

# THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

[www.thelabourspokesman.com](http://www.thelabourspokesman.com)



**SOUND SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED... TITUS 2:8**

Year 68 NO. 12

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 15th AUGUST, 2025

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend

Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 01/08/25

DELTA \$13.70 / SOL \$14.24

## 'WE'RE NOT GOD'



STORY ON PAGE 03

## DREWZY DOES IT!

STORY ON PAGE 04



## CRITICS RESPONSE



STORY ON PAGE 05

# THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN - ESTABLISHED MAY 1957

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## Editorial

# A Lesson from Erin: The Value of Preparation

While watching the coverage of Tropical Storm Erin this week, one remark from a meteorologist stood out during his presentation. He said: "One thing I like about hurricanes..."-a phrase that might seem odd, even surprising, given the destruction these storms can cause. However, he quickly clarified: he does not like hurricanes in the usual sense. What he appreciates is the time they give us-the days, sometimes even weeks, of advance notice while they are being tracked from the moment they develop.

That statement is worth more than a passing chuckle. It is a truth wrapped in a warning. Hurricanes, unlike earthquakes or flash floods, often announce themselves far ahead. And in that window of time lies their greatest gift: the opportunity to prepare. Meteorologists- regionally and internationally and our own local experts-have continually said it for years: Preparation saves lives.

Yet, time and again, we hear the same post-disaster stories-of people scrambling at the last minute for supplies, of homes left unsecured and other related matters. Why? Because somewhere in the back of our minds, we think "It won't hit to us" or "There's still time." But as every seasoned storm survivor knows, the clock runs out faster than you expect.

The meteorologist's comment should be taken as more than an observation about weather-it is a lesson in life. The same principle applies beyond the hurricane season. Preparation and planning are not just survival skills; they are success skills. Whether it is in our finances, our health, our communities, or our personal safety, the discipline of getting ready before the crisis hits is one of the surest ways to protect what matters most.

We like to tell ourselves that we'll act "When the time comes." But the truth is, when the time comes, it is often too late. Hurricanes remind us that readiness is a habit, not a one-time action. A stocked emergency kit, a family evacuation plan, reinforced

# Saint Kitts And Nevis Charts Bold Path For Sustainable Growth With Passage Of The Special Sustainability Zone Authorisation Bill, 2025

**Basseterre, Saint Kitts, August 11, 2025 (SKNIS)** - The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis today, August 11, 2025, marked a historic milestone in its drive toward sustainable economic transformation with the passage of the Special Sustainability Zone Authorisation Bill, 2025, in the National Assembly.

The landmark legislation creates a clear, accountable framework to attract high-quality Foreign Direct Investment, diversify the national economy, and generate long-term job opportunities - while safeguarding the Federation's environment and sovereignty.

Special Sustainability Zones will be legally designated areas where developers commit to strict sustainability, climate resilience, and infrastructure standards, while the government provides conditions, transparent rules, and robust democratic oversight.

"Our government is pursuing a balanced diversification plan: modernise tourism; scale renewable energy and water security; grow agribusiness; expand health, education, and professional services; and enable technology and green manufacturing," Prime Minister Drew said. "The Special Sustainability Zone framework is a way to bring these pieces together, so that infrastructure, investment, and jobs arrive in a coordinated and accountable package."

The legislation is the first in the nation's history to weave the seven pillars of the Sustainable Island State Agenda (SISA) directly into law: Water Security, Energy Transition, Food Security,



Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Terrence Drew

Sustainable Industry, Sustainable Settlements, Circular Economy, and Social Protection.

"By law, Zones must advance multiple pillars," Prime Minister Drew stressed. "That means reliable water systems, renewable energy at scale, sustainable food systems, green industry and tourism, climate-resilient communities, circular-economy practices, and built-in social protection-like access to health services and fair dispute resolution."

Dr. Drew emphasised that the framework offers investors clarity, speed, and legal certainty without cutting corners, while ensuring the public gains lasting value. "Investors value enforceable contracts and clear sustainability standards," the prime minister said. "They also value communities where talent wants to live - safe, clean, modern, and connected to nature. This Bill signals to the world that Saint Kitts and Nevis is open for business - on our terms, for our people."

The Special Sustainability Zone Authorisation Bill, 2025, positions Saint Kitts and Nevis as a first mover in the Caribbean with a modern, sustainability-anchored investment model - drawing from global best practices while tailoring the approach to the Federation's unique size, Constitution, and values.

structures-these are not signs of paranoia; they are signs of respect for nature's power and for life itself.

So perhaps there is something we can "like" about hurricanes-not the storm, not the danger, but the lesson they bring with them every season: Get prepared. Stay prepared. It is advice that comes from the mouths of experts, the pages of history, and the lived experiences of those who

have faced nature's fury.

As the warnings come - as they do-may we not be caught off guard.

Preparation is not just about survival; it is about responsibility, foresight, and care for one another. Hurricanes will always come and go. Whether their stories end in devastation or resilience is up to us.

# Weather Expert Burke: ‘We are not trying to be God...’

By: Spokesman Newsroom

**BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Wednesday 13th August 2025)**-Senior Meteorological Officer Elmo Burke is urging members of the public to always pay close attention to all advisories issued during the hurricane season, as he dismissed a common mistaken belief that weather experts are “trying to be God.”

He made the disclosure during the first episode of the new season of NEMA’s (National Emergency Management Agency) ‘From Danger to Safety’ aired live on Tuesday 12th August 2025.

“...some of the main misconceptions in terms of forecasting is persons think that we are trying to be God. We are not trying to be God. What we are trying to do, we’re looking at the weather conditions at the time.”

He went on to say: “...additionally, when we do our forecast, what we try to do is give a probability of the best of the conditions that are likely to experience within the next whether it be 12 or 24 hours as it may be. So what we are doing is we’re giving you the likelihood of conditions occurring. So we are not saying with 100% certainty that this will happen because we’re not God and we do recognize that weather is dynamic in nature. The weather can change and it’s important for us as meteorologists and forecasters and even the observers to continuously monitor the evolution or the changes in the weather conditions.”

Burke stressed that while forecasts are grounded in scientific analysis, they are always subject to change.

“...we do recognize that weather is quite dynamic in nature, and because of this dynamism, we do recognize that sometimes our forecast may be perceived as wrong but bear in mind, what we would have done, we would have given you a snapshot of conditions that are likely to be based on what we are analyzing at the time. However, subtle changes can happen and that can alter forecasts and as such we will make the necessary adjustments in our updated forecast...” and it’s important for the general public not just to listen for the forecast one time one time per day it’s important that if we here at the met office we issue our forecast twice per day so we will be providing regular updates so that regular updates will allow you to recognize that there are changes happening, and we will try to capture those changes in our updated forecast.”

He is particularly advising individuals to be on the alert as we enter the peak season.

“So again, just want to say we do recognize that we are in the hurricane season, and it’s important that the general public start to have their plans in place. We do recognize that we are going into the peak season. It’s important that you have your plans in place. If you don’t know what to do, you can always reach out to NEMA and NEMA can provide you some assistance, some guidance as to what you can do to stay safe, especially as we go into the peak period of the hurricane season.”

Burke further explained that weather prediction is never foolproof.

“In relation to the prediction of weather, we do recognize that it’s a prediction, it’s a forecast. So it is not 100% fool proof. At times, yes, the forecast would be in line with what is actually happening. However, because there is the chance that it may not happen, that’s why we look at the probability. So when we do in a forecast, we’re actually given the probability of weather conditions occurring at a particular time, at a particular place, and in a particular space. So weather is dynamic in nature. So these changes, subtle changes can happen, and it’s important for us as meteorologists and forecasters to monitor these weather conditions

and make the necessary adjustments so that it could be in line or as close as possible to what will happen. So our aim is to get to perfect conditions.”

“However, because we are not God, what we try to do is

give you a snapshot of what the conditions are likely to be, and we would give you the probability of those weather conditions occurring,” he shared.

For general weather information, individuals can contact NEMA via 465-1000 (WhatsApp included) or visit Facebook-NEMA-NationalEmergencyManagementAgencySKN).

**Front Page Image: Senior Meteorological Officer Elmo Burke seen while making remarks during the first episode of the new season of NEMA’s From Danger to Safety on Wednesday 13th August 2025. (Credit: Facebook - NEMA - NationalEmergencyManagementAgencySKN)**



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Case Number :NEVHPB2025/0071

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

NEVIS CIRCUIT

A. D. 2023

(PROBATE)

FILED

HIGH COURT

ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

(NEVIS CIRCUIT)

Submitted Date:13/08/2025 10:25

Filed Date:13/08/2025 10:26

Fees Paid:2.00

In the Estate of **Lisa Lee** late of Eden Brown Estate, St. James’ Parish, Nevis, deceased

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **Glyniss Daniel** of Eden Brown Estate, Nevis for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant, Lawful Attorney of Regan Daniel who is the mother of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant should file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025



Nisbetts, Solicitors

Filed by: Nisbetts, Solicitors, whose address for service is Chapel Street, Charlestown, Nevis



Photo: (Left to right) Winner of the 2025 Leeward Islands Calypso Competition Ge'Eve Phillip of Antigua and Barbuda, second runner-up "King Drewzy" of St. Kitts, and first runner-up Roxxy of Anguilla. (Photo Credit: Roxanne Webster)

# Sugar Mas Monarch Closes Six-Year Placement Gap At Leeward Islands Calypso Competition

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Thursday 14th August 2025)  
- Tariq 'King Drewzy' Drew of St. Kitts, the reigning Sugar Mas

Calypso Monarch, proudly walked away with the second runner-up position (third place) in the recently held Leeward Islands Calypso Competition on

## A small organization

invites applications to fill the position of

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Minimum qualification includes associate degree in communication, must be proficient in Microsoft Office Suite,

- \* must have good written and communication skills, must be willing to work in a fast paste environment and
- \* must be willing to work independently. The applicant must also be fluent in French.

All applications should be sent to marvason@yahoo.com. Interested applicants must submit their applications no later than 22nd August 2025.

Saturday 9th August 2025.

The 28th annual event, staged at the Landsome Bowl Cultural Centre, featured a fierce field of nine calypsonians representing countries across the region. Drewzy impressed the judges and audience alike with his commanding performance of - New Deal, earning 761 points.

In a celebratory note, the St. Kitts-Nevis Carnival Committee shared a fun fact on its official Facebook page: "This would be the first time that St. Kitts has placed in competition since 2019."

Notably, in that same year, Miss Independent (Karisia Willett) of St. Kitts also secured a second runner-up spot in the competition- making King Drewzy's achievement a proud continuation of the island's regional calypso legacy.

This year's crown went to 19-year-old Ge'Eve Phillip of Antigua and Barbuda, who made history as the youngest performer to ever win the competition, scoring an impressive 826 points. Queen Roxxy of Anguilla claimed first runner-up with 771 points.

**Front Page Photo: Tariq "King Drewzy" Drew (center) flanked by team members Shonroy Caesar (left) and Patrice Harris. (Credit: Facebook - St. Kitts & Nevis National Carnival)**

# Minister Maynard Hails Banking (Amendment) Bill, 2025, As Critical Step For Trust, Consumer Protection, And Innovation

BASSETERRE, Saint Kitts, August 11, 2025 (SKNIS) - During today's (August 11, 2025) Sitting of the National Assembly, Member of Parliament (MP) for St. Christopher Three, the Honourable Konris Maynard, voiced strong support for the Banking (Amendment) Bill, 2025, calling it a "balanced package" that will safeguard depositors, empower regulators, and give banks the clarity to innovate responsibly.

Minister Maynard underscored that the legislation, developed in collaboration with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and aligned with Basel III standards and Financial Stability Board principles, updates the country's banking framework for the realities of 2025, and beyond.

"Our economy runs on trust," Minister Maynard said. "There must be trust in our banking system. It is the foundation upon which the economy relies. And a clear and modern Act will give that type of trust, and it will give banks the certainty that they need to innovate responsibly, come up with new services, and be at the forefront of technology."

Minister Maynard described the original Banking Act as the "rule book" for financial stability, setting out who can be licensed, capital adequacy requirements, liquidity rules, governance standards, and strong supervisory powers for the ECCB. The amendments, he explained, close gaps, modernise



Parliament (MP) for St. Christopher Three, the Honourable Konris Maynard

oversight, and prepare the banking sector for technological change, evolving consumer expectations, and tightened global compliance standards.

The minister stressed that the reforms will improve governance, combat illicit finance, and give regulators the power to act before risks escalate into crises. Moreover, he noted that they will give the public "stronger rights, better access, and real avenues for redress."

"This is about ensuring that

our banking system works for the many, not just the few," Minister Maynard said. "The Bill is really a balanced package. It gives banks the clarity and the scope to innovate responsibly."

Minister Maynard concluded by stating that the Banking (Amendment) Bill, 2025, provides the framework for a sound, transparent, and future-ready financial system that can support Saint Kitts and Nevis' economic expansion while protecting its people.

# PAM Leader: ‘Party here to stay’•

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (**Thursday 14th August 2025**) - Political Leader of the opposition People’s Action Movement (PAM), Natasha Grey-Brookes is defending that the party is active and engaged despite views that claim otherwise.

Speaking during the question and answer segment of a party press conference on Tuesday 12th August 2025, at the St.Kitts Credit Union Conference Room, she declared: “The vibrant party that some persons thought once was is right here and here to stay.” and that”... we have been doing a number of things to increase our presence.”

According to her, people have been asking to see PAM more.

“...that is something that a number of persons have been asking. ‘We want PAM more’. They have been saying ‘We want to see you through all the alleyways and the byways’. And I’m not going to find any excuses. What we have to accept is that we came out of a general election that we lost, and we have transitioned from our former political leader to a new political leader after two years from that loss.”

She acknowledged the departure of prominent 2022 candidates, stating, “A number of the candidates that ran in the 2022 election, namely Mr. Grant, Mr. [Jonel] Powell, Chesley Hamilton they are no longer candidates, and so you’re transitioning from one leader to the next and also getting new candidates and rebuilding the party, making sure that the morale of the supporters are lifted because we can’t do it alone. I’m not going to pretend that anyone who runs on a slate for the People’s Action Movement have all the answers.”

Grey-Brookes said PAM values its base, explaining: “We value our members and friends. We value our supporters and we value the persons who are moving from one side to another because we want St. Kitts and Nevis to be the best place ever. It’s not all about PAM. It’s about this country, and so we have been doing a number of things to increase our presence.”

She noted that two new candidates have been announced- Azard Gumbs for Constituency Number Four and Nubian Greaux for Constituency Number Two-adding, “The people now have a face in their constituency, and I now have two additional persons to help me to fight the fight for the people.”

Speaking on recent political activity, she said, “We have been doing house to house. It is far from complete, but we’ve gone through a number of constituencies. Azard is doing his meeting in Constituency Number Four... In Number Two, we have done the same for Nubian Greaux. We are ready for change in Constituency Number Two. Nubian is the right man.”

Praising another party member, she added: “[Lincoln] David-Belle, from since 2022, he has not stopped. I wonder if he’s the energizer bunny because he... is in his constituency every week since 2022.”

She highlighted that the immediate past Party Leader of Constituency Five Shawn Richards “remains a constant figure and that shows PAM is about growth...”

“So, some may feel that nothing is happening because we are not about photo opportunities,” Grey-Brookes also commented.

The PAM leader indicated that the party’s pace will increase: “...We have taken some baby steps. We are going to take some giant steps just nowâ•! This country needs rescuing. This country needs saving from the grasps and the jaws of

Labour, and we will leave no stones unturned.”

Grey-Brookes also talked about what she has been doing in Constituency One, saying: “I am in my constituency every week. I came out of the 2022 election not winning but with almost 50% of those voters who didn’t vote in 2022, and hearing the cries of the people, I am motivated to continue every day because this is not about me. This is not about PAM. This is about rescuing our nation from what they have been suffering over the past three years.”

The PAM Leader claimed there will be more visibility: “So... I promise you... we will be seen more. The vibrant party that some persons thought once was is right here and here to stay. We are 60 years... and it will live on through the supporters and through the hard working people of this nation.”

**Front Page Photo: Political Leader of the People’s Action Movement (PAM), Natasha Grey-Brookes seen speaking during the question and answer segment of a party press conference on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at the St.Kitts Credit Union Conference Room, located at the corner of Church and Cayon Street. (Credit:**

## SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

**Nigel Eulic Williams of #61 Ponds Extension, Basseterre, St. Kitts**, having made sworn deposition that **Policy No. K317164** issued by **British American Insurance Company** and assumed by Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc. on his life has been lost and having made application to the Directors to grant a duplicate of the same, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date hereof, the duplicate policy asked for will be issued.

Dated: **29<sup>th</sup> July, 2025.**

By Order

**Andrew Greaves**  
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean)

Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0073



THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS  
ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT  
(PROBATE)  
A.D. 2025

Submitted Date:13/06/2025 12:11

Filed Date:13/06/2025 12:11

Fees Paid:52.00

In the Estate of **MARIAN ALEXANDRINA PEMBERTON**  
Late of Park Range, deceased.

### ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PROBATE

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **TERRENCE ADOLPHUS PEMBERTON JR** of Lower Stone Castle, Tabernacle, St. Kitts for the Grant of Probate to the applicant who is the grandson of the deceased, the deceased having died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2016.

Any person having an objection to the Grant of Probate to the applicant shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025

**Dr. Dennis Merchant**  
MERCHANT AND ASSOCIATES  
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

Filed by Dr. Dennis Merchant of Merchant and Associates Law Office, 28 Shear Lane, Basseterre, St. Kitts, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant.





# St. Kitts Credit Union Partners with Security Forces United Football Club

**Basseterre, St Kitts - August 14, 2025:** The St. Kitts Credit Union (SKCU) is proud to announce a significant new partnership with the Security Forces United Football Club (SFUFC), a collaboration designed to foster youth development, community building, and a stronger future through the power of sports. This initiative underscores SKCU's unwavering commitment to investing in the youth of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The partnership officially launched at a celebratory event on Wednesday, August 13th, 2025, at 4:45 PM, at the NCI Grounds. The event brought together youth

teams, parents, coaches, SKCU executives, club staff and local media.

"This partnership is about more than football; it's about building values, strengthening our community, and investing in the holistic development of our young people," said Mr. Hodge, Product Development Manager of SKCU, "By supporting both boys' and girls' teams, we are championing inclusivity and progress, ensuring that every young athlete has the opportunity to thrive."

"I am very grateful and thankful that the St Kitts Credit Union has come on board to sponsor the various football teams of the Security Force, football is an integral part of a lot of our young person's lives" said one of the parents, "I just want to say thanks for believing in our young people and sponsoring them."

"We started on this journey 8 years ago with one football team and today we have seen four different programs" said coach Bergan, "We are happy for the partnership with SKCU and we are looking to winning a championship! We want our athletes to take their skills to the next level, and further their education through sports to return and build the nation. This sponsorship will aid in their dreams being possible."

SKCU is proud of the hard work and dedication that the youths of the Security Forces United Football Club have been doing through sports and is happy to be a sponsor.



**Sign up.  
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*Visit our office at  
Masses House, Church Street, Basseterre  
to learn more about Union membership,  
or call us at  
869-465-2229*

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# UK Certified Midwife praises maternity care services at JNF General Hospital

**Basseterre, St. Kitts, August 11, 2025 (JNF Hospital Communications)** — Maternity services offered at the Joseph Nathaniel France (JNF) General Hospital in Basseterre are empowering in supportive care, and midwives and matrons have come in for high praise from one of their own, United Kingdom certified midwife who has roots in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

“The work that is being done by the midwives and the matrons in St. Kitts and Nevis is amazing,” said Certified Midwife Halima France-Mir of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. “I think everyone, internationally, could learn a lot from what they are doing here. I think they really care about their women and they offer groundbreaking support when it comes to maternity care and community care, and we are very privileged in St. Kitts and Nevis to have such a caring maternity system.”

Midwife France-Mir, who is accompanied by her mother Councillor Mahalia France-Mir and are in the Federation on a two-week visit, made the remarks on Friday, August 8, after they was given a tour of JNF General Hospital’s Maternity Ward by the Assistant Director of Institutional-Based Nursing Services, Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines.

Her grandfather, Dr Arthur France MBE, is a nephew of



*Councillor Mahalia France-Mir (left) and her daughter, Certified Midwife Halima France-Mir, at the Maternity Ward’s reception area with Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines (right) and Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams. Behind the counter is Staff Nurse Ashlyn Wilson.*

National Hero Rt. Excellent Sir Joseph Nathaniel France, after whom the JNF General Hospital is named. He was born in Mt Lily Village, Nevis, in 1935 and moved to Leeds in England in 1957.

From her observations, Midwife France-Mir emphasised that she was inspired by the women and the midwives and nurses that she met, stressing that they are so dedicated and so passionate about what they do, and that it was indeed an honour to meet them and see what they do on a day to day basis, underscoring

that JNF General Hospital is a beautiful facility.

“I started my training back in 2021, and I graduated in 2024, so I have been a midwife for about a year now, and it has been challenging, but it has been



*Joined by the paediatrics team: From 4th left, Dr Trvevoncia Stanley, 3rd Year Medical Student Dolicia Barry, Dr Yanet Cambet Umpierrez, Dr Yanick Stanley, Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams, Nurse Manager Cheryl Liburd, and Staff Nurse Ashlyn Wilson.*

# UK Certified Midwife praises maternity care services at JNF General Hospital

(cont'd on next page)

a very exciting time of my life," she said. "St. Kitts and Nevis' healthcare is dedicated to empowering the women in the population, and that is something that needs to continue in the future because it is generally empowering in supportive care."

Assistant Director of Institutional-Based Nursing Services, Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines, who along with Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams took them on a tour of the maternity ward, on behalf of the Executive Management Committee of Institutions Health Based Services, and by extension the Ministry of Health expressed heartfelt thanks to Councillor Mrs France-Mir and her daughter Midwife Halima France-Mir for the courtesy visit.

"We were able to point out our antenatal services, our postnatal services, our labour and delivery, and the highlight was that we are Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) certified since 2023, and we promote exclusive breastfeeding," said Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines.

Dr Arthur France MBE is best known for his unwavering support and promotion of West Indian culture, having founded the first West Indian carnival in Europe in Leeds in 1967, the Leeds West Indian Carnival. Following the carnival's 50th anniversary in 2017, the Nevis Island Administration honoured him when it celebrated his contributions to West Indian culture by inviting him for the 44th anniversary of Culturama in 2018.

On the tour, he was accompanied by several members of his family, who included grandchildren among them young Halima.

National Hero Rt. Excellent Sir Joseph Nathaniel France is a name that features in every aspect of the Federation's political life and in particular the St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party. His political career was distinguished by his success in nine general elections between 1946 and 1984, demonstrating his enduring popularity and commitment to public service.

This aspect of life literally runs in the family, as his great niece and mother of Midwife Halima France-Mir, Mrs Mahalia France-Mir is a councillor for the ward of Moortown in Leeds Council as a member of the Labour Party.

"My lifelong commitment to public service and community organising naturally extended into political life," emphasises Mrs France-Mir. "I have been a member of the Labour Party for over 20 years, serving as Treasurer of my local branch. In 2022, I stood for election in my local ward and was honoured to be elected as a Councillor with 55% of the vote."

Councillor France-Mir who was born and raised in Leeds has a background in healthcare delivery. She studied Neuroscience at



Certified Midwife Halima France-Mir (right) and her mother Councillor Mahalia France-Mir (centre) being shown around inside Delivery Room 3 by Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams.



Assistant Director of Institutional-Based Nursing Services, Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines (left) shows Councillor Mahalia France-Mir (right) and her daughter Certified Midwife Halima France-Mir around the Joseph Nathaniel France (JNF) General Hospital.

the University of Leeds, and after graduating, she worked in laboratory settings at a local NHS hospital, where she gained direct experience in healthcare delivery and developed a strong foundation in scientific thinking.

Having arrived in the Federation on Tuesday July 29, they will be returning to England after a two-week

event-filled working holiday in a country they trace their roots, on Tuesday August 12. They also visited the island of Nevis, where Dr Arthur France MBE, and National Hero Rt. Excellent Sir Joseph Nathaniel France were born - Mt Lilly Village.

"This visit is not only a homecoming - it is a continuation of my family's legacy of service and cultural connection between the Caribbean and the UK," underscored Councillor Mahalia France-Mir. "I am deeply committed to strengthening ties, sharing knowledge, and supporting opportunities for mutual growth."



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# Macron admits French repression in Cameroon's independence struggle

Paul Njie

BBC News in Yaounde

French President Emmanuel Macron has acknowledged the



Universal Images Group via Getty Images French soldiers under colonel Brisset in the Cameroon colony in 1916

Investigation into atrocities committed by France in Cameroon followed pressure from within the Central African country



## The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis Invites Contractors to Bid on the following Project:

### NATIONAL SECURITY TRAINING FACILITY

AT

### LIME KILN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tender Documents can be obtained at the Public Works Department, Wellington Road, Basseterre, St Kitts, as of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 for a non-refundable fee of EC\$2,500.00 each.

Completed bid shall be delivered in sealed envelope to the office of:

**Director of Public Works Department  
Wellington Road, Basseterre, St Kitts  
at or before 1:00pm Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025**

**Contractors or their representatives are invited to the Tender Opening.**

#### Eligibility

**It is mandatory that Contractors be locally registered in the Federation of St Kitts & Nevis. Business License MUST be presented before receipt of Tender Document.**



**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

violence committed by his country's forces in Cameroon during and after the Central African nation's struggle for independence.

It followed a joint report by Cameroonian and French historians examining France's suppression of independence movements from 1945 to 1971.

In a letter to Cameroon's President Paul Biya made public on Tuesday, Macron said the report made clear "a war had taken place in Cameroon, during which the colonial authorities and the French army exercised repressive violence of several kinds in certain regions of the country".

"It is up to me today to assume the role and responsibility of France in these events," he said.

However, Macron fell short of offering a clear apology for the atrocities committed by French troops in its former colony, which gained independence in 1960.

The French leader cited four independence icons who were killed during military operations led by French forces, including Ruben Um Nyobe, the firebrand leader of the anti-colonialist UPC party.

France pushed hundreds of thousands of Cameroonians into internment camps and supported brutal militias to quash the independence struggle, the AFP news agency quotes the report as saying.

Tens of thousands of people were killed between 1956 and 1961, the historians' report said.

France admits colonial 'massacre', says Senegal's

(cont'd on next page)

# Macron admits French repression in Cameroon's independence struggle

(cont'd from last page)

leader

The decision to investigate and publish the findings on France's role in Cameroon's independence struggle was made in 2022, during Macron's visit to Yaounde.

It followed pressure from within the country for France to acknowledge its atrocities in its former colony and pay reparations.

Commenting on Macron's lack of apology, one of the historians who contributed to the report said it was their job to "establish the facts and figures after having gone through the archival documents" and not to "recommend apologies".

Prof Willibroad Dze-Ngwa told the BBC it was not within the historians' remit to recommend reparations.

"Reparations only come after judgement has been passed, and we did not go to the field as a law court to pass judgement and condemn [or] to recommend reparation."

Macron also expressed willingness to work with Cameroon to promote further research on France's historic colonial role, while highlighting the need for both countries to make the findings available to universities and scientific bodies.

The BBC has reached out to Cameroon's government for comment on the French president's admission.

While Macron did not address calls for reparations, it is likely to be a key talking-point in Cameroon going forward.

His comments have had a mixed reception among Cameroonians.

"Recognising that France has committed wrongs against Cameroonians is not enough," 25-year-old student Charles Wamalamou told the BBC.

He added that France had done "too much harm to Cameroonians".

While 54-year-old teacher

Tsoye Bruno told the BBC it was a "good thing" that Macron had acknowledged France's colonial violence, but added that his lack of apology was a "very bad thing".

Under Macron, France has attempted to confront its brutal colonial past.

Last year, it acknowledged for the first time that its soldiers had carried out a "massacre" in Senegal in which West African troops were killed in 1944.

Macron has previously acknowledged France's role in the

Rwandan genocide, in which about 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus died, and sought forgiveness.

In 2021, he said France had not heeded warnings of impending carnage and had for too long "valued silence over examination of the truth".

France has also made several attempts over the years to reconcile with its former colony Algeria, but has stopped short of issuing a formal apology.

In 2017, Macron, then a presidential candidate, described the colonisation of Algeria as a "crime against humanity", but two years later, he said there would be no "repentance nor apologies" for it.

Instead, he said France would take part in "symbolic acts" aimed at promoting reconciliation, and commemorating the history of its violent occupation of the north African country.

Recently, several West African countries under military rule, including Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, have severed their ties with France, accusing it of continued neo-colonial control.



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St. Kitts and Nevis

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# Baby Friendly accreditation by PAHO: JNF General Hospital unveils mural

**Basseterre, St. Kitts, August 14, 2025 (JNF Hospital Communications)**

— To serve as a reminder of its unwavering support for mother and child, and its having been Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) certified, the Joseph Nathaniel France (JNF) General Hospital has unveiled a 'Baby-Friendly' mural at the maternity ward.

“We are pleased to have this mural that is showcasing the fact that not only are we a baby friendly hospital, but we also promote breastfeeding which is one of the key components which allowed us to become a baby friendly hospital in the first place,” underscored Director of Health Institutions within the Ministry of Health, Dr Jenson Morton.

Dr Morton who was in the company of the Director of Institutional-Based Nursing Services Mrs Kerry Williams-Tuckett, the Assistant Director, Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines, and Nurse Manager, Mrs Naomi Brownbill, made the remarks on Wednesday August 13, when they inspected the mural which was completed on Saturday August 9.

Dr Morton emphasised that the accreditation received from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) to be baby friendly is one of a list of accreditations that they are working towards at the hospital. Also present were Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams, and Staff Nurse Tradesda Liburd.

“We are not waiting until the new hospital is built to get accredited in different services, even though we know that the new building will assist with the accreditation of things related to broad infrastructure,” said Dr Morton. “We are glad that maternity started and we are working on getting different services also up to international standards so that we get accredited as well.”



*Appreciating the mural, L-R: Matron Mrs Kerry Williams-Tuckett, Assistant Matron Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines, Director of Health Institutions Dr Jenson Morton, Nurse Manager Naomi Brownbill, Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams, Staff Nurse Tradesda Liburd.*

Drawing of the mural by Mr Darren Moses, a high school teacher and a professional artist, started in the afternoon of Friday August 8 when he was directed by Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams, and Operations Manager Ms Stacey Battice, and shown the wall where the mural was to appear.

Senior Staff Nurse Natasha first removed two pictures that were hanging on that wall, and Mr Simba Warner of JNF General Hospital's Maintenance Department removed the two nails that had been drilled into the wall to support those pictures.

Even before the two nails were removed, Mr Moses started drawing sketch lines for the mural, and while he was at it, he was joined by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Mr Curtis Martin who took a pencil from Mr Moses, and started drawing sketch lines.

Along with the PS, who gave moral support to Mr Moses, were Dr Jenson

(cont'd on next page)



*Clockwise from top: Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams removes pictures that were on the wall; Artist Darren Moses during early stages of the job; the mural as it was on Friday at 6:00 p.m.; Resumption of the mural drawing on Saturday afternoon, August 9.*

# TDC Insurance Company Limited Continues Road Safety Campaign with Support for the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force Breathalyzer Training

As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting safer roads and responsible

driving, the TDC Insurance Company Limited (TDCIC) has once again partnered with the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, to support the recently held Road Safety Breathalyzer

Training Session.

The initiative provided specialized training for police officers on the proper use of the breathalyzer devices, an essential tool in detecting and deterring impaired driving.

The highly interactive sessions guided officers through both theoretical and practical exercises to enhance their operational skills and strengthen enforcement measures.

Ms. Evon Rogers, General Manager, of the TDC Insurance Company Limited, reaffirmed the company's commitment to this important cause, stating:

"Road safety is not just a police responsibility; it's a community responsibility. By supporting the RSCNPF in this training, we are

investing in the skills and resources needed to keep our roads safe and save lives. This is an extension of our wider Road Safety Campaign, which focuses on education, prevention, and partnership."

This collaboration is the latest in a series of community-oriented initiatives under the TDC Insurance Road Safety Campaign, which seeks to address critical issues such as speeding, distracted driving, and driving under the influence.

*Picture - Police Officers paying keen attention during the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force Breathalyzer Training (Photo Courtesy the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force)*



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## Baby Friendly accreditation by PAHO: JNF General Hospital unveils mural

(cont'd from last page)

Morton, Assistant Director of Institutional-Based Nursing Services Mrs Sandra Lestrade-Caines; Operations Manager Ms Stacey Battice, Staff Nurse Sitafa Hendrickson, Staff Nurse Jurene Johnson, and Quality Assurance Officer, Nurse Tamara Liddie.

Highlighting the road taken for JNF General Hospital to be Baby-Friendly

Hospital Initiative (BFHI) certified, Nurse Manager Mrs Naomi Brownbill, who is the BFHI Coordinator for St. Kitts, underscored that they had done preparations by implementing the ten steps for successful breastfeeding provided by PAHO.

"We were assessed by PAHO on the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and we passed, which means that we completed all ten - we met the ten steps, and so we were certified as Baby

Friendly in October 2022," emphasised Mrs Brownbill. "Even before we were certified baby friendly, we were already doing baby friendly activities. So, during our antenatal bookings and so forth all patients are made aware, these are our practices."

It took Mr Darren Moses, a visual arts teacher at the Charles E. Mills Secondary School in Sandy Point, two days to complete the mural. Asked if

was satisfied that the hospital was baby friendly, or if he was just doing a job as the hospital would have requested him, he said that he was more than sure that the hospital was baby-friendly.

"Yes, this is a baby friendly hospital," said Mr Moses. "As a parent, I know you had to put on your gloves, you had to put on the overall over your body so that you don't bring any contamination to the baby, and as a father you are allowed to go to be with the mother - see the child and all stuff, so they are baby friendly. Their insistence on breastfeeding is heart-warming. I have two children, all born here, so I can testify to that."



Artist Mr Darren Moses starts work on the Baby-Friendly mural, watched by JNF General Hospital's Operations Manager, Ms Stacey Battice (right), and Senior Staff Nurse Natasha Williams.



Moral support: L-R, Dr Jenson Morton, Ms Stacey Battice, Artist Mr Darren Moses, PS Mr Curtis Martin, Staff Nurse Sitafa Hendrickson, Staff Nurse Jurene Johnson, Assistant Matron Sandra Lestrade-Caines, and Quality Assurance Officer Nurse Tamara Liddie.

# From 'inactive' to the US Open - Williams not ready to retire yet



Venus Williams reacts during the 2025 Washington Open

Image source, Getty Images

Venus Williams is aiming to become the oldest woman to win a Grand Slam match since Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon in 2004

**Jonathan Jurejko**

**BBC Sport tennis news reporter**

At the start of this year, many wondered when Venus Williams would announce her retirement.

Now she is set to grace her home Grand Slam tournament for a record-extending 25th time.

Williams is set to become the oldest US Open singles player in 44 years after being given a wildcard for Flushing Meadows.

Earlier this season, Williams became considered an inactive player, having gone a whole year without competing.

Then, out of nowhere as the eyes of the tennis world were trained on Wimbledon, she announced she was ready to play at the Washington Open.

The seven-time Grand Slam singles champion, 45, won her first-round match on her first appearance in 16 months, before going out in round two.

The victory over fellow American Peyton Stearns meant Williams become the oldest player to win a WTA Tour singles match in more than 21 years.

## Why now for Venus Williams?

It begged two obvious questions. Why? And why now?

Williams put the timing of her return down to her love for the game and her love of the hard courts.

That shone through when she arrived in the US capital.

Williams had often been curt and closed when speaking to the media, but spoke warmly and openly in her first pre-tournament news conference.

Hitting "big" - the brand of tennis with which she emerged as a superstar in the late 1990s and early 2000s - was still her plan.

Williams proved she still had that ability as she swept aside Stearns.

While she lost in the next round to fifth seed Magdalena Frech, and was also beaten by Jessica Bouzas Maneiro in the Cincinnati first round, they were competitive enough to earn her a US Open wildcard.

Now the former world number one will appear once again at Flushing Meadows in New York, where she won two of her Grand Slam titles, in 2000 and 2001.

Williams is set to become the oldest player to compete in singles at the US Open since 47-year-old Renee Richards in 1981.

It will be 577th-ranked Williams' first appearance at one of the sport's four majors since the 2023 US Open, where she lost in the first round.

Williams will also play in the revamped mixed doubles alongside fellow American Reilly Opelka.

Some will argue giving a spot in the 128-player draw to a veteran with one victory in more than two years blocks the development of a younger player.

Others will say an all-time great should always be offered the chance to play.

Could it be the perfect place to retire and have a glitzy farewell like her younger sister Serena did in 2022?

We don't know that yet - but you wouldn't rule it out.

# Gauff reaches last eight at Cincinnati Open



Coco Gauff hits the ball

Image source, Getty Images

Coco Gauff won the French Open earlier this year

**Mandeep Sanghera**

**BBC Sport journalist**

World number two Coco Gauff beat Lucia Bronzetti 6-2 6-4 to book her place in the quarter-finals of the Cincinnati Open.

The two players had progressed to the last 16 in contrasting ways, with Gauff having won her only match in straight sets before a walkover against Dayana Yastremska in last round.

Bronzetti, on the other hand, had come through in three sets in her previous three rounds and the world number 61 quickly found herself 3-0 down.

Gauff was broken in the fifth game but it proved a brief blip as she went on to win the opening set in 33 minutes.

The American went 2-0 up in the second set but suffered another lapse when she was broken to love by the Italian in the third game.

Bronzetti raised her game and had a break point at 2-2, only to send a backhand return long as Gauff managed to hold.

The second set was a more competitive affair but Bronzetti double-faulted twice when serving to stay in the match and Gauff went on to break and secure victory.

"For the most part I played aggressive," said Gauff, who won the Cincinnati Open in 2023 before going on to win the US Open that year.

"Maybe there were a couple that were a little bit passive in some of those games but it's tough - the balls are super light and she wasn't giving me much pace.

"I was just trying to play controlled but also aggressive and, for the most part, I think I did well."

Gauff will play the winner of the match between Italian Jasmine Paolini and Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic in the next round.



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# Richardson to seek help following airport arrest

American sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson says she will seek help following her arrest over allegations of domestic violence.

The 25-year-old was detained on 27 July at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport following an altercation with boyfriend and fellow US athlete Christian Coleman.

A police report said footage appeared to show Coleman being shoved into a wall, before Richardson threw an item at him.

Commenting on her arrest for the first time in a social media post, the Olympic gold and silver medallist said: "I'm taking this time to not only see myself but get myself a certain level of help that overall is going to reflect who I truly am."

Coleman did not want to participate in the investigation and "declined to be a victim", the police officer's report stated.

Richardson was released the following day.

Richardson apologised to Coleman, saying: "I love him and to him I can't apologise enough".

When the footage of the incident became public Coleman described Richardson as "a human being, and a great person".

He told the Athletic: "She has a lot of things going on, a lot of emotions and forces going on inside of her that not only I can't understand, but nobody can."

Following her arrest, USA Track and Field said it was "aware of the reports" but would "not be commenting on this matter".

Richardson won silver in the 100m at the Paris Olympics and gold as part of the USA's 4x100m relay team.

She is also due to defend her 100m and 4x100m relay titles at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, which starts on 13 September.

If you, or someone you know, has been affected by any issues raised in this story, support and information is available at BBC Action Line.



Sha'Carri Richardson in a race - Image source, Getty Images  
Sha'Carri Richardson is a two-time Olympic medallist

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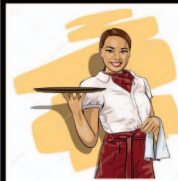
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# Cricket West Indies Celebrates Historic ODI Series Victory Over Pakistan

**ST. JOHN'S, Antigua** - Cricket West Indies (CWI) has extended warm 'congratulations' to the senior men's ODI team after their recent series win over Pakistan, the first bi-lateral ODI series victory over the Asian outfit in 33 years and the first home series triumph in 37 years.

With the series tied 1-1 after the first two ODIs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, the Men in Maroon displayed laser focus and unmatched intensity in the third and final game on Monday, in which they claimed victory by an outstanding 202 runs.

Captain and Player-of-the-Match Shai Hope's unbeaten 120, and Player-of-the-Series Jayden Seales' incredible figures of 6-18 from his 7.2 overs, highlighted the historic win.

CWI Chief Executive Officer, Chris Dehring, also lauded the players' performances and highlighted the positive example being set for the next generation.

"On behalf of Cricket West Indies, I want to commend our players and coaching staff for their outstanding achievement. These performances are a source of immense pride for the entire Caribbean and demonstrate what can be accomplished."

"It has no doubt been a very challenging last few months for the team. But to rebound in this manner and finish our home schedule with an ODI series win against Pakistan gives every West Indian hope and confidence that we can continue to improve."

The series result lifted West Indies to ninth in the ICC ODI rankings in their bid to secure the final automatic qualification spot for the 2027 World Cup.

# Joshua James Cleared to Resume Bowling Following Remedial Work

**ST JOHN'S, Antigua** - Trinidad & Tobago fast bowler Joshua James has been officially cleared to resume bowling in all West Indies international and regional matches following the successful completion of a remedial programme and a reassessment of his bowling action.

James was initially reported for a suspect bowling action during the West Indies Breakout League earlier this year. Match officials cited concerns during the first two matches against the Barbados Pelicans (April 25) and the Guyana Rainforest Rangers (April 26), held at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad.

In accordance with CWI's protocols, video footage and a written report were submitted to Loughborough University for independent analysis.

On April 28, the Opinion Report from the university's Independent Assessor confirmed that James' bowling action was illegal, with deliveries exceeding the permissible limit for elbow extension under ICC regulations. As a result, he was suspended from bowling in all West Indies-sanctioned competitions and other domestic leagues globally.

Since then, James has undertaken an intensive period of remedial work under the supervision of the Trinidad & Tobago Cricket Board.

Updated footage of his revised bowling action was submitted to Loughborough University on August 8, 2025. The latest Opinion Report confirmed that his action complies with the regulations and he has been cleared to resume bowling with immediate effect.



CWI acknowledges the commitment shown by Joshua James throughout the remedial process and extends its appreciation to the coaching and support staff who assisted in his return.

# USA's Kerley suspended for whereabouts violation



Image source, Getty Images

Fred Kerley won a silver medal in the 100m at the delayed Tokyo 2020 Games

United States sprinter Fred Kerley has been provisionally suspended for an alleged anti-doping whereabouts violation, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Tuesday.

Kerley, 30, who won 100m bronze at last summer's Paris Games, could face a two-year ban if the charge is upheld.

The World Anti-Doping Code states an

athlete cannot miss three anti-doping tests and/or filing failures within a 12-month period.

In a statement posted on X, external lawyers for Kerley said he intends to contest the allegation.

"[Kerley] strongly believes that one or more of his alleged missed tests should be set aside either because he was not negligent or because the doping control officer did not do what was reasonable under the circumstances to locate him at his designated location," it added.

Kerley, who won 100m gold at the 2022 World Championships, last competed at the Grand Sprint Series in Norwalk, California in July.

He withdrew from the US track and field trials last month, writing on social media that he was taking time out.

"The 100m should be a straight sprint. 2025 has presented many hurdles," he said.

In January, Kerley was tasered and arrested by police following a confrontation with officers in Miami, Florida. Then in May, he was reported to have been arrested for allegedly punching his former girlfriend and fellow athlete Alaysha Johnson in the face.

Kerley said his arrest was down to a "misunderstanding" and he would clear his name.

