals, we do not have the level of organization, monitoring, and accountability in the community healthcare system, to guarantee standardized adequate management of chronic illnesses, and the promotion of wellness.

What we refer to as "polyclinics" really are not. Hopefully, as we go forward, especially with the idea of establishing a National Health Insurance, we will tighten up our loose ends in healthcare and wellness promotion, so as to be more efficient and effective, in the effort to create and maintain a healthy, productive independent country.





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# YOUTH FOCUS: TIME TO CONSIDER THE ORANGE ECONOMY

*By Regis Burton*

For decades, Antigua and Barbuda (Waladli and Wa'omoni) has constantly explored opportunities from various sectors to support the advancement of its twin islands and its people. From flints to cash crops, then the service industry; the resilience and determination to always evolve the nation is a notable attribute that we should celebrate and cherish. However, in these unprecedented times, how can we defy all the odds and continue the sustainable development of Antigua and Barbuda? As we celebrate 40 years of Independence, we should consider the Orange Economy as a new strategic solution to economic diversification and to unlocking the potential within our country.



In October 2013, Ivan Duque Marquez and Felipe Buitrago wrote and published, "The Orange Economy: An Infinite Opportunity." They emphasized that this is an opportunity that Latin America and the Caribbean cannot afford to miss. What is this "Orange Economy" the writers referred to, and how can this help Antigua and Barbuda? According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Orange Economy, also known as the Creative Economy, "is the production, promotion, dissemination, and/or marketing of goods, services, and activities that have cultural, artistic, or patrimonial content". Simply put, it is economic activity generated from the interconnectedness of the intellectual property of human talents, ideas, cultural and creative goods, and services.

The color **Orange** is used to describe this economy because of its direct correlation with creativity. In ancient Egypt, orange is the dominant color for culture, creativity, and identity, and it was usually used to adorn the tombs of pharaohs. Hence, the adjective orange describes the economy quite well. There are three main categories within the creative economy, although it includes sub-sectors. They are: the Cultural Industries, Visual Arts, and New Media and Content. Cultural Industries involve cinema, photography, radio, and television. Visual Arts involves the design, fashion, architecture, and dance. The New Media and Content

category relates to software creation, technology solutions, and video games. Although tourism, is the lifeline of our modern economy, it is important to note that the modern tourist is actually desirous of experiencing and being immersed in our culture beyond the sun, sea, and sand. The Orange Economy, separated from tourism, paves a way for creative ideas to be utilized to improve our tourism product.

The Orange Economy also provides job opportunities for people from various sectors. For example: If a Netflix movie is captured in Antigua or Barbuda, there are so many key players - actors, videographers, editors, producers, scriptwriters, and even the locations where filming is happening, the food consumed, transportation, utilities used and so on, that will be involved and benefit financially. The creation of this final good generates economic activity for a number of players, reduces the overall unemployment, and pushes Antigua and Barbuda to recognize the talents that are not usually recognized. The income generated can then be invested into future projects within and outside of the Orange Economy.

A common concern is how can we get young people involved in and benefit from the Orange Economy? It starts with education. Promoting cultural and creative entrepreneurship and implementing courses on the Orange Economy into the Antigua and Barbuda schools' curricula. Specific focus

on this should be offered at the UWI Five Islands Campus to help improve on data gathering and research, and development of this new phenomenon. This will further help to support future policies which are needed to promote the creative economy. With this exposure, education, and policy support, youth will be given a chance to explore a wide range of promising careers in the creative field and a voice can be given to those who otherwise may be voiceless.

Additionally, monetary grants, investment partnerships, or mentorship programs with entrepreneurs who have creative ideas, talents, goods, or services will be needed to help the youth get involved, remain, and reap success from this niche economic outlet.

We all saw it. The Covid-19 pandemic forced many people to delve into their creative side, and it is important that Antigua and Barbuda leverage the abundance of talents and skills of its people. The Orange Economy creates a great opportunity for us to diversify our economic portfolio, unlock talent and ideas from our people, and support the research and development of the Caribbean creative industries.

Happy Independence Antigua and Barbuda, and I hope we can consider the Orange Economy as a solution to a brighter social and economic future for our twin-island Nation and its People.





# The National Housing Development & Urban Renewal Company Limited An Independence Message

The National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company Limited takes this opportunity to convey our heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on this auspicious occasion, the 40th Anniversary of Independence. This day not only marks the Independence of our country but it also shows us how much our country has developed since 1981.

The successes our country has experienced are not due to any one factor or any one person. Our successes over the past 40 years are due to the unity, harmony, hard-work,

and the resilience of our people.

We can celebrate this day with love and with a sense of joy only because our past leaders and heroes shed blood or toiled unceasingly for this country.

We can celebrate this day because our present leaders possess the strength and foresight to make tough decisions in the best interest of all. It's a day to remember all those heroes and all our leaders and pay them respect. With that being said, we should also contribute our part for this country's prosperity and keep up the legacy that our past generations fought for. As we commemorate 40

years of Independence, we are faced with the worst pandemic in a century.

We must be reminded that, "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only objective of government."

This day is the perfect time for us to show our love and respect for this country. We, at National Housing Development and Urban Renewal Company, wish you and your family a blessed Independence Day celebrations.

Three cheers for our beloved Antigua and Barbuda! Hip Hip Hip Hooray!!! Best Wishes





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At this Special Juncture in the Life of our Nation, we the Management and Staff of the Island Provision Group wish to offer Heartiest Congratulations to the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Political Independence of our Twin-Island State.

**ISLAND PROVISION GROUP OF COMPANIES,  
SIR GEORGE H. WALTER HIGHWAY, ST. GEORGE'S, ANTIGUA**



# The State of Agriculture

1981 TO 2021

*Gregory Bailey - Director of Agriculture - shares his views on state the of agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda over the past four decades. He speaks frankly on the challenges facing the sector as well as the issues that have stymied the growth and development of agriculture. In addition, he points to solutions and policy decisions needed to place agriculture on firmer footing.*

## ***Agriculture at the time of Independence, November 1981***

Independence came during the middle of what we term 'the green revolution'. This was a pivotal period in world history; a pivotal period for agriculture. Here is where much of what we describe as the 'fundamental technologies' in agriculture were developed - the use of fertilizers in ratios for a variety of plant species. It also ushered in an intensification of livestock production with the use of certain hormones to improve both production and productivity. From that perspective, we achieved Independence at a period when agriculture began a transformation.

## ***Agriculture's Contribution to GDP in 1981***

Back in 1981, the agricultural sector played an important role in the local economy. However, over the past four decades the sector's contributions to economic growth have declined precipitously. The data suggests that agriculture represented approximately fifteen percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1981. This however needs to be placed into context. At the time of Independence, we were more of an agrarian state; tourism was not as developed as it is today; there were less sectors contributing to economic growth - in a word, the economy was smaller. Obviously, when you don't have a lot of sectors

generating income, societies tend to lean towards the agrarian side. Given food's importance to man's sustenance, everybody was planting something at that time. The contribution to GDP would have been more given the smaller size of the economy. It is therefore important to take all this into context when considering agriculture's contributions 40 years ago when compared to today, which is less than two percent of GDP. There are other sectors that are contributing today to growth such as banking. However, from a percentage point of view, we should be doing better.

The state at which we are today is a reflection of our food insecurity.

Interms of the number of individuals who derived their livelihood directly or indirectly from agriculture was far greater then, than it is today.



Here again, we need to place things into context. As societies develop, people generally moved away from primary production, such as farming. It is important to note that less people being involved in agriculture does not necessarily translate to less output. In fact, because of the advances in technologies the yield per acre has increased sometimes as much as five-fold. We see that in the United States where less farmers with greater acreage are producing much more food. This has allowed other people to move on to do other things.

### ***The Current Situation***

Where we are today? That depends on who you ask. What I can say is that the agricultural sector needs to be modernized; modernized not just about the technologies we use in the field, but modernized by the legislations that govern the sector. For example, we do not have a comprehensive agricultural policy - a document that you can refer to and say this is the document that guides what we do in this sector. We need that! We have bits of legislation that we use, for example, the Small Holdings Act, which deals with land management in agriculture, but this was specifically devised for sugar cane production and not for the transition into field production. So we need to upgrade in that regard.

Another area of concern is the issue of land. Antigua and Barbuda is a small island developing state with limited land space. The lands for agriculture have been waning over time. We have competitive uses for land space and we need legislation

to protect that land from poaching. That is my view. That is also the prevailing view of most of the people in agriculture. We need to own the land. Not that you have crown lands and a developer comes and decides he likes this piece and the

farmers are removed and relocated elsewhere. Agriculture doesn't deal well with that type of disruption. It requires some level of consistency, some level of planning to ensure the outcomes you desire.





## ***How often does this happen?***

This happens quite a lot. The fact that we don't have a physical development plan that we adhere to regarding land use is part of the challenge. Ideally, we should have lands reserved for domestic use, sports, commercial activities such as industries and agriculture. What generally happens, if lands that are vested in agriculture remain idle for an extended period it quite often becomes the 'victim' of speculation. Most of the lands were vested in agriculture in the past. But things have changed radically since then, with lands for agriculture declining.

## ***The Issue of Marketing***

This is another area of weakness in the system that needs strengthening - we do not document nor do we collect enough statistics. So, what needs to happen is that principally, the information in terms of our consumption, the market capacity, and so on, needs to be monitored and related to the producer in real time. This allows the producer to schedule his/her production to tailor to the needs of the market. This will ensure that you neither have excess nor shortage. This has to involve all farmers working in unison 'like a smooth oil machine'. We need the data. We need farmers to cooperate and match supply to demand. This goes for both the internal and the external markets.

Somebody has to do this intelligence work and relate it to the farming community.

## ***The Role of the Ministry of Agriculture***

We have made a number of interventions and continue to do so. The Ministry has embarked on establishing a Statistics, Research, and Information Technology (IT) unit, whose goal is to collect this type of data, put the data in a database, analyse the data, and provide some guidance through the analysis. This unit is relatively new - it started approximately two years ago. Prior to this, there was no 'centralized nervous system' for agricultural information. Bits and pieces of information would reside in various divisions and sometimes it's almost like a 'turf' thing (between the departments).

It is important to get that data, have the extension officers exposed to it who then inform the farmers. The extension officers are very important to the overall success of agriculture. We cannot over-estimate the importance of the Extension Division. It is the implementation arm of the Ministry - the interface between policy makers and implementation. We have had a number of issues over the years, mainly human resources matters, with which we have had to contend.

Another issue of concern is our budget which has been shrinking over the past ten years.

## ***The Impact of COVID-19***

There is a tug-of-war between what we consider to be cheap food versus food security. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us

an important lesson on the need to ensure the nation's food security. The pandemic has also shown us how easy it is to have disruptions in your food supply. Therefore, it is incumbent upon a government, a people, that they secure a certain amount of productive lands for food production which can be scaled up, in a short time, to meet the basic food needs of the population: starches, carbohydrates, and proteins, to name a few. We must ensure that this is always ready. Do the analysis, get the consumption figures, get what the acreage can produce, get the number of acreages, and factor in allowances beyond the current population levels; but anticipate population growth in the planning process.

There has been a worldwide phenomenon where one of the noticeable developments resulting from the pandemic is that more and more people are getting into agricultural development. We have seen similar developments here in Antigua and Barbuda (Prime Minister Gaston Browne is among them.) This always happens in times of crisis. However, it is not sustainable. Many people feel that it is easy, but it is not so. What really is needed is a more structured approach to agriculture with less farmers but more acreage producing more.

## ***The Issue of Water***

Living organisms, whether animals or plants, are made up of seventy percent water or higher, according



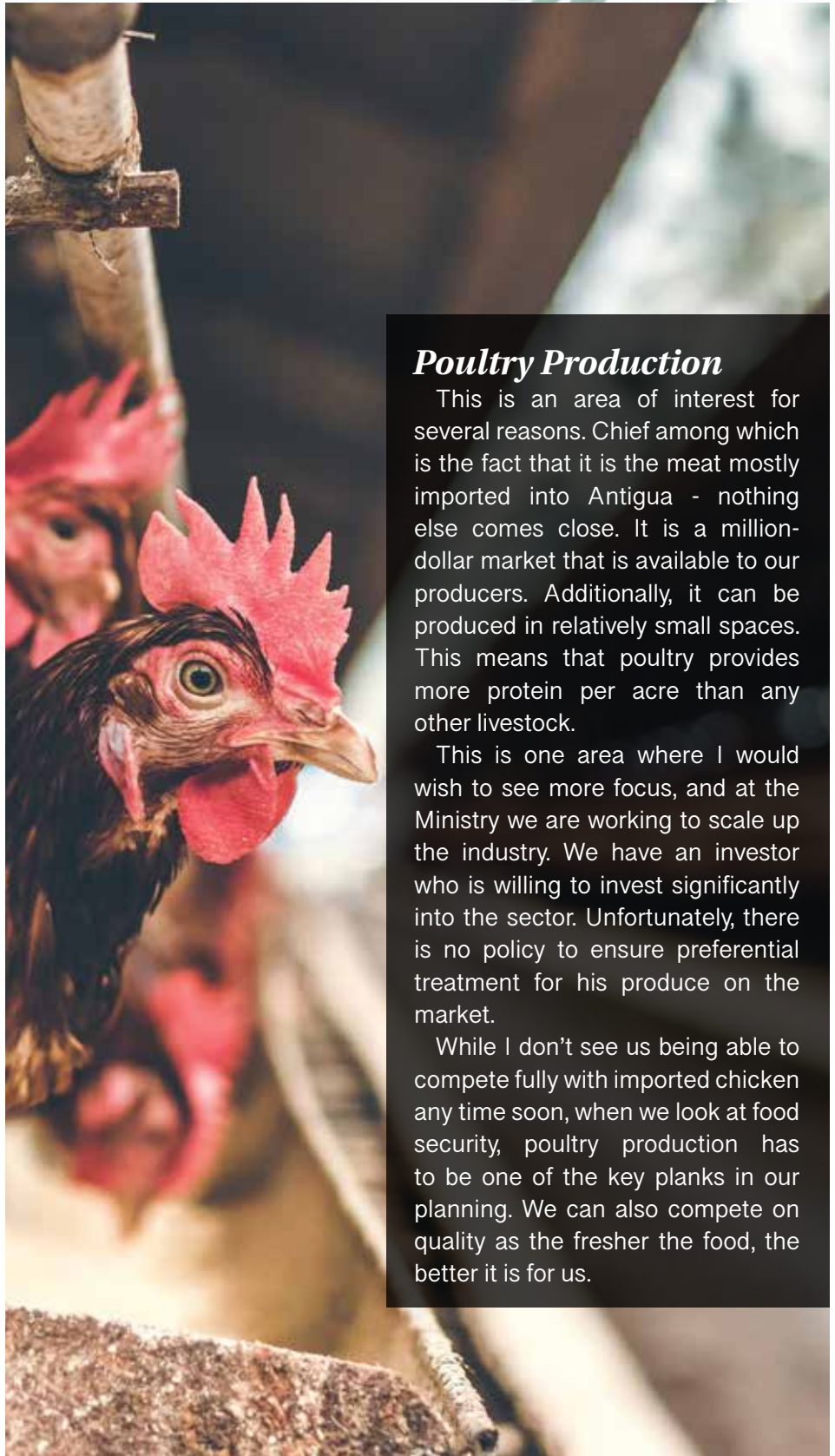
to the species. Water, therefore, is essential to life. Water is essential to agriculture. They go hand in hand. So when people say we use too much water, agriculture, by its very nature, is the recycling of water involving plants and animals in the cycle of life.

We do not get as much rainfall as in some of the neighbouring islands. However, we get significant rainfalls at predictable times of the year. I am a proponent of an integrated approach to water security. This means a variety of approaches to water security. I am in favour of surface water being the dominant source of water. By this I mean the construction of dams and so on, not necessarily ponds, as I do not want farmers to believe that each of us must have his/her own pond that takes up otherwise productive lands to catch inadequate amounts of water.

Our programme at the Ministry, with the support of both the Honourable Minister and the Permanent Secretary, is to develop the natural waterways. We know the areas that have clay which is good for storing water. We know the different soil types, the ones which are porous and need to be sealed in order to store water, and those which do not. We should strategically dam those areas that require less resources to prepare and pump water from these areas to those where storage is a problem. Billions of gallons of water run off to the sea each year. We should also encourage water security as well, both at the individual level and at

the level of the community. I believe in surface water as it has a natural recharge and does not require too much resources such as energy and less maintenance.

In answer to those who say surface water is subject to much evaporation, the answer is that there are now construction features that would minimize evaporation.



### ***Poultry Production***

This is an area of interest for several reasons. Chief among which is the fact that it is the meat mostly imported into Antigua - nothing else comes close. It is a million-dollar market that is available to our producers. Additionally, it can be produced in relatively small spaces. This means that poultry provides more protein per acre than any other livestock.

This is one area where I would wish to see more focus, and at the Ministry we are working to scale up the industry. We have an investor who is willing to invest significantly into the sector. Unfortunately, there is no policy to ensure preferential treatment for his produce on the market.

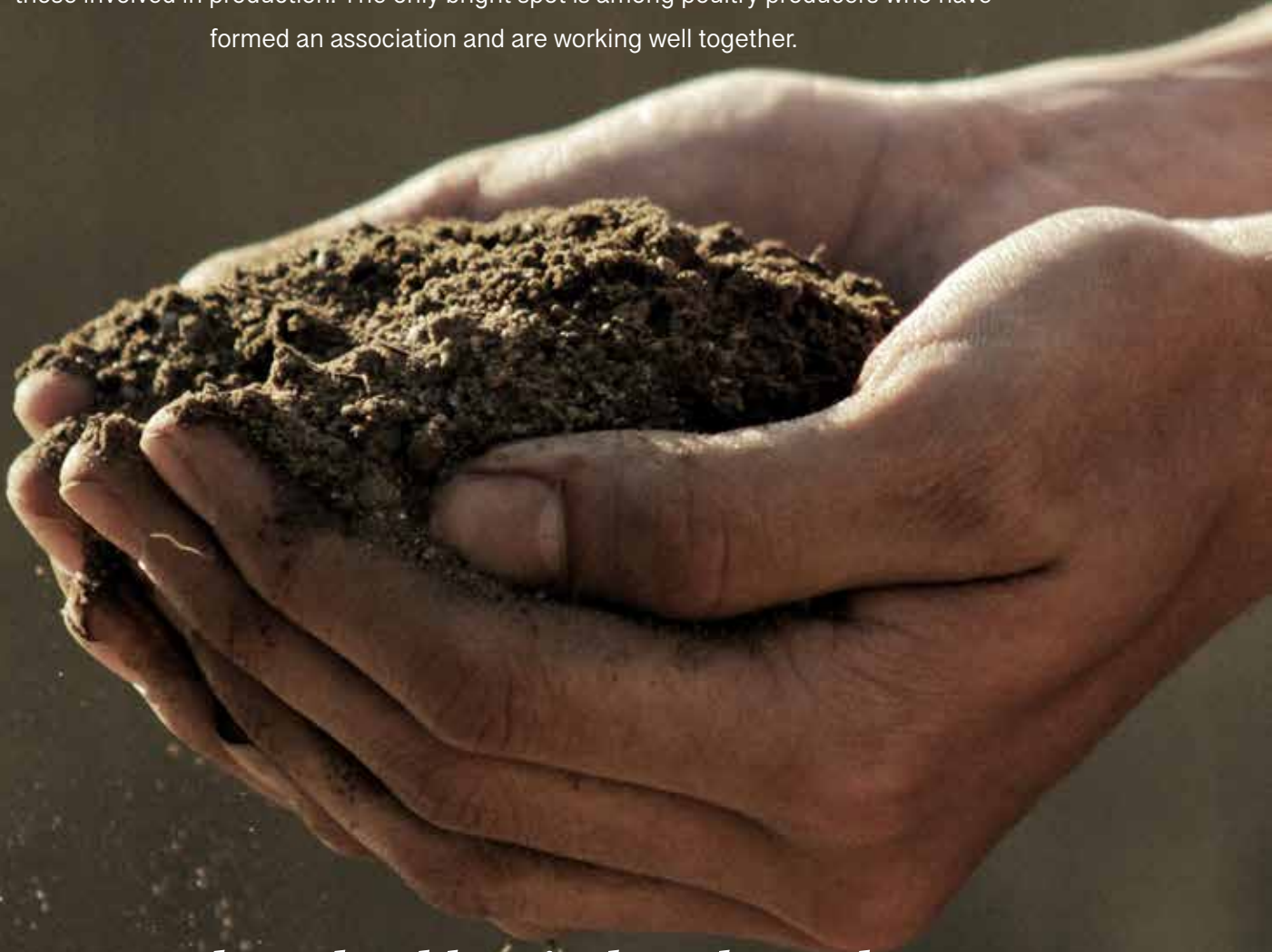
While I don't see us being able to compete fully with imported chicken any time soon, when we look at food security, poultry production has to be one of the key planks in our planning. We can also compete on quality as the fresher the food, the better it is for us.



## ***Need for More Collaboration***

One of the challenges facing agriculture is the failure of people in the industry to come together and standardize their output. For example, we have a number of people producing pepper-sauce but everybody is producing at a different standard.

We need to come together and produce an Antigua-Barbuda brand to which everyone adheres. That is a challenge across the sector - lack of cooperation and coordination among those involved in production. The only bright spot is among poultry producers who have formed an association and are working well together.



## ***Where should Agriculture be on the 50th Anniversary of Independence?***

In ten years' time, my wish is for a more organized, and more structured sector. If we claim that it is a business, there has to be a structure similar to a factory-type mentality, where there is consistency in the standards of produce. For example, if you are building a cell phone, you need to know the needs of the market. There has to be a structured relationship between production, marketing, and consumption. The use of the technology and the resultant investment in the technology, needs to be secured. One of the ways of securing that, is the land tenure situation mentioned earlier. Agriculture needs to be confident that these lands are agricultural lands, so that the required investments are made.

Much has been said of new areas of production including aquaponics and hydroponics. There needs to be more research into these areas as well. We however need to invest in 'open-field' production as the data shows that only about five percent of food production is produced under controlled circumstances.





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# ANTIGUAN THEATRE

20 years in the 20th Century  
and 20 years in the 21st Century

By *Zahra Airall*

**H**ow interesting to have been conceived in, lived, and experienced theatre in Antigua across two centuries! Albeit introduced by our English colonizers in the 18th century, West Indian, and by extension, Antiguan theatre would begin carving its own path in the early 20th Century, documenting, sharing, and staging the story of the islands from the perspective of the islands' residents. There would be blueprints and legends crafted that still impact us today, still implore us to explore our respective voices and tell our stories. And while the larger territories loudly acclaim their own theatre history, Antigua and Barbuda is not without its own accolades.

Antigua would have seen its fair share of theatre influences on its shores, from the great Marcus Garvey (yes, he wrote plays), who arguably, may have left that imprint to use the stage as a civil rights platform (more on this later); to the esteemed Errol Hill, credited with being a force to inspire the latter generation of dramatists to carry the mantle of West Indian theatre. Hill would have left his mark on Antigua's Community Players when he assisted in the development of one of their famed pieces *Priscilla's Wedding*. Theatre, in the latter part of the 20th Century, would have been crafted with the eloquence of European dialogue, but heavily seasoned with Caribbean flavours from the rhythm of the dialogue, the fusion of local creole, our dialect, and the movement of Afro-Caribbean bodies that heavily reminded all the African presence of our ancestors.

We would enjoy the civil eloquence and theatrics of Dorene O'Marde and the Harambee Open Air Theatre; the slapstick or "red-panty" theatre of Eleston "Nambalumbu Nambalala" Adam's Rio Revelers Theatre; the operatic folk infused stylings of the Community Players; the politically provocative dialogue of Leon "Chaku" Symister's Third World Theatre; and the roots theatre of the Grays Green Players. And as each group would take a hiatus that would eventually become nostalgia of the "good days", we'd see a growing number of community, village, and church drama groups using the arts for socializing, sharing common beliefs, and reinforcing dogma. One such community group would







Blackwood Meek's "Child's Play", notably, the only contingent to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the CARIFESTA V events in 1992, held in Trinidad and Tobago.

As we closed the 20th Century and entered the 21st, however, we'd see a move from art in structure and plot, to the immediate satisfaction of crude humour with an onset of sexually provoking stage scenes that would have some audiences screaming with laughter. What was left off stage for the imaginations would be strongly suggested on stage. There would be no sparing of crass language nor movement. We'd begin to see a withdrawal of some audience members who found it inappropriate. We'd continue to experience a decrease in elite troupes of the Caribbean, and more of the slapstick type of theatre, farces, and raunchy stage shows such as *Bashment Granny and Shebada*. Comedy would move from the higher comedic styles of persons like Oliver Samuel and Paul Keens Douglas, to persons simply performing for no other reason than raucous entertainment with shock value in language, topic, and physicality.

We'd soon forget the articulacy of Walcott, the high comedy of John, the depth of Gibbons, and the civil boldness of O'Marde. In fact, did you know that in the '70s, O'Marde with the Harambee Open Air Theatre would enrage the local government with their plays to the point that a law would be drawn to restrict civil servants from participating in any work that could be seen as political? Yup! The '70s in Antigua was alive with the Black Power Movement as persons fought for their civil rights; teachers marched and were arrested; civil servants demanded better, first from the plantocracy and then from the very persons who would have fought to end the estate rule. You

see, theatre in Antigua and Barbuda, during this era, became a platform to experiment with the artform and give another voice to the oppressed. The language was coded with intelligence that generated thought – for it is the genesis of thought that eventually leads to change. I admit, I was not yet alive, but listening to members of the theatre community relive this decade is electrifying. There was a power on the stage that moved audiences to do more than laugh.

It would be this same electrifying presence that would see Antigua and Barbuda mentioned on the international stage, namely the United States of America and the United Kingdom, through the likes of Rick James. Now there must be a pause of reverence to acknowledge the work of Rick James as a dramatist, actor, and mas builder. Although he would have had an envious career into the 1960s and '70s, his legacy was one of generosity that would nurture and inspire the creatives of his time, and more so the late 20th Century. His script competitions motivated persons to cwho would have travelled and digested the plethora of cultural offerings of other islands and larger countries, realizing that theatre was deeper than a few laughs. You see, in Jamaica, for example, you'd be exposed to just about every form of theatre known on the international market – from pantomime to opera, ballet to puppetry, melodrama, and satire.

Not the fear, however, this century in Antigua and Barbuda would see the new dramatists and thespians seeking to revive not only a thriving appreciation for theatre, but a regeneration of theatre students – actors, directors, and playwrights. Colin Jno. Finn, for example, no doubt levelled up Christian Theatre with his provoking plays,





through the Nazarene Drama Group, that brought the message back to the grace and love of God. The Professional Organization of Women, and then Women of Antigua would turn heads with Eve Ensler's controversial *Vagina Monologues*, using the stage as another advocacy tool. In fact, Women of Antigua, under the creative direction of Zahra Airall and Linisa George, would go on to create their own collection of dramatic monologues based on the lives of women lived and lost in the country. This would be known as *When A Woman Moans*.

But it would be, arguably, Owen Jackson who would flame this spark across all genres in this century. As a young boy who'd travel to town with his aunt to watch the annual play staged by the Police Drama Group during their week of activities, he'd fall in love with drama. In fact, he'd eventually become one of the group's principal writers and directors. As an educator whose love of theatre would have been fostered by church and community groups, he would have read for a Bachelor of Arts in theatre at the Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts

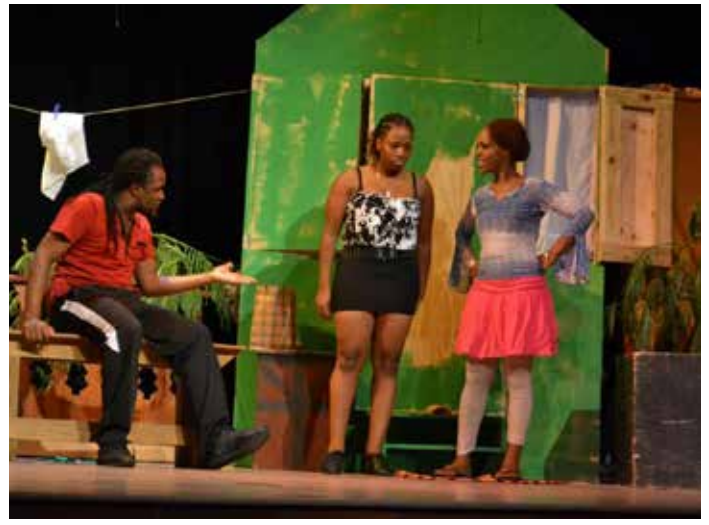
(EMCVPA). There, he would have garnered an indispensable wealth of knowledge that would see the launch of the National Youth Theatre, along with the introduction of CXC's CSEC Theatre Arts curriculum in our secondary schools. With just over six schools eventually carrying the subject on their plants and, in 2014 he'd introduce the Antigua and Barbuda National Secondary Schools' Drama Festival. A huge complement to the CXC syllabus, this festival not only called upon teachers and students to invest in theatre, but it reintroduced audience etiquette and an appreciation for theatre – from its process to its final product.

This has been the greatest accomplishment over the last 40 years in my opinion seeing theatre as a subject in the schools and the [investment] made to educate young persons across the island," shared Jackson. Notably, Jackson along with this author would have received the Prime Minister's Scholarships to read for a Masters in Theatre, while several other teachers and students have completed studies at the Associate's and Bachelor's

levels. Nadia Browne, for example, a former member of the National Youth Theatre and current Principal of Sugar Apple Theatre Ensemble, would have completed her studies at the EMCVPA and graduated Valedictorian in 2018.

The most recent scholar would be Shaveesa Gasper who has just begun her second year at EMCVPA. Gasper and Junior Weathered would also be the first recipients of the scholarship gifted to the outstanding actor and actress in the National Drama Festival. Introduced at the 2015 Festival, we would go on to see Shaveesa Gasper grab the esteemed title twice. Weathered would successfully complete his studies at the Barbados Community College and return to Antigua as a theatre arts teacher, currently stationed at the Ottos Comprehensive School. Gasper would continue to impress colleagues in Antigua and around the Caribbean with her phenomenal acting skills. In 2020, amidst the global pandemic, she would not only complete the CAPE level of Performing Arts Drama at the Antigua State College with a Grade One, but capture the top second





position across the region – not bad for the first year; the exam was written in Antigua. Her classmate Shemiah Humphreys, who was the 2019 Outstanding Actress, placed sixth in the region. Also in 2019, Antigua and Barbuda would be represented in St. Lucia at the Caribbean Secondary School's Drama Festival where they walked away with several awards including the 'Most Outstanding Production'. This would be with Airall's award winning play, *The Long Walk*, which also cupped her the recipient of the Aston Cooke Director's Award, with the lead actress, Khadelia Williams, winning the overall best actress award. The last time Antigua would have received similar accolades at

the Caribbean Festival would have been in 2007, also in St. Lucia, with Jackson's, My Birthright, with the National Youth Theatre.

Until its untimely pause due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the evolution of theatre in Antigua and Barbuda has been undeniable. From its artistry in scripting, to the refining of techniques on stage and most definitely the advances in technical aspects to enhance the spectacle on stage. For sure, the set of the Princess Margaret School's play in the 2020 Drama Festival will not soon be forgotten, nor the underwater scene of the AGHS' Honey Bee Theatre in their adaptation of the *Wizard of Oz*. The current playwrights and actors of

this century, to date, most of whom are teachers, have used the stage to raise awareness on social issues, remind the audience of its rich African connections, from folklore to Deities, and most of all have been able to provide a rich and safe environment drenched in creativity for young people to be inspired and take up this mantle. With more persons pursuing courses of study, there is no doubt that theatre in the next 40 years will evolve beyond our current conceptions. The desire to create and share our own Antiguan and Barbudan stories is drenched in artistic oil with the youth holding that match to propel Our Twin-island State even further on the international stage.



# On the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Antigua & Barbuda

**A**mong young entrepreneurs in Antigua and Barbuda, Darell George, Chief Executive Officer of The Total Group of Companies, namely: Total Imports Antigua Ltd, and Total Imports Supplies Ltd, serves his nation with distinction.

In the face of advancing technology, changing customer demands, the COVID-19 pandemic, and fierce competition, Mr. George looks to the future with unbridled optimism. He firmly believes that innovation and the courage to take calculated risks are key success factors that have accelerated the growth of his businesses.

Mr. George is hesitant to accept all the credit for personal and professional accolades that have been bestowed upon him. Beginning in his formative years, his mother, a single parent, established a family culture built on the pillars of love, respect, empathy, and fairness. These core values created a close-knit relationship with his siblings who to this day continue to support his endeavors.

New Winthropes Village, a community rich with historical significance also played a role in forging the path that he followed. It may be no coincidence that his childhood dream to become a pilot was inspired by the proximity of the village to the V. C. Bird International Airport. Each day he would hear the constant drone of airplane engines and

imagine himself occupying the captain's seat. Although the top spot in the cockpit eluded him, he gained employment in the Accounts Department at LIAT (1974) Ltd. Every day he had the pleasure of witnessing close-up the arrival and departure of multiple aircrafts. This brought some measure of satisfaction to his aviation ambitions.

Having the privilege to travel at significantly reduced airfares, Mr. George frequently visited Puerto Rico. For a minimal fee, he collected packages that were ordered and purchased wholesale and retail items for family and friends. Eventually, an idea was spawned. Without the advantage of generational wealth and entrepreneurial experience, Mr. George strategically developed a business model that led to the birth of Total Imports Antigua Ltd.

Through combined assistance from family and friends, his determination, and devoted customers, Total Imports Antigua Ltd. has become a renowned brand in Antigua and Barbuda. The business, which began its operation over ten years ago, has a total staff complement of sixteen dedicated individuals. It specializes in reliability, responsiveness, and customer savings. Total Imports' expertise, in managing and delivering goods from Miami to Antigua and Barbuda, is superior to its competitors. Equally efficient is its post-delivery service.



Diligent work teams ensure that performance standards consistently result in exceptional levels of customer service.

Meanwhile, “if someone offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes, then learn how to do it later.” In those words, Richard Branson captured the genesis of Total Imports Supplies Ltd. Three years ago, a friend who was the marketing manager for a dominant cleaning supplies business offered Mr. George the opportunity to sell products to commercial clients. Once again, the entrepreneurial inspiration blossomed, and a formal relationship was established with the industry leader. Demand for specialty cleaning and sanitizing chemicals has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Total Imports Supplies is prepared. Its state-of-the-art inventory management system ensures that the business is appropriately stocked so that orders can be seamlessly fulfilled.

Handling chemicals is hazardous. Individual substances, when combined, can result in explosions and severe injury. As such, in the handling and disposal of chemicals, caution must be taken to reduce adverse effects on living organisms and the environment. The continuous transfer of knowledge from the manufacturer has yielded invaluable benefits. As a token, the technical team at Total Imports Supplies Ltd. consistently demonstrates its competence in the safe handling of chemical cleaning products.





As Total Imports Antigua Ltd. and Total Imports Supplies Ltd. evolve in these uniquely challenging times, Mr. George and his team are working diligently to maintain their position as dominant market leaders. This achievement would be almost impossible if not for the support from customers. Mr. George confirmed that ongoing relationships with customers are more than transactions.

Each interaction presents an opportunity to demonstrate inefaceable customer service. Social responsibility is a high priority brand value that has been embraced by Mr. George and his colleagues. Generally, annual budget allocations are devoted to sports, education, and environmental projects. Over the past year, the dynamics have shifted, whereby requests for health and safety products have eclipsed all others. Increasingly, cleaning

products and sanitizers are donated to government medical facilities, care homes for the elderly, national security services and the lone penal institution. Mr. George plans to continue supporting the work being done by the government and health authorities in Antigua and Barbuda to curb the effects of COVID-19. The future looks promising. Thoughts from the National Anthem echo hope for Total Imports Antigua Ltd., and Total Imports Supplies Ltd., and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

For 40 years, work has been done to build a true nation brave and free. Yet, there is much more to accomplish and as nationals of Antigua and Barbuda ponder on the patriotism and solemnity of the national anthem, may they feel compelled to build a true nation brave and free; a nation whose people are willing to join the battle against fear, hate and poverty.

A nation that calls repeatedly on the God of Heaven to imbue his people with strength, faith, and loyalty; so that none will fail to defend the liberty of Antigua and Barbuda.

Being independent is not simply a status. Efforts must be engaged to manage resources and implement meaningful programs and policies that will auger well for future generations. The leadership of independent nations bear enormous responsibility. With agility, astute and performance-driven vision they can create opportunities to offer their populations a better quality of life.

The management and staff of the Total Group of Companies pray that the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda will celebrate its 40th Anniversary of Independence with respect, peace, and dignity.



**TOTAL**  
IMPORTS  
SUPPLIES LTD

**"MAKING YOUR WORLD TOTALLY SPOTLESS"**

*"We answer to duty's call ... We serve our country ... We commit to doing our part to endeavor as we all achieve to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda remain a land, where man is truly free."*

**On this 40th Anniversary of Independence, the Management and Staff of Total Imports Supplies Ltd., extend very best wishes to the citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda for good health, for peace, for progress and for stability.**

#8 Paynter's Industrial Park, Sir Sydney Walling Highway, St. John, Antigua

562-9637 or 736-8802

Total Imports Supplies Antigua TotalSuppliesAnu



# Antiguan Creole

## Our Own Language

*By Joy Lawrence OH*

**T**his, our Fortieth Anniversary of Independence from Great Britain, presents another occasion for celebration. We celebrate becoming masters of our own destiny, our many achievements, our cultural traditions - food, stories, and music - but especially, we celebrate our native language. No other peoples in the world can claim it. This article focuses on Antiguan Creole. Barbuda's separate evolution led to Barbudans using a few different lexical variations and accents.

Early missionaries and other visitors to the island deemed Antiguan Creole to be bastardized, inferior, illegitimate, unintelligible speech. Even today, some locals treat the language with contempt regarding it as spoken only by the uneducated people who talk 'bad' or 'broken' English, corrupting the English Language.

There's nothing bad, broken, or corrupting about Antiguan Creole. It is aptly sufficient for communication among ourselves. We sometimes use it for emphasis, clarity, reinforcement, and even flair. However, the official language in Antigua and Barbuda is what is regarded as Standard English. Standard implies that it is understood around the world where English is spoken. It is the language taught in schools, the language of business and commerce. We accept it and

strive to speak and write it well, while being cognisant and proud of our own native language.

### How did Antiguan Creole come into being?

Antigua was first colonized in 1632. When sugar production escalated from the second half of the century into the 1700s, more and more enslaved people were transported here from West African countries. Maria Teresa Galarza Ballester, in her doctoral study of the Antiguan Creole, suggests that the Coromantees were the largest ethnic group in Antigua. They were shipped from the Gold Coast (now Ghana). They were among the first people to arrive and part of the Akan language group that includes Fante, Ashanti Twi, and Akuapem Twi. Some from southeast Ghana, spoke Ewe and Ga. Also in the early years estate owners regularly preferred Dahomey slaves, called Poppas or PawPaws, purchased from the Bight of Benin.

Strong men, women, and even children captured in West Africa were held in forts like the Dutch fort, Kormantin, on the coast under deplorable conditions. Sold to European merchants, the enslaved were loaded into slave ships in cramped, appalling conditions and

transported across the Atlantic to this country. Those who survived arrived in a weakened state and were put to work on sugar plantations. With enslavers and enslaved not knowing each other's languages, communication was difficult but necessary for things to get done.

No one group set out to learn the other's language. Instead, they forged a third language, 'Pidgin', containing the bare essentials necessary for communication. With limited grammatical structure, this Pidgin was unintelligible to English speakers. Pidginization began almost immediately among the early settlers. The record shows that in 1672 there were 800 white and 570 black inhabitants. By 1678 there were 2,308 whites and 2,172 blacks. This provided a favourable environment for an English-based vocabulary to develop. It is widely believed that it takes one or two generations for Pidgin to evolve into a Creole. Therefore, the offspring of the initial enslaved people had the task of forming the Antiguan Creole. Captives who came after learnt the Creole established over the decades.

Captives also arrived from other African ethnic groups including Senegambia, Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, the Bight of Biafra, Angola, and even Madagascar.





# Antiguan Creole

As time went by, proprietors for various reasons, had difficulty attracting indentured servants. At the same time those with little capital had to withdraw leaving land accumulation in the hands of very few elites. The white population declined. In 1810 while the black population stood at 37,000, that of whites stood at 3,000. With the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade since 1807, coupled with high mortality rate and few births among the black inhabitants, the population of this group at Emancipation in 1834 declined to a little over 29,000.

## STANDARD ENGLISH

*Come here.*

*Give me the book.*

*Where are you?*

*Sit on the ground.*

Yet, this by far outnumbered the whites. Antigua had become a land of People of African descent. The Creole language had made its mark being the dominant language on the island.

Thus over time Antiguan Creole evolved a grammatical structure with rules just like written languages. Although it has an English-based vocabulary, the phonology [patterns of pronunciation] is African-based. The people of African descent leaned heavily on their native speech patterns:

## ANTIGUAN CREOLE

*Com ya.*

*Gi me de book.*

*Wey you dey?*

*Sidung pan de grung.*

Antiguan Creole speakers applied their own syntax to ask questions. For example, for the English question Where are you going?, our forefathers changed the word order and arrived at Wey you a go? Whereas, Is she walking home? changed to She a wark hoam? The speaker indicates a question by raising the intonation at the end of the sentence.

Most English pronouns are not part of the Antiguan Creole lexicon. Some personal pronouns are used both as subject and object:



STANDARD ENGLISH  
PERSONAL PRONOUNS

*I dance.*

*We dance.*

*She dances.*

ANTIGUAN CREOLE  
PERSONAL PRONOUNS

*Me dance. (subject)  
Bring some warta gi me.  
(object)*

*Arwe dance. (subject)  
Bring some warta gi  
arwe. (object)*

*She dance. (subject)  
Bring some warta gi she.  
(object)*

For the English possessive pronouns mine, ours, yours, theirs, his, hers, Antiguan Creole speakers use a two-word combination with a common word in each. According to learnakan.com, Ghanaian Twi speakers also use such a two-word combination. Some examples:

STANDARD ENGLISH  
POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

*mine*

*ours*

*theirs*

*yours*

ANTIGUAN CREOLE  
POSSESSIVE PRONOUN

*foo me*

*foo arwe*

*Foo dem (dey)*

*Foo you (singular),  
foo ayou (plural)*

TWI PROGRESSIVE  
PRONOUN

*me dea*

*yen dea*

*wo dea*

*wo dea (singular)  
mo dea (plural)*

For the English possessive adjectives my, our, their, his, her, your, its, Antiguan Creole speakers use me, arwe, dem, he, she, you (singular), ayou (plural), and ee respectively. The 'th' sound in English is not one of the Twi consonant digraphs. So demonstrative pronouns and demonstrative adjectives with the 'th' sound posed a problem for the early speakers. This resulted in a substitution:

STANDARD ENGLISH  
DEMONSTRATIVE  
ADJECTIVES/PRONOUNS

*this*

*that*

*these*

*those*

ANTIGUAN CREOLE  
DEMONSTRATIVE  
ADJECTIVES/PRONOUNS

*dis*

*dat*

*dem ya*

*dem dey*

Similarly, there is no 'v' sound in Antiguan Creole neither is there any 'v' in the Akan alphabet so that *live* is *lib*, every is *ebry*, vex becomes *bex* and so on.

Our ancestors held on to their African speech patterns and culture as much as they could, despite their enslavers' vigorous attempt to rip away their identity. They did manage

to retain some unadulterated words from their homeland. *Fungee* - part of our national dish - is *fugyee* in the Twi (Ghana), and *funje* in the Yoruba (Nigeria) languages. Our national game Warri is *ware* in Twi and *oware* in Fante. *Docuna* is *o-docona* in Twi. *Yabba* in Fante is *yaba*. *Katta-a* wad of cloth used to facilitate carrying heavy loads on the head-is *kata* in

Twi and *nkata* in a Congo language.

An idiom is a phrase whose usage is different from its literal meaning. Although our idioms may sound nonsensical to outsiders, native Twi speakers understand them. Similarly, there is no 'v' sound in Antiguan Creole neither is there any 'v' in the Akan alphabet so that *live* is *lib*, every is *ebry*, vex becomes *bex* and so on.



Our ancestors held on to their African speech patterns and culture as much as they could, despite their enslavers' vigorous attempt to rip away their identity. They did manage to retain some unadulterated words from their homeland. *Fungee* - part of our national dish - is *fugyee* in the Twi (Ghana), and *funje* in the Yoruba (Nigeria) languages. Our national game Warri is ware in Twi and oware in Fante. *Docuna* is *o-docona* in Twi. *Yabbain* Fante is *yaba*. *Katta-a* wad of cloth used to facilitate carrying heavy loads on the head-is *kata* in Twi and *nkata* in a Congo language.

An idiom is a phrase whose usage is different from its literal meaning. Although our idioms may sound nonsensical to outsiders, native speakers of the Creole are quite comfortable using them: *Nonbady foo wear arm sleeve go a court*. This implies that someone wants to attend court wearing a cut out sleeve as a whole garment.

What it means, in fact, is that no one is allowed to wear a sleeveless garment to court. A visitor may hear someone shouting *Murda! Na kill me!* Nobody is murdering anyone. The speaker is just expressing surprise at what he had just heard or seen.

What would we do without the expressions we enjoy using?

*A wa do she!*

Said when someone is acting out of character or strange.

*Na badda me. Ley me loan.*

Stop bothering me. Leave me alone. *Me na kay.*

I don't care. (Some Antiguan show no regard for what is right and proper and when accosted is quick to say *Me na kay*.)

*A wa ya tar!*

(Showing surprise at what was just seen or heard)

*Me na bang warta com ya; a ya me barn.*

I'm native to this country. *Come no, jack.*

Jack is not the name of the person being addressed. It means please or I mean it. As has been outlined, our ancestors had no choice but to form their language using an English-based vocabulary. They were bent on retaining the phonology, syntax, some inflections, and various grammatical structures of West African languages.

On this our Fortieth Anniversary of Independence, we must celebrate and cherish the language our forebears created. Do not let it become extinct like so many dialects around the world. Our Antiguan Creole is here to stay. Let us all embrace it!

Joy Lawrence OH

*Descendant of the Umbundu people of Angola*

Website: [www.joylawrence.com](http://www.joylawrence.com)



# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Cheers to 40 years from the Directors, Management and Members of  
the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association



## Historical Overview

# Warri... Antigua and Barbuda's National Heritage Sport / Game

*By Trevor Simon*

**W**arri is a game of great antiquity. In fact, it is arguably the oldest board game known to man. The oldest game version was found in the pyramids of Ancient Egypt (3500 BC). Archaeological sites have unveiled evidence that Warri was invented by the Sumerians 7,000 thousand years ago, as a system used to do book keeping. The Sumerian engineers also used Warri to carry out scientific calculations.

Warri is probably the most arithmetical game with a global following. It is part of the intellectual family of board games. It is not a game of luck or chance; it is a game of skill which requires strategic thinking, planning, and analysis at its highest level. Primarily, as a result of its high strategic elements, the game was rendered ideal for military training and planning. It is said, that in ancient times, in many African countries, army generals had to be well versed in playing the game of Warri, before they were allowed, to take soldiers into battle. In most African countries, Warri was an elitist and prestigious game; consequently, the game was traditionally played by the Royal Classes. During the ancient periods, Warri boards were primarily made of

clay, gold, ebony, ivory, and stone. Ordinary men and women were prohibited from playing publicly, so when they did play, they had to hide to engage in the game. They played by digging holes in the ground.

Across the globe there are different versions and different names given to the game, Warri. For example, in Antigua the natives call it Warri. In Senegal it is called Wari. In the Ivory Coast (Cote D' Ivoire) it is called Awaoley. The Ghana natives call it Adi or Oware. Natives of Nigeria call it Ayo. In Ethiopia it's called Gabata and in Zambia it's called Chosolo. The Sudanese call it Um El Bagara (The Cows Game), the Surinamese called it Adiji-Boto and Haitians call it Qai.





Most of the enslaved Africans brought to Antigua and Barbuda disembarked from the Bight of Biafra (22,000), the Gold Coast (16,000). Other African slaves came from the Windward Coast (11,000), West Central Africa (9,000), Bight of Benin (6,000), Senegambia (5,000), Guinea and Sierra Leone (4,000).

The settlers raised Tobacco, Indigo, Ginger, and Sugarcane as cash crops. Sir Christopher Codrington established the first large sugar estate in Antigua in 1674, and leased Barbuda to raise provisions for his plantations. In the fifty years after Codrington established his initial plantation, the sugar industry became so profitable that many farmers replaced other crops with

sugar, making it the economic backbone of the islands. Codrington and others brought slaves from Africa's western coast to work the plantations. Africans started arriving in Antigua and Barbuda in large numbers during the 1670s; they soon became the largest racial group of Antigua and Barbuda.

The enslaved Africans brought the game of Warri with them to remind them of their homeland customs and traditions. Some ladies brought their straw dolls with them and kept their custom of creating these dolls while here on Antigua and Barbuda. Both men and women played Warri recreationally, as a means of keeping their spirits up. The men played what is now internationally known today

as Classical Warri, while the ladies normally engage themselves in a version of Warri we called Rounders in Antigua and Barbuda. In Antigua and Barbuda, the seeds used for playing are commonly known as 'Nickals', but the correct scientific name for the plant which produces the seeds is the *Caesalpinia Crista*.

There are three varieties of the seeds grown in Antigua and Barbuda as follows: Gray, Brownish Orange, and Black. Gray seeds are commonly found in the interior; the brownish orange grows around the coastline; and the black seeds are grown near to swampy areas such as the mangroves.

## The varying colours of seeds from the *Caesalpinia Crista* grown at Half Moon Bay, Antigua and Barbuda







Warri is purely a game of numbers; so as a result, the game has long been used to do mathematical calculations and book keeping. As stated earlier throughout the African diaspora, there are many different versions and uses of the game, which make it suitable for all ages. For example, throughout the African continent the game is used as a tool to teach students basic numeracy and mathematical skills. In Switzerland, professors used the game of Warri to carry out psychological evaluation as well as to problem solve. In Antigua, the Antigua and Barbuda Warri Academy, has used the game of Warri to teach children in many of the nation's schools, how to solve mathematical equations and to problem solve generally. Warri is one of Antigua and Barbuda's National Heritage sport.

During the colonial era, the European Massa's saw the game as a threat, primarily because Warri was a means of bringing the African people together socially. Wherever they saw the game being played, it was curtailed and as a result the game was driven underground. Notwithstanding this however, our ancestors found creative ways to

play and teach the game to their off-springs. The game of Warri is known universally, and it remains popular throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, North and South America. In fact, wherever Africans settle, the game of Warri is played socially and, in some cases, in competitive environment.

The management and staff of Harney Motors Ltd and Ace Enterprises Ltd would like to congratulate the nation of Antigua and Barbuda on 40 years of Independence.

# 40 CELEBRATING YEARS of Independence

Harney Motors Ltd. Ace Enterprises Ltd.

TOYOTA KIA FORD MITSUBISHI MAZDA SsangYong Jeep





## Students of St. Anthony's Secondary School participating in The Warri Academy Workshop

Antigua and Barbuda has dominated world and international tournaments since participating in organized championships as follows: Antigua and Barbuda remains undefeated in Mind Sport Olympiad (MSO) competitions held in England during the period 1997 - 2000. In 1997, Sakile Richards was the Gold Medal winner of the first MSO. In 2000 at the world Mind Sports Olympiad in London, Antigua and Barbuda travelled with a 6-man team comprising of three master players in the persons of Pumpkin Lewis, September Christian, and Trevor Simon. The under 17 team had Drusilla Henry and Alric Phillip, while Alex Thomas was our only under 12 participant.

Antigua and Barbuda came away with gold medals win in all three

divisions. Alex Thomas won in the under 12, Alric Phillip won in the under 17, and Trevor Simon won the masters division. Trevor Simon was also Gold Medal winner in 1998 and 1999. For his feat, he was officially certified as, International Grandmaster of Warri by the Mind Sport Olympiad organizers.

Antigua and Barbuda's dominance continued, and Cyril September Christian and Trevor Simon have spearheaded this dominance from 1998 to present. Cyril September Christian secured two individual and one team gold medals as follows: Switzerland International Championship in 2007, Cannes France international championship in 2018, and team gold medal for Antigua and Barbuda in the just recently concluded 3rd World

Nomad Games in Kyrgyzstan in 2018. He also had silver medal wins as follows: Mind Sport Olympiad 2000 in London; Swiss International championships in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2017; individual bronze medals at the Swiss championship in 2015; and the 3rd World Nomad games in Kyrgyzstan in 2018. Trevor Simon also secured International championship wins in Cannes (France) in 2002, 2016 and 2017; Switzerland International Gold Medal wins in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2018; Antigua and Barbuda's International Gold medal winner in 2013; Czech Republic champion 2016; and team and individual gold medals at the recently concluded 3rd World Nomad games in Kyrgyzstan in 2018.





**International Warri Grandmaster Trevor 'Simple' Simon shaking hands with his Turkish opponent after winning the CZECH INTERNATIONAL OPEN championship in 2016, in the CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Shown above is a photo of local Warri being played at the West Bus Station in Antigua**



**Team Antigua and Barbuda raising the National Flag at the final day parade after winning individual and team gold medals at the 3rd World Nomad Game in Kyrgyzstan in September 2018.**

The Master and Grandmaster players of Antigua and Barbuda have pledged to continue to impart their Warri knowledge and skills within the Nation's schools and community, so that our National Heritage Sport of Warri, would be preserved from generation to generation.





# KING SWALLOW

## THROUGH MOURNING EYES

*By Dorbrene E. O'Marde*

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As I write, the nation of Antigua and Barbuda, led by the calypso/music fraternity is both in mourning and in disbelief. We have been lessened during this horrible 2020 by the death of three former calypso kings. Earlier in the year (April 2020), we lost Tyrone 'Edimelo' Thomas, an outstanding entertainer blessed with superior vocal ability who won the coveted crown in 2006 and 2013 and who spent his last years identifying

and supporting young calypsonians.

This week (November 2020) we lost Joseph 'Calypso Joe' Hunte, a foremost exponent of the art of 'singing calypso'. He won the Road March in 1970 and the crown in 1971. He never retired, entering the calypso competition up to 2018. 'Joe' continued the calypso tradition known here as 'table top' – the art of extemporaneous singing and composing, generally funny and ribald, moving from table to table in hotel dining rooms and similar settings. He became the 'go-to' entertainer for schools, communities, & Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), eschewing

the fees-first mentality of many of the contemporary professional generation. Between the deaths of 'Edimelo' and 'Joe', we lost Sir Rupert 'King Swallow' Philo (September 2020) and it is to his legacy that I dedicate this article. SWALLOW won the Antigua Calypso King crown on four occasions and the Road March on five. He received national honour and recognition through his awards of the Order of Merit (Gold), and the Grand Cross of Princely Heritage (that dubbed him 'Sir') - both conferred by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda 'in recognition of his contribution to the calypso art form'.



He commanded the 'fete/road music' leg of Antigua calypso music, complementing the socio-political wisdom of King Short Shirt (Sir MacLean) and the witty social commentary and stage mastery of King Obsolete (Sir Paul) to produce what remains the finest discography of calypso music outside of Trinidad and Tobago. His recorded output is phenomenal. I estimate that he has produced a minimum of one hundred and thirty calypsoes on nineteen albums and at least five singles/extended plays.

This feature, primarily of Swallow's lyrics will show that his recognition for 'contribution to the calypso artform' is limiting in the understanding of the contributions of calypso and the performing arts to the development of a pan-Caribbean identity and a diasporic regionalism. Here, the assessment of King Swallow will be reviewed based on his contribution to the development of national identities in his homeland Antigua and Barbuda and his satellite homelands of Trinidad and Tobago and Brooklyn, New York. Calypso and soca were but his tools and a host of arrangers, musicians and choral singers, his comrades in arms. Swallow sang directly for and to audiences in his 'homelands'.

Much of his work is an engagement in their lives and concerns and not just the popular 'shout-out', used by other artistes as advanced promotion of their live shows/tours and/or sales of their music. His work, not only his philosophical offerings that have his 1977 hit 'Man to Man' as foundation, documents the thinking of a man from a small village in the east of Antigua who had found physical and cultural comfort anywhere in the diaspora, the spirit of which he helped shape and maintain.

His music sometimes quite

unconsciously confirms that fact.

Swallow first appeared on the calypso competition stage in Antigua as a secondary schoolboy in 1962, unbelievably placing second runner up in a competition that was seven years old and already poised to rival competitions in Trinidad and in the Virgin Islands where mainly Trinidadian calypsonians competed.

One of his offerings, a rebuke of Dominican Republic President Trujillo for his exploitation of Antiguan workers trying to return home, pointed to the political concerns he had at the time, and which developed into a basically conservative plea for justice, patriotism, and love-of-fellowman. He was in and out of competition for the next decade, pointing only to a potential for mild social observation and dance music. Interestingly his first major impact came when he won the road march title with a loosely composed ditty 'Pow Pow', 'a bad-john stance that belied his small physical frame - although supposedly armed.

Just listen / to wha' go happen /  
To all dem bad john who stand in me way

I arm with me razor / I arm with gun powder

For this carnival / I wouldn't stand no nonsense at all

Chorus

Cause ah have me – pow pow /  
When ah clean up me little – pow pow

Loaded and shining – pow pow /  
For who misbehaving – pow pow

Well ah walk with a little – pow pow  
For the rogue and hooligan / when they start up they fighting

Ah know they go get me – pow pow

Swallow went on to win the crown the following year with 'March for

Freedom' and the tune that won him his second road march 'Push ya, push dey' - warning further of both his intention and ability to ignite frenzy on 'the road' and in the fete. But it was his 'March for Freedom' that started his ascendancy to greatness in Antigua.

Liberation Day / the 26th of May

The whole Black nation / declare is freedom day (repeat)

Like our brother Africans

Living in the manacles of segregation / Chained by the yoke of colonialism

Our brothers find themselves in exile / Suffering there for a long long while

Leh we march with them brothers / for freedom with a smile

Chorus

Freedom – we go march in peace /  
Freedom – we no afraid police

Freedom – we go tell Halstead /  
Freedom – he can go to hell

Freedom – for my black brothers /  
Freedom – up in Africa

Freedom – and in Angola /  
Freedom – and in Rhodesia

That is what I mean – freedom / for the Caribbean - freedom

And we won't give up – freedom / until all oppression stop - freedom

Here he captured and fed the affirmation of the emerging Black/Pan African consciousness sweeping the Caribbean in the early 1970s and poured scorn and disregard on the repressive impulses of the colonial government of Premier George Walter (1972-1976) and his populist henchman, Donald Halstead, Minister of Home Affairs – who had initially banned the first African Liberation Day march to be held in the country.



Swallow parlayed the popularity of winning the Antigua crown – the second most prestigious calypso crown in the region to tours of the OECS and Virgin Island territories with an entourage from his calypso tent and then came in 1977, the tune that propelled him further onto the regional stage. It is a tale of woe – a tale of hope, his reaction to losing full time employment, his mental decision to go full time professional. 'Man to man' (a description of the music and other verses in the endnotes) landed him on the Trinidad tent stage, a position he commanded with boundless energy and delight, one he never relinquished until his health started resisting the demands of national, Trinidad and Brooklyn calypso seasons.

*They say man to man / is too damn unjust*

*I can't understand / who the hell to trust*

*Like is selfishness every man possess*

*Creed and happiness / every man forget*

*If we see we brother / falling in de gutter*

*We find the meanest way to push him further*

*Instead of lend a hand / help you brother man*

*We lef' him dey / to die in suffocation*

*Chorus*

*Help you brother – if he falling / Help you sister – if she dying*

*Help you neighbour – if he hungry / give him water – if he thirsty*

*Just remember – a good favour / to you brother - in the future*

*You may need it – some day later / when you feel it – some good pressure*

However, for the decade after

1977, he continued the relentless tugging at nationalistic/patriotic Antiguan heartstrings – themes he introduced in 1975 with 'Don't bad talk our country' and continued with annual – sometimes crown winning gems like 'One Hope, one Love, one Destiny', 'Dawn of a new day', 'Children of the Universe', 'All is not lost', 'Rise Antigua Rise' and his 1987 'My Country first. But the celebratory soul of his music, his relevance to the road and fete, intensified during the period and his 1979 'Don't stop the party cemented his place in regional stardom and opened doors in the USA – Brooklyn, New York as first stop, the home of the Caribbean Labour Day parades.

*When we start to party / you better get ready*

*This is time to get down / to the heavy action*

*The feeling is reeling / I feel like feting*

*This feeling to party / does make me groovy*

*Chorus*

*Don't stop this party / even if the rum done*

*Don't stop this party / just go and get some*

*Don't stop this party / keep the action swinging*

*Don't stop this party / we going till morning*

*Don't stop this party / a little romancing*

*Don't stop this party / we drinking and dancing*

A pattern begins to emerge in Swallow's work – the ubiquitous use of chorus voices in both 'call and response' and harmonic modes and on many occasions, with delightful interplay with the musicians in extros; an identifiable approach to resolution of his melodies; and a welcomed preparedness to let

arrangers have their way/say, infusing his music with long, attractive 'band choruses' allowing merrymakers space to 'dingolay' beyond his voice - and reminding of the early calypso days when the singer would call on the instrumentalist to take a solo - 'blow, man, blow'. He developed a descriptive story-telling soca style that was neither directional – as in 'put your hands in the air, wave them side to side etc', or demonstrative as the stage performances of say, a Machel Montano or a Destra Garcia.

By 1980, Swallow had become a fixture on Trinidad stages to the extent that even today, many there do not know of his Antiguan heritage. He 'applied' for T&T citizenship in 1980 with 'Trinidad the Godfather' and celebrated it in 1994 with 'Trinidad will rise again', a rendition as passionately patriotic as his 1983 'Rise Antigua Rise'.





## TRINIDAD THE GODFATHER 1980

Well every nation / round the region  
Sometime or the other, fall in a jam  
- tight tight tight jam  
Financially, materially  
-they must ask somebody to lend a hand  
So when I look round the different nation  
Some have it good / some have it bad – real bad  
Ah find the best one / in position  
To help out the scrunting ones is Trinidad  
Cause they know assistance is guarantee  
Don't care / fast or slow  
-you'll get the help if he tell you so  
To the fullest extent Trinidad hardly say no

### Chorus

When them nations fall in a jam / they call Trinidad  
Eric help we out brotherman things bad  
And with open hearts and hands / Eric like a real father  
So sympathetic and kind, lending them the petro dollar  
Better to borrow than to thief /this I must agree  
But it rather embarrassing when you down financially  
Some does borrow and borrow and don't give back  
A kinda of covetousness / I find it slack  
Trinidad like a big brother in the Caribbean  
She does lend the other nations money like rain  
From Jamaica down to Guyana  
making use of the oil dollar  
Trinidad / our big brother / is the Caribbean godfather

## TRINIDAD WILL RISE AGAIN 1994

I am not a born and bred Trinidadian  
Nonetheless I bound to give you my honest opinion  
Years ago Trinidad had plenty money  
She used to lend and extend kindness to other country  
In recent years  
Inflation rise and the future look rather rough  
Them countries they carn pay back  
them all bawling things are tough  
T and T hold strain / the effort have to be fought  
Success comes with pain /  
don't let vengeance enter your heart  
Soon we'll see the light / if everyone join the fight  
To ensure development and put things right

### Chorus

Let your first concern be you future  
with high hopes to strive  
Face the future bravely with honour  
surely we will survive  
I recall the days of the seventies – she use to spend tall  
Inflation hit hard in the nineties – back against the wall  
If Barbados and Guyana / will return the favour  
Along with Jamaica / remember the godfather  
If they only pay back one half of the cash they borrow  
Trinbago will rise / again / again / again  
She will rise again

By 1981, it was time for New York and the Labour Day festivities - and Swallow did something peculiar. He entered that market not singing about it, but singing as part of it. Other calypsonians before and after him – led by the Mighty Sparrow had sung for and about the fete, but it was from a distance, in observation. Swallow's mega-hit 'Subway Jam' makes him central to the action and provides a framework for diasporic pan-Caribbean participation in his music, in his joy – he refers to fourteen different Caribbean nationalities in this song.

I was going to ketch a train in the subway  
When ah hear a strange sound coming from down dey

So ah see people so I hear music / the young and the old if you see antics

Scobie Mike and Jemmot, Massiah Sugar Finger / all dem deejays take over

Imagine all them deejays have New York subway / like Eastern Parkway Labour Day

Trinidadians jammin' down in the subway – subway jam

Antiguans jammin' down in the subway – subway jam

Kittitians pack up the New York subway – subway jam

Tortolans pack up the New York subway – subway jam

The smokers and the drinkers

and the sniffers and the winers – subway jam

And for the next twenty years – until his last major recordings in 2000, Swallow proceeded to knit together themes and sensitivities of ethnicity and nationality into a Black diasporic cultural identity – providing for those in the North American (and UK) concrete jungles a sense of belonging to a cultural group larger than their isolated island communities, watering and/ or re-energizing ancestral ties to the region. He provided us in the region a sense of oneness, confirming shared practices and systems of celebration, beliefs and values.





To the international community he demonstrated the power of Caribbean music – in thinking hands. He never ignored or denied the specific - that the artiste needs to educate and entertain at home even while embarking on international careers – wherever home is. So, he gave us in Antigua the exciting 'Tight Mas' and the rambunctious 'Rude Boy Bacchanal' and the rocking 'Satan Coming Down' alongside the thoughtful socio-political 'All is not lost', 'Let's Talk', 'My County First', 'Fifty years' – his tribute to VC Bird, and the angry, cussing 'CDC', interestingly voted by the international Sunshine Awards as the 'best political commentary of 1997'.

Swallow was equally at home in Trinidad. He reached into the parang style with 'Joy from Heaven' and engaged fellow calypsonians in the jostling traditional style. His 'Pepper Sauce' is a reaction to Denyse Plummer's 'Woman is Boss'; his 'Big Nail' - a repudiation of Beckett's 'Small Pin'; his 'Sing' - an encouragement to Crazy's 'Paul you mother come', his 'Mr. Horner man' suggests positive outcomes for

the philanderer unlike the gloomy ends implied in Shadow's 'Horner man crying'. Swallow became an integral part of the Trinidad calypso world – as the feature closing singer in popular tents, participating in international competitions. He became an advocate for soca music – scolding deejays in his 'Soca Party':

Whole night in the fete / we aint hear no soca yet (repeat)

Whole night you digging soul / reggae and rock and roll

If you continue so / pardner we bound to go

We come out to party / soca up the party (repeat)

He was unafraid of the double entendre – venturing there to produce one of his biggest hits 'Fire in the back seat' and other mind teasers like 'Mr Benwood', 'Ice cream lover' and 'Hold de wood'.

But New York was also home and the specific there referred not only to music for the Parkway such as 'Flag woman bus ride', 'Check out the Parkway', 'Borokeete' but extended to the pleasurable commentaries 'Summer Girls' and 'Down in the Village' and the crisp anti-drug

message of 'Crack':

Crack is a real killer / a notorious monster

Anytime you hook brother / you know that you done forever

And then there were the beauties for all to enjoy, those that folded us into a single embrace – 'Wine on Something', 'Vagabonds', 'Cold Shoulder', 'Steam' and my favourite 'Soca Kingdom':

Who jam you on the parkway – is Swallow

In space and in the subway – is Swallow

There should be not a question / who rule the soca kingdom

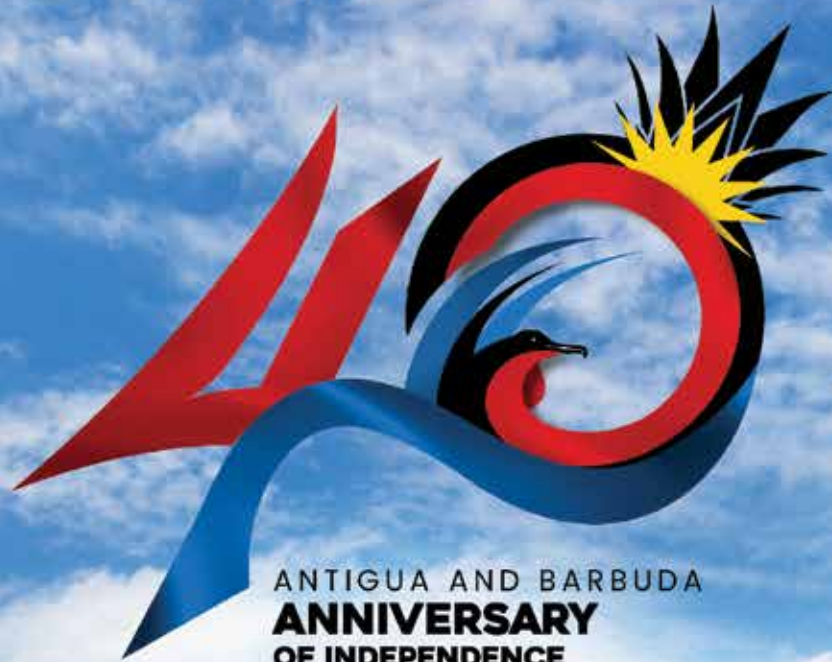
Who does really jam sweet / like fire in the back seat

You're in my kingdom / my soca kingdom

Rupert 'Swallow' Philo was seventy-eight years old when he passed. He had spent sixty years on the calypso stage creating a body of calypso/soca work and a Caribbean impact on world music that stands alongside that of few other artistes - his fellow Antiguan King Short Shirt, the Lord Kitchener and the king of them all, the Mighty Sparrow.

He rests in peace. We mourn - for a while and then we rejoice.





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
**ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**  
"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our independence we reflect on our nation's resilience and our people's ability to recover from every adversity. We at Flow recommit ourselves to keeping the nation of Antigua and Barbuda connected.  
**Each endeavouring all achieving!**



**FLOW**



# Profile of Halcyon Steel Orchestra on its 50th Anniversary



1971 – 2021  
*50 Years of Dedication and Triumph*

*By Lauckland 'Punchin' Joseph*

The name **Halcyon Steel Orchestra** is synonymous with excellence in the musical and cultural landscape of Antigua and Barbuda and, by extension, the Caribbean and the wider global Steel Pan fraternity. For 50 Years, this band has been captivating audiences at home and abroad with its trademark aggressive, pulsating, rhythmic and as renowned pianist, Dr. George Roberts, would describe as **"in your face style performances"**.

Halcyon Steel Orchestra was established in Antigua, on 5th May 1971. This became a reality, mainly through the efforts of the then aspiring

parliamentary representative for the St. John's Rural West Constituency, the late Sir Selvyn A. Walter. Sir Selvyn was ably assisted by a wide cross-section of the Grays' Green Community, including twin brothers, Sam and Penrod Kirby, Melvin "Pocket" Christopher, James "Tanny" Rose, and the men and women of the Rural West Branch of the Antigua Worker's Union (AWU).

During the campaign leading up to the 1971 General Elections, Sir Selvyn made the following proclamation in one of his campaign speeches: *"When I was [become] successful in winning my seat in the*

*General Elections and defeating Premier VC Bird, the first thing I would do would be to create a new steel band in the area. A steel band that would rise from the slums of Gray's Farm and Green Bay and, like a phoenix, utilize the vast array of talent in the ghetto and eventually dominate the steel band scene and make this area proud. Proud that out of this area can come forth a musical giant that will continually dominate the musical scene like a colossus and show the snobs and the uptown people the mettle of which we the people of Gray's Farm are made of; this is my promise, this is my pledge."*

He noted that in doing so, it would rekindle the steel band art form in the area, thereby filling the void left by forerunners - Duke of Iron, Starlift, and Red Army steel bands. Fifty (50) years later this promise has been realized with Halcyon Steel Orchestra undoubtedly being widely regarded as one of the finest and most successful steel bands in the history of Pan in Antigua and Barbuda. The following are just some of the achievements which lend support to this fact:-

Thirteen (13) Panorama championships out of the 32 competitions entered between 1972 and 2018, including 2 titles under the tutelage of world-renowned Pan Virtuoso/Arranger, Dr. Len "Boogsie" Sharpe (1978 & 1979).



- The only band to win 4 consecutive Panorama championships since the inception of Carnival in Antigua in 1957 (1992, 1993, 1994 & 1995).

- Winners of at least 2 Panorama championships in each of the 5 decades it has participated in Panorama competitions: **1970's ('75, '78, '79), 1980's ('86 & '87), 1990's ('92, '93, '94, '95), 2000's (2008 & 2010), 2010-2019 (2011 & 2016)**, Presenters of the youngest arranger for a steel band in a national Panorama championship in Antigua: Deiondre Teague, 17 years old - the band placed 3rd in the 2018 competition.

- The only steel band to win the Gemonites Moods of Pan "25 - A - Side" Competition four (4) times.

- The only steel band to fully accompany an artiste in Antigua's Calypso Monarch Finals within the last sixty (60) years: "Mr. Pan Man" by The Mighty Wizard - 1982.

- Producers of one of the finest steel band albums in Antigua and Barbuda – Pan in Harmony – Disco Steel – 1976.

- 40 unbroken years performing at the historical Shirley Heights Lookout in English Harbour.

The band acquired its name from one of its first sponsors, the Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT), which at that time, was owned by the British conglomerate, Court Line. Court Line was also the owner of one of the top resorts on the island at that time, Halcyon; hence the

name LIAT Halcyon was the first official name of the band. However, when Court Line became bankrupt in 1974, the sponsorship by LIAT also came to an end. This placed the band in somewhat of a dilemma having to remove the acronym "LIAT". However, it was not before long, in a name replacement exercise, that one of the members suggested removing the acronym LIAT and leaving it as only, Halcyon.

In addition to the vision of Mr. Walter and his band of lieutenants, the success of Halcyon Steel Orchestra, throughout the years, can also be attributed to a number of other factors. These include: an extremely supportive community, a cadre of skilled players, arrangers, and pan-tuners, a dedicated bunch of past and present members, and a number of generous sponsors. With respect to the latter, these include: Y-De Lima, LIAT, Corn Producing Services (CPS), Bryson's, Digicel, and the Antigua Masonry Products/The Hadeed Group of Companies.

While the band fully appreciates the contributions of all its sponsors over the years, the Antigua Masonry Products (AMP) must be singled out for the thirty (30) unbroken years it partnered with the band, during the period 1981 to 2011. In this regard, special mention must be given to the late Walton E. Theodore who was most instrumental in consummating the relationship back in 1981, under then owners, Devcon, which was later owned by the Hadeed Group of Companies. The band has performed in several countries across the globe, receiving many positive reviews, to include

Germany, Denmark, Portsmouth-England, as well as Baltimore, Fort Lauderdale and Miami in the United States at the World Famous Miami Carnival. It has also given sterling performances in several Caribbean countries: the United States Virgin Islands and Montserrat as well as CARIFESTA 2001 in St. Kitts/Nevis, and 2017 in Barbados. The band also has the distinction of playing for the late Princess Diana while she visited her favourite vacation destination, the sister isle of Barbuda for three consecutive years. She was so impressed with the band's first performance in 1995 that she personally requested that they play privately for her in 1996 and 1997 - a few months before her untimely passing.

On the local circuit, the band, known for its electric performances, can be found at a number of hotels, restaurants, and entertainment spots across the island. However, the most famous of them all is the Shirley Heights Lookout where Halcyon Steel has been performing every Sunday for the past forty (40) years, since 1981. This event is widely regarded as the biggest outdoor Party in the Eastern Caribbean.

And so, what started out as a dream by a most adventurous politician 50 years ago, 50 years later, has truly blossomed into one of the finest exponents of the steel band art form - **The Halcyon Steel Orchestra of Antigua and Barbuda**. As we reflect on the band's successes throughout its 50-year journey, the words of the Calypso Great, King David Rudder's immortal classic, Dedication, comes to mind:



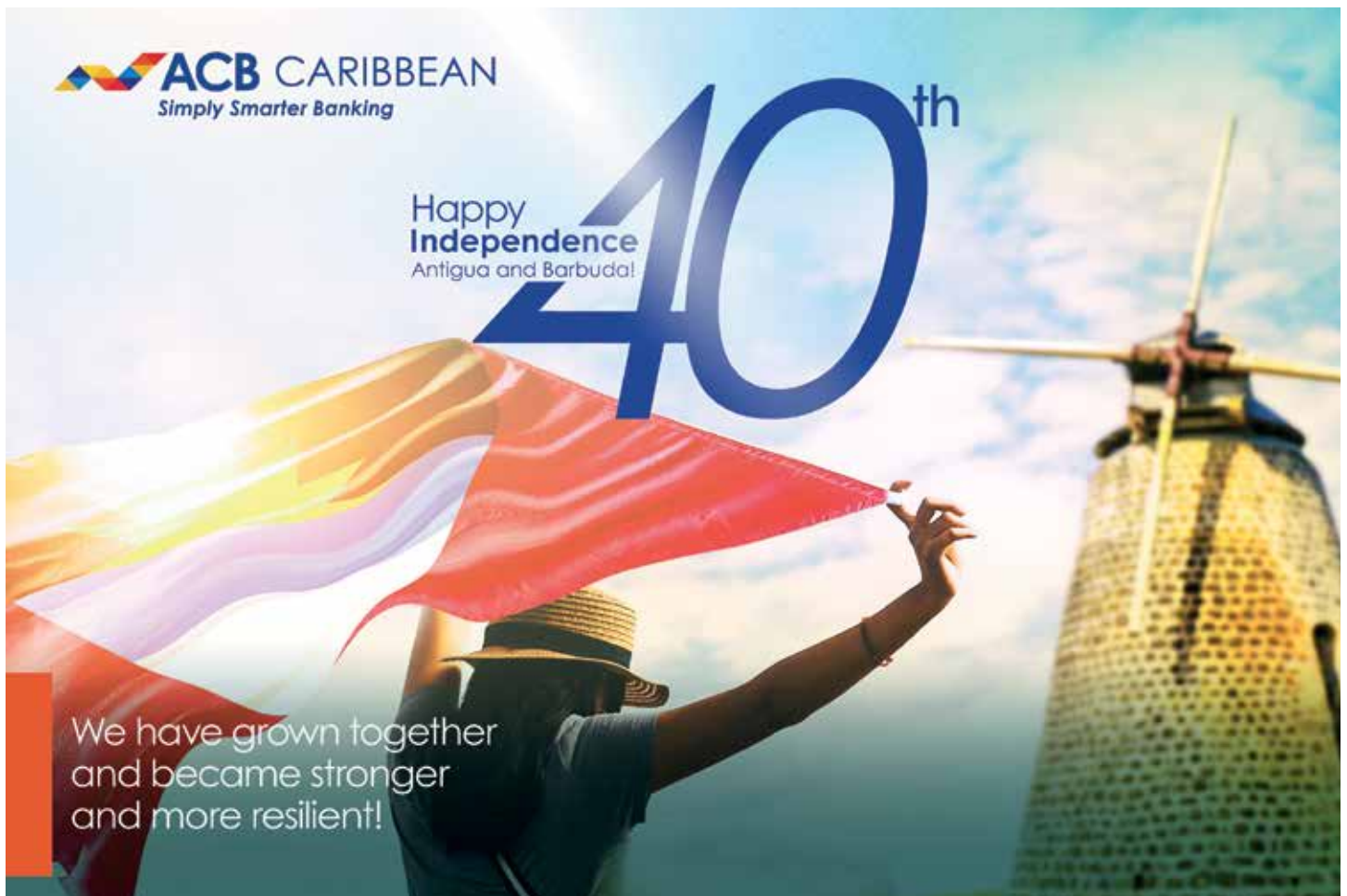
# 'Out of a muddy pond ten thousand flowers bloom'

*May God continue to guide and bless this great institution for many years to come thereby*

## KEEPING THE VIBES ALIVE

### Panorama Championships

| Year | Tune(s)   | Arranger(s)  |
|------|---|--|
| 1975 | Pan Rhapsody and St. Peter Say                  | Gerald 'Belly' Charles                             |
| 1978 | Benna Music & Panorama Night                    | Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe                               |
| 1979 | Kangaroo Jam                                    | Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe                               |
| 1986 | Pan Getting Squeeze & Poet and Peasant Overture | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 1987 | Pan Dying & Light Calvary Overture              | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 1992 | 21 Years of Blood, Sweat & Tears                | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 1993 | Woman Run Things                                | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 1994 | Where Will Pan be in the 21st Century?          | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 1995 | Dis Party on Fire                               | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 2008 | Hit Man   | Fitzroy 'Blakie' Phillip<br>& Curtis 'CC' Cochrane |
| 2010 | Rock Me   | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 2011 | Don't Stop Dis Party                            | Victor 'Babu' Samuel                               |
| 2016 | Home for the 60th                               | Devon Bachelor                                     |







# 50 years of Pan - 3 Cheers for Halcyon

Composed and sung by Sir Paul 'King Obsinate' Richards

### *1st Verse*

Halcyon Steel Orchestra, Antigua and Barbuda  
They celebrating, 50 years ah jamming  
For this grand occasion, show your appreciation  
For the sweetest band in De Land, 3 Cheers for Halcyon!

### *1st Chorus*

50 broad years ah Pan, hear de bass Pan growling  
50 broad years ah Pan, and tenor Pan ringing  
50 broad years ah Pan, sometimes a heavy shower  
50 broad years ah Pan, 90 degrees weather  
50 broad years ah Pan, 2021, 3 Cheers for Halcyon!

### *2nd Verse*

Sir Selvyn Walter, he was the Founder  
Sam and Penrod Kirby, Christopher and Tanny,  
They built de Steel Orchestra, in de Gray's Green Area  
With Red Army gone, Halcyon was born

### *2nd Chorus*

50 broad years ah Pan, looking for the Road March song  
50 broad years ah Pan, to beat on de ping pong  
50 broad years ah Pan, a tune for Panorama  
50 broad years ah Pan, Fu play in a Parsa  
50 broad years ah Pan, 2021, 3 Cheers for Halcyon!

### *3rd Verse*

They win Panorama, 13 times over  
The historic 4-peat, every band they beat  
Gemonites Moods of Pan, 4 times Champion  
Carifesta too, Halcyon, we proud of you

### *3rd Chorus*

50 broad years ah Pan, you love de jam session  
50 broad years ah Pan, help out de band man  
50 broad years ah Pan, this year's celebration  
50 broad years ah Pan, show your appreciation  
50 broad years ah Pan, 2021, 3 Cheers for Halcyon!

### *4th Verse*

Hadeed Group, we thank you; Masonry, you too  
Shirley Heights with Valerie, Green Bay, Gray's Farm Posse  
All other sponsors, past and present players  
They give us the drive, keeping de vibes alive

### *4th Chorus*

50 broad years ah Pan, a promotion tour  
50 broad years ah Pan, they can open the door  
50 broad years ah Pan, they can attract de tourists  
50 broad years ah Pan, Our Government should do dis  
50 broad years ah Pan, 2021, 3 Cheers for Halcyon!





# Burning Flames The Music and The Band

*By Kenny Nibbs*

*Few people can claim to know the members of the Burning Flames Band like Kenny Nibbs. He was there from the beginning. In fact, Kenny was a member of the band in what he termed 'the rock-n-roll years'. (This was before 'Styley Tight' that propelled the band to national fame.) The Burning Flames band was a staple at the regular talent shows held at the Potters Primary School where the repertoire included rock-n-roll music, particularly the music of the Stray Cats out of New York. The following is a personal reflection on the Burning Flames, the biggest and best jam band out of Antigua and Barbuda. Most importantly for Kenny, he is also 'family' with the band members.*

**“Hi dey hey, Hi dey ho, Straight a Patta We a go!”**

From the Potters Main Road, west of the old Antigua Dairy building, came a family band named “The Burning Flames”. Who would have thought three brothers and a nephew, namely: Toriano “Onyan” Edwards, Clarence “Oungku” Edwards, David “Bubb-I” Edwards,

and Rone “Foxx” Watkins all hailing from Potters Village, in little Antigua, would have gone on to become the best jam band the world has ever seen? I remember staying from my house a few yards away and hearing the music coming from the old band house, which was in the back of their

family house. In the late 70’s, these guys would practice from sunup to sundown - in other words, morning, noon, and night. I remember going to a few moonlight-on-the-lawn parties at the Police Recreation Grounds where the Burning Flames was the house band. In those days





they played a lot of calypsos by Shadow, Short Shirt, Maestro, and others, but they were also into Zouk or Cadence. A favourite of theirs back then was one by Grammacks called “Debar”.

The Burning Flames was also the house band at the many talent shows or concerts held at the Potters Primary School. Whenever one heard there was an upcoming show in Potters, everyone knew where to go to rehearse. People returning home from work in the evenings would stop and listen to the Flames while they were practicing. A lot of us would sit on the wall of the Antigua Dairy for hours while we listen to the sweet sounds of the Flames in a session. Don't talk about school fetes! No other band in Antigua has played at school fetes more than The Burning Flames. I am sure they played for free because they were “soup”. Then in the early 80's when Rock and Roll and Pop music took over Antigua, except at Carnival time, The Burning Flames turned to Rock and Roll. Songs from the Police, Men at Work, Culture Clash, Van Halen, and Hall & Oates were high on their playlist. They would also play Rick James and Lionel Ritchie, yes, they were versatile.

## Then came 1985

I don't know whose idea it was or what got into them, but I remember Oungku gave me a cassette and told me to “release this one for Carnival.” It was shortly after our annual Sailing Week, so it was early May. The name of the song was Styley Tight also known as “Left to Right”. When I played it that afternoon on ZDK Radio the phone lines blew up. The people wanted a replay! They wanted to know “way dem pickaneiga come from?”, “who dem be?” and many more questions. Yes! They sounded like children with their small voices. I guess because of the feedback the group was getting with Styley Tight, they decided to ride the waves. Before they left to perform on Reggae Sun Splash as part of the backing band for the late great King of Soca, The Mighty Arrow, they gave me another song to release. That song was called “Go-Go”. Antigua's Carnival is now held hostage by this small band from Potters Village. Upon their return from Jamaica, BOOM! Another song. It seemed as though they were working on it while in Jamaica. The name of the third song was “Do Anything”.

By July, all three songs were dominating the air waves on both the ZDK and ABS radio stations. The Burning Flames took over Antigua's Carnival that year and went on to capture the road march title with Styley Tight. Any one of their three songs released could have gotten the road march because no other song came close. The Mighty Swallow had “Town Mash Dung”, Paul King Obstinate had “Hungry” and “Come Alive” but they were good for air play and the discos; but everywhere you went, all you heard was The Burning Flames.

Some people said that 1985 was a fluke, so the group decided to show Antigua that it wasn't a fluke. In 1986, they released their first album called “Burning Flames Rule”. Lawd, look ah music! Six ‘bad’ songs to include the road march, Rudeness Mek Me, Jump Higher, With Your Bad Self, and Hokey Pokey - just to name a few. As a matter of fact, The Burning Flames' album was banned from the Tropix Nightclub because of “Jump Higher”. People started to physically jump over the side railings onto the dance floor! This ban lasted for only 3 days.



The Burning Flames is now in charge of Antigua Carnival. From Jam Pond to Lion's Den, to J'ouvert and Last Lap, The Burning Flames rule.

## Fast Forward to 2015

Those of us who are huge fans of The Burning Flames, would have known that 2015 would have been the 30 years since the Flames "disturbed" Antigua's Carnival in 1985. Personally, I hoped and prayed that they would come together and do something, anything! Even a reunion album to see if they still had that chemistry when they put their talents together. I started to hear a little buzz which grew into a bigger one. I jumped onto the phone and called Elton "Sabu" Thomas who, at the time, was their Manager. In his own words he said "wha you mean Nibbs? Subben na hafu do? And when me ready me will call you." Venue - check, commercial - check, tickets - check, date of the reunion jam - check.

It is July 17th, 2015 a beautiful Saturday night! Here we are at the Yasco Playing Field and the crowd is in early to see the Fantastic Four, playing together again for the first time in over 17 years. To get the huge crowd into a Burning Flames mood, on came Tian Winter, Menace, Ricardo Drue, and the Diva – Claudette "CP" Peters. They each performed some of their favorite Burning Flames songs, songs that were also included in the Burning Flames set. After about 2 hours, the MC gave a special introduction for the greatest jam band the world has ever seen, and they did not disappoint. Dressed in their usual colourful, outrageous outfits The

Burning Flames started their set with a song from a heavy metal band, Europe, called "The Final Count Down". This was a surprise to everyone, but what was not a surprise was that sweet voice of Onyan, which sounded as sweet as ever singing it. Upon completion of their Rock/Pop set, they went into their hits and the crowd of over eight thousand strong went into a frenzy! Like I said previously, The Burning Flames did not disappoint. It was hits after hits after hits and, of course, the people were jamming, jamming, jamming well into the next morning (past 5am!). It was a night well spent! A night worth waiting for! A night of nostalgia! A night of Lions Den and Jam Pond rolled into one!

## The Future

The year 2025 will be the 40th Anniversary of The Burning Flames. If we are still around, I wonder if we will be blessed with another reunion of the Fantastic Four. The last time I checked the Rolling Stones are still touring, so why not the Burning Flames who have revolutionized Jam Band music in the Caribbean? 17 Plus, Imagination Brass, JamBand, Xtatick, Square One, WCK, NU Vibes, Krosfyah, and Vision Band - you name it! They all took a page out of The Burning Flames playbook. Just imagine if Onyan, Oungku, Bubb-I and Foxx had stayed together. All now we would have still been jumping, because 'fire woulda under we foot.'

***Long live The Burning Flames Band! - three brothers and a nephew - straight out of Potters Village.***

***We gotta go now!!!***





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**- *Ambassador Calvin Ayre***

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# Fighting above our weight class in Sport

By *Colin L. James*

**S**port is etched in the Antigua & Barbudan physique. It is embedded in the bowels of the nation's soul. Those who excelled on the regional and international arena are regarded as 'pantheons'.

Although the twin-island state is yet to win an Olympics Games medal, it has produced world-class and champion athletes whose names are well-documented in the annals of their chosen disciplines. Punching above their weight is no stranger to those who earned the privilege of representing the flag from Boxing giant Maurice Hope's world championship success in the '70s, to Sir Sydney Walling to Winston Soanes to Hubert Anthonyson to Leo Gore-Alford Mannix, Pat Evanson to Sir Lester Bird. Their trailblazing effect spurred more succeeding generations to greatness and stardom. Even before Independence in 1981, Antigua & Barbuda's sportsmen and sportswomen had undoubtedly demonstrated a penchant to illuminate the international stage notwithstanding its small size. Sir Isaac Vivian "Viv" Alexander Richards, one of our six national heroes, acclaimed as one of the world's greatest batsmen, and Sir Anderson "Andy" Montgomery Everton Roberts, reputed as the architect of modern-day fast bowling, had firmly etched the twin-island nation on the cricket map since 1974. The late Paul "Paddy"

Wynter was a world champion in bodybuilding while Maurice Hope won an international junior middleweight title. History was created in 2021 as Antigua and Barbuda's Kimberly Percival became the first athlete from the country to claim the top prize at the prestigious international bodybuilding event, the Arnold Classics Europe in Sevilla, Spain.

Multi-talented Andy "Job" Christian might be the only athlete to represent that nation in three disciplines: football, basketball, and athletics. The supremely gifted Christian was a goalkeeper par excellence, a power-forward on the courts, a pole vaulter and javelin thrower.

When Sir Richard "Richie" Benjamin Richardson, an accomplished batsman; and Sir Viv, a former West Indies captain; and all-rounder Eldine Baptiste, an underrated but effective seamer and batsman, made their Test debuts in India 1983, it was the beginning of the post-Independence rise of Antigua and Barbudan cricketers to don the maroon colours. Their advent spurred the unrelated pacers -- Winston and Kenneth Benjamin to the Windies team, but easily the most successful of those who emerged since the attainment of nationhood would have Sir Curtly Elconn Lynwall Ambrose, ranked among the top five fast bowlers ever. Wicket keeper/batsman Ridley Jacobs, who also earned the distinction of captain of the

Caribbean side; batsmen Dave Joseph, a former Windies youth skipper, and Sylvester Joseph; leg-spinner Anthony Martin and pacer Gavin Tonge also played Test cricket while all-rounder Hamish Anthony, Austin Richards Jr. and medium-pacer, Kerry Jeremy, played matches.

The present exponents: Alzarri Joseph, an emerging fast bowler, off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall, a burly hard-hitting lower-order batsman have established themselves as Test players, as well as leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr.

Important to note, the Stanford 20/20, which was played in 2006 and 2008, was conceptualized in Antigua & Barbuda, before being popularized and monetized by the Indian Premier League.

While no footballer would have attained the professional status in a top European or South American league some have played in pro-leagues at different levels in the US or on the college circuit with distinction. They included Peter Byers, and Quinton Griffith.

In Athletics, the late National Hero and former Prime Minister Lester Bryant Bird began the genesis of showcasing the country's undoubted talent on the international stage when he won a bronze medal in the long jump at the 1959 Pan American Games in Chicago while representing the British West Indian team. Sir Lester's feat stood for 36 years before it was equaled by female sprinter Heather Samuel



who captured bronze in the 100 metres at the 1995 Pan American Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Sprinter Brendon Christian and high-jumper James Grayman also won medals at the 2006 Pan Am Games in Rio, Brazil as Christian copped gold in the 200 metres and bronze 100 metres, while James did so in the high jump.

Sprinter Cejhae Greene was also a bronze medallist in the 100 metres at the 2019 Pan Am Game in Lima, Peru, while Priscilla Frederick captured silver in the high-jump at the same meet. Frederick also won silver at the previous meet in 2015 in Canada.

However, the country's most celebrated track star to date could be sprinter Daniel Bailey, who has been the first Antiguan to run under 10 seconds in the 100 metres, earning the distinction of being a training partner of the great multiple Olympic and World double sprint champion, Usain Bolt.

The names - Lester Benjamin, Dale Joseph, Cordover Simon, Ayata Joseph, Jocelyn Joseph, Janil Williams, Jess St John, Sonia Williams and most recently, Joella Lloyd, the new holder of the Women's 100m and winner of her qualifying heat at the Tokyo Olympics, have done well on the international circuit since Independence.

Antigua & Barbuda can be doubly proud in producing two world-class goal-shooters in Netball: Yvonne Williams-Willis and Karen Joseph, both ranked among the top 10 in their heyday. As for Tennis, The Davis Cup would be the barometer to assess the international status of Antiguan tennis players. John Maginley and Jerry Williams excelled at this level for the OECS team from the mid-1980s before the country went on its own.

The brothers pairing of Carlton and Kareem Bedminister, along with Fernando Peters and Kevin Gardner were dominant at the regional and international youth levels as they triumphed over age-group players at International Tennis Federation (ITF) junior tournaments who would have gone on to success at the senior level. Debbie Davis, on the female side, also held her own at the regional Federation Cup level. At the junior level, Isokee Perry, D'jari Raymond have also made their mark on the ITF circuit.

The famed Antigua & Barbuda Bulldogs catapulted the country to multiple successes at the regional and sub-regional levels barking furiously at home and overseas in Basketball

The late Noel "Nyah" Roberts, a luminary on the court with his electrifying and magical plays, spearheaded a studded cast comprising Andy "Job" Christian, Carl "Boli" Knight, Wayne "Doc" Harris, and Richie Francis. Harris and Rohan "Tekel" Gomes were among the first to play at the US collegiate level while Gomes earned a tryout with the NBA's Denver Nuggets.

Scores of players headed Stateside yearly to take up college scholarships at schools at varying levels in pursuit of an education and a possible opportunity to be recruited by a top coach or team. Brian "Hollywood" Matthew; brothers Clint and Wayne, Mahijah and Negus Davis, and Randy and John Samuel, Merv Joseph, Oslyn "Pigeon" were among those who shone.

While no born Antiguan & Barbudan has yet to reach the holy grail of the NBA, some offsprings, like Kemba Walker and Joel Anthony, had suited up for the Boston Celtics and Miami Heat, respectively.

Following the success of "Paddy" Wynter, James Daley became the heir to the bodybuilding throne with multi-national and regional titles. Steve Williams ran his close with several titles as well Ollyn Martin, Randy Christopher. Our women bodybuilders continue to dominate regional and the international stage with the likes of Hazel Went, Michelle Longford, the Seaforth sisters, and Sher-Ronda Brathwaite have earned Professional licenses.

The inter-school programme, which also included football, basketball, track & field, netball, volleyball, was channeled through the Ministry of Sports under the tutelage of then Directors of Sports, Reginald Samuel and Pat Whyte, who succeeded Samuel in the early 1990s after serving as co-ordinator assisted by the late Daintes "Danny" Livingstone and Stanfield "Shipwreck" Joseph.

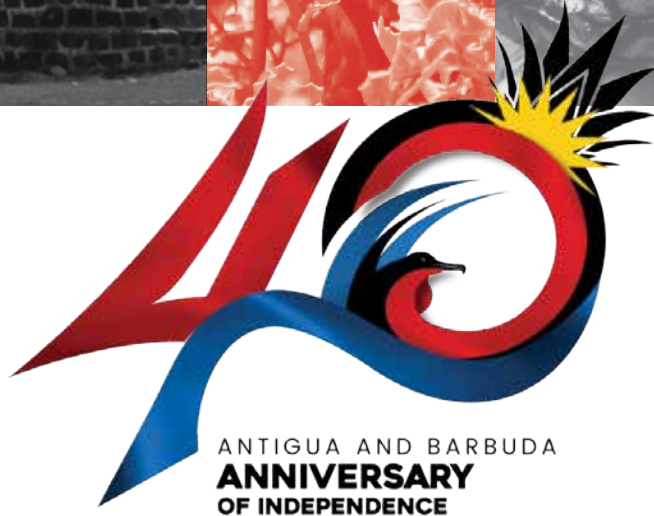
Simultaneously, was the government-run Community Development Sports & Games (CDS&G) programme, which championed its cause in the villages with its Parish League cricket and Business League projects to buttress the national sports associations from the mid-1980s up to mid-2000s.

So, notwithstanding the country's small size, lack of resources, especially monetary, the talents and abilities of the country's athletes have far outweighed any lack of success on the Olympic, world championship or World Cup levels.

But a few years from now, with continued planned development and international exposure, Antigua & Barbuda's top sportsmen and sportswomen will raise the Country's flag on the world stage.

***Never say never.***





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# Our “Independence Baby” at 40

## A Personal Reflection

**By Sasha Stuart-Young  
Southwell**

**I**n the late hours of Saturday, 31st October 1981, Saskia Stuart-Young was pacing the halls of the Adelin Clinic, in labour with her second child. Her husband, Brian Stuart-Young, was attending the historic events taking place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds in St. John’s – the ceremony marking the momentous occasion of Antigua and Barbuda’s independence from Great Britain, which was signified by

the raising of the new National Flag at midnight. In the early morning following the ceremony’s end, Brian visited the Clinic and checked up on his wife, before going home to rest. Shortly after arriving, he received a call telling him to return to the Clinic. His wife would be giving birth soon and he was keen to be present.

At 8:36 a.m. on the morning of that historic November 1st, Sasha Alexandra, a healthy baby girl, was born, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. The proud parents would soon find out that she was the first child born in the

country, after Antigua and Barbuda became an Independent Nation. From then, Sasha was affectionately called the “Independence Baby.”

Sasha grew up with her parents and her older brother, Justin, in Antigua, where they both attended school, from pre-school to the Antigua State College. During her formative years, she was schooled at St. Nicholas Primary School, following which she went on to sit her CXC’s at Christ the King High School, and her ‘A’ levels at Antigua State College.





Her love for Art started in primary school, and never left. After passing her 'A' levels, she traveled to England to pursue a foundation course in Art & Design at Oxford Brookes University in 1999, specializing in Illustration. Having successfully completed this year, and unsure of her next steps, Sasha took a short break and returned home. For one year, she worked as a teacher's assistant at St. Nicholas Primary School, while she made applications to Art universities in the United States. During this time, she decided to enter the field of Graphic Design as a means through which she could use her creative skills in a more practical application. Following her acceptance into the Savannah College of Art & Design, she journeyed to Savannah, Georgia USA, to pursue a degree in Graphic Design. Sasha spent three and a half years completing university and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Graphic Design. She returned to Antigua, where she freelanced until she settled down in 2007 in a full-time job with

her father's group of companies, in financial services. He had become a banking CEO, was delighted to have both of his children working with him; as Sasha's brother, Justin, was an IT professional who also worked within the group of companies.

At the beginning of her career, Sasha provided in-house graphic design and marketing services. In 2012, she completed her Master's degree in Marketing and Management, from the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom, via distance learning.

She now oversees the marketing department for the expanding group of companies which includes a bank in Antigua, also operating globally, a Fintech hub operating in the Caribbean and Canada, as well as a hurricane shutter and sign making company in Antigua. Together with her team, she provides multi-media marketing support to the brands and their products and services.

As if her job wasn't enough to keep her busy, Sasha, who married her Antigua State College sweetheart, David Southwell in 2011, has two young boys, Joshua and Elijah, who

will be 9 and 6 years, respectively, at the end of November. With a busy career and her boys keeping her on her toes, she is hopeful to get back to her very first love of painting. She favours acrylics, but also experiments in mixed media/collage and photography.

Having recently discovered digital painting, she is enjoying the development of her skills in this arena. She enjoys portraying everyday objects and scenery, which we tend to take for granted on a day-to-day basis and strives to depict the beauty she sees in her surroundings.

Recognizing that the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted lifestyles and created a new "normal" in our everyday living, she feels it is more important than ever to capture and immortalize the things that we cherish and give us comfort.

Sasha is also a self-professed foodie having developed her tastes and palate in her mother's kitchen, and through her love for travel, where she expanded her appreciation of fine foods. She has also built on her mother's love for cooking and loves to experiment with global





flavours. While she hopes to be able to further travel the world with her family in the future, she is quite content to go on long Sunday drives, discovering new places in Antigua, visiting new beaches, and taking in the beauty of her island. Sasha has a special relationship with Antigua and Barbuda – forever linked by birth dates. She feels like the growth of Antigua and Barbuda can

sometimes be compared to that of a human being. There are growing pains, lessons to be learned, and experiences gained, in the many ups and downs. There will be challenges as well as triumphs.

Through it all, Sasha believes that it is up to every one of us to make Antigua & Barbuda the best country that it can be. This means taking pride in the country and its

environment, including its natural resources - sea, sand, and land - and care and respect for one another on a daily basis.

At 40 years, she is in the prime of her life and has much to look forward to. Sasha join the Nation in praying for and wishing Antigua and Barbuda another 40 years of Good Health, Unity, and Prosperity.

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**  
"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"

# CONGRATULATIONS

The Management and Staff of the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) extend Congratulations to the Nation on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Independence.

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# *Antigua & Barbuda's*



## *Anniversary of Independence*

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# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

INDEPENDENCE DAY



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From the Chairman, Directors, Shareholders & Staff of Falmouth Harbour Marina, Antigua's Premier Mega Yacht Marina.





# Welcome to Barbuda!

An Essay in Words and Pictures

*Honourable Trevor Walker MP shares  
his love for the island.*

*“**Barbuda** is a place like no other for me! I have traveled many places around the world and have seen all that the world has to offer. I even have friends in the Bahamas where some islands are similar than what we have here. But **Barbuda** is still different. **Barbuda** is an unspoilt place. It is one of those places that you go where you don’t have to worry about being on the beach and somebody is trying to sell you a T-shirt or something you don’t want. In fact, if you go the beach right now, you may be the only person on the beach,” he remarked.*





## Our Cuisine

*“We eat very healthy. I was talking to a friend, some time ago, who visited the island, a well-known gospel singer, and at breakfast he was offered lobster. He couldn't imagine eating lobster for breakfast! He wondered how we were able to do it here. But that's just the way we live. We eat a lot of stuff from the sea: fish, conch, lobster. In addition, we have a lot of wild animals that we hunt such as deer and boars. Everything for us is natural,” Walker revealed.*



## On the Green Energy Project underway

*“The project is a very good thing! If Barbuda can go 100% green energy, wow! That is the way to go, the sustainable way to go. I wish to thank the government of the United Arab Emirates, the government of New Zealand, and all those entities that have contributed to the project by way of funding. Barbudans appreciate it because, at the end of the day, running these generators on fossil fuel, and as we don't have generators that run on bunker sea fuel, it makes it very expensive. Now Antigua is making moves to go into natural gas power generation and we are far behind. I am therefore fully on board with moves to make Barbuda fully self-sufficient using renewable energy sources,” Walker declared. Welcome to Barbuda!*



## On Development

*“I love my Barbuda. I'm the Parliamentary Representative now for three terms (2004-14 & 2018-present) and I will do everything in my power to develop Barbuda, but in a way that doesn't make it lose its identity. It complements Antigua; Antigua is developed; it's commercialized and everything, but when you come to Barbuda it's a different pace. So I like to sell that... Yes, we have to develop and move on, but it must be in a sustainable way,” said Walker.*







# Barbuda... An Island in Transition

By *Everton Barnes*

A quiet revolution is taking place in the sister island, Barbuda. On second thought maybe revolution is too strong a term, perhaps a more appropriate description would be to say that a quiet transition is taking place in Barbuda.

Following the destruction caused by Hurricane Irma four years ago - September 2017, there has been an aggressive programme of home repairs, and home construction taking place on the sister island. It has also led to an expansion of Codrington and the early signs of 'suburbs' in the making.

Two main factors have fueled the explosion of home construction in Barbuda in recent years. Firstly, the European Union-funded home renewal programme under which over forty homes have been completed and handed over to

proud owners; and secondly, the desire of Barbudans to build and own their homes.

Anyone who visited Barbuda in the days or months following the hurricane would be pleasantly surprised with the developments on the island today. There's little sign that the island was completely decimated by the powerful winds of Hurricane Irma four years ago. Gone are the many lengths of tarpaulin that covered structures in the aftermath. Gone too are the huge mounds of garbage left behind as the island tried to cope with the massive amounts of debris accumulated after the storm.

Recognizing that many Barbudans did not have home insurance prior to the storm, and many did not have the wherewithal to undertake home reconstructions on their own, the central government engaged in discussions with the international market seeking assistance on

their behalf. Prime Minister Gaston Browne took a personal role in this move and was largely responsible for getting the European Union (EU) to agree to bend their rules in favour of the people of Barbuda. The EU went outside its normal mandate and made a donation of 5 million Euros towards the project. This was an unusual gesture on the part of the EU, as financing home repairs and reconstruction are not within the norm.

In a move designed to allay fears/concerns of abuse of the EU funds, the central government engaged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to oversee the implementation of the project.

The Office of the National Authorising Officer (NAO) which coordinates all EU funded projects in Antigua and Barbuda, is headed by Ambassador Dr. Clarence Henry. He provided insight into the project saying it initially envisaged the



construction of 150 homes, but the figure has since been scaled downwards to an estimated 104 homes by the time the project comes to an end in the first quarter of 2022. He blames increases in the cost of materials and the cost of transporting these materials from Antigua to Barbuda as some of the reasons. Additionally, Dr. Henry explained that the UNDP is also paid a management fee from the funds and in order to manage the project, the UNDP had to set up offices in Antigua, to include hiring staff.

One of the beneficiaries of this project is Blondell Deazel. She said that “she is quite pleased to have been one of those selected to receive a home under the project.” Deazel gave our team a tour of her soon-to-be completed house; a two-bedroom, one bathroom structure with an open area for a kitchen,

living room, and dining room.

All across Barbuda, the building boom is on either under the EU-funded project or by private individuals constructing their homes.

Parliamentary Representative for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, welcomed us to his home located on the River Road, roughly two miles from Codrington. “When I moved out here twenty-one years ago, I was the only home-owner in the area. There were no utility services in those days. Now today, I have neighbours and there are homes already built and others being built that are further along River Road from my home. It’s a sign of the expansion taking place here in Barbuda,” he added.

Walker attributes this to a strong desire by islanders to ‘own’ their piece of the rock and to construct homes. He noted that these homes

are almost all being built without the owners resorting to long-term mortgages as is the case in Antigua. “Here in Barbuda, every disposable penny that is earned goes into home construction. It takes a longer time for the construction process, but however long it takes, there’s no mortgage payment at the end. We are ‘free’ of that burden,” he stated.

Unfortunately, with the expansion and other developments happening in Barbuda, for most Antiguan this could be taking place in Timbuktu, as more than half of the populace of Antigua has never visited the island. This is perhaps one reason for the great divide between the residents of the twin island state and one of the greatest challenges facing both islands as, together and separately, they celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Political Independence.



## JOE MIKE'S

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**Happy 40th Independence  
Antigua and Barbuda!**

“Resilience, Reflection and Recovery”

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# Inside the Art of Making Brooms: A family's story



*By Syriah Lambert*

**B**arbuda has had a long history and reputation associated with the sea. Fishing and diving are two activities that immediately come to mind. Much less is known of the art form of making brooms and one family's generational association with it. Making brooms is an art as we will learn on this journey with Barbudan broom builder, Dwight Benjamin. According to Dwight it requires a "good technique and a creative eye".

Anyone who frequents Codrington, Barbuda, knows about Dwight, locally known as 'Tigga' and his family's long history in the broom-making business. Dwight grew up watching his grandfather, Joseph DeSouza, weaving brooms and it is here, his passion and knack for the art were formed. His grandfather learned the art from his grandmother confirming that it's a skill that goes back for generations in this family. Recognizing that his grandfather was advancing in age, and not wanting this

particular skill to die when he does. Dwight's own journey began in 2018 when he started assisting his grandfather with the production of the brooms. Since his grandfather's passing a few months ago, he has fully immersed himself in the business and he hopes to one day expand the business even further.

Dwight operates his business from home and can often be seen sitting on his veranda dexterously manipulating straw, twine, and stick, until his finished craft - a beautiful hand-woven creation - stands before him. Some may say it's only a broom but the 'symbolism' of this work of art signifies cleanliness and purity. Making brooms by hand has also instilled the value of patience and discipline in the craftsman.

In an effort to ensure the broom-making art form did not become extinct, Dwight and his now deceased grandfather sought to pass on this valuable skill to members of the local community by teaching their techniques to a number of Barbudans.





Since taking over the business, Dwight satisfies not only the Barbuda market, but he has also found a ready market for his brooms in Antigua. According to Dwight, it takes anywhere between 30-45 minutes to complete a broom. Although he tries to keep brooms in

stock for purchase, he also makes brooms on order. Dwight states that his ability to meet demand is greatly affected by the availability of the dry palm straws needed for production.

A regular house broom sells for approximately EC\$20 while the extra-long broom, used mainly to

remove cobwebs from ceilings, costs about EC\$25 - \$30, depending on the length.

Dwight loves what he does and his passion and zeal are clearly evident from start to finish in the making of his beautiful products.



# Happy Independence

## Antigua & Barbuda

**From the Board of Directors,  
Management and Staff  
of the Community First Co-operative  
Credit Union.**







# The Frigate Bird Sanctuary

*By Launesha Barnes*

**T**he overcast sky was a refreshing break from the previous day's scorching sun. We were on a small boat speeding across the waters of the lagoon with Pat, our guide. We were heading towards Barbuda's famed Bird Sanctuary. Pat was a passionate soul who had moved to Barbuda from Antigua at the age of ten. As an integral part of our trip, he was familiar with our surroundings and knowledgeable about its rich history, taking pride in sharing his wealth of experience with our listening ears.

The calm, understated pull of Barbuda hung in the air. Its wild, untamed mass was the home of diverse fauna and flora, a delicate ecosystem, and unique culture. We headed north towards a forest of mangroves with the landmass disappearing behind us. For those

precious moments, out there on the water, we were weightless, drifting towards something "magnificent."

The lagoon spans 7.5 miles going north to south, and 2 miles from east to west. Along the strip of land, is a breach called Irma's Corner, a remnant of the hurricane in 2017. As we approached The Frigate Bird Sanctuary, the majestic creatures with black angular wings and forked tails soared effortlessly against the sky, making a low guttural sound. The birds made their nests and performed mating rituals amongst varying species of mangroves such as buttroot, black mangroves, and red or spider leg mangroves.

The young frigate bird or juvenile has a white head and belly until it matures; the adult male, dark with a patch of red skin at its throat called the gular; and the females black with a white breast patch. The mating season begins around mid-August

when the male frigates return. By September, the males start perching amongst the mangroves, sticking their wings in the air, vibrating them, clucking their beaks with a drumming sound, and inflating their red pouch to attract the females flying overhead.

Once the female chooses a mate, she sends a signal by rubbing herself against his pouch. As they mutually groom, the male deflates his pouch then flies off looking for twigs and sticks to build the nest, which the female constructs. This process continues until the nest is complete, with the female mating sporadically with the male as a reward.

The female lays one egg per mating season which takes 25 - 30 days to hatch. While the male sits on the egg, the female goes looking for food, stores it in her chest, and then regurgitates it allowing the male to feed from her throat. Once the egg





has hatched, the female feeds the young bird in the same way. After three months, the adult males gather to migrate, leaving the females and juveniles behind. Once the juvenile learns to fly at around five months old the adult female teaches it to hunt for food. Unlike pelicans and other birds, they have no oil glands making them waterproof. As such, they are unable to dive. When a Frigate bird dives for fish, it skims the surface, grabbing what it can find. Sometimes it also steals from other birds.

The adult bird has a wingspan of 6 feet, with a top speed of about 70 miles per hour and an altitude over 3,000 feet. Frigate birds go by different names. In Barbuda, they are called Man O' War, named after the Frigate - a warship; in Antigua, Weather Birds, as when they are seen inland at high altitudes, it

means a storm is approaching. In Belize and Peru, they are called Pirate Birds or Robber Birds for their habit of stealing food from other birds; and they are known generally around the world as the Magnificent Frigate Birds.

As we left the sanctuary heading back to the mainland, Pat redirected our boat towards the breach in the lagoon. For him, these boat trips spanned over 35 years with famous visits from guests such as Princes William and Harry. We stared at the new landscape before us, the waves crashing on the newly formed beach. Thoughtfully he stated, "Mother Nature give and Mother Nature take away. Slowly the waves will push the sand in place and rebuild the buffer zone. It will take time, but she'll reconnect again." On that note, we made our way back to the docks, grateful for the adventurous day.

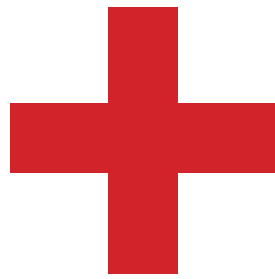
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# The Hanna Thomas Hospital Back in Business

*By Everton Barnes*

**O**ne of the many casualties of the powerful Category 4 Hurricane Irma that struck Barbuda in September, 2017, was the destruction of the island's lone public health facility, The Hanna Thomas Hospital.

An important and even psychological marker of a return to normality for islanders, following the hurricane, was to have the hospital operational, and being able to provide primary care services for residents.

"Barbudans, once again, have access to enhanced healthcare services after a fully equipped and rehabilitated Hannah Thomas Hospital was handed over to the Barbuda Council today. Under the leadership of the Government of Antigua & Barbuda, the project, funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund reconstructed the severely damaged hospital and provided equipment to improve patient care within the community. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implemented the project, utilizing a US\$1M contribution from India through the Fund, using 'Build Back Better' principles to ensure greater

structural resilience and inclusive access," a press release from the United Nations Development Fund announced in August, 2020, when the official handing over took place.

Fast forward to September 2021, acting Matron of the hospital, Caryl Jones, provided insights of the daily operations of the health facility when our team visited the hospital for research purposes. "On a daily basis, we mainly have people coming in from the village to see the doctor with whatever complaints of illnesses they may be experiencing at the time. The nurse would do the vitals check, then they see the doctors. If they need to be admitted, then we do that. Currently, we have very few admissions so our hospital is without patients at the moment," she explained.

There are two main wards at the hospital, one for male patients and the other for females; and a smaller facility that serves as a maternity ward where children are delivered, and which can also accommodate a mother and child. Each ward has four beds and is air-conditioned. Each bed has its own bank of cardiac monitors to ensure proper monitoring of a patient's condition at any given moment, with screens available to provide a patient's

privacy. Due to the absence of a pediatric ward, children who need to be hospitalized are warded on the male or female ward depending on their sex. The hospital is also equipped with a pharmacy from which prescriptions from the doctor are filled. The resident doctor assigned to the hospital is Dr. Jeremy Deazel, himself a Barbudan. If a patient's condition requires additional care that is not provided at the hospital, arrangements are made to have that individual taken to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in St John by air or by sea. According to the acting Matron, this happened during the Coronavirus pandemic when patients, who became infected with the virus, were transported to Antigua for more specialized care.

Acting Matron Jones is very thankful to the government of India for providing the funding to rehabilitate the hospital as well as to fully equip the health facility. Looking ahead, she said, in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, she sees the necessity to have an Intensive Care Unit on the island, so that they would be better able to monitor these patients. So far though, they have been able to cope with most of the cases that have presented themselves for attention.





*Acting Matron  
Ms Caryl Jones*



*Happy*

**40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE**

to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda from the  
Management and Staff at Paradise Boat Sales.

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# Antigua and Barbuda

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Independence Greetings and best wishes to  
the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda

*Happy 40th anniversary of Independence*

From the management and staff of the  
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# HAPPY 40TH INDEPENDENCE **ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

On behalf of the Hon. Sir Robin Yearwood Minister of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Energy, the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Esworth Martin General Manager, the Management and Staff of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority convey sincerest congratulations to the Government and People of Antigua & Barbuda on its auspicious Ruby Anniversary of Independence.