

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

www.thelabourspokesman.com



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

Year 68 NO. 32

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 16th January, 2026

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend

Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 13/11/25

DELTA \$13.31 / SOL \$14.43

...RESOLVING DISPUTES

STORY
ON
PAGE 03



STAY HOME IF...

STORY ON PAGE 02

NOT AFFECTED...

STORY ON PAGE 06



THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

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Editorial

CARICOM Identity, and Question of “Us”

Often, when issues of political and regional importance arise—particularly within the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)—they expose an uncomfortable truth about how we see ourselves and, more pointedly, how we see each other. We celebrate our islands’ beauty, our shared histories, our rhythms, food, language, and resilience. Yet, when conversations turn to free movement, migration, and rights, togetherness quickly gives way to territorial instincts.

At the heart of this tension lies a simple but unsettling question: Who are we to each other as Caribbean people?

The question resurfaces whenever regional matters demand collective thinking. Old narratives re-emerge—big island versus small island, resource-rich versus resource-challenged, developed versus developing. These comparisons, while grounded in economic realities, often mutate into labels that divide rather than clarify. Too easily, “Caribbean brother/sister” becomes “outsider,” and solidarity becomes conditional.

This underlying unease has again come to the fore following recent announcements surrounding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between individual CARICOM countries and the United States of America. The agreement concerns the potential transfer of certain CARICOM nationals who are deported from the United States.

In St. Kitts and Nevis, public discourse intensified after Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew clarified the Federation’s position during the recent The Round Table media engagement on Thursday 8th January 2026.

He highlighted that St. Kitts and Nevis was approached by the United States of America as the other CARICOM countries. According to him, the Federation has negotiated and entered into an MOU for the potential transfer of certain third country nationals who are citizens or nationals of the Caribbean, and does not involve anybody outside of CARICOM.

He also pointed out that Haiti is excluded from the arrangement at this time due to security considerations which has created widespread public debate divided by those for and against.

Moreover, in the general sense of things, some individuals are asking to see the MOU in order to read and interpret for themselves the details of such.

For context, it is important to note that a memorandum of understanding is not a binding contract. It signals intent and cooperation, not obligation. Yet, despite this clarification, public anxiety has been palpable—rooted less in legal reality and more

Unwell Individuals Asked To Stay Home During Flu Season

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Thursday 15th January 2026) - As the 2025-2026 influenza season continues, the Ministry of Health (MOH) is advising individuals who are unwell, particularly those experiencing fever and respiratory symptoms, to remain at home as part of efforts to protect themselves and others.

In a Public Health Advisory issued through the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, the Ministry confirmed that it is “actively monitoring respiratory illness activity during the current 2025-2026 influenza season and wishes to keep the public informed.”

According to the advisory, while there has been “an increase in persons presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms, the majority of cases are mild and are being effectively managed within the health system.”

Health officials noted that some individuals have been diagnosed with respiratory tract infections caused by influenza (flu) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The Ministry explained that influenza can affect anyone and spreads easily through interpersonal contact. Common symptoms include “fever, sore throat, cough, nasal congestion, headache, body and joint aches, fatigue, nausea, and, in some cases, shortness of breath.”

While most people recover without complications, the Ministry warned that certain groups are at higher risk for severe illness. These include “adults over 65 years of age, children under 5 years, pregnant women, and persons with underlying chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or weakened immune systems.” Serious complications can include bacterial pneumonia, worsening of existing medical conditions, hospitalization, and in rare cases, death.

Health officials emphasized that most individuals can recover at home with rest and supportive care, but warned that anyone experiencing severe symptoms such as “difficulty breathing, persistent high fever, chest pain, confusion, or worsening of existing health conditions should seek medical attention immediately.”

As part of its public health response, the Ministry of Health

is encouraging residents to take simple preventive measures. These include practicing hand hygiene by washing hands frequently with soap and water, observing proper respiratory etiquette by covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing or wearing a face mask, and “staying home if you are unwell and experiencing a fever and respiratory symptoms.”

The advisory also highlighted the importance of vaccination, noting that “vaccination remains the most effective way to protect against serious complications from seasonal influenza.”

It has been pointed out that The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recommends that high-risk groups, including older adults, persons with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, and frontline health workers, receive the influenza vaccine.

The Ministry confirmed that the influenza vaccine is available at all health centres across St. Kitts and Nevis, and is also urging the public to remain vigilant, practice good hygiene, and seek prompt medical care when necessary.

“Let us work together to protect the health and well-being of our people in 2026,” the advisory stated.

Front Page Photo: Used for illustration purposes only shows a woman blowing her nose (Source: Canva)

in fear, perception, and identity.

What is striking is how quickly discussions about regional cooperation can morph into defensive postures. The idea of accepting CARICOM nationals—even those with cultural, historical, and social ties to the region—triggers concerns about jobs, crime, strain on services, and national space. These fears are not unique to St. Kitts and Nevis, nor to the Caribbean. But they demand an honest examination.

Equally telling is the selective nature of our empathy. Many now question why Haitians are excluded from this arrangement, yet similar humanitarian concern was not generally expressed when Haitian nationals arrived at our shores fleeing violence, instability, and desperation. At that time, stereotypes often spoke louder than compassion. While some voices called for understanding and humanity, others leaned heavily into fear-based narratives.

This contradiction forces reflection. If our concern for fairness, justice, and regional unity fluctuates based on nationality, language, or political convenience, then our commitment to Caribbean identity is fragile at best.

Patriotism does not require the abandonment of empathy. Protecting national interests does not mean rejecting regional responsibility. Critical thinking must rise above political persuasion and emotional reaction. We can acknowledge legitimate concerns about capacity and security while still affirming the dignity of our regional brothers and sisters.

CARICOM was founded on the ideals of cooperation, shared destiny, and collective strength. These principles are tested not in moments of celebration, but in moments of discomfort—when unity demands maturity, balance, and moral clarity.

The real challenge before us is not the memorandum itself. It is whether we are willing to see Caribbean people as more than lines on a map. Whether we can resist the urge to label, exclude, and fear—and instead engage with fairness, context and humanity.

In the end, the question remains: When we say “Caribbean/CARICOM,” do we mean a shared people, or merely a shared geography?

How we answer may define not only this moment but the future of regional unity itself.

Police Observe Violent Handling of Arguments

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Monday 12th January 2026)-Police Commissioner James Sutton has raised concerns about a decline in basic conflict resolution skills and an increased willingness among individuals to resort to violence when resolving disputes.

He made the disclosure while addressing a police press conference held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at the ZIZ Studios, where he presented crime data and behavioural analysis covering weeks one to 52 for the years 2024 and 2025.

“What the data shows us is not simply crime trends. It shows behavioural trends. We are seeing an escalation in interpersonal aggression. Arguments are becoming physical more quickly. Disputes are being resolved with force rather than restraint. This reflects a decline in basic conflict resolution skills and an increase in willingness to harm one another. Social aggression is social regression,” COP Sutton stated.

As pointed out by him, according to the analysis, 2025 recorded a significant reduction in firearm-related homicides, representing an 84 percent decrease compared to 2024. Non-fatal shootings remained equal to that of 2024. Other crime categories also showed notable declines, with robberies decreasing by 29 percent, sexual assaults by 51 percent, and larcenies by seven percent. Crimes against tourists remained extremely low, with only three reported incidents in 2025.

“These figures reflect sustained enforcement efforts, intelligence-led operations, firearm interdictions and increased cooperation from sections of the public,” the Commissioner explained whilst adding, “Fewer guns on our street mean fewer gun victims. That relationship is neither theoretical nor accidental.”

Despite these gains, COP Sutton noted areas of grave concern. While firearm homicides declined, other forms of violence increased. Bodily harm offences rose by 11 percent, increasing from 146 incidents in 2024 to 157 in 2025. Malicious damage increased by 20 percent, while firearm and ammunition possession offences rose by 37 percent, “indicating continued attempts to access or retain weapons despite enforcement pressure.”



Police Commissioner James Sutton (SKNIS photo)

The Commissioner said the most troubling observations came during the close of the 2025 Sugar Mas 54 festivities.

“Despite law enforcement’s diligent confiscation of various forms of weaponry during the festivities, and despite our overall operational successes, the season ended with the homicide of one 18-year-old young man, along with multiple other woundings resulting from altercations, many involving bladed or improvised weapons,” Sutton said. “This loss of life stained an otherwise safe period and served as a stark reminder that progress can be reversed by individual choices made in moments of anger or impulse.”

On behalf of the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, the Commissioner extended “heartfelt condolences to the young man’s loved ones during this difficult time.”

Reiterating his earlier warning, Sutton stressed that crime statistics go beyond policing outcomes. “Crime statistics are not solely a measure of police performance. They are society’s report card. They reflect how people choose to conduct themselves, what behaviors they tolerate, and what action they permit or excuse,” he said.

He added: “Every weapon confiscated represents a decision someone made

(cont’d on next page)



CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited Notice of Record Date

In accordance with section 106(2) of the Companies Act, Cap 308 of the Laws of Barbados and section 110(2) of the Companies Act, Chap 81.01 of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago, notice is hereby given that the directors of the above named company have by resolution fixed **Friday, January 23, 2026** as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to receive notice of the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on **Friday, March 13, 2026**.

Dated this 15th day of January 2026.

Brian Clarke, KC
General Counsel & Group Corporate Secretary

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Grant Thornton is an international accounting firm which provides accounting, audit and assurance, tax and advisory services to a broad range of local and international clients in St. Kitts & Nevis. We have opportunities available for **Audit Managers and Supervisors**.

Required qualifications, skills and experience

Audit Managers

Audit Managers will be senior members of engagement teams managing the audits of financial statements in accordance with the applicable accounting and auditing standards. They will be responsible for the coordination of the audit, the delivery of our audit services and managing client relationships. They will manage and oversee the day-to-day work of the audit team, performing quality control reviews to ensure compliance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the by the International Accounting Standards Board.

- University degree in Accounting or related field;
- Qualified Accountant possessing a professional designation (ACCA, CPA, etc.);
- At least 8 years external audit experience working with a major public accounting firm, with a minimum of 5 years post qualification including at least 1 to 2 years at the audit manager level;
- Comprehensive knowledge of IFRS Accounting Standards and ISA
- Solid presentation and communication skills;
- Ability to manage a portfolio of audit clients and provide on-the-job training to junior auditors;
- Experience dealing with complex accounting and auditing matters; and
- Experience managing multiple audit engagements with tight reporting deadlines.

Audit Supervisors

Audit Supervisors will be senior members of engagement teams performing audits of financial statements in accordance with the applicable accounting and auditing standards. They will supervise and coach junior associates, assist with planning and overseeing the audit process, review team members’ work for accuracy and compliance, perform effective risk and control assessments and adequately document audit findings.

- University degree in Accounting or related field;
- Qualified Accountant possessing a professional designation (ACCA, CPA, CA);
- At least 4 to 5 years audit external experience working with a public accounting firm;
- Strong oral and written communication skills; and
- Solid working knowledge of IFRS Accounting Standards and ISA

Applications including cover letter and resume should be emailed to: ginfo@kn.gt.com

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, we wish to advise that only those candidates selected for interview will be acknowledged.

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Police Observe Violent Handling of Arguments



Security officers seen looking on among spectators during Sugar Mas J'ouvert on Friday 26th December 2025 as revellers go about The Circus area in Basseterre (Spokesman Snap)

(cont'd from last page)

before leaving home. Every assault represents a moment where restraint failed. The police cannot replace sound judgment, self-control or community accountability."

Looking ahead to 2026, Commissioner Sutton outlined five key focus areas for the Police Force: community policing with deeper neighbourhood engagement; technology-driven crime detection and prevention; targeted enforcement against illegal firearms and repeat violent offenders; proactive crime prevention; and youth engagement focused on early intervention and diversion.

However, he emphasized that enforcement alone is not enough. "Preventing crime and violence requires the cooperation and the involvement of society in its entirety. Education, family structures, mental health support, youth development, and community responsibility all play critical roles," he stated.

As the Federation moves beyond Sugar Mas 54 and into the new year, COP Sutton said the Police Force remains committed to its constitutional mandate to investigate, enforce, and protect every citizen, but stressed that safety and security are shared responsibilities.

"In 2026, we must decide as a society what we are prepared to change, what we are willing to correct, and how urgently we intend to do so," he said, encouraging citizens and residents "to choose responsibility over recklessness, introspect over impulse, and unity over upheaval."

According to him: "The data already shows that improvement is possible. Sustaining it is a shared responsibility. On behalf of the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, I wish everyone a safe, peaceful and prosperous New Year 2026. Together, we can continue to build a federation where progress is measured not only by celebration, but by how we care for one another every day."

Front Page Image: A look at a security force barricade system featuring vehicles and officers at College Street on Friday 2nd January 2026 at part of Las Lap procession goes about Cayon Street in Basseterre for the Sugar Mas 54 closing street activity (Spokesman Snap)

IN THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP. 10.19
A. D. 2026



SKBLRD2026/0000

IN THE MATTER of Section 144 of
the Title by Registration Act, Cap.
10.19

and

IN THE MATTER of the Certificate of
Title registered in Register Book Y2
Folio 558 in the name of **Yvonne
Joseph**

NOTICE FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

It is hereby notified that a Certificate of Title dated the 20th day of December 1999, and registered in the Register of Titles in **Register Book Y2 Folio 558** of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of **Yvonne Joseph** of Main Street, Mansion in the Parish of Christ Church is the Registered Proprietor of all that lot of land hereditaments and premises situated at Lot No. 56 of Mansion Village in the Parish of Christ Church aforesaid containing by admeasurement 3,035.47 square feet and bounded and measuring as follows: On or towards the North by a public road 32.00 feet, On or towards the South by Lot No. 49 and Lot No. 50 41.98 feet, On or towards the East by Lot No. 55 78.70 feet and On or towards the West by Lot No. 5 Lot No. 59 and Lot No. 60 101.74 feet, all as the same are delineated and set forth on the plan thereof by Calvin R. Esdaille, Licensed Surveyor annexed thereto, has been reported irretrievably lost and an Application will be made to the Registrar of Titles for an Order for the issue of a new Certificate of Title in lieu thereof.

Any person knowing the whereabouts of or having any information concerning the said duplicate Certificate which may lead to its recovery is requested to notify the **Registrar of Titles** at the Lands Registry, North Independence Square, Basseterre, telephone number (869) 467-1872/1860, or **Angelina Gracy Sookoo-Bobb** of the law firm **Sookoo Bobb** at Unit A7 The Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, Saint Kitts, Telephone (869) 466-2622(BOBB)/766-2622 (BOBB). E-mail info@s-blegal.com or agsookoo@s-blegal.com.

Dated the 14th day of January, 2026

Angelina Gracy Sookoo-Bobb
SOOKOO BOBB
Attorney-at-Law

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP 10.19

A. D. 2026

Claim No. SKBLRD2026/

In the Matter of Section 144 of the Title by Registration
Act Cap 10.19 of the Laws of the Federation of Saint
Christopher and Nevis

and

In the Matter of a Certificate of Title issued on the 5th day
of February, 2016 in the name of **HUSAM THABIT
SALIH AL-QADHI** recorded in Condominium Register
Book 40 Folio 75 of the Register of Titles for the Saint
Christopher Circuit.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **MAHMOOD HUSAM THABIT AL-QADHI, MINA HUSAM THABIT AL-QADHI** and **MAY R. YOUSIF AL-QADHI**, each of Villa 113, Zone 90, Street 954 Al Wakra, Al Aszhat, Dora, Qatar Administrators of the estate of **HUSAM THBIT SALIH AL-QADHI**, has applied to the Registrar of Titles for the issue of a replacement Certificate of Title in lieu of the one recorded in **Condominium Register Book 40 Folio 75** of the Register of Titles of St. Christopher, the land contained in the said title being **ALL THAT** Condominium Interest Unit F4 of building Majestic Two being a portion of all that lot of land with the buildings thereon situated in Half Moon Court Yard in the Parish of St. Peter in the Island of Saint Christopher described in the Certificate of Title registered in Book N3 Folio 442 of the Register of Titles for the Island of Saint Christopher and contained in the Declaration and Description of **IMPERIAL BAY CONDOMINIUMS** registered as No. 40 in the Condominium Corporation Index on the 17th day of December, 2014 and as amended thereafter, subject to the said Declaration and Description and to the provisions of the Condominium Act Cap. 10.03 on the basis that the said Certificate of Title has been irrecoverably lost.

Any person who may be in possession of the said Certificate of Title or any information which may lead to its recovery is kindly requested to contact Johnson & Associates, Attorneys-at-Law, Unit 9 The Sands, Bay Road & George Street, Basseterre St. Kitts or telephone number (869) 466-2019.

Dated the 7th day of January, 2026.

SHABAZZ M. JOHNSON
JOHNSON AND ASSOCIATES
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicants

RSCNPF Mourns The Passing Of Corporal Royston Isaac

The Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force (RSCNPF) is deeply saddened by the sudden passing of #81 Corporal Royston Isaac, who was stationed at the Charlestown Police Station on Nevis. Corporal Isaac passed away this morning, January 15th, 2026.

Corporal Isaac was a committed and respected officer who served the people of Nevis and the wider Federation with dedication, professionalism, and quiet strength. His passing is a profound loss not only to the Police Force, but to his colleagues, friends, and the community he faithfully served.

The RSCNPF extends heartfelt condolences to Corporal Isaac’s family, loved ones, and fellow officers during this difficult time. We mourn with you, and we stand in solidarity as you grieve this sudden loss.

The RSCNPF will honour the life and service of Corporal Royston Isaac, and details regarding official arrangements will be shared when appropriate.

May he rest in peace, and may comfort and strength surround all who mourn his passing.



Case Number :NEVHCV2025/0191



THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT, CAP 10.19
A.D. 2025

Submitted Date:07/01/2026 12:26
Filed Date:07/01/2026 12:26
Fees Paid:12.00

NEVHCV2025/0191

In the matter of Section 92 of the Title by
Registration Act, Cap. 10.19

and

In the matter of an application to settle Articles of
Sale of the Respondent’s property comprised in a
Certificate of Title dated 30th June 2009 registered in
Register Book 47 Folio 217

THE BANK OF NEVIS LIMITED *Applicant*

and

SHAUN TYSON *Respondent*

NOTICE OF SALE

The Property described below will be offered for sale by the Registrar of the Supreme Court by public auction at the Bath Village, Nevis
on the 16th day of February 2026 at 10:00’clock in the forenoon.

The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.

Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

21,780 square feet of land situate at Spring Hill Estate in the Parish of St. James in the Island of Nevis bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On or towards the North West by remaining lands of Roosevelt David, 121.57 feet; On or towards the North East by lands of Joseph Parry, 143.64 feet and 94.79 feet; On or towards the South East by a Public Road, 28.95 feet, 20.48 feet, 39.58 feet, 37.38 feet and 17.00 feet and On or towards the South West by an Access Road, 141.40 feet

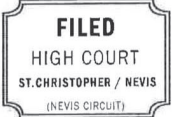
UPSET PRICE

The upset price for the above property shall be EC\$185,130.00.

Dated the 23rd day of December, 2025.

M. Fleming
Asst REGISTRAR

Case Number :NEVHCV2021/0071



THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT, CAP 10.19
A.D. 2025

Submitted Date:07/01/2026 12:37
Filed Date:07/01/2026 12:38
Fees Paid:12.00

NEVHCV2021/0071

THE BANK OF NEVIS LIMITED *Applicant*

and

GARY COLT and KARIN COLT *Respondents*

NOTICE OF SALE

The Property described below will be offered for sale by the Registrar of the Supreme Court by public auction at the Bath Village, Nevis
on the 16th day of February 2025 at 10:30’clock in the forenoon.

The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.

Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land with building thereon containing by admeasurement 44,349 square feet of land situated at Colquhouns Estate in the parish of St. Thomas in the island of Nevis bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On or towards the North by a 16’ Road Allowed 162.77 feet; On or towards the East by lands of L.L. Bailey 14.67 feet and 71.72 feet; On or towards the South by a Ghaut 61.21 feet, 34.91 feet and 76.42 feet; On or towards the West by lands of Frederick Clarke 88.45 feet and On or towards the North by a Ghaut 100.77 feet, 89.65 feet, 151.57 feet, 18.14 feet, 52.86 feet; On or towards the East by a Ghaut 71.51 feet; On or towards the South by lands of A.C Harris 220.37 feet and 190.79 feet; On or towards the West by lands of C.M. Bailey 178.23 feet.

UPSET PRICE

The upset price for the above property shall be EC\$2,817,000.00.

Dated the 23rd day of December, 2025.

M. Fleming
As REGISTRAR

Government Clarifies U.S. Visa Status Amid Social Media Rumours

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Thursday 15 January 2026) -The Government has issued clarification following widespread social media rumours suggesting that visa applications to the United States have been suspended for citizens of the Federation.

In an official press release issued by the St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service (SKNIS) on January 15, 2026, titled Official Statement on U.S. Suspension of Immigrant Visa Processing, the Government confirmed that non-immigrant visas remain unaffected.

According to the release, "Non-immigrant visas, including those for tourism, business, study, and short-term travel, are not affected by this measure."

Meanwhile, official details from the US Department of State has highlighted that "this pause is specifically for immigrant visa applicants. Tourist visas are nonimmigrant visas."

The SKN Government-via its statement- acknowledged the recent policy issued by the United States of America regarding the temporary suspension of immigrant visa processing from a number of countries, including Saint Kitts and Nevis. However, following engagement with the United States Embassy in Barbados, officials said they received formal clarification on the scope and application

of the directive.

Based on the information provided, the Government explained that "the directive applies only to immigrant visas, which relate to long-term residency," while confirming again that non-immigrant travel remains unchanged.

The SKNIS release further stated that U.S. authorities have advised that immigrant visa applications "will continue to be accepted and processed; however, all such applications are currently being refused under Section 221(g) of U.S. immigration law." The Government noted that this type of refusal is procedural and administrative in nature, pending additional guidance on enhanced vetting and screening measures, including public charge considerations.

Additionally, the Government clarified that "the directive does not apply to dual nationals who are travelling on passports of countries not included in the list," and that exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

While acknowledging the right of the United States to implement national security measures, the Government said it remains committed to protecting the interests of its people. Officials indicated that they will continue to monitor developments, maintain engagement with U.S. authorities, and provide updates to the public as information becomes available.

Residents were also encouraged to rely on official government communications and verified sources for accurate updates.

U.S. Department of State Press Update seen below.

Immigrant Visa Processing Updates for Nationalities at High Risk of Public Benefits Usage

Last Updated: January 14, 2026 (<https://travel.state.gov/>).

President Trump has made clear that immigrants must be financially self-sufficient and not be a financial burden to Americans. The Department of State is undergoing a full review of all policies, regulations, and guidance to ensure that immigrants from these high-risk countries do not utilize welfare in the United States or become a public charge.

Effective January 21, 2026, the Department of State is pausing all visa issuances to immigrant visa applicants who are nationals of the following countries:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, The Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Republic of the Congo, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

Does this apply to tourist visas?

"No, this pause is specifically for immigrant visa applicants. Tourist visas are nonimmigrant visas."

Front Page Photo: Used for illustration purposes only shows part of a US VISA document (Source: visahelp.us.com)

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SKBHCV2013/0297

ST KITTS NEVIS ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK LIMITED

and

JULIAN GABRIEL

Applicant

Respondent

NOTICE OF SALE

The Property described below will be offered for sale by The Registrar of the Supreme Court by public auction at the Charles Amory Building, Portlands, Basseterre, St Kitts, on the 27th day of January 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.

Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

The Property will be available for inspection prior to the date of sale by appointment with the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land known as Lot No. 12 of St. Peter's Place Housing Development, situate in the Parish of Saint Peter in the Island of Saint Christopher bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On or towards the North-East by Lot No. 13, 95.15 feet; On or towards the South-East by a Development Road, 60.28 feet; On or towards the South-West by Lot No. 11, 88.25 feet; and On or towards the North-West by Lot No. 5, 60.03 feet and containing by admeasurement 5,498.00 square feet, all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated the 2nd day of February, 2009 and registered in Book 13 Folio 56 of the Register of Titles of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of JULIAN GABRIEL of Lower Monkey Hill, St. Peters, in the Island of Saint Christopher as registered proprietor thereof.

UPSET PRICE

The Upset price for the above property shall be EC\$429,165.00

Dated the 27th day of October 2025

Registrar of the Supreme Court

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE



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OECS Heads Meet on Urgent Regional and Geopolitical Matters

OECS Press Release

The Heads of Government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) met in Saint Lucia on 13th January 2026, hosted by the Honourable Philip J. Pierre, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, and under the chairmanship of Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in his inaugural Heads of Government meeting.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit of the Commonwealth of Dominica; Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre of Saint Lucia; Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell of Grenada; Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew of St. Kitts and Nevis; Premier Reuben T. Meade of Montserrat; Premier Dr. Natalio Wheatley of the British Virgin Islands; and Premier Cora Richardson-Hodge of Anguilla. The Heads of Government were accompanied by the Director General of the OECS, Dr. Didacus Jules.

The meeting addressed several critical regional and international issues, including the emerging geopolitical environment, regional developments, and proposals being discussed with the United States of America.

The Heads of Government continue to monitor the ongoing developments between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the United States and the potential implications for the Eastern Caribbean. These include impacts on economic stability, regional security, energy security, migration flows, and diplomatic relations. In this context, the Heads reaffirmed the OECS' commitment to peace, stability, and good neighbourly relations within the hemisphere.

The Heads of Government discussed the requests by the United States to OECS member states, including Grenada, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Kitts and Nevis to accept Third Country Nationals (TCN) from the United States and noted that some OECS member states have already signed Non-Legally Binding Memoranda of Understanding with the United States to enter into further discussions with the United States on the matter. The Heads of Government have therefore agreed to establish a broad-based, high-level negotiating team, comprising representatives from OECS Member States, to undertake technical negotiations with the United States on this matter.

The Heads of Government reaffirmed with respect to Citizenship by Investment Programmes (CIPs) in the five relevant OECS jurisdictions, their commitment to ongoing improvements and best practices in the CIPs, noting the significant efforts

undertaken over the past nine months toward establishing an independent regional regulatory authority, together with proposed legislative reforms to the CIP frameworks, and the need for continued engagement with partners including the European Union.

The Heads of Government expressed their commitment to adopting and implementing in the future traveller biometrics systems throughout the OECS to enhance regional border security, hassle free and seamless travel, and to improve traveler experience for citizens and visitors alike within the OECS.

Given the dynamic and rapidly evolving geopolitical environment, the Heads of Government agreed to convene in political caucus as frequently as required to ensure coordinated and responsive decision-making and reaffirmed their commitment to collective action, regional solidarity, and continued principled and practical engagement with the international community, including the United States, in safeguarding the security, stability, and sustainable development of the OECS.

The Heads of Government are committed to continuing and enhancing public communication with their citizens to assure them that any decisions made, or to be made, will be done in the best interest of the citizens of the OECS.



EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIM NO. SKBHCV2017/0012

ST KITTS NEVIS ANGUILLA NATIONAL BANK LIMITED

and

MELFORD PHILLIP

NOTICE OF SALE

The Property described below will be offered for sale by The Registrar of the Supreme Court by public auction at the Charles Amory Building, Fortlands, Basseterre, St Kitts, on the 24th day of January, 2026 at 2:15 o'clock in the afternoon.

The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.

Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

The Property will be available for inspection prior to the date of sale by appointment with the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land with building thereon situate at Half Way Tree in the Island of St. Christopher and bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say: On the North-West by Con Phipps Estate 35 feet; On the North-East by Lot No. 15, 66.67 feet; On the South-East by the Island Main Road 35 feet and On the South-West by Lot No. 17, 66.67 feet and containing by admeasurement 2,666.8 square feet, all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated the 24th day of February, 1994 and registered in Book T2 Folio 111 of the Register of Titles of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of **MELFORD PHILLIP** of Old Road Village in the Parish of St. Thomas, in the Island of St. Christopher registered proprietor thereof.

UPSET PRICE

The Upset price for the above property shall be EC\$220,622.00

Dated the 27th day of October 2025


Registrar of the Supreme Court





A Growing Passport Divide Reshapes Global Mobility in 2026

For immediate release: London, 13 January 2026

Marking two decades since its inception, the Henley Passport Index 2026 reveals a growing divide between the world’s most and least mobile populations. Created 20 years ago and based on exclusive Timatic data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the index ranks all the world’s passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. While a record number of passports now cluster at the top of the ranking, those at the bottom remain increasingly isolated, underscoring a widening global mobility gap.

At the pinnacle of the index, Singapore retains its position as the world’s most powerful passport, offering access to 192 destinations visa-free. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Afghanistan once again ranks last, with its passport holders able to travel to just 24 destinations without a prior visa. The resulting 168-destination gap starkly illustrates the scale of global mobility inequality in 2026 — a dramatic widening of the divide since 2006, when the difference between the then top-ranking US passport and Afghanistan was only 118 destinations.

“Over the past 20 years, global mobility has expanded significantly, but the benefits have been distributed unevenly”, says Dr. Christian H. Kaelin, Chairman at Henley & Partners and creator of the

Henley Passport Index. “Today, passport privilege plays a decisive role in shaping opportunity, security, and economic participation, with rising average access masking a reality in which mobility advantages are increasingly concentrated among the world’s most economically powerful and politically stable nations.”

This imbalance is intensifying even as international travel demand continues to grow. IATA forecasts that airlines will carry more than 5.2 billion passengers globally this year.

“A record number of people are expected to travel in 2026. The unequivocal economic and social benefits generated by this travel grow as it becomes more accessible. But while more people have the economic freedom to travel, many nationalities are seeing that a passport alone is no longer sufficient to cross borders”, says IATA Director General Willie Walsh. “As many governments look to more tightly secure their borders, technological advances such as digital ID and digital passports should not be overlooked by policymakers. Convenient travel and secure borders are possible.”

UK Records the Steepest Year-on-Year Losses, US Back in the Top 10

Japan and South Korea rank joint 2nd in 2026, each offering visa-free access to 188 destinations, reinforcing Asia’s long-standing leadership at the top of the global mobility rankings. Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland follow in 3rd place with access to 186 destinations, ahead of an unprecedented group of 10 European countries tied for 4th.

The remainder of the upper-tier passports continue to underscore Europe’s dominance, with notable exceptions including UAE (5th), New Zealand (6th), Australia (7th), Canada (8th), and Malaysia (9th).

The US has returned to the Top 10 after briefly dropping out for the first time in late 2025, but this recovery masks a longer-term decline for both the US and the UK, which jointly held 1st place in 2014. The past year saw both countries record their steepest annual losses in visa-free access, shedding seven and eight destinations, respectively. The US has suffered the third largest ranking decline over the past two decades — after Venezuela and Vanuatu — falling six places from 4th to 10th, while the UK ranks as the fourth-biggest faller, down four places from 3rd in 2006 to 7th in 2026.

“Passport power ultimately reflects political stability, diplomatic credibility, and the ability to shape international rules”, says Misha Glenny, award-winning journalist and Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. “As transatlantic relations strain and domestic politics grow more volatile, the erosion of mobility rights for countries like the US and UK is less a technical anomaly than a signal of deeper geopolitical recalibration.”

Biggest Risers and Fallers Over the Decades

The UAE stands out as the strongest performer on the Henley Passport Index over the past 20 years, adding 149 visa-free destinations since 2006 and climbing 57 places to 5th on the rankings with access to 184 destinations visa-free, driven by sustained diplomatic engagement and visa liberalization.

Countries across the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe have also made significant gains over the past two decades, led by Albania, which climbed 36 places to rank 43rd on the index. Ukraine has risen 34 places (to 30th), followed by Serbia (+30 to 34th), North Macedonia (+27 to 38th), and both Bosnia and Herzegovina (+29) and Georgia (+26), which now share 42nd place. Together, these advances highlight the impact of regional integration and closer alignment with key partners.

Bolivia is the only country on the index to have seen an overall decline in visa-free access over the past 20 years, losing 5 visa-free destinations and falling 32 places to rank at 61st in 2026.

If we just consider the last decade, Kosovo has seen the biggest rise in the ranking, up 38 places (from 97th to 59th since 2016) with access to an additional 43 destinations. Another notable climber is China, which has risen 28 places (from 87th to 59th) over the past 10 years, adding an additional 31 destinations to its total score of 141 countries that its citizens can now visit without a prior visa.

Open Borders, Closed Doors

(cont’d on next page)

Case Number :SKBHCV2022/0037

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIM NO. SKBHCV2022/0037

NATIONAL CARIBBEAN INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

and

MARIO RILEY

NOTICE OF SALE

The Property described below will be offered for sale by The Registrar of the Supreme Court by public auction at the Charles Amory Building, Fortlands, Basseterre, St Kitts, on the 24th day of January 2026 at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

The successful bidder will be required to pay at the time of sale a deposit of one fourth of his accepted bid and the balance within one month from the day of sale.

Possession of the property will be given to the purchaser on payment of the deposit. Any taxes due on the said property must be paid by the Purchaser.

The Purchaser will, after payment in full of the purchase price, obtain from the High Court of Justice, a Certificate of Title to the property.

The Property will be available for inspection prior to the date of sale by appointment with the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

ALL THAT lot piece or parcel of land with building thereon situate at Lower Stone Castle Housing Development known as Lot No. 32 and bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On or towards the North East by a Road, 45.05 feet; On or towards the South East by Lot No. 33, 79.02 feet; On or towards the South West partly by Lot No. 28 and partly by Lot No. 30, 45.10 feet and on or towards the North West by Lot No. 31, 78.82 feet and containing by admeasurement 3,557 square feet, all as the same is described in a Certificate of Title dated the 20th day of September, 2002 and registered in Book B3 Folio 408 of the Register of Titles of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of MARIO RILEY of Central Fienness Avenue in the Island of Saint Christopher registered proprietor thereof.

UPSET PRICE

The Upset price for the above property shall be EC\$228,903.00.

Dated the 6th day of November 2025.

Registrar of the Supreme Court

FILED
HIGH COURT
ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS
(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

Submitted Date:17/11/2025 09:08

Filed Date:17/11/2025 09:09

Fees Paid:12.00

Applicant

-Respondent

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
PACT JUSTITIA
HIGH COURT

A Growing Passport Divide...

(cont'd from last page)

While US passport holders can travel visa-free to 179 destinations, the United States itself allows only 46 nationalities to enter without a prior visa, placing it 78th out of 199 countries and territories worldwide on the Henley Openness Index. This disparity between outbound mobility and inbound openness is among the widest globally, second only to Australia and marginally ahead of Canada, New Zealand, and Japan.

By contrast, China has risen rapidly, granting visa-free access to over 40 additional countries over the past two years alone. Now ranked 62nd, China permits entry to 77 different nationalities — 31 more than the US — signaling a strategic pivot towards openness as a tool of diplomacy and economic engagement.

“There is a visible shift underway in the global balance of power, marked by China’s renewed openness and the USA’s retreat into nationalism”, says Dr. Tim Klatte, Partner at Grant Thornton China. “As countries increasingly compete for influence through mobility, openness is becoming a critical component of soft power.”

From Visa-Free to Full Disclosure at America’s Borders

Exclusive analysis commissioned for the Henley Global Mobility Report 2026, released today alongside the latest Henley Passport Index, warns that a late-2025 proposal by U.S. Customs and Border Protection could effectively end visa-free travel to the US in all but name. The plan would require citizens of 42 allied nations — including the UK, France, Germany, and Japan — to submit extensive personal data under the Visa Waiver Program, with implementation possible as early as February following a public consultation.

If adopted, travelers would be required to disclose five years of social media activity, ten years of e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and IP addresses, as well as detailed family information and biometric data — including facial recognition, fingerprints, and DNA — retained for up to 75 years, far exceeding current Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) requirements.

“For Europeans long accustomed to near-frictionless travel, the implications go far beyond inconvenience”, warns Greg Lindsay, non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and senior fellow at Arizona State University’s Threatcasting Lab. “This level of data collection enables real-time ideological screening and creates the risk that personal information could be shared, repurposed, or weaponized.”

These proposals follow a series of recent US measures, including visa bans on former European Commission Vice-President Thierry Breton and several European activists, and the most extensive simultaneous expansion of US travel bans in modern history. From 1 January 2026, full or partial entry restrictions now apply to 39 countries.

EU Visa Reforms Reinforce Bias Against Africans

As Washington’s ‘America First’ agenda hardens borders — with 16 of the 20 countries facing new US travel restrictions or outright bans located in Africa — similar dynamics are now emerging in Europe.

Exclusive research commissioned for the Henley Global Mobility Report 2026 finds that recent EU visa reforms are deepening the global mobility divide for African travelers, despite rising demand linked to work, education, and family ties. Authored by Prof. Mehari Taddele Maru of the European University Institute and Johns Hopkins University SAIS, the study shows that access to Schengen visas is becoming increasingly restrictive even as mobility pressures intensify.

Eurostat data reveals that between 2015 and 2024, Schengen visa rejection rates for African applicants climbed from 18.6% to 26.6%, while application volumes rose only marginally. Reforms introduced between 2024 and 2025 — including higher fees, longer processing times, expanded surveillance, and punitive sanctions — are expected to drive rejection rates higher still, further entrenching unequal access to mobility.

“These policies do not simply regulate mobility — they institutionalize it”, says Prof. Maru. “What we are witnessing is a form of conditional racial discrimination in visa policymaking, shaped by geopolitical power rather than individual risk.”

The research concludes that EU visa sanctions and the rollout of its Entry/Exit System compound this exclusion by raising financial and administrative barriers, extending processing times, and intensifying surveillance for travelers from countries already facing the highest rejection rates.

Mobility Planning Accelerates as Risk Management Becomes a Priority

Demand for additional residence and citizenship rights continue to diversify and deepen. In 2025 alone, Henley & Partners received applications from 100 different nationalities, rising to 142 nationalities over the past five years, across more than

60 options worldwide. By the end of last year, overall application volumes were 28% higher than in 2024.

Led by the US, the remaining top five countries from where applications originate are Türkiye, India, China, and the UK, with applications from Brits rising to unprecedented levels in 2025.

“What we are seeing is a fundamental shift in how globally mobile individuals think about access and security”, says Dr. Juerg Steffen, CEO at Henley & Partners. “In an era of geopolitical uncertainty and increasingly fragmented travel regimes, residence and citizenship planning has evolved into an essential strategy for building resilience, optionality, and mobility certainty across multiple jurisdictions.”

This shift is most pronounced among US nationals, now the firm’s largest client market. “Americans are continuing their scramble for alternative residence and citizenship amid ongoing political turbulence, with interest now at an all-time high”, confirms Prof. Peter J. Spiro, Professor at Temple University Law School. “What was once seen as an extreme contingency has become a mainstream form of risk management — a durable Plan B that offers security, mobility, and peace of mind in an increasingly unpredictable world.”

SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

Ryan Khadou of Browne Hill, St. John’s, Nevis having made sworn deposition that **Policy No. 055402773** issued by **Sagicor Life Inc.** 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: **29th December, 2025.**

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean)

SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

Republic Bank (EC) Limited of Fort Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts, being the Assignee, having made sworn deposition that **Policy No. K100300916** issued by **British American Insurance Company** and assumed by **Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc. on the life of Isalin Pitt (deceased)** 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: **29th December, 2025.**

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean)

SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

Rhodell Whittaker of Brick Kiln Village, Nevis, being Beneficiary having made sworn deposition that **Policy No. F00026500** issued by **Sagicor Capital Life** and assumed by **Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc. on the life of Rodwick Lloyd Griffin (deceased)** 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: **29th December, 2025.**

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbe-

World of Work Series: Employment and Social Trends 2026



Global job quality stagnates despite resilient growth

Challenges persist, especially for youth and women, the Employment and Social Trends 2026 report warns.

14 January 2026

World of Work Series

GENEVA (ILO News) – Global unemployment remains stable, but progress toward decent work has stalled, according to a new report from the International Labour Organization (ILO). The report also warns that young people continue to struggle, while artificial intelligence and trade policy uncertainty risk further undermining the job market.

The Employment and Social Trends 2026 report finds that while the global unemployment rate is projected to stay at 4.9 per cent in 2026 – equivalent to 186 million people – millions of workers around the world still lack access to quality jobs.

“Resilient growth and stable unemployment figures should not distract us from the deeper reality: hundreds of millions of workers remain trapped in poverty, informality, and exclusion,” ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo said.

Job quality under strain

Nearly 300 million workers continue to live in extreme poverty, earning less than US\$3 a day, while informality is rising, with 2.1 billion workers expected to hold informal jobs by 2026, with limited access to social protection, rights at work, and job security. The acute lack of progress in low-income countries is pushing workers with the poorest employment conditions even further behind.

The report – which offers data by region, income group, sex and age – notes that the slowdown in shifting economies into higher-value industries or services is a major obstacle to sustained progress in job quality and productivity growth.

Youth and AI risks

Young people continue to struggle. Youth unemployment climbed to 12.4 per cent in 2025, with around 260 million young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). In low-income countries, NEET rates are a daunting 27.9 per cent. The ILO warned that artificial intelligence and automation could exacerbate challenges, particularly for educated youth in high-income countries seeking their first job in high skill occupations.

“While the full impact of AI on youth employment remains uncertain, its potential magnitude warrants close monitoring,” the

report noted.

Entrenched gender inequalities

Women still face entrenched barriers, largely driven by social norms and stereotypes. They account for just two fifths of global employment, and are 24 per cent less likely than men to participate in the labour force.

Gains in female labour force participation have stalled, slowing progress toward gender equality at work.

Demographic shifts reshape labour markets

The report also analyses how shifting demographics are reshaping labour markets.

Ageing populations are slowing labour force growth in richer economies, as fewer people of working age are available to enter or remain in employment, while low income countries struggle to turn rapid population growth into productive jobs. Employment growth in 2026 is projected at 0.5 per cent in upper middle income countries, 1.8 per cent in lower middle income economies, and 3.1 per cent in low income ones. Without sufficient productive job

(cont'd on next page)



ST. CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT “Exceeding Expectations”

Request for Quotations to Purchase & Install One (1) New Asphalt Plant

The Public Works Department is seeking quotations for the cost to procure and install **one (1) New Asphalt Plant**, to outfit the Roads Division, Public Works Department at Canada Estate, St Kitts, West Indies.

1. Parameters:

- The Asphalt Plant must be fitted with the following:
 - i. Portable SPL 110 Drum Mixer with wet scrubber.
 - ii. Hinged SPL Drag Conveyor with Truck Loading Batcher
 - iii. Portable 4CFB Bin Aggregate System
 - iv. Appropriate size Control Cabin Fully Outfitted
 - v. Portable 20,000 Gallon Tank with Heater.

2. Additional Services:

- i. Price must include for service and start up.
- ii. Shipping to St Kitts (CIF)

3. Warranty and Spare Parts

- i. A warranty of at least one (1) year must be included in the accepted quotation.
- ii. Sufficient Spare Parts to be included for the servicing of the Asphalt Plant over the course of the first operational year.

4. Evaluation and acceptance:

- i. Quotations will only be accepted from established businesses with proof of registration and a track record of supplying/sales of large equipment.
- ii. Quotations will be evaluated by senior personnel from the Ministry of Public Works with recommendations to be submitted to the Procurement Board.
- iii. Quotations must be submitted by **Thursday 12th February, 2026.**

5. Quotations must include the following:

- a. Technical specifications and operational manual for the Asphalt Plant.
- b. We are proposing the following payment terms and conditions including a payment structure of:
 - i. 40% deposit upon approval,
 - ii. 40% prior to shipping and
 - iii. 20% once the Asphalt Plant is landed and commissioned on St. Kitts or any other structure agreed to by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis.
- c. Setup and training for use and maintenance of the Asphalt Plant.
- d. Shipment timeline from purchase to landing at the cargo port Basseterre, St Kitts.
- e. Company background and eligibility to participate in this quotation.
- f. Vendors must be able to hold the price for at least three (3) months pending purchase evaluations by the procurement board.

Please submit all quotations to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure et al., attention Public Works Department, Roads Division via email to secretary.adminpwd@gov.kn and to zekey.hazel@gov.kn or by hardcopy to Ms. Xia-Xiang Claxton, Acting Director of Public Works or Mr. Zekey Hazel, Roads Engineer/Manager no later than **Thursday 12th February, 2026.**

Winning bidders will be notified thereafter.

Please note that, solicitations, receipt and consideration of cost quotations **DO NOT** constitute a binding agreement to purchase equipment from any responding party or company.


Zekey Hazel (Mr.)
Roads Manager
Public Works Department


Xia-Xiang Claxton (Ms.)
Director - (Ag.)
Public-Works Department

Global job quality stagnates despite resilient growth

(cont'd from last page)

opportunities, poorer countries risk squandering their demographic dividend, the ILO warned.

Weak labour productivity growth in low income countries is also deepening geographic inequalities, hindering progress toward decent work, and slowing the convergence of living standards with advanced economies.

Trade turbulence

Global trade disruptions are adding uncertainty to labour markets. Uncertainty about trade rules and supply chain bottlenecks are cutting into workers' wages, especially in Southeast Asia, Southern Asia, and Europe. Nevertheless, trade remains a major source of jobs, supporting 465 million workers worldwide, more than half of them in Asia and the Pacific.

Trade can be a powerful driver of decent work, particularly in low and middle income countries, where export-linked sectors often provide better pay, lower informality, and more opportunities for women and youth, the report notes. Digitally delivered services now account for 14.5 per cent of global exports, and nearly half of all trade-related jobs are in market services. Although trade among developing economies has expanded, many African and Southern American countries still depend heavily on markets outside the region for most trade related jobs.

The ILO Director-General underscored the need for coordinated action and stronger institutions to advance decent work and social justice, particularly in poorer economies that risk being left behind as supply chains and digital trade expand.

“Unless governments, employers, and workers act together to harness technology responsibly and expand quality job opportunities for women and youth – through coherent and coordinated institutional responses – decent work deficits

Public Safety Advisory: Frigate Bay Area

The Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force (RSCNPF) advises residents and members of the public who utilise the Frigate Bay golf course and surrounding spaces to exercise increased personal awareness and caution.

In light of recent reports, the RSCNPF encourages persons to remain vigilant and to promptly report any suspicious persons or activity to the Police. Members of the public are reminded to:

- * Remain alert to their surroundings
- * Avoid complacency when moving through public spaces
- * Report suspicious behaviour immediately to the Police

Investigations into these matters are ongoing, and the RSCNPF is working closely with relevant security partners to address public safety concerns and prevent further incidents.

The cooperation of the community remains essential, and information shared by the public may assist ongoing investigations.

Further updates will be issued as appropriate.



will persist and social cohesion will be at risk,” Hounbo said.

The report makes some recommendations to address current challenges:

- Implement productivity-enhancing policies such as investment in skills, education, and infrastructure.
- Address gender and youth gaps by tackling barriers to participation and harnessing technology responsibly.
- Strengthen trade and decent work outcomes so all regions benefit from global flows.
- Mitigate risks from debt, AI, and trade uncertainty through coordinated global and domestic policies.

Case Number :SKBHPB2026/0001

FILED

HIGH COURT

ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

Submitted Date:07/01/2026 09:03

Filed Date:07/01/2026 09:03

Fees Paid:52.00

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

A.D. 2025

(PROBATE)

In the Estate of **MARGARET ROGERS** late of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, USVI, deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR

A GRANT DE BONIS NON ADMINISTRATUS

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **BERNICE ROGERS-CREQUE** of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, USVI, 00803.

For a Grant De Bonis Non Administratus of the above-named deceased who died on the 19th day of September, 2000 without administration of the estate of the deceased by the administrators William Rogers and Rosalind Rogers-Scott, wherein the applicant the daughter and one of the beneficiaries.

Any person having an objection to the Grant De Bonis Non Administratus to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 24th day of December, 2025.

HENDERSON LAW CHAMBERS

Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of **MARGARET ROGERS**

Filed by:
Britney S. Jeffers Attorney-at-Law of HENDERSON LAW CHAMBERS, Suite 7, The Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts. Telephone Number: (869) 465-6242. The Applicant's address for service is at Henderson Law Chambers.

The Registry is at S. W. Tapley Seaton Court Annex, East Square Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts, telephone number (869) 467-1102, facsimile number (869) 465-2482. The Office is open between 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Mondays to Fridays except Public Holidays.

Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0147

FILED

HIGH COURT

ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

Submitted Date:17/12/2025 15:56

Filed Date:17/12/2025 15:57

Fees Paid:52.00

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

A.D. 2025

(PROBATE)

In the Estate of **WALTER JAMES EDMEAD** alias **ARTHUR EDMEAD** also spelt **EDMEADE** late of Bronx, New York, United States of America, deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR

A GRANT DE BONIS NON ADMINISTRATUS

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **URSILLE V. ADAMS** of 37 Mullen Dr, Ajax, Ontario, Canada, L1T, 2A6.

For a Grant De Bonis Non Administratus of the above-named deceased who died on the 1st day of October, 1989 without administration of the estate of the deceased by the sole executor Winston Edmeade deceased, wherein the applicant is one of the beneficiaries.

Any person having an objection to the Grant De Bonis Non Administratus to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2025.

HENDERSON LAW CHAMBERS

Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of **WALTER JAMES EDMEAD** alias **ARTHUR EDMEAD** also spelt **EDMEADE**

Filed by:
Britney S. Jeffers Attorney-at-Law of HENDERSON LAW CHAMBERS, Suite 7, The Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts. Telephone Number: (869) 465-6242. The Applicant's address for service is at Henderson Law Chambers.

The Registry is at S. W. Tapley Seaton Court Annex, East Square Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts, telephone number (869) 467-1102, facsimile number (869) 465-2482. The Office is open between 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Mondays to Fridays except Public Holidays.

X to stop Grok AI from undressing images of real people after backlash

Christal Hayes, Osmond Chia and Liv McMahon - BBC News



Getty Images Elon Musk stares towards the camera with a smile while sitting against a purple background on a stage. Getty Images
Elon Musk launched Grok on social media platform X in 2023

Elon Musk's AI tool Grok will no longer be able to edit photos of real people to show them in revealing clothing in jurisdictions where it is illegal, after widespread concern over sexualised AI deepfakes.

"We have implemented technological measures to prevent the Grok account from allowing the editing of images of real people in revealing clothing," reads an announcement on X.

Reacting to the ban, the UK government claimed "vindication" after Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer called on X to control its AI tool.

A spokesperson for UK regulator Ofcom said it was a "welcome development" - but added its investigation into whether the platform had broken UK laws "remains

ongoing".

"We are working round the clock to progress this and get answers into what went wrong and what's being done to fix it," they said.

Technology Secretary Liz Kendall also welcomed the move but said she would "expect the facts to be fully and robustly established by Ofcom's ongoing investigation".

X's change was announced hours after California's top prosecutor said the state was probing the spread of sexualised AI deepfakes, including of children, generated by the AI model.

"We now geoblock the ability of all users to generate images of real people in bikinis, underwear, and similar attire via the Grok account and in Grok in X in those jurisdictions where it's illegal," X said in its statement.

It also reiterated that only paid users will be able to edit images using Grok on its platform.

This will add an extra layer of protection by helping to ensure that those who try and abuse Grok to violate the law or X's policies are held accountable, according to the statement.

With NSFW (not safe for work) settings enabled, Grok is supposed to allow "upper body nudity of imaginary adult humans (not real ones)" consistent with what can be seen in R-rated films, Musk wrote online on Wednesday.

"That is the de facto standard in America. This will vary in other regions according to the laws on a country by country basis," said the tech multi-billionaire.

Musk had earlier defended X, posting that critics "just want to suppress free speech" along with two AI-generated images of UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer in a bikini.

It is unclear how his platform will implement location-based blocks on Grok's ability to edit images of real people to create sexualised imagery, and whether users would be able to get around them.

People seeking to circumvent similar geoblocks on features or content often look to tools such as virtual private networks (VPNs), which can disguise their location online to allow them to use the internet as if they are in a different country.

VPN app downloads spiked in the UK last year after porn sites were required to start checking the age of visitors to comply with the Online Safety Act.

'Too late'

X's change of policy has been welcomed by campaigners and experts - though they point out for some victims the damage has already been done.

Clare McGlynn, a law professor at Durham University, said it had come "too late for the thousands of women who have been victimised and whose images are still online".

Andrea Simon, director of the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW), said while it remained to be seen how X would implement its changes, it showed "how victims of abuse, campaigners and a show of strength from governments can force tech platforms to take action".

"But it can't stop here - given the evolving nature of AI-generated harms, tech platforms must be required to take proactive preventative action," she said.

China announces record \$1tn trade surplus despite Trump tariffs

Osmond Chia and Nick Marsh - BBC News



Getty Images Female employees work on a production line of drones in a Chinese factory

China announced record export numbers for 2025, a year when US President Donald Trump's tariffs and trade policy caused turmoil in the global economy.

Beijing on Wednesday reported the world's largest-ever trade surplus - the value of goods and services sold overseas compared to its imports - at \$1.19tn (£890bn).

It's the first time China's full-year trade surplus has passed \$1tn, beating 2024's record figure of \$993bn.

China's monthly export surpluses passed \$100bn seven times last year - a sign that Trump's tariff campaign have barely affected its overall trade with the rest of the world.

Trade with the US did weaken, but this was made up for by a rise in Chinese exports elsewhere, especially to South

East Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Wang Jun, the deputy director of China's customs, said during a press conference on Wednesday that the figures are "extraordinary and hard-won" given the "profound changes" and challenges in global trade.

He noted a rise in exports of green technology, artificial intelligence-related products and robotics.

The huge surplus can be explained by strong overseas demand for Chinese goods as trade with global partners including South Asian countries and others in Africa and Europe grew, as well as a weak domestic market.

China's economy has been weighed by a property crisis and rising debt, which has made businesses more

(cont'd on next page)

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China announces record \$1tn trade surplus despite Trump tariffs

(cont'd from last page)

hesitant to invest and consumers cautious about spending.

As a result, there is less of a need to import goods, and imports rose by just 0.5%, according to the new figures.

Meanwhile, a weaker yuan, a strong supply of goods and inflation in Western countries have also made Chinese exports more attractive.

The results are a "mixed blessing" for Beijing, said trade policy analyst Deborah Elms from the Hinrich Foundation.

China has benefited from sales and more jobs created from its business abroad, but its goods could face "greater scrutiny" from foreign markets that are under pressure to compete with its products, she said.

China's success will likely continue in 2026 as Chinese goods and services become more deeply entrenched into global businesses, said Elms.

These latest figures will be seen in Beijing as a sign that China has customers all around the world, besides the US, but Wang warned that China faces an uncertain external environment.

Why is China spending billions to get people to open their wallets?

China will soon have a new Five Year Plan. Here's how they have changed the world so far

Several countries have raised concerns that their markets are being flooded with low-priced Chinese products they cannot compete with.

Businesses are also bracing for another year of turbulence and tariff tensions from the Trump administration.

In April last year, Trump caused turmoil in the global economy by announcing sweeping tariffs on goods from more than 90 countries. Some of the most severe tariffs were reserved for China, which exports more to the US than any other country.

An escalating war of words between the world's two largest economies saw threats of blanket triple-digit tariffs.

At the time, trade experts saw this as a test of China's reliance on the US market, which Beijing insisted was just one of many places that Chinese businesses could sell to.

Both sides managed to pause hostilities after a meeting between Trump and China's leader Xi Jinping in South Korea in October, avoiding a complete breakdown in trade relations.

Other more moderate tariffs remain in place, which have severely dampened Chinese exports to the US.

'Welcome to 2976' - North Africa's Amazigh people ring in the new year

Wedaeli Chibelushi
BBC News



APP/NurPhoto via Getty Images Three women clap, wearing colourful clothing and jewelryAPP/NurPhoto via Getty Images

Across North Africa, the Amazigh people have been coming together to usher in the year 2976.

They have, unfortunately, not cracked time travel. Rather, they are almost a thousand years ahead of much of the world because they follow a calendar that starts at 950 BC, when King Sheshonq ascended the throne of Egypt.

The Amazigh new year, known as Yennayer, begins between 12 and 14 January - depending on the area in which they live in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya - so over the last few days families have been laying on huge feasts, lighting bonfires and playing traditional music.

Calls of "aseggas ameggaz", or happy new year, have been ringing through villages and busy city streets, while vibrant, meticulously embroidered traditional clothing has been donned for the occasion.



APP/NurPhoto via Getty Images A women with a black, multi-coloured headscarf plays a percussive instrumentAPP/NurPhoto via Getty Images Amazigh culture and language has gained greater recognition over the past decade

The Amazigh (which means "free people" or "noble people") are a range of ethnic groups that are North Africa's original inhabitants, having occupied the region since the beginning of recorded history.

The exact size of the population is not known because of a dearth of official statistics, but according to estimates there are tens of millions of Amazigh people living across North Africa. Algeria and Morocco have the biggest populations - the latter is thought to be 40% Amazigh.

Yennayer centres on family gatherings, celebrating renewal and the deep connection the Amazigh people have traditionally had with nature.



APP/NurPhoto via Getty Images A man in a green tunic plays a guitar-like instrument for an outdoor audienceAPP/NurPhoto via Getty Images These days Yennayer is marked with parades, concerts and carnivals

Because the Amazigh are a diverse group, traditional Yennayer food differs from country to country and area to area. In Morocco's High Atlas region, "ourkemen", a rich mixture of legumes, spices and whole grains, is a new year's favourite.

Many families in Algeria enjoy "trèze", a combination of sweets, dried fruit and nuts, after the main meal. The snack mix is sometimes gently thrown over the youngest child in a symbol of prosperity.

But Yennayer is not just a family thing. It can also be celebrated with the wider community - parades, concerts and carnivals take the new year's spirit out on to the streets.

Such proud displays of Amazigh culture are particularly significant as the community has a long history of being marginalised.

APP/NurPhoto via Getty Images A woman, wearing a



colourful outfit, scoops up couscousAPP/NurPhoto via Getty Images Food, including couscous, is an important aspect of the new year celebrations

In the 7th Century, as Arab conquerors swept across North Africa, they brought with them their language and the Islamic religion.

Both of these were adopted officially, at the expense of Amazigh languages and culture.

For instance, during Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's rule of Libya, the Amazigh language Tamazight was banned in schools and parents were not even allowed to give their children Amazigh names.

However, thanks to the dogged campaigning of Amazigh activists, their culture and language has seen greater recognition over the past decade.

In 2011, Morocco recognised Tamazight as an official language. Both Algeria and Morocco also declared Yennayer a public holiday, in 2017 and 2023 respectively.

So Yennayer marks not just a victory for the Amazigh people, but also a reminder of centuries-long fight that has got the community to where it is now - in 2976.



APP/NurPhoto via Getty Images Two women, wearing face paint and colourful wigs, stand by a masked figure.APP/NurPhoto via Getty Images Yennayer is now a public holiday in Algeria and Morocco

LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDIANANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate,
District “B”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, **Paula Thomas** now residing in **The Abbotts Road** in the village of **West Farm** do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on **12th** day of **January, 2026**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Sandy Point** for a **Beer Licence** in respect of my premises in **Jufa Cuisine** in the **Thomas Street** in **Molineaux Village**.

Dated this
07th day of **January, 2026**.

Signed: **Paula Thomas**

LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDIANANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate,
District “A”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, **Glenfield Rogers** now residing in **Cardin Avenue** in the town of **Basseterre** do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on **12th** day of **January, 2026**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Basseterre** for a **Retail Liqour Licence** in respect of my premises in **One Stop Shop** in **Cardin Avenue** in **Basseterre**.

Dated this
07th day of **January, 2026**.

Signed: **G. Rogers**

LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDIANANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate,
District “A”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, **Light House Holdings (Larkland Richards)** now residing in **Bird Rock** in the town of **Basseterre** do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on **12th** day of **January, 2026**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Basseterre** for a **Liquor Licence** in respect of my premises in **Bird Rock** in **Basseterre**.

Dated this
06th day of **January, 2026**.

Signed: **L. Richards**

LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDIANANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate,
District “A”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, **Javid Warner** now residing in the village of **Middle Island** in **St. Kitts** do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on **12th** day of **January, 2026**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Basseterre** for a **Beer Licence** in respect of my premises in **Ferry Terminal** in the **Bay Road** in **Basseterre**.

Dated this
06th day of **January, 2026**.

Signed: **Javid Warner**

LIQUOR LICENCES
ORDIANANCES, 1906
SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate,
District “A”

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, **Carl Browne** now residing in **Pine Garden, Shadwell** in the town of **Basseterre** do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on **05th** day of **January, 2026**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Basseterre** for a **Liquor Licence** in respect of my premises in **Pine Garden** in **Shadwell** in **Basseterre**.

Dated this
05th day of **January, 2026**.

Signed: **Carl Browne**



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Community Notice

Young men ages 11–21 are invited to the first Turn Around Agenda: Building Men session for 2026, on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. The session will be held at Antioch Baptist Church, Lime Kiln Commercial Development.

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- Professional appearance & positive attitude

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Frigate Bay, St. Kitts
Email: soho.stkitts@gmail.com



TANDOOR CHEF

We are looking for an **Experienced Tandoor Chef** to join our kitchen team

Requirements:

- Minimum 3 years experience as a Tandoor Chef
- Strong knowledge of tandoor cooking techniques
- Ability to work efficiently in a fast-paced kitchen
- Team player with a strong work ethic.

Contact: SOHO Lounge
Frigate Bay, St. Kitts
Email: soho.stkitts@gmail.com



SALES ASSOCIATE - Retail Store

We are looking for an **Experienced Sales Associate** to join our retail team

Requirements:

- Minimum 2 years experience in retail sales
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- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
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Port Zante, St. Kitts
Email: grandsouvenirs@gmail.com



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For more information

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate,
District "A"

To the Superintendent of Police.

WE, Vanroy A. Richardson & Kavanaugh Welsh now residing in #3 Green Acres in the village of Half Way Tree do hereby give you notice that is my intention to apply on day of January, 2027, to the District Magistrate at Basseterre for a Retail Liquor Licence in respect of my premises in #76 Bay Road in Basseterre.

Dated this
12th day of January, 2026.

Signed: K. Welsh

Bangladesh cricketers stage T20 league boycott



Litton Das batting for Bangladesh in a largely red shirt and green helmet, pads and trousers

Image source, Getty Images

Litton Das has been named captain of Bangladesh's squad for the 2026 T20 World Cup

By Mike Peter

BBC Sport journalist

Bangladesh's cricketers have begun a boycott of all forms of cricket in response to comments made by a national cricket board director, which have led to his removal.

Both of Thursday's matches in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) have been postponed, while the national side's participation in February's T20 World Cup is in doubt.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced it has removed M Nazmul Islam from his position as chair of its financial committee after he suggested players should shoulder the financial burden if Bangladesh were to withdraw from the World Cup.

The comments came amid political tensions between Bangladesh and host nation India.

The BCB has formally requested that all Bangladesh's matches are staged elsewhere in order to participate in the tournament.

All of Pakistan's fixtures are to be played in Sri Lanka, with the BCB seeking a similar arrangement.

Asked about the financial implications should Bangladesh be required to withdraw, Islam said: "Why [would there be]? Are we asking them for the crores and crores of taka [Bangladesh's currency] that we are spending on them? Answer me first.

"We are spending so much money on them, they are not being able to do anything in different places. Have we got any international awards? What have we done at any level?

"Let us now ask them for the money back after every time they couldn't play. Give us back. Why should there even be a question of compensating the players?"

One Bangladeshi crore is equivalent to just over £60,000.

Islam's comments drew a swift response from Mohammad Mithun, president of the Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB).

"The remark made by the BCB director has hurt the cricket fraternity greatly and it's not acceptable," Mithun told reporters on Wednesday evening.

"We demand his resignation. If he doesn't resign before tomorrow's match, we will announce a boycott of all cricket, starting from the BPL matches tomorrow."

Neither side arrived for Thursday's match between Chattogram Royals and Noakhali Express, with that fixture and the later match between Rajshahi Warriors and Sylhet Titans confirmed as being postponed.

The BCB, in removing Islam from his position, stated: "Following a review of recent developments and in the best interest of the organisation, the Bangladesh Cricket Board president has decided to release Mr Najmul Islam from his responsibilities as chairman of the finance committee with immediate effect.

Raducanu beaten by world number 204 in Hobart



Emma Raducanu hits a forehand during her Hobart International match against Taylah Preston

Image source, Getty Images

Emma Raducanu will be the 28th seed at the Australian Open

By Amy Lofthouse

BBC Sport Senior Journalist

Emma Raducanu's Australian Open preparations suffered a blow as she was stunned by world number 204 Taylah Preston at the Hobart International.

British number one Raducanu was the top seed at the event - her final one before the first Grand Slam of the year begins on Sunday.

However, she will travel to Melbourne with just one win under her belt after a 6-2 6-4 quarter-final defeat by Australia's Preston.

Raducanu was particularly inconsistent on serve, committing four double faults and holding in only three of her nine service games.

She was twice a break up in both sets, but could not press home her advantage in another rain-affected match.

After going 4-2 down in the opening set, coach Francisco Roig could be heard urging her to "let it rip" and "don't be static".

However, she could not serve to stay in the set, planting a backhand into the net to give her opponent the lead.

Raducanu struggled again at the start of the second set, remarking to Roig that Preston's shots were coming at her "so

fast", but she managed to establish a 3-1 lead.

However, she lost her next three service games in a row as Preston advanced to the semi-finals.

Raducanu's sole title remains her 2021 US Open triumph - and she has not reached a final since then.

Her off-season was disrupted by a foot problem and she showed signs of rust in a loss to Maria Sakkari in her first match of the season.

She rallied to beat Camila Osorio in the first round in Hobart, but will arrive in Melbourne on the back of just three competitive outings.

Raducanu will begin her Australian Open campaign against Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew, with a potential third-round match against world number one Aryna Sabalenka.

Elsewhere, defending Australian Open champion Madison Keys committed almost 50 unforced errors as she lost 6-4 4-6 6-2 loss to rising star Victoria Mboko at the Adelaide International.

Russian third seed Mirra Andreeva thrashed Australia's Maya Joint 6-2 6-0 to set up a meeting with former doubles partner Diana Shnaider, who beat Emma Navarro 6-3 6-3.

"The BCB reiterates that the interests of the cricketers remain its highest priority. The board remains fully committed to upholding the honour and dignity of all players under its jurisdiction."

It said all cricketers should "display the highest standards of professionalism and dedication to the betterment of Bangladesh cricket during what is a challenging period for the game" and called for BPL matches to be played as planned.

Bangladesh's T20 World Cup campaign is scheduled to begin on Saturday, 7 February against West Indies in Kolkata, with a match against England on Saturday, 14 February due to take place at the same venue, Eden Gardens.

The Bangladesh Premier League has six group games left to play, leading into a four-match knockout stage, finishing with a final in Dhaka on Friday, 23 January.