

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

www.thelabourspokesman.com



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

Year 68 NO. 30

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 02nd 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

BEAT 20 OTHERS

STORY ON PAGE 08



J'OUVERT WAS...

STORY ON PAGE 03

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

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Editorial

A New Year, A New You: Let's Step Into 2026 With Purpose and Wellness

There is something magical about the start of a new year. It arrives like a clean slate - fresh, bright, and full of possibility. As we welcome 2026, many of us share one popular resolution: to get in better shape and focus on our health.

It's a universal promise we make to ourselves: This is the year I take better care of me.

And truth be told, it is one of the wisest commitments we can make. Our health is, and will always be, our greatest wealth. It allows us to enjoy life, to pursue goals, to show up for our families, and to thrive in our daily routines. Without it, everything else becomes harder to achieve.

But health is not only about the physical. It is also about the emotional and the mental. Good mental health is the engine that keeps the rest of our well-being in motion. When our minds feel strong, the body follows. When our spirits are lifted, everything else aligns more easily. So as we step into this New Year, let us remember to nourish both -the body and the mind.

This year, let's collectively agree to get up, move, and take better care of ourselves.

Take that morning walk. Hit the gym. Make small, meaningful changes in your diet. Choose activities and hobbies that bring joy, calm, and laughter into your days. Surround yourself with people and spaces that uplift your spirit.

The beauty of a new year is not in the date itself, but in the renewed determination it brings. January is here - the first month, the launch pad, the perfect time to set your intentions. Dust off the vision board, or start a brand new one. Write down your goals. Map

out your wellness plan. And most importantly, put in the work.

Little by little, step by step, these choices add up. Not to perfection but to progress. Not for a moment but for a lifetime.

So here's to a year of movement, motivation, and meaningful change.

Here's to a year where we invest in ourselves with purpose. Here's to stronger bodies, clearer minds, and fuller hearts.

A New Year is here. Let's go!



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.**

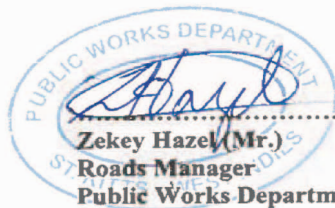
5. Quotations must include the following:

- 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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

Revellers Talk About J'ouvert Jamming

By: Precious Mills

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Tuesday 30th December 2025) - As Sugar Mas 54 came alive with the staging of J'ouvert on Friday 26th December 2025, this media house hit the streets of Basseterre to capture the mood of revellers during and after the yearly morning jam session.

Participants were quizzed about their experience and Road March.

Here is what they had to say this time around.



Carlton (left) of ChatterBox J'ouvert troupe

“It was amazing. It was really good. Because I got to ‘drop it’ in the streets of Basseterre Sebastian. Predictions for Road March-‘Drop It’...ASAP Band. The ChatterBox troupe experience: They got to a late start but they picked up the pace. Suggestions going into the next year, me ain’t want no unsalted noodles. Ah can’t do it; me aint accustomed to unsalted noodles. I prefer the goat water from last year. Last year was a better experience because we got the earlier start, the pre party was a lot better; a lot better organized this year we got a late start but despite everything we still made the most of it, we still came out, we still enjoyed we still participated in Sugar Mas 54... So it’s been sunrise for J’ouvert and then tomorrow Sunset the 27th. Sunset gonna be lit, DJ Tero events. And then see you guys on the road for Ultra on Parade Day and Last Lap. One big bad never ending everlasting true- Ultra!”

Blessing (of Road Runners troupe by Nu Vybes Band) -

“My J’ouvert dis year is lovely; lovely lovely lovely. Is only 10:28 AM and dis the longest I ever jam; de jam clean, de band marshall dem doing dey ting and I enjoying Sugar Band. Sugar Band all de way! For Road March, whether Sugar Band get it or not me ain’t studying de rest band dem...but main know bout anything else because I aint really listening nobody else; everything for me is ‘Homecoming’ by Sugar Band.”



Curtis Crooke - (Sporting his St.Kitts Carnival 78-79 - The best By Test Ellie Matt and the G.I’s Brass bag) -

“I’ve been saving this bag for the longest while. I’ve been around since 1978, 1979 carnival. I was a big time Ellie Matt fan back in the day. I used to follow them. So, I saved the bag and walked with it for today trying to get some signatures with the bag. I got two signatures already; one the Hicks Brothers and one Woosey. This year, as you could see, the J’ouvert keep growing; every year, getting bigger and bigger. I’m impressed with the way how it’s been handled. I hope that we don’t have any violence but it’s wonderful, I love the J’ouvert. For Road March, I can’t remember the name of the song, but it go in the lyrics ‘Dey doan hear’...[Drop It].”



Kristin (left) and Ashley

Kristin-“This is my second.... Love it; it’s just as good as last year. It’s great and. The music is really good; I love them all. I was ready for all the soca songs.” Ashley-“This is my first. It’s really awesome The music is an acquired taste. I went to the soca monarch semi-finals...Favourite song? Of course ‘Drop It’...”

Shanny (right) and Lequasha (of Excess J’ouvert troupe) -“

Yes, so we're in Excess. Started off was great. However, it seems as though it's a continuous issue with the traffic down by the museum. We had to wait there almost an hour before the flow could continue. So it was about minutes to 9am about there that's when we were able to turn up to Fort Street. We started off promptly at about 4:00AM/4:15 AM and so coming down the Bay Road was easy but as we reached by the Treasury, there was a hold up. I saw that they did an alternative route, but it seems like some persons are not following it because they're fearful of losing their revellers going towards Sandown Road area which I agree

(cont’d on next page)

Revellers Talk About J'ouvert Jamming

(cont'd from last page)

with them you know but I think there needs to be a change in the flow of the traffic."

"When the marshals are at the junction, they should try to move that process a little faster to get the trucks out, who came there first at the junction; let them out and so on so forth but it was really good. My prediction for Road March, I would want to say it's either 'Homecoming' or a 'Bedroom Rock' by New Vybes Band International [Sugar Band]."

"This is my first time in Excess. Starting from the beginning; the troupe was



launched early with the costume idea love it; it just pulled me one time and you know they came out with all of the entertainment and everything very early so people would know what to expect. Then package pick up was smooth and quick. Yes there were a lot of revellers but it went through very well; it was a smooth process so even when there was a standstill a bit...It was good still even in the standstill moment because the entertainers, you know, they kept it there even though we were, you know, jammed at Junction, they still brought it through, you know, they still let people stay warm instead of standing there being cold. You know, it's early morning, nobody should be standing still at that time. So yeah, they did their best to try and keep the crowd entertained."

"I think we could give it a chance again. It's not their fault that junction [standstill] happened...So I say I would go again. I like it. I like the whole, you know know from start to this point so I will try it again. Definitely we are going to get largest troupe award. We are the largest troupe! I saw an overview head from one of the guys on the truck just from the back alone we haven't seen the front yet. Oh my goodness it was it was a lot of persons. It was a sight to behold. It was really like picturesque. That's what I'm saying. Yeah, it was really good, honestly."

SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

Calletio Lewis of 9900 Oswald Harris Court Bldg 20 Apt 226, St. Thomas, Estate of Jusan Hendricks (deceased) of #36 New Road Housing Project, Niyellia Hazel, of Main Street, Challengers, Berriscia Isaac of 153 Pine Garden Housing Dev., St. Peter's, St. Kitts being Beneficiaries, having made sworn deposition that Policy No. K100305757 issued by British American Insurance Company and assumed by Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc. on the life of Raphael Hendricks (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: **15th December, 2025.**

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagicor Life (Eastern Caribbe-

IN THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP. 10.19
A. D. 2025

SKBLRD2025/00

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 B3
Folio 147 in the name of **KATE
WOODLEY.**

NOTICE FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

It is hereby notified that a Certificate of Title dated the 25th day of April 2002, and registered in the Register of Titles in **Register Book B3 Folio 147** of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of **Kate Woodley** of St. Paul's, Saint Kitts but presently residing at 3265 Bain Bridge Avenue, Bronx, New York is Registered Proprietor of: all that lot piece or parcel of land together with the building thereon described as Lot No. 6 Golfview Estates Development bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say, On or towards the North by Frigate Bay Estate, 34.42 feet, On or towards the East by Lot No. 5, 75.00 feet; On or towards the South by a road, 34.39 feet and On or towards the West by Lot No. 7, 75.00 feet and containing by admeasurement 2408.24 square feet all as the same are delineated and set forth on the plan thereof by James R. Buchanan, 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 15th day of December, 2025

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



Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0156



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

Submitted Date:29/12/2025 09:39

Filed Date:29/12/2025 09:41

Fees Paid:2.00

SKBHPB2025/

In the matter of the Application of **PHOEBAN JUDITH NICHOLLS NEE CAINES** for the issue of a Grant of Probate in the Estate of **BENJAMIN CAINES** of North Pelican Drive, Bird Rock, in the Island of Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) deceased

And

In the Matter of Rule 13 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **PHOEBAN JUDITH NICHOLLS NEE CAINES** of North Pelican Drive, Bird Rock, St. Kitts, for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named who died on the 21st day of April 2024 without revoking a will bearing the date of 8th August 2014 wherein the applicant is named the Executrix.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2025.

Filed by Johnathan Rattan of **HOBSON-NEWMAN & AMRITT**, Attorneys-at Law whose address for service is: **Unit A5-1, Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts**

FIRST PUBLICATION



Prime Minister Drew highlighted the value of training within the SKNDF

PM Drew Announces Major Training And Capacity Building Push For SKNDF In 2026

Basseterre, Saint Kitts, December 24, 2025 (SKNIS): The year 2026 will be marked by a significant increase in training for all ranks of the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force (SKNDF). Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, shared plans to enhance the military organisation on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at the Annual SKNDF Christmas Luncheon held at the CUNA Conference Room.

Dr. Drew explained that the Regional Security System (RSS) was engaged to



2LT Crosse receives his Commission Instrument from PM Drew

conduct an assessment of the SKNDF capabilities. Their findings noted the commitment and potential of the men and women in the organisation, but identified that there were gaps in specialised areas that must be addressed.

"Modern security challenges demand professionalism, technical competence, and strong leadership at every level," the prime minister stated. "A well-disciplined Force must also be a well-trained Force."

In addition to developing local strategies, Prime Minister Drew engaged both the President and the Prime Minister of Guyana to enhance relations with the Guyana Defence Force (GDF). The longstanding ties, which date back to the formation of the SKNDF, are set to be deepened through a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at expanding opportunities for advanced training, leadership development and operational cooperation.

"This partnership will help to equip our Defence Force with skills aligned with regional and international best practices," Honourable Drew stated. He added that the government is also investing in the infrastructure of the Force, renovating buildings, upgrading the motor pool, and expanding medical capabilities.

"To each officer ... and soldier present, I say this clearly, your service matters. Discipline matters, your readiness matters," said Dr. Drew. "The nation sees your value and values you, and is committed to supporting you, as you carry out your solemn duty as soldiers and defenders of your homeland."

The minister of national security extended best wishes for the Christmas and Carnival Season to the members of the Infantry, Coast Guard Unit, Reserves, Band Members, Cadet Corps, and SKNDF Recruits in attendance.

After giving remarks, Prime Minister Drew participated in the Issuance of a Commissioned Instrument to Second Lieutenant Lakeem Crosse. He also congratulated Private Dion Burke for being named Soldier of the Year and Shaquille Fredericks, Sailor of the Year. Dr. Drew carved the Christmas Turkey and served it to members in attendance.



Case Number :SKBHPB2025/0152

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS
ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT
(PROBATE)

In the Estate of VALENTINA GREAUX
late of 914 Regency Lakes Drive, Apt. No.
201, Brandon, Florida 33511, in the United
States of America, deceased.

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **TREVOR GREAUX** of Irish Town, Bay Road, in the Parish of St. George, in the Island of St. Christopher, for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above-named deceased **VALENTINA GREAUX** who died on the 31st day of May, 2020 without revoking a will bearing the date of the 10th day of November, 2006 wherein the Applicant is named Sole Executor.

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 the 22nd day of December 2025.

M. Elizabeth A. Kelsick, Partner
KELSICK, WILKIN & FERDINAND
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

Filed by: KELSICK, WILKIN & FERDINAND, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicants, whose address for service is Fred Kelsick Building, Independence Square South, Basseterre, St. Kitts. Tel: +1.869.465.2645; Fax: +1.869.466.7808; Email: Law@kwfonline.com



Submitted Date:23/12/2025 15:20

Filed Date:23/12/2025 15:20

Fees Paid:12.00



NIA CHARLESTOWN, NEVIS (December 27, 2025) -

Op-ed by Hon. Mark Brantley: Does St. Kitts and Nevis hold the key to regional stability?

The Bible tells us at Isaiah 11:6 that “a little child shall lead them”. This simple yet profound statement inspires hope and suggests that a fresh perspective can lead to better outcomes. I

use this passage of Holy Writ to underscore that St. Kitts and Nevis is the smallest Nation in the Caribbean. Despite its size however, it has by coincidence of rotation assumed the chair of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at its 28th meeting held in May 2025 and shall on January 1st, 2026 assume the Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It means therefore that the smallest nation in the Caribbean will lead both COFCOR and CARICOM at the most tumultuous time that the region has seen in decades.

It is no secret that the Caribbean finds itself at an inflection point. Geographically, we are the third border to the great United States of America. Philosophically, we have long trumpeted our region as a Zone of Peace. Diplomatically, we have since the Cold War and beyond been forced to navigate an increasingly hostile global environment which gives no quarter to small island States.

Nature teaches us in many respects that the small and vulnerable increase their chances of survival by unifying and acting as one. This in my view was and continues to be the genius of CARICOM. Those founding fathers who set this region upon a path to greater unity of purpose recognized that we must as minnows navigate a

global ocean of sharks. They recognized that to do so, we must act with unison of purpose and conviction. We must speak and act with one voice and resist the temptation to engage alone.

As I write, the United States has amassed an armada in the south Caribbean Sea. The stated reason is to fight drug trafficking emanating from Venezuela. Others see it as having the deeper purpose of regime change in Venezuela. Venezuela of course is of global significance because of the vast oil deposits on which it sits. The US has amassed this significant military force with the open assistance of our Caribbean sister Trinidad and Tobago, a founding member of CARICOM. Our other sister Grenada has been asked to have radar installations on its territory. It appears that these engagements have been entirely bilateral with little regard for CARICOM or a regional position. Claims of sovereignty and putting national interests first have resulted in regional leaders shouting at each other across the Caribbean Sea. CARICOM, we are now being told, is dysfunctional and an unreliable partner. Our much touted Zone of Peace is now at the brink of war.

It is at this inflection point for our Caribbean civilization that St. Kitts and Nevis assumes the mantle of regional leadership. What then must we do? We cannot merely sit on the sidelines and wring our hands in frustration. We must act and act together. We must hold dear the inalienable truth that the Caribbean civilization cannot afford the luxury of disunity.

Under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, coordination of foreign policy is a key objective of CARICOM. Article 6 speaks to the “enhanced coordination of Member States’ foreign and foreign economic policies.” That coordination is left to COFCOR to navigate. I therefore posit the following points for consideration:

- * Individual members of CARICOM should subordinate their national interests in engaging on the issue of Venezuela to the strategic regional interest of CARICOM as a whole. The Caribbean should engage with third party States en bloc through CARICOM consistent with Article 6 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

- * The region should hold fast to the position that we are a Zone of Peace and resist becoming another theatre for global conflict and its attendant human suffering

- * Caribbean leaders must show restraint in publicly attacking each other. As one Caribbean family, let us resist the base temptation to air dirty laundry publicly. Our external posture must always be one of unity.

- * We must deploy the elder statesmen of the Region (like former Prime Minister of Jamaica PJ Patterson, former Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. Ralph Gonsalves and former Prime Minister of St. Lucia Dr. Kenny Anthony) to act as CARICOM emissaries to Venezuela to negotiate a peaceful resolution to existing tensions within Venezuela

- * CARICOM should leverage relationships with Latin America including those through the 35 member Organization of American States (OAS) currently led by a distinguished son of CARICOM and the 33 member Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to seek a wider regional consensus on Venezuela and our region as a Zone of Peace.

- * CARICOM envoys to Venezuela should be guided by the Montevideo Mechanism. This framework was proposed in Montevideo, Uruguay on 6th February 2019 by the governments of Mexico, Uruguay and CARICOM and envisions a four phase process designed to help facilitate a peaceful, negotiated solution to Venezuela’s political crisis.

- * CARICOM should engage simultaneously with the United States on de-escalating tensions in the region and should invite the United Nations, the European Union and Canada to assist in the de-escalation. The United States wishes assurances of its national security and what better way to secure the United States than to have reliable friends and a Zone of Peace as its 3rd border?

- * The 50th Regular Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government scheduled for 25-27th February, 2026 in Basseterre, St. Kitts should be convened earlier given the gravity and urgency of the situation in the south Caribbean Sea.

Given the current military build-up in the Caribbean, time is of the absolute essence. Our region is at the brink and peace demands committed and steadfast diplomacy. I wish the leadership of St. Kitts and Nevis every success at this most difficult time. This period in the history of our Caribbean civilization will define not only St. Kitts and Nevis’ capacity for leadership but will also define leadership in our wider Caribbean region.

**Honourable Mark Brantley,
Premier of Nevis
Leader of the Opposition, St. Kitts and Nevis**

St. Kitts and Nevis Welcomes Nigerian Technical Aid Corps Professionals, Strengthening Africa–Caribbean Cooperation Through Action

Basseterre, St. Kitts, December 29, 2025 (PMO) — The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis today, Dec 29th, formally welcomed a new cohort of professionals from the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps (NTAC), marking a significant milestone in the deepening of Africa–Caribbean relations through practical, people-centered cooperation in healthcare and education.

Delivering remarks at the official welcome ceremony, Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew described the initiative as a clear demonstration of purposeful partnership, moving beyond symbolism to tangible outcomes that benefit citizens directly.

“Words are cheap. Action speaks louder than words,” the Prime Minister said, underscoring that the presence of the NTAC professionals in the Federation reflects a deliberate commitment to results-driven collaboration between Africa and the Caribbean.

The professionals, who will reside



Prime Minister and Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew

and work in St. Kitts and Nevis for the next two years, will support national efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery and education services, bringing deep experience, leadership, and technical expertise to key institutions.

Prime Minister Drew placed the partnership within the broader historical and cultural bonds that unite Africa and the Caribbean, noting that the regions share not

only ancestry, but also a common legacy of liberation, resilience, and self-determination.

He also highlighted the lasting impact of previous Nigerian professionals who served in St. Kitts and Nevis, particularly in the health sector, noting that their contributions significantly elevated standards of care and earned enduring respect across the Federation. The engagement with the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps aligns with the Government's broader foreign policy direction, which prioritizes meaningful partnerships with Africa and other developing regions, grounded in shared heritage and mutual benefit.

Prime Minister Drew expressed confidence that the collaboration will strengthen local capacity in healthcare and education, while also serving as a visible example of how cooperation between Africa and the Caribbean can address development challenges through unity and shared purpose.

“May your time among us be one of success and impact, and may it demonstrate, on the world stage, that Africa and the Caribbean can work together to build our own future,” the Prime Minister concluded.

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis welcomes the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps professionals and looks forward to the positive and lasting contributions they will make to the Federation.



Government Officials with NTAC professionals

Nu Vybes Band Beats 20 Other Songs To Capture Road March Title

By: Precious Mills

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (Monday 29th December 2025) - The Nu Vybes Band International, also known as De Sugar Band, beat twenty other registered contenders to capture the Road March title for Sugar Mas 54 with their patriotic tune ‘Home Coming’, following the festive J’ouvert celebrations held on Friday 26th December 2025.

‘Home Coming’ was one of four songs registered by the band for the Road March competition which saw a total of 24-contenders playlist.

The song opens with lyrics that directly appeal to nationals living abroad, asking: "When last you come home on a vacation? When last you been home for de carnival? When last you come join in de bacchanal? When last have you, when last have you? When last you go fete til de morning come? When last you go fete til you see de sun? When last you jump up in de capital? When last?...It's been a long time coming. Dis is you homecoming. If you coming home for carnival sing: No place like, no place like, no place place like... home...especially when we got carnival...."

The band’s victory marks a milestone as it is their first Road March win since 2005, when they claimed the title with the song ‘Ting Lang’.

The meaning behind the winning song was explained earlier during the band’s EP album launch aired live on ZIZ Radio on Saturday 15th November 2025.

Commenting on the track, lead vocalist Gregory ‘Mention’ Hobson said: “Well it’s just all about encouraging locals that haven’t been home for a while to come home and experience what they haven’t basically experienced in a long time which is Carnival, now Sugar Mas. As you know we have the saying 'I am carnival' but you are carnival too as revellers. So in order to impact the mas, we need people to come and take part in the mas not just who here on de ground...we need you to come back home and make Sugar Mas as great as it can be in terms of participation...numbers don’t lie."

Meanwhile, Carnival Chairperson Shannon Hawley shared the official street activity results for J’ouvert later that evening, including clarification on the Road March outcome and the tie-break process used by the judges.

Road March second runner-up was Grand Masters Band with ‘Rock Steady’, scoring 256.85 points.

Hawley explained that a tie-break policy was necessary in determining the final placements:

"There was a tie, and the tie break policy was implemented, and the tie break policy for National Carnival that was executed by all of the bands and artistes

basically states that once there’s a tie, the aggregate system is used where all of the points are added up together and the band with the highest points wins.... And at that point, there was a tie again and as such, the judges had to make a decision. Basically they all had to come together and write down who they all thought should win."

She further addressed public commentary surrounding the criteria:

"The road march policy and the criteria is nothing that we came up with. It was something that the bands came together and thought it was the best way to implement this road march. It was not the National Carnival Committee solely who implemented this criteria. I see people online [asking] saying what kind of criteria is this etc....the bands came together and made a decision on how the criteria should look like which included a performance segment to the criteria. So it is not necessarily road march about the most popular song or the song that you hear the most prior to today but it is about sticking to the criteria and the policy."

Kollision Band, the 2024 Road March winner, placed first runner-up with ‘T.M.I’, scoring 259.5 points. With the tie-break policy applied, the judges declared Nu Vybes Band International the winner of the 2025 Road March competition with ‘Home Coming’, also scoring 259.5 points.

Other J’ouvert Results:

SMALL J’OUVERT TROUPES

Grand Masters GM Addix -Bounce Around (145 points)

Kollision Band - Life in Colors (139 points)

Xtreme Nation - Ink & Dutty (120 points)

LARGE J’OUVERT TROUPES

Excess J’ouvert - Roadwork (150 points)

Nu Vybes Band International — Road Runners (130 points)

Red Devils - Jab Jab (124 points)

Other Road March competitors included: Barry C (‘18 & Over’), RawSkullBadNF (‘I Want You’), Ras Kelly (‘Hidden Camera’), Small Axe Band International (‘Level Up’, ‘Wuk Fast’, ‘Freak Mode’, ‘Party Mix’), Mulley Media (‘Pay Me’), Luck Boss (‘Rocking Chair’), T-Bone (‘Want Riddim’), Upset Squad (‘Clowns’), Kollision Band (‘Uno’, ‘Ignite’, ‘T.M.I’), ASAP (‘Drop It’- featuring Brandon, ‘Life in the Tropics’-Featuring Brandon and Charnelle), Grand Masters Band (‘Bing Bong’, ‘One For de Road’, ‘Rock Steady’), Nu Vybes Band (‘Home Coming’, ‘Bumper Sticker’, ‘Bedroom Rock’, ‘Turn Up Again’), and Xcess Band (‘Rule Session’ featuring Jazzha).

Front Page Photo: The Nu Vybes Band International, also known as De Sugar Band, seen jamming with revellers, including members of their Road Runners troupe, during J’ouvert Morning on Friday 26th December 2025 at The Circus in Basseterre. (Spokesman Snap)



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Mali and Burkina Faso impose travel ban on US citizens in tit-for-tat move

Wycliffe Muia
BBC News



Tribune News Service via Getty Images A person is seen with a US passport. Part of it is in a bag. Tribune News Service via Getty Images
The US has tightened immigration controls since President Donald Trump took office in January

Mali and Burkina Faso say they will bar US citizens from entering their countries in response to a similar move by the Trump administration. The two West African states were recently placed under full entry restrictions

Mexico train crash kills 13 and injures almost 100

Harry Sekulich
BBC News

At least 13 people died and almost 100 were injured in a train derailment in Mexico's south-eastern Oaxaca region, the Mexican navy said. The train, which was travelling between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, was carrying 241 passengers and nine crew members. A total of 98 were injured, of whom 36 were being treated in hospital, the navy said. The train derailed as it rounded a bend near the town of Nizanda, officials said. Mexico's Attorney General confirmed an investigation was under way. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said five of those injured were in a serious condition. She said top level officials, including the secretary of the navy, were travelling to the site of the crash.

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under US President Donald Trump's expanded travel ban. In separate statements, they said they would apply the same measures on US nationals. Burkina Faso's foreign affairs minister Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré said his government was acting on the "principle of reciprocity", while Mali's foreign ministry called for "mutual respect and sovereign equality". The latter said it regretted the US's move, adding that "such an important decision was made without any prior consultation". Mali and Burkina Faso's decision comes days after neighbouring Niger announced a similar travel ban on US citizens. The three states are ruled by military juntas which seized power in coups. They have formed their own regional bloc, and have pivoted towards Russia after relations with other West African

states and Western powers became strained. Earlier this month, the White House said that full-entry restrictions would be imposed on people from the three countries, as well as South Sudan, Syria and Palestinian Authority passport holders. The decision would come into effect on 1 January, and was intended to "protect the security" of the US, it said. The administration also moved Laos and Sierra Leone, which were previously subject to partial restrictions, to the full ban list, and put partial restrictions on 15 other countries, including Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The White House said the restrictions would remain in place until affected countries show "credible improvements" in identity management, information-sharing and cooperation with US immigration authorities. A number of exceptions apply and the ban will not affect lawful permanent residents, many existing visa holders, diplomats, or athletes travelling for major sporting events. Officials said case-by-case waivers would also be available where travel is deemed to be in the national interest.



Photos from the site of the crash showed rescue workers helping passengers alight the train, which had fallen off the rail tracks and partly tilted over the side of a cliff. The Interoceanic train, which connects the Pacific port of Salina Cruz with Coatzacoalcas on the Gulf Coast, had two locomotives and four passenger cars, the navy said. Mexico's navy operates the country's railway network.



A map showing Nizanda in southern Mexico

The governor of Oaxaca, Salomón Jara Cruz, expressed "deep regret" over the accident in a statement and said state authorities were coordinating with federal agencies to assist those affected. The Interoceanic rail link was inaugurated two years ago to boost the region's economy, an initiative spearheaded by former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Designed to modernise the rail link across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the Mexican government has sought to develop the area into a strategic trade corridor, expanding ports, railways and industrial infrastructure.

CDB's Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund Launches USD190,000 in Grant Funding to Support Regional Industry Events and Conferences

December 31, 2025



The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB, the Bank), through its Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIIF), has announced a grant opportunity valued at USD190,000 to support the hosting of regional events and conferences that advance the growth and competitiveness of the Caribbean's Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs). Applications close on January 31, 2026.

This call seeks proposals for events and conferences scheduled between March

1, 2026 and February 28, 2027 that address key development priorities for CCIs. Eligible activities should focus on facilitating policy dialogue to strengthen the enabling environment for CCIs; building capacity for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to improve competitiveness; enhancing sector data and market intelligence; promoting marketplace and trade activities; or preserving cultural heritage.

In announcing the initiative, Fund Coordinator Malene Joseph stated that "CDB, through this grant call, aims to support home-grown activities that help unlock pathways for our creative Caribbean talent and businesses to become even more empowered. Beyond facilitating necessary policy dialogue and building data-driven insights CIIF is further enabling creative MSMEs by offering financial support to these targeted events."

Six grants will be awarded with a total grant allocation of USD190,000 across three streams. Two grants of USD25,000 will fund initiatives targeting improving the enabling environment for industries in culture. While two grants of USD20,000 will support data intelligence themed activities and the final two grants of USD50,000 will finance MSME market preparation and market access activities. Applicants must be formally registered entities, this includes Business Support Organisations (BSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), universities, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), or government agencies serving the Creative Industries sector. Entities must have at least three years' experience hosting industry events and provide co-financing of at least 10% of the total project budget. Interested entities can submit applications via <https://cdb.submittable.com/submit>. CIIF will also host a virtual consultation on January 14, 2026 to guide potential applicants.

Established in 2017, CIIF enables the region's cultural and creative industries to become globally competitive by fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainability. The fund delivers technical and grant support to stakeholders across the Bank's 19 Borrowing Member Countries.

McIlroy named BBC NI Sports Personality of the Year



Stephen Watson presents the BBC NI Sports Personality of the Year award to Rory McIlroy

Rory McIlroy wins the BBC NI award after becoming the first golfer since Sir Nick Faldo in 1989 to claim the UK-wide award last week

Published BBC Sport

Rory McIlroy has been named the 2025 BBC Northern Ireland Sports Personality of the Year.

McIlroy made history in April by becoming only the sixth golfer - and the first European - to complete a career Grand Slam of all four men's majors when he

won the Masters at Augusta National.

The 36-year-old - who was also voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year for the first time on Thursday - beat Justin Rose in a dramatic play-off to claim the famous green jacket and his first major win since 2014.

At the Ryder Cup, McIlroy shrugged off a hostile crowd at Bethpage Black in New York to contribute three-and-a-half points as Europe won in the United States for the first time since 2012.

Further wins came at the Players Championship, the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and the Irish Open, before he topped off a stellar year with his seventh Race to Dubai title.

McIlroy picked up the BBC NI award for the fourth time ahead of World Athletics Championship silver medallist Kate O'Connor and Liverpool and Northern Ireland footballer Conor Bradley.

"The support I get from home is incredible"

Reflecting on his successful year, McIlroy remembers with particular affection the reception he received at the Open Championship at Royal Portrush in July, where he finished in a tie for seventh.

"I'll never forget the reception I got at Portrush this year, even though I didn't win The Open," he said.

"The support I get from back home is absolutely incredible, so I'd like to say thank you to everyone in Northern Ireland for supporting me and believing in me and being on this journey with me.

"It feels like everyone has watched me grow up, experienced the highs and lows with me.

"Home's home, it always will be, it's the place that forged me. I go home and it's always the place that I feel the most comfortable in.

"I don't get home as often as I'd like but I feel that I bring Northern Ireland with me wherever I go, but when I do get home there's just that sense of belonging that I don't get anywhere else."

The judging panel for the award consisted of All-Ireland Senior Football Championship winner Oisín McConville, four-time Paralympic champion Michael McKillop, Northern Ireland women's football record cap holder Julie Nelson, Ireland hockey's record cap holder Shirley McCay, BBC Sport NI executive editor Neil Brittain and BBC Sport NI reporter Thomas Kane.

Happy New Year 2026



ILO leads critical dialogue at 22nd CCL Triennial Delegates Conference

The ILO played a key role at the CCL 22nd Triennial Delegates Conference, offering evidence-based insights and technical guidance to advance workers' rights, strengthen regional solidarity, and shape Caribbean labour priorities beyond 2026.

Valsayn, Trinidad and Tobago (ILO News) – The Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) convened its 22nd Triennial Delegates Conference from 2- 5 December 2025, under the theme “One Caribbean, One Voice: Advancing Workers’ Rights through Governance and Solidarity.” The International Labour Organization (ILO) played a central role on the first two days at Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies, providing technical expertise, evidence-based insights, and guidance in thematic discussions that aimed to help shape regional priorities of the labour movement for 2026 and beyond.

Dr. Joni Musabayana, Director of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, delivered solidarity greetings via video during the opening ceremony. He emphasized the power of unity, strong governance systems, and social dialogue in advancing workers’ rights across the region. He urged participants, “as our Caribbean countries pursue national development and regional integration goals, from labour mobility to climate resilience to digital transformation, the labour movement must not be absent. The CCL must be present, visible, and influential. Not on the sidelines but driving momentum.” Dr. Musabayana also reaffirmed the ILO’s commitment to supporting Caribbean workers, governments, and employers as they navigate a rapidly evolving labour landscape.

Following this opening, Abdelmalik Jamae Muhummed, Employment and Labour Market Specialist at the ILO Caribbean Office, provided a detailed presentation titled “The Caribbean Labour Market in Transition: Regional Trends and Priorities for 2026 and Beyond.” His analysis highlighted challenges such as persistent informality, limited job creation, slow growth in green and digital sectors, and high youth unemployment. The data revealed that CARICOM countries (excluding Haiti) recorded an average annual labour productivity growth of only 0.6 percent from 2005 to 2023, well below the global average. This evidence laid a crucial foundation for delegates to advocate for policies that bridge generational divides and accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Building on labour market analyses, the dialogue shifted to labour migration and mobility, where experts including Dr. Saadiqa Khan and ILO Labour migration Focal Point Resel Melville explored the need for fair and equitable labour migration systems. The discussion spanned ongoing support for the development of CARICOM regional migration and labour migration policy frameworks, fair recruitment practices, strengthened governance, and regionally aligned protections ensuring that Caribbean workers pursue opportunities safely and with dignity. This panel included union leaders who explored frameworks that balance economic mobility with the need for robust worker protections.

The conversation then turned to the future of trade unions, with Rafael Peels from ILO ACTRAV sharing global insights on union renewal, innovation, and capacity building in response to changing work environments. Vera Guseva of the ILO Caribbean Office facilitated reflections on regional collaboration and the evolving roles of worker organizations, later emphasizing the critical role that workers play in climate-responsive policies as part of a fair, green, and inclusive transition.

Highlighting the intersection of climate action and labour, Marissa Sheppard, National Project Coordinator for Jamaica’s Just Transition initiative, presented outcomes from subregional workshops. She emphasized frameworks linking climate initiatives with decent job creation, pointing to the complementary roles of unions and employers in advancing a green economy and embedding climate justice within policy frameworks.

The conference’s second day featured an overall discussion and ILO presentation on global and regional frameworks where a panel on Regional Labour Governance and Social Dialogue reviewed recent high-level meetings, including the Caribbean Ministers of Labour Meeting and the 20th ILO Americas Regional Meeting. Participants were also informed of the various approaches in ILO support to countries, which also delved into the roles for trade unions in tripartite cooperation across the Caribbean. ILO’s technical support enhanced national labour administration systems and helped set regional industrial relations priorities for 2026 and beyond, pointing toward resilient and adaptive labour markets.

María Rodríguez Flores, an ILO Consultant, contributed evidence-based research on Non-Standard Forms of Employment (NSFE), highlighting employment patterns, social protection gaps, and future work challenges. Her insights stressed the necessity of data-driven policy to drive national reform and bolster regional cooperation.

Throughout the conference, the ILO anchored discussions in rigorous evidence and the principles of decent work, underscoring the urgency for coordinated regional action. By linking labour migration, union transformation, green transitions, and labour governance into a cohesive agenda, the ILO contributed to the partners development of a unified and resilient labour future. The event concluded with an integrative roundtable that synthesized key insights and recommendations, committing delegates to advancing workers’ rights, deepening regional solidarity, and building an inclusive, just Caribbean future of work.

A shared path forward

The International Labour Organization also extends its sincere congratulations to the newly elected leadership of the Caribbean Congress of Labour. We commend President Dwaine Paul, 1st Vice President Tami Ray, 2nd Vice President Kimberly Agard, 3rd Vice President Kem Riley, General Secretary Michael Annisette, Assistant General Secretary M. Andre Lewis, and Youth Representative Kim Dean on their election. This leadership team brings a wealth of experience, renewed energy, and a strong commitment to advancing workers’ rights, social dialogue, and decent work across the Caribbean. The ILO looks forward to continued collaboration with the CCL under this new leadership, as together we strengthen tripartism and promote inclusive, resilient labour markets throughout the region.

**Happy
New Year!**

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How South Africa conquered Test cricket in 2025



South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, draped in a flag, holds up one finger as he celebrates winning the World Test Championship final

Image source, Getty Images

Temba Bavuma averages 53 in 12 Tests as South Africa captain

By Daniel Gallan

Cricket writer

Published BBC Sport

From a certain vantage point, the health of Test cricket in South Africa appears terminal.

For the first time since sporting isolation during apartheid, there will be no red-ball action in the country this summer. Instead, fans must make do watching Indian-owned T20 franchises compete in the SA20.

The next time the Proteas take the field in whites on home soil will be October 2026, 21 months after hosting Pakistan in January this year.

And yet the Test team itself has rarely looked in better shape, with 2025 proving a watershed year.

Ryan Rickelton registered his country's first double century for nine years as Pakistan were swept 2-0. In June, a sublime fourth-innings 136 from Aiden Markram, allied to a nine-wicket match haul from Kagiso Rabada, carried South Africa to a five-wicket victory over Australia in the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord's.

And with the choker's tag finally dislodged, and momentum behind them, South Africa are on track to qualify for another WTC final.

Wiaan Mulder threatened Brian Lara's record for the highest Test score when he declared himself on 367 against Zimbabwe in July. In October, Keshav Maharaj bagged a seven-for in Rawalpindi to square the series with Pakistan.

A month later, Simon Harmer claimed 17 wickets in two Tests as South Africa beat India 2-0 in their own backyard, becoming the first South African team to win away in India since 2000.

"It's been a remarkable period for us," says Sunuran Muthusamy, the spin-bowling all-rounder who scored his maiden century in the 408-run win in the second Test against India.

"We're straight into the SA20 so it's hard to really take stock. But in the small moments when we've had a chance to reflect, we know that we've found a great formula. It feels like things are really clicking."

How a 'winning machine' was built

The year began with uncertainty but also hope.

In the afterglow of a nerve-jangling two-wicket win against Pakistan in the 2024 Boxing Day Test - a result that secured South Africa's place in the WTC final - there was a sense the group had reached a crossroads.

In a year when Test cricket could no longer rely on tradition or goodwill, only sustained success would keep it visible, relevant and valued.

"We needed to become a winning machine," explains the team's bullish coach, Shukri Conrad, who inherited a side in disarray after Mark Boucher resigned from the role in late 2022.

"With so few opportunities to play, and with the margin for error so small, we had to start playing to our potential."



Marco Jansen holds the ball aloft after taking a five-wicket haul

Image source, Getty Images

Marco Jansen is ranked second in the world all-rounder rankings, behind India's Ravindra Jadeja. Coming into his prime years, he averages 21 with the ball and 23 with the bat. He is also an accomplished fielder, regarded as one of the best catchers in the world.

That has been realised most clearly in the balance of the side. South Africa have long relied on fast bowlers of rare quality, but this attack has evolved beyond brute force.

Rabada, a generational talent, remains the spearhead and is now complemented by a depth of skill and variety that allows the Proteas to compete in all conditions.

Maharaj and Harmer offer control and a wicket-taking threat, while Marco Jansen - the two-metre-tall left-armer who can swing it both ways at pace - provides genuine X-factor.

Most striking, however, has been the transformation of the batting.

Between January 2020 and February 2023, South African batters recorded just six Test centuries, better only than Zimbabwe and Afghanistan. England scored 38 in the same period.

Since that lean spell, South Africans have crossed three figures on 23 occasions and are now averaging more than one hundred per Test. This year alone there have been 10 hundreds, including three first-time centurions, one first-time double centurion, and Mulder's record-breaking knock.

Perhaps most pleasing of all has been the volume of contributions down the order. South Africa's lower order - from seven down - has averaged 29.51 this year, comfortably the best among Test sides. England and Ireland are the only other teams averaging above 20.

"We all share the responsibility and take pride in what we do," adds Muthusamy, whose 109 in Guwahati came from number seven and included a 97-run stand with Jansen. "We're never beaten. That's the message the leadership group has given us."

That resilience was most evident in the WTC final. At the close of day one, South Africa were 43-4, 169 runs behind Australia.

At lunch on day three, they were set 282 to win, the second-highest successful chase at Lord's. On both occasions, they clawed their way back in a historic victory that rewrote a long-standing narrative of teams rich in talent but brittle under pressure.

Along the way, Temba Bavuma, who averaged 51.66 this year, became the first captain to win 11 Tests before tasting defeat.

'Commercial priorities threaten Test team's future'

Attention now turns to a bumper 2026.

After three matches against Australia - their first in South Africa since the 2018 sandpapergate scandal - and a two-Test shootout with Bangladesh, England arrive for three matches over the festive season.

Two series wins should be enough to book another place in the WTC final.

That prospect sharpens the contradiction at the heart of South African Test cricket.

On the field, a side has emerged that is durable, balanced and increasingly ruthless.

Off it, the format remains squeezed by commercial priorities and uneven governance. In the absence of political will, the burden of preservation has fallen to the players themselves.

For now, they are meeting it. Whether excellence alone can continue to prop up a game afforded so little space remains the unanswered question.

Beyoncé declared a billionaire by Forbes

Pritti Mistry Business reporter



EPA-EFE/REX/ Shutterstock Beyonce has long blonde hair and a strapless gold and black spotted dress

Beyoncé has been declared a billionaire by Forbes, making her the fifth musician to join its list of the world's wealthiest people.

The American star has joined an elite group of musicians with 10-figure fortunes, Forbes reports, including Taylor Swift, Rihanna, Bruce Springsteen and her husband Jay-Z, who the business magazine lists as having a net worth of \$2.5bn (£1.85bn).

Earlier this month, Forbes estimated Beyoncé's net worth of \$800m (£593m) and predicted she would cross the billionaire threshold for the first time following years of success.

Her 2023 Renaissance World Tour grossed nearly \$600m, making her one of the biggest pop music icons in the world alongside Taylor Swift.

Beyoncé produced a film of the concert performance, which was her first solo tour in seven years, and distributed it directly via a deal with the AMC theater chain, which saw her pocketing nearly half of the film's \$44m (£33m) global box office gross.

Her 2024 album Cowboy Carter, which celebrates and contextualises the black roots of country music, was met with critical acclaim and won album of the year at the Grammy Awards - the first time Beyoncé had won the prestigious award, despite being nominated four times.

Forbes estimates the Cowboy Carter tour - which included guest appearances from Jay-Z, two of their three

children and former Destiny's Child bandmates - racked up a total of more than \$400m in ticket sales and another \$50m in merchandise sold at the shows.

While the tour broke ticket records at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London and Stade De France in Paris, it was beset with slow ticket sales with promoters slashing some prices in a bid to fill seats.

However, it was the highest top-priced ticket of any artist visiting the UK in 2025 at £950, with the cheapest costing £71.

A special halftime show for Netflix's first Christmas Day NFL game amassed an estimated \$50m, on top of \$10m for a string of Levi's commercials, Forbes said.

Bloomberg, which runs its own billionaire index, included Selena Gomez among its list of musicians - with a reported net worth of \$1.3bn (£962m) in 2024.

But Forbes has disputed this figure, instead estimating Gomez to be worth \$700m (£518m).



LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District "A"

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Flavor Bar & Snackette (R. Donovan) now residing in Industrial Site 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 OD Brisbane in CAP Industrial Site in St. Kitts

Dated this 31st day of December, 2025.

Signed: R. Donovan

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District "A"

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, Brian Maynard now residing in Buckley's Housing Development 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 Cayon Street in Basseterre in St. Kitts

Dated this 29th day of August, 2025.

Signed: Brian Maynard

Email: info@sknunion.com
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Archer named in England T20 World Cup squad



Jofra Archer smiles and points with his right hand
Image source, Getty Images
Jofra Archer took nine wickets in the Ashes and made a half-century in the third Test

By Stephan Shemilt

Chief Cricket Reporter in Melbourne

Published BBC Sport

Jofra Archer has been named in England's squad for the T20 World Cup despite missing the last two Ashes Tests.

The pace bowler is continuing to recover from a side strain and has been included in a provisional 15-man party for the tournament in India and Sri Lanka in February and March.

Jamie Smith misses out on the World Cup and the preceding tour of Sri Lanka after a difficult Ashes series, and there is no place for Jordan Cox.

Pace bowler Josh Tongue, who has never played a white-ball international for England, is rewarded for his Ashes performances with inclusion in the World Cup squad.

After England were beaten in the first three Tests against Australia to lose the Ashes series at the earliest opportunity, the World Cup would potentially give another indication to the futures of head coach Brendon McCullum and director of cricket Rob Key.

England play three one-day internationals and three T20s in Sri Lanka in the build-up to the World Cup, which they begin against Nepal in Mumbai on 8 February.

The ODIs are important in England's bid to qualify automatically for the 50-over World Cup in 2027. The top nine in the rankings will secure a place in the tournament in southern Africa and England currently lie eighth.

Despite the tight turnaround from the Ashes, captain Harry Brook leads a full-strength squad. England leave Australia after the fifth Test on 9 January and fly to Sri Lanka to 18 January. The first ODI is on 22 January.

Brook, Archer, Tongue, Joe Root, Jacob Bethell, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley and Will Jacks have all been involved in the Ashes and are in line to play some part in England's white-ball matches in the new year.

Archer, 30, is England's premier white-ball pace bowler. After impressing in the Ashes, he was ruled out of the series because of the side injury he sustained in the third Test in Adelaide.

England believe he is on track to recover in time for the World Cup, but he is not in the squad for the ODIs and T20s in Sri Lanka. Carse provides cover for that tour.

England squad for ODIs in Sri Lanka: Harry Brook, Rehan Ahmed, Tom Banton, Jacob Bethell, Jos Buttler, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Ben Duckett, Will Jacks, Jamie Overton, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Luke Wood.

England squad for T20s in Sri Lanka and World Cup: Harry Brook, Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer (World Cup only), Tom Banton, Jacob Bethell, Jos Buttler, Brydon Carse (Sri Lanka tour only), Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Ben Duckett, Will Jacks, Jamie Overton, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Josh Tongue, Luke Wood.

Smith has been England's one-day opener in their past nine matches, though has not played a T20 since June. The 25-year-old struggled in the one-dayers in New Zealand that preceded the Ashes, then has managed only one half-century in eight innings in Australia.

In contrast, 28-year-old Tongue has been England's breakout star of the Ashes, claiming 12 wickets in his two Tests. He is in the squad for the T20s and not the ODIs.

Cox, the leading run-scorer in last year's Hundred, can feel unfortunate to miss out. Tom Banton gets the nod as middle-order batting cover.

Duckett is in both squads despite a difficult Ashes and looks set to bring his Test opening partnership with Crawley to one-day internationals as England look for a combination that can build towards the 50-over World Cup.

Crawley has played eight one-day internationals, the last of which in West Indies in December 2023 was also his last List A game.

Root, who turns 35 on Tuesday, would have been a potential candidate to rest after the Ashes, yet travels to Sri



SKNFA Congratulates St. Kitts Nevis FIFA Match Officials For 2026

The St. Kitts and Nevis Football Association (SKNFA) extends heartfelt congratulations to our match officials who have been accepted by the FIFA Referees Committee to the FIFA International Referees List for the 2026 cycle.

This prestigious recognition reflects the officials' dedication, professionalism, consistency, and commitment to upholding the Laws of the Game at the highest standard. Their inclusion on the international list brings significant pride to the SKNFA and to football in St. Kitts and Nevis, as it highlights the continued growth and quality of our refereeing programme on the global stage.

The SKNFA congratulates the following officials:

Referees

- * Tristley Bassue
- * Sanchez Bass
- * Hakeem Harvey
- * Reginald Gumbs
- * Kimbell Ward
- * Shandor Wilkinson

Assistant Referees

- * Jaden Rouse
- * Mario Parry
- * Lenroy Parris
- * Juniequa Matthew
- * Tyra Wilkinson

Video Match Official

- * Tristley Bassue

We commend all selected officials for their hard work and perseverance and wish them every success as they represent St. Kitts and Nevis with integrity, excellence, and professionalism on the international stage during the 2026 cycle. Once again, congratulations to all.

Lanka for the ODIs only. His next cricket would then likely come in the home summer.

All-rounder Jacks missed the tour of New Zealand as he recovered from a broken finger and returns to both squads as one of a number of spin options in the subcontinental conditions.

Jacks joins Adil Rashid, Liam Dawson, Rehan Ahmed and Bethell in the slow-bowling ranks.

Along with Nepal, England join West Indies, Bangladesh and tournament debutants Italy in Group C of the T20 World Cup. All of their matches take place in Kolkata and Mumbai.

If Brook's men finish in the top two, they would progress to a second-round group that could include New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The top two from that group advance to the semi-finals.