

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

www.thelabourspokesman.com



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

Year 69 NO. 05

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 03rd July, 2026

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend

Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 30/06/26

DELTA \$16.14/ SOL \$16.40

MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT

STORY ON PAGE 03



‘DROP IT’ COLLAB

STORY ON PAGE 04

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN - ESTABLISHED MAY 1957

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Editorial

A Close Call We Must Never Forget

Where were you when you first heard the news that a passenger vessel was taking on water in the Basseterre Roadstead on Monday 29th June 2026? Were you at work? At home? Driving? At/Close the Ferry Terminal? Or perhaps scrolling through social media when the reports first emerged?

Whatever the circumstances, one emotion was almost universal-fear.

Within moments, imaginations began to race. How many people were on board? Were there children? How far out was the boat? Had anyone been trapped? Could this become another maritime tragedy etched forever into our nation's history?

Thankfully, it did not.

Thanks to the swift, coordinated response of emergency agencies, first responders, ferry operators and ordinary citizens, all 47 persons aboard the MV Apple Syder-41 passengers and six crew members-were safely accounted for. Their professionalism and courage deserve the nation's highest praise.

Yet while we breathe a collective sigh of relief, this close call should not simply fade into yesterday's headlines.

Perhaps what made this incident even more unsettling was its timing, happening weeks before the anniversary period when our nation traditionally reflects on one of its darkest maritime tragedies-the sinking of the Christena in the Narrows between St. Kitts and Nevis. On 1st August 1970, more than 200 men, women and children lost their lives in a disaster that forever changed countless families and remains deeply embedded in our national memory.

For many, Monday's incident reopened emotions that have never truly disappeared.

Many persons have also expressed relief that the vessel did not encounter difficulties farther out at sea or else the outcome could have been dramatically different.

That reality alone should humble us.

This week also sparked another interesting public conversation. Some persons have determinedly remarked that the incident was the sign they needed to finally learn how to swim or resume swimming lessons. Behind the reactive take-away lies an important truth. Swimming is not merely a recreational skill-it is a life skill. While no one expects to find themselves in an emergency at sea, preparedness often begins long before an emergency occurs.

But individual preparation is only one part of the equation.

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

SKBHPB2026/0071

In the Estate of MARY ELIZABETH MARKMAN
also known as ELIZABETH MARKMAN and
ELIZABETH ADAMS-MARKMAN late of Main
Street, St. Pauls in the Island of St. Christopher but
who resided in England, United Kingdom, deceased

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Bryant & Liburd on behalf of SAMANTHA SARAH MC INTOSH of 13 Karswell Close, Slough, SL2 1QH, England, United Kingdom for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 27th day of April 2025 without revoking a will bearing the date of 9th May 2019 wherein the applicant is named as the sole Executrix.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Probate to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the second publication of this Notice.

Dated this 19th day of June 2026.

Bryant & Liburd
Bryant & Liburd
Solicitors for the Executrix



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Masses House, Church Street, Basseterre
to learn more about Union membership,
or call us at
869-465-2229

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This Union Works For You.



Incidents such as this must prompt continued investment in maritime safety, emergency preparedness, vessel inspections, crew training and passenger awareness. They must also reinforce the importance of regular emergency drills and ensuring that lifesaving equipment is always available, functional and readily accessible.

At the same time, we commend the authorities for launching a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. Investigations should never be viewed as exercises in assigning blame alone. Rather, they are opportunities to identify lessons, strengthen procedures and prevent future occurrences. Every recommendation emerging from such an investigation should be taken seriously and implemented where necessary.

We also commend the remarkable collaboration displayed by the Coast Guard, Fire and Rescue Services, Police, Maritime Affairs, NEMA, SCASPA, the Ministries involved, the crew of the Makana ferry, tug

operators and every individual whose quick actions helped prevent what could have been a national catastrophe. Their coordinated response demonstrated the value of preparedness, training and teamwork under pressure.

Sometimes history whispers before it screams.

Monday's incident should serve as one of those whispers.

As a nation, we have been spared what could have been another heartbreaking chapter in our maritime history. That blessing should never breed complacency but rather renewed vigilance.

May we never have to relive the horrors of the Christena. May every investigation lead to stronger safeguards. May every captain, crew member, regulator and passenger play their part in promoting safety.

And may this close call remind us that while tragedy was avoided this time, preparedness remains our greatest lifeline.

Mental Health Expert Highlights Importance Of Counselling Support Following Sunken Boat Emergency

By: Precious Mills

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Thursday 2nd July 2026)- While this week's safe rescue of all 47 persons (passengers and crew altogether) aboard the MV Apple Syder has been applauded, a qualified Counselling Psychologist has pointed out why the presence of mental health professionals following such a traumatic incident is critically important also.

Following the maritime incident in the Basseterre Roadstead on Monday 29th June 2026, the St. Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority (SCASPA)-via a statement- confirmed that among the emergency responders on the scene were "the Ministries of National Security, Health, and Social Development, including the counsellor who provided on-site support."

In seeking to better understand the importance of such intervention as it relates to the counselling aspect, this reporter spoke exclusively with a qualified Counselling Psychologist with fourteen (14) years of experience, who was not involved in the emergency response but-when contacted by this media house- generally explained the critical role counsellors play following such traumatic events.

As understood from that mental health professional, trained counsellors provide Psychological First Aid, an internationally recognised approach often associated with large group disasters such as hurricanes or mass casualty incidents.

"It's a preliminary review of the affected persons and to determine who needs additional counselling," she explained.

She informed that the MV Apple Syder incident was a "traumatic event...an isolated traumatic event," and that in such traumatic circumstances, authorities would typically assign a Psychological First Aid (PFA) team.

Additionally, she explained that part of an on-site intervention involves speaking with affected individuals about their immediate sense of safety and reassuring them that although they may have felt unsafe during the incident, they are now safe.

The Counselling Psychologist noted that traumatic experiences can have lasting emotional effects on some people.

"Some people will be so traumatized they would not want to go in water again or go on a boat again," she said.

Asked why immediate counselling is so important following incidents of this nature, she responded, "It's really important because you don't know how people will be affected."

She added that "even though it can feel like an isolated event, it can be very triggering and traumatic and can become exacerbated [for some people]," explaining

that early intervention allows counsellors to begin addressing those emotional reactions before they develop into long-term psychological challenges.

According to the Counselling Psychologist, the goal is to help survivors process what happened.

She explained that counselling "reduces how affected [persons are] from the incident for the rest of their lives," enabling individuals to assess what occurred in putting such into context.

She also stressed that, despite the frightening nature of Monday's incident, emergency systems functioned as intended.

"Even though it was very traumatic, all that was meant to be done [to keep them safe] were in place," she said.

The Counselling Psychologist further observed that the incident likely carried additional emotional weight for many Kittitians and Nevisians because of the MV Christena disaster of August 1970.

"It was also very triggering for people because of the Christena disaster," she said. "Even though this incident was very traumatic, the outcome was totally different. We're just grateful [as a nation] that everybody was safe and were able to return home to their families."

Following the incident, Apple Syder Management issued a public appeal asking passengers who travelled on the vessel to contact the company if they had not yet been reached.

"The Apple Syder Management Team is reaching out to connect with and hear from you," the statement read. "While we have been able to successfully contact some passengers, we have not yet been able to reach everyone."

Passengers were encouraged to contact the company's dedicated contact line and share the message with fellow passengers.

The contact number is 1-869-669-0707.

In an earlier statement, the company confirmed that the vessel encountered difficulties shortly after departing Basseterre on its scheduled trip to Nevis but noted that "all passengers and crew members were safely transferred to assisting vessels."

Apple Syder also expressed gratitude to local captains, crews, maritime personnel and its own crew "for their professional and calm execution of our safety procedures," while confirming that "a thorough review of the circumstances surrounding this event is being conducted."

Meanwhile, SCASPA has advised that the relevant authorities are conducting a full investigation into the cause of the incident involving the MV Apple Syder in the Basseterre Roadstead.

The Authority stated that all 47 persons on board-41 passengers and six crew members-were safely accounted for through the coordinated efforts of the Coast Guard Unit of the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force, the St. Kitts and Nevis Fire and Rescue Services, the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, the Department of Maritime Affairs, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Ministries of National Security, Health and Social Development, including the counsellor who provided on-site support, the crew of the Makana ferry, tug operators and other responders.

SCASPA said it remains committed to supporting the ongoing investigation and will provide further updates as information becomes available.

Front Page Photo: Onlookers seen along the Bay Road from the Irish Town waterfront area looking in the direction of the Basseterre Ferry Terminal on Monday 29th June 2026 as recovery operations get underway to retrieve the sunken MV Apple Syder. (Spokesman Snap)



A view of the sunken MV Apple Syder during recovery operations in the Basseterre Roadstead on Monday 29th June 2026. (Credit: SCASPA)



A crane being used to lift the MV Apple Syder from the water during recovery operations at the Basseterre Ferry Terminal on Monday 29th June 2026. (Credit: SCASPA)

Machel Montano Featuring Brandon Set Warner Park Ablaze With Surprise Soca Link-Up

By: Precious Mills

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (Thursday 2nd July 2026)- A surprise duo collaboration between reigning Sugar Mas Soca Monarch Brandon and Trinidad and Tobago reigning Power Soca Monarch icon Machel Montano lit up the 28th edition of the St. Kitts Music Festival stage at Warner Park Cricket Stadium, sending patrons into a frenzy.

Shortly before 2:00 A.M on Friday 26th June 2026, the onstage moment unfolded during Machel's high-energy set, when Brandon-the festival's opening act-re-emerged for an encore performance of his winning Soca Monarch hit, "Drop It," sparking instant excitement across the venue as Machel handed the mic to him center stage.

The surprise performance dropped in grande style after the two had remained tight-lipped earlier in the day during a press conference when Machel Montano was asked about the possibility of collaborating with a local artiste from the Federation in general, including Brandon.

Instead, fans and supporters received their answer on stage.

As Brandon emerged, the pair fed off each other's energy while the unmistakable opening of "Drop It" filled the venue.

"I knew this woulda been a bad idea... Machel!... I knew it!... St. Kitts!... Oh no, da riddim ya sweet so!... We going dis way... Point you finger so!... One, two... everybody now! Drop it!" Brandon shouted as fans and music lovers eagerly followed his instructions for the popular dance choreography.

Following Brandon's appearance, Machel Montano called on patrons to "make some noise for de soca king," as he (Brandon) exited the stage.

Judging from the crowd's reaction, there was no doubt that the collaboration was a good idea.

Machel (the second to last performer on the line-up) then seamlessly continued his set with one of his popular collaborations, "Famalay, (which features Skinny Fabulous from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Bunji Garlin from Trinidad and Tobago)".

At Thursday's (25th June) pre-show press conference, Brandon had reflected on how meaningful the occasion already was.

"I'm happy to be a part of this lineup. I want to believe that this lineup was stolen from my playlist," Brandon lightheartedly expressed.

"So yeah, I'm happy to share the stage with these powerhouses."

He also revealed how his relationship with Machel Montano had come full circle.

"Actually, the last time Machel Montano performed in St. Kitts, I was his videographer. So it's a full circle moment now to be able to perform on the same stage as him in my past life."

Brandon also recalled advice Machel once gave him when he expressed an interest in songwriting.

"Machel also said to me, when I told him I wanted to be into songwriting and what's not, he said, 'You never know what could happen.' And then here we are today."

Confident that patrons were in for a memorable evening, he declared: "So happy to be a part of this lineup... Just going to come out, give the energy. We've been preparing a lot. So expect vibes tonight... Oh no, da riddim dey sweet so...we going to drop it tonight."

Earlier that night, Brandon had the honour of opening the three-night festival (25th to 27th June) backed by the Revelers Band.

Meanwhile, Machel used the day's press conference to praise the St. Kitts Music Festival, describing it as one of the Caribbean's

(cont'd on next page)



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

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FOOTBALL PAVILION at Lime Kiln Play Field

**Tender Documents can be obtained at the Public Works Department,
Wellington Road, Basseterre, St Kitts, as of Tuesday 16th June 2026
for a non-refundable fee of EC\$ 1000.00 each.**

**Completed Tender Documents shall be delivered in sealed envelope to the
office of:**

**Deputy Director of Public Works Department
Wellington Road, Basseterre, St Kitts
on or before 1:00pm Thursday 30th July 2026**

Bidders or their representatives are invited to the Tender Opening.

Eligibility

Business License MUST be presented before receipt of Tender Document.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR - PUBLIC WORKS



Machel Montano Featuring Brandon Set Warner Park Ablaze With Surprise Soca

"The last time I was here, I had the privilege of performing with one of the greatest African

(cont'd from last page)

premier events while expressing gratitude for the role it played in broadening his exposure to Africa's music industry.

"I must say congratulations to St. Kitts because this music festival has been a gem of the Caribbean and it all lends to the consistency and quality," he said.

Having returned after an absence of over 10 years, the soca superstar said the welcome he received upon arrival immediately reminded him why the festival remains so special.

"As soon as I step off the plane, the sort of love and greeting and energy I got from every single person in that airport felt very genuine to me that they were excited...and you know what that means-absence make the heart grow fonder."

He also reflected on how the festival helped shape one of



Brandon seen during his set for the opening night of the festival on Thursday 25th June 2026 at the Warner Park Cricket Stadium. (Credit: St. Kitts Music Festival)

the most significant international relationships of his career.

(cont'd on page 11)



Machel Montano seen onstage during his set at the 28th St. Kitts Music Festival. (Credit: St. Kitts Music Festival)

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No. SKBHPB2026/

In the Estate of **CAROLINE AGATHA CAINES**, late of Back Street, Dieppe Bay in the Island of Saint Christopher, in the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES**, Attorneys-at-Law for **THOMAS CAINES** of Kingston, Ontario, Canada , for a Grant of Probate to the applicant who is the Excutor of the Estate of the deceased who died on the 27th day of December 2025 without revoking a Will bearing the date of 24th day of February 2014.

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

Dated this 24th day of June , 2026

Filed by: **JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES**, Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is: 9 The Sands, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts, Telephone Number 466-2019.

[SECOND PUBLICATION]

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

In the Estate of **THOMAS MARTIN**, late of Back Street Dieppe Bay in the Parish of Saint John in the Island of Saint Christopher in the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES**, Attorneys-at-Law for **LORNA WARNER** of Back Street Dieppe Bay in the Parish of Saint John in the Island of Saint Christopher in the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is a surviving sibling of the deceased, who is the Intended Administratrix of the Estate of the deceased, having died intestate on the 25th day of October, 2009.

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

Dated this 25th day of June , 2026

Filed by: **JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES**, Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is: Unit 9, The Sands, Bay Road, Basseterre, St. Kitts, Telephone Number 466-2018.

[SECOND PUBLICATION]



NIA Announces Moroccan Scholarship Program 2026-2027

NIA CHARLESTOWN, NEVIS (July 02, 2026)- The Nevis Island Administration, Ministry of Human Resources is pleased to inform you that the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco invites citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis to apply for higher education scholarships that offer the below-listed benefits:

- Tuition fees, registration fees, insurance, and school supplies;
- Accommodation;
- Monthly stipend; and
- Travel airfare.

In this connection, Saint Kitts and Nevis is invited to nominate one (1) candidate to take advantage of this scholarship opportunity. The programmes offered are:

Bachelor's Degree Programmes:

1. Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration
2. Bachelor of Arts in International Studies
3. Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

4. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
5. Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Management Science
6. Bachelor of Science in General Engineering
7. Bachelor of Science in Renewable Energy Systems Engineering

Master's Degree Programmes:

8. Master of Business Administration
9. Master of Arts in International Studies & Diplomacy
10. Master of Science in Big Data Analysis
11. Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Management

Candidates for the Bachelor's Degree must be under 21 years and should possess a CAPE/Associate's Degree issued in 2025 or to be issued in 2026, with a minimum cumulative average of 95%.

Candidates for the Master's degree must possess a Bachelor's Degree with a minimum average of 95%.

Documents to be submitted includes:

1. Cover letter stating the applicant's requested field of study
2. Certified copy of CAPE/Associate Degree
3. Certified copy of Bachelor's degree
4. Certified copy of transcripts, birth certificate
5. Copy of passport
6. Recent criminal record
7. Two recent passport size-colored photos
8. Medical certificate indicating the candidate's mental and physically fitness, vaccination status and proof of non-contagious or acute medical conditions.

Further information is accessible through <https://aui.ma/>

Applicants must submit corresponding documents to the Ministry of Human Resources by Wednesday, 08th July 2026 for further processing.

For additional information on the eligibility, scholarship selection criteria, selection process, and more, please feel free to contact:

Ms. Hardai Beephat/

Ms. Corissa Griffin/

Mrs. Shelly Liburd/

Mrs. Shanola Murrey-Gill

Emails: hardai.beephat@niagovkn.com/ corissa.griffin@niagovkn.com/
shelly.jones-liburd@niagovkn.com/ shanola.murrey-gill@niagovkn.com

469-5521 Ext 5167/66/64/63

Case Number :SKBHPB2026/0073



THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

A.D. 2026

(PROBATE)

Submitted Date:26/06/2026 09:51

Filed Date:26/06/2026 09:51

Fees Paid:52.00

In the Estate of **CHARLES GILBERT**, late of 143 Clifton Hill, St. Croix, U.S.V.I., deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **DAVID GILBERT** of 9297 Forge Breeze Loop, Wesley Chapel, Florida, United States of America for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above-named deceased who died on the 3rd day of December, 2024 without revoking a Will bearing the date of 1st day of May, 2014 wherein the applicant is named as one of the executors.

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

Dated this 26th day of June, 2026.

HENDERSON LAW CHAMBERS

Attorneys-at-Law for the Estate of **CHARLES GILBERT**

Filed by: Brittney 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 Sir S.W. Tapley Seaton GCMG, CVO, KC, JP, LL.D. ANNEX, East Independence Square Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts, telephone number (869) 465-2009, facsimile number (869) 465-2482. The Office is open between 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Mondays to Fridays except Public Holidays.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

APPLICATION NO. NEVHCV 2021/0191

BETWEEN:

CIBC CARIBBEAN BANK (BARBADOS) LIMITED

(formerly FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited)

Applicant

and

MARVA PINNEY

JUNIOR CHIVERTON

Respondents

NOTICE OF FILING TO THE SECOND RESPONDENT

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Applicant, CIBC Caribbean Bank (Barbados) Limited (formerly FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited), on June 16, 2026 filed a Notice of Application to Reduce the Upset Price & Fix New Terms of Sale; 2nd Affidavit of Troy Branch; 3rd Affidavit of Eavin L. Parry with Exhibit "ELP3" and a Draft Order. On June 18, 2026 the Applicant also filed an Order dated April 24, 2026 ("the Documents").

A hearing has been scheduled in the captioned matter at the High Court of Justice, Albertha Payne Community Centre, Bath Village, Nevis on **Friday July 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** The **Second Respondent** must attend the said hearing otherwise the High Court can proceed in his absence. The hearing may be held by Zoom.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the Applicant has filed the attached proceedings on The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Electronic Litigation Portal.

The proceedings can only be accessed through the Electronic Litigation Portal. If you do not have an attorney-at-law and need assistance in accessing the Electronic Litigation Portal please contact the Service Bureau at the High Court office.

Dated June 30, 2026

Hadya K. L. Dolphin, Associate
KELSICK, WILKIN & FERDINAND



Deputy Prime Minister Signs Skills Partnership Agreement At International Sustainability Conference In Germany

Basseterre, St. Kitts, Wednesday, July 01, 2026: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Honourable Dr. Geoffrey Hanley, signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) with the City of Hamburg, marking the launch of a new Skills Partnership between St. Kitts and Nevis and the German city on June 29. The signing took place during the International Sustainability Conference in Hamburg, Germany.

The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation to equip the next generation of workers with the knowledge and skills needed to address environmental

challenges. An additional intention is to strengthen workforce development through international collaboration.

The Skills Partnership will promote knowledge exchange between the two jurisdictions and support the development of future-ready skills in key sectors. Discussions during the conference examined innovative knowledge exchange models that could serve as a blueprint for future international skills initiatives.

Addressing international delegates, Dr. Hanley emphasized that international cooperation is essential for Small Island Developing States and that the new partnership supports St. Kitts and Nevis' Sustainable Island State Agenda. He noted that the Government is transforming the education system by expanding technical and vocational education, strengthening STEM education, and equipping learners with the skills needed for careers in renewable energy, digital innovation, healthcare, and other sustainable industries. He also underscored the importance of partnerships that deliver meaningful opportunities and practical benefits for citizens.

The signing of the JDI represents another significant milestone in St. Kitts and Nevis' efforts to deepen international partnerships, strengthen education and workforce development, and advance its vision of becoming a Sustainable Island State.

Other distinguished members of the St. Kitts-Nevis delegation included Hon. Dr. Joyelle Clarke, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action, and Constituency Empowerment, and Ms. Ama Martin, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis.





Technical cooperation

ILO Caribbean Office begins first high-level mission to Haiti following new country programme agreement

ILO high-level mission signals immediate action to support decent work, social dialogue and labour cooperation in Haiti

1 July 2026

CAP-HAÏTIEN, Haiti (ILO News) - A high-level delegation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) on 30 June began its first official mission to Haiti since responsibility for the country was transferred to the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The mission is led by Joni Musabayana, Director of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, and includes Ingerlyn Caines-Francis, Senior Programming Officer. It marks an important moment in the ILO's renewed engagement with Haiti's tripartite partners (Government, employers' and workers' organizations) following months of meetings, consultations and joint work to define shared priorities.

The visit comes just weeks after the May signing of the ILO Country Programme for Haiti 2026–2027, signalling the Caribbean Office's commitments to move quickly, stay closely connected to its partners, and support implementation of agreed priorities through practical technical cooperation.



© ILO - Joni Musabayana, Director, ILO Caribbean Office, tours the industrial park with union representatives from

L'Ente Sendikal Premye Me-Batay Ouvriye (ESPM-BO) and Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers of Haiti (CTSP)

The Haiti country programme was signed in Port of Spain on 14 May 2026 by the Honourable Marc Elie Nelson, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, on behalf of the Government of Haiti; Maulik Radia, President of the Association of Industries of Haiti (ADIH), for employers; Yvel Admettre, Secretary General of the Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers, and Louis Fignole St

Cyr, General Secretary of the Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers, for workers; and Joni Musabayana for the ILO.

The programme provides a two-year framework for ILO technical cooperation in Haiti, with agreed priorities on social dialogue and rights at work, strengthened labour institutions and governance, employment, livelihoods and economic recovery, and social protection and safer working conditions.

"This mission is about moving quickly from agreement to action," said Joni Musabayana, Director of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean. "Haiti's tripartite partners have worked with commitment and clarity to define shared priorities for decent work. Today's discussions confirmed the importance of staying close to workers, employers and institutions on the ground as we support implementation of the country programme. The ILO Caribbean Office is committed to working with Haiti's constituents through practical technical assistance, social dialogue and partnership." The Director further explained that the mission is not merely about project implementation. It is seen as essential for strengthening relationships and reinforcing the trust of its constituents and partners in Haiti.

"It is important for us to be here, so that the ILO Caribbean Office can deepen its understanding of the realities facing constituents and give effect to our commitment to work with our Haitian partners in a spirit of mutual respect and shared responsibility," Joni Musabayana

During the first two days of the mission, the ILO delegation met with government officials, enterprise management and trade union leaders in northern Haiti. The discussions provided an opportunity to listen directly to partners, exchange views on decent work priorities, and identify practical ways to support cooperation and meaningful social dialogue in workplaces and sectors that are important for jobs, livelihoods and economic activity.

The engagement included site tours that allowed the delegation to see ongoing work connected to Haiti's industrial and employment sectors and to discuss how social dialogue can help build stronger workplace relations, improve trust and support more stable cooperation among workers, employers and institutions.

The transfer of Haiti to the ILO Caribbean Office took effect in January 2026. The Office serves 14 ILO member States and nine non-metropolitan territories of the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The expanded mandate is intended to strengthen regional alignment, responsiveness and technical support to Haiti and other Caribbean constituents.

The Haiti mission is taking place from 30 June to 4 July 2026. It includes meetings with tripartite constituents and partners, as well as field engagements with ILO-supported initiatives. For security reasons, detailed locations are not being publicized.

The ILO's work in Haiti is guided by its mandate to promote decent work and social justice through cooperation with governments, employers and workers. Through the new country programme, the ILO will support Haitian constituents in advancing social dialogue, strengthening labour institutions, promoting employment and livelihoods, and expanding social protection in ways that respond to national priorities and Haiti's current context.



**Sign up.
Become a member today.**

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

**The St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union
This Union Works For You.**

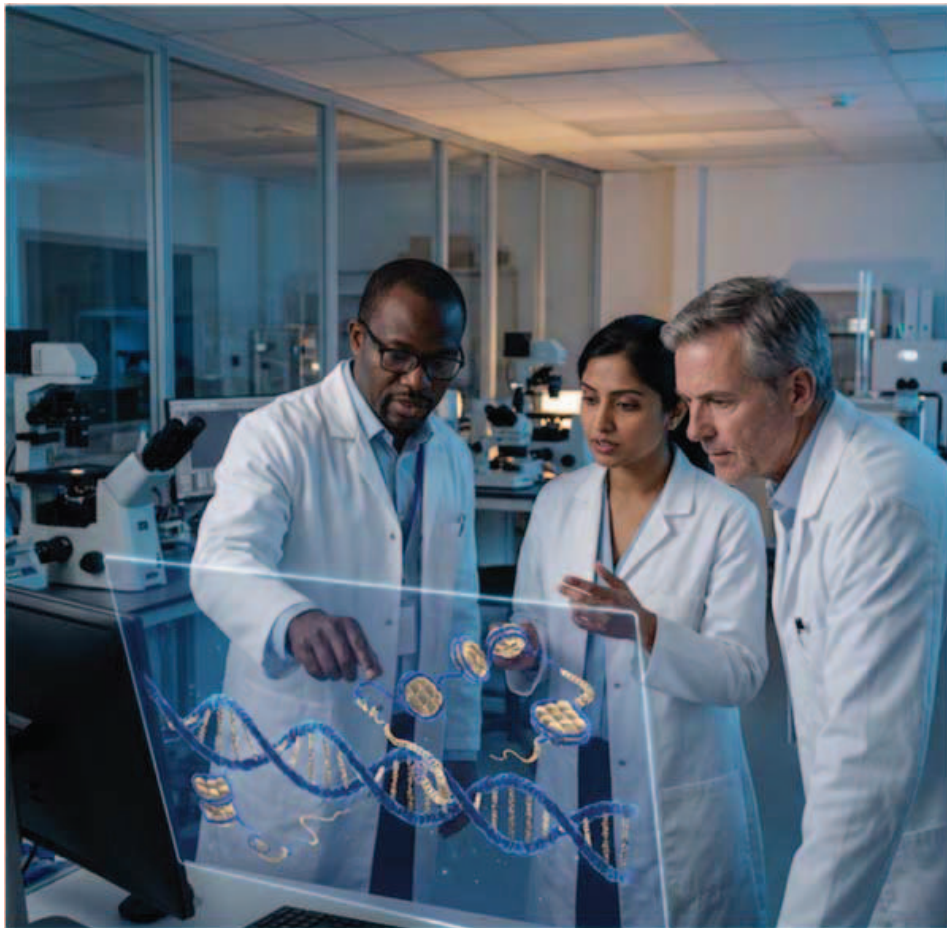


Study reveals that 1 in 8 apparently healthy adults unknowingly carries a serious genetic risk

*** The study found that 13% of people with no symptoms or significant family history have DNA variants associated with serious diseases.**

July 2026 — When Mayo Clinic researchers sequenced the genomes of 484 seemingly healthy adults, they found that about 13% carried a serious, previously unrecognized genomic risk — conditions those patients did not know about and that standard care would likely miss.

Nearly all participants, 98.6%, had at least one genetic finding, and for most, the results called for monitoring. The study, published in *Genetics in Medicine*, also takes a closer look at what it takes to turn those findings into the proper follow-up care.



Among the 13%, the actionable findings pointed to serious risks, including hereditary breast and ovarian cancer; Lynch syndrome, linked to colorectal cancer;

cardiomyopathy; long QT syndrome; and amyloidosis.

"These are people traditional testing based on symptoms or family history would not identify," says Dr. Konstantinos Lazaridis, the Carlson and Nelson Endowed Executive Director of the Center for Individualized Medicine and senior author of the study. "This study helps define the blueprint for integrating genomic insight into care at scale — turning information into decisions that can change the trajectory of disease."

From discovery to care

Identifying the risk, it turns out, is the easiest part. Acting on it is far more complex. Nearly every case required clinical interpretation, documentation and communication. This work fell largely to genetic counselors, who reviewed results, prepared individualized summaries and helped guide next steps for patients and care teams.

"Genetic counselors are often the first people to share this kind of information with patients," says Jessa Bidwell, a certified research genetic counselor and first author of the study. "There can be surprise, anxiety, devastation, and at times relief at finally having an explanation. Our role is to meet people in that moment and help them understand what their health risks might be, based on the genetic finding, and their personal and family history."

Most participants with actionable findings followed through, completing referrals and connecting with primary care specialists. Yet fewer than half had a documented conversation with a primary care professional after receiving results — underscoring how difficult it remains to integrate genomic findings into routine care.

The study positions predictive genomic screening as both a clinical opportunity and a systems challenge. The science exists. Researchers and clinicians are still building the infrastructure to act on it consistently.

At Mayo Clinic, that infrastructure is beginning to take shape through an initiative called Precure. Genomic screening is one part of that initiative, which aims to detect disease earlier by combining genetic data with other biological signals.

Predicting disease before it begins

Most diseases don't arrive without warning. They begin with small shifts in genes, molecules, proteins and immune signals that develop over time, often years before symptoms appear.

Precure is Mayo Clinic's enterprise-wide effort to detect those early signals and intervene sooner. Powered by advanced computing and artificial intelligence (AI), the initiative currently focuses on five organ systems — the brain, heart, kidneys, liver and lungs — studying conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, heart failure and chronic liver disease to better understand how they emerge and progress.

The work draws on expertise from across Mayo Clinic and is supported by Mayo Clinic Platform, which brings together large-scale patient data and advanced computing to enable scientists to study disease across populations.

"Precure is one example of a moonshot for human health at Mayo Clinic," says Dr. Lazaridis, who leads the initiative. "It reflects Mayo Clinic's commitment to move medicine beyond treatment and toward lasting wellness."

Precure is part of Mayo Clinic's Bold. Forward. strategy to Cure, Connect and Transform healthcare. The genomic screening study is an early demonstration of what that looks like in practice: science that doesn't wait for disease to announce itself, and a system already being built to act on what it finds.

About Mayo Clinic

Mayo Clinic is a nonprofit organization committed to innovation in clinical practice, education and research, and providing compassion, expertise and answers to everyone who needs healing. Visit the Mayo Clinic News Network for additional Mayo Clinic news.



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Prime Minister, The Dr. The Honourable Terrence Drew To Chair CARICOM's Committee on Issues Affecting Rastafarians



Basseterre, Saint Kitts, July 01, 2026 (SKNIS):

Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, has been appointed to chair a newly established Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Committee that will examine issues affecting Rastafarians across the Region and the world.

The decision was taken during the Forty-Second Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government on May 08, 2026, as CARICOM continues to strengthen its commitment to equality, inclusion, and social justice throughout the Community.

As Chair of the Committee, Prime Minister Dr. Drew will lead discussions aimed at advancing the recognition, protection, and promotion of the rights of Rastafarians throughout the Region. The Committee comprises representatives from Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Commenting on his appointment, Prime Minister Dr. Drew said the work of the Committee represents an important opportunity for the Region to reaffirm its commitment to justice and inclusion.

"The Caribbean has always been strongest when we stand united in defence of the dignity and rights of every citizen. The establishment of this CARICOM Committee represents an important step towards ensuring that Rastafarians are afforded the respect, recognition, and equal opportunities they deserve. Our responsibility is not only to acknowledge the injustices of the past but

to work collectively to eliminate the barriers that still exist today," said Prime Minister Dr. Drew. "As Chair of this Committee, I look forward to working with my fellow Member States, the Rastafarian community, and all relevant stakeholders to advance meaningful dialogue, informed policy, and lasting progress that reflects the values of justice, equality, and human dignity upon which our Community is built."

Prime Minister Dr. Drew's appointment reflects the confidence of CARICOM Heads of Government in his leadership and underscores Saint Kitts and Nevis' continued commitment to championing human rights, social inclusion, and equitable development across the Caribbean.

The Committee is expected to commence its work in the coming months, engaging Member States, Rastafarian organisations, and other relevant stakeholders in developing recommendations that will strengthen regional efforts to eliminate discrimination, address historical inequities, and foster greater inclusion throughout the Caribbean Community.

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Dated: 08th June, 2026

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagikor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc

SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

The Bank of Nevis Limited of P.O. Box 450, Main Street, Charlestown, Nevis, being the Assignee, having made sworn deposition that Policy No. 055404196 issued by Sagikor Life Inc. and assumed by Sagikor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc. on the life of Nicholas Hall 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: 08th June, 2026

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagikor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc

SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

Robert Morton of Lower Farms Estate, St. John's Parish, Charlestown, Nevis, having made sworn deposition that Policy No. 055404074 issued by Sagikor Life Inc. and assumed by Sagikor 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 08th June, 2026

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagikor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc

SAGICOR LIFE (EASTERN CARIBBEAN) INC.

Sandra Arthurton of No. 20 Lime Kiln Housing Development, Basseterre, St. Kitts, having made sworn deposition that Policy No. 055401875 issued by Sagikor Life Inc. and assumed by Sagikor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc. on the life of Arzandra Arthurton 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 02nd July, 2026

By Order

Andrew Greaves
Corporate Secretary



Wise Financial Thinking for Life

Sagikor Life (Eastern Caribbean) Inc

Machel Montano Featuring Brandon Set Warner Park Ablaze With Surprise Soca

(cont'd from page03)

Afrobeats artists, 2Face, and I was only afforded that opportunity because of St. Kitts Music Festival. Since then, I'm really proud. I'm grateful for that, and I'm really proud to say that that has strengthened my relationship with the African music scene and the motherland and the music."

Machel added: "I think that that is a very noble thing of this festival to reach those distances and those lengths and do things like that. That is what we live for. We live to be among our peers and make good relationships and spread our music to the corners of the globe."

Questioned by Freedom FM media personality Sweet Sister Sensia about the possibility of collaborating with a local artiste, Machel stopped short of naming

anyone but made it clear that such partnerships remain central to his musical philosophy.

"I think it's knowledge that Machel Montano has always been one of the greatest collaborators, collaborating across the Caribbean region. I'm very proud of that," he said.

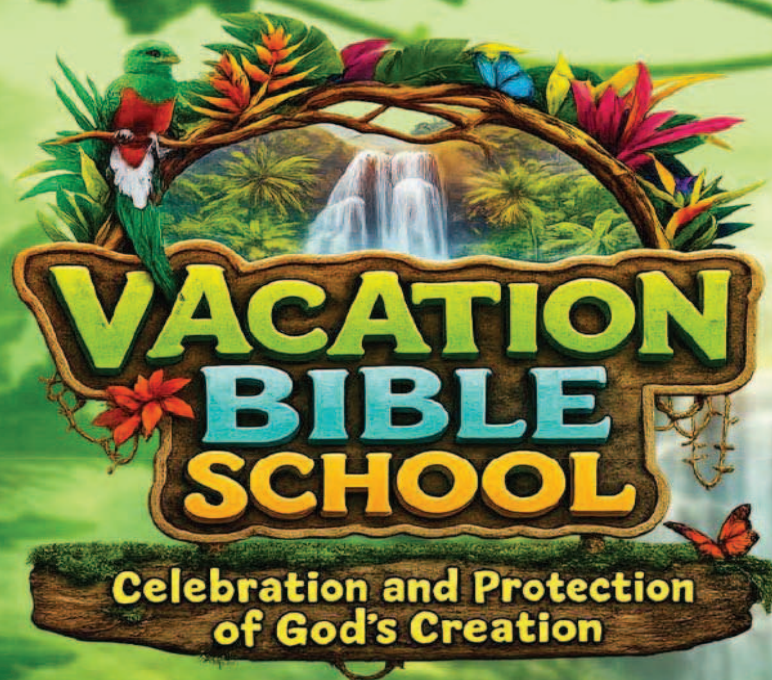
"The second one is the most important one... to collaborate with others and empower, educate and elevate both them and ourselves."

He further revealed that new work may already be underway locally: "So I don't want to jump the gun, but I'm already in the works of collaboration here in St. Kitts, so that will be announced at some point in time."

Only hours later, festival patrons witnessed exactly that spirit of collaboration when the Soca Monarch King and the King of Soca joined forces in a surprise performance that quickly became one of the defining moments of the festival's opening night.

The night also featured performances from Rucas, a Tribute to Ellie Matt segment (All Star Band), V'ghn, Shelly and the Signal Band, Krossfyah, and Nu Vybes International, all collectively forming a high-energy opening night lineup.

Front Page: Reigning Soca Monarch icon from Trinidad and Tobago Machel Montano (right) and Sugar Mas reigning Power Soca Monarch Brandon seen during the surprise soca link-up for night one of the 28th edition of the St. Kitts Music Festival at Warner Park Cricket Stadium, shortly before 2:00 A.M on Friday 26th June 2026 (Credit: St. Kitts Music Festival)



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NIA Breaks Ground on Transformative Multi-Million-Dollar Airport Expansion Project

NIA CHARLESTOWN, NEVIS (July 02, 2026) – NIA CHARLESTOWN, NEVIS (July 02, 2026) – The Nevis Island Administration (NIA) officially broke ground on the multi-million-dollar expansion and enhancement project for the Vance W. Amory International Airport (VAIA) at Newcastle, St. James, on Wednesday, July 01, launching a transformative initiative with the potential to reshape the island's tourism and economic landscape for generations to come.

Speaking at the ceremony held on the outskirts of the airport, Premier of Nevis, the Honourable Mark Brantley, Minister of Tourism, Finance, and Economic Planning, described the groundbreaking as a historic milestone in Nevis' development that will benefit both present and future generations.

"I want our people to consider that we are gathered here together at a point where we are making history at this groundbreaking for purposes of an investment which we feel will propel Nevis for the next generation.

"We are here because this government is committed to moving this island to the next level... We are doing what we are doing for those who are coming; the next generation. We all understand that having an advanced Vance W. Amory International Airport is good for Nevis and good for the Federation."

Premier Brantley noted that the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM)-led Nevis Island Administration had worked diligently for more than a decade to bring the transformative project to fruition. He explained that the expansion is expected to increase air traffic to the island, strengthen tourism, stimulate economic activity and create opportunities for Nevisians at every stage of the project.

During construction, the development is expected to generate employment for local contractors, skilled tradesmen, labourers and service providers, while creating demand for locally supplied goods and services. Once operational, the expanded airport will support additional permanent jobs in airport operations, security, customs and immigration, ground handling, maintenance and other support services. Increased airlift and visitor arrivals are also expected to create new opportunities for entrepreneurs and existing businesses in areas such as transportation, accommodation, tours, restaurants, retail and other tourism-related services, further strengthening the island's economy.

"Sometimes we have to be patient and appreciate that projects take time. This effort has been a relentless, ongoing effort, but to get to where we are today, we have had to navigate the technical and practical issues that are involved... that takes time.

"We had to design and redesign. We had to go back to the drawing board, and when we thought we had a plan, we had to get financing for that. I want you to understand the difficult nights and the long days of trying to navigate the financial situation, the politics, trying to navigate how Nevis could sustain a project such as this... I can assure you it is not an easy task... in order to bring a project such as this to fruition and to reality for the benefit of the people of Nevis."

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Nevis Island Administration Cabinet members and other stakeholders turn the sod at the ceremonial groundbreaking to commence the expansion and enhancement project for the Vance W. Amory International Airport at Newcastle, St. James, on July 01, 2026



Project Coordinator the Honourable Alexis Jeffers, Advisor to the Premier of Investments, delivering remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony to commence the expansion and enhancement project for the Vance W. Amory International Airport at Newcastle, St. James, on July 01, 2026

Premier Brantley expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for guaranteeing the NIA's EC\$20 million loan from the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla National Bank (SKNANB), the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for its US\$20 million concessional loan, and businessman Patrick Drahi for providing US\$25 million in investment capital toward the project.

Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, His Excellency Edward Ling-Wen Tao, reaffirmed Taiwan's longstanding partnership with Nevis and its commitment to supporting the island's sustainable development.

"On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), I would like to extend sincere congratulations to the Government and people of Nevis... Looking ahead, I am confident that Taiwan will continue to play a constructive role in the Airport Expansion Project and other meaningful initiatives, further reinforcing the unbreakable bond between Taiwan and Nevis.

"May the Vance W. Amory International Airport Expansion Project proceed smoothly, reach a successful completion, and bring prosperity and opportunities to the wonderful people of Nevis."

Also delivering remarks at the ceremony were Project Coordinator the Honourable Alexis Jeffers, Advisor to the Premier on Investments; Project Manager Michael Perkins; General Manager of the Nevis Air and Sea Ports Authority (NASPA), Oral Brandy; Contractor Seamus Kelly of Kelly Construction; Lead Engineer Leonardo Perez of Perez Engineering Construction and Consulting Services Ltd.; Chief Executive Officer of the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla National Bank, Anthony Galloway; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, John Hanley; and Community Representative Janesha Daniel.

The project, which the contractor said is expected to be completed within 18 months, will include a 2,000-foot extension of the airport's runway, bringing its total length to 6,000 feet. It will also provide for the construction of a fuel farm, a new fire hall, an expanded and modernized terminal building, new Customs Hall, and an enlarged parking apron capable of accommodating up to 50 executive jets.



(l-r) Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, His Excellency Edward Ling-Wen Tao and Premier of Nevis the Honourable Mark Brantley at the ceremonial groundbreaking to commence the expansion and enhancement project for the Vance W. Amory International Airport at Newcastle, St. James, on July 01, 2026

Prime Minister Drew Pleased With Strong Progress And Job Creation At Basseterre High School Construction Site

Basseterre, Saint Kitts, July 01, 2026 (SKNIS): Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, today (July 01, 2026), visited the construction site of the new Basseterre High School to assess the progress of works underway and reaffirm the government's commitment to delivering a modern, world-class educational facility for the nation's students.



Accompanied by Project Manager, Vivake Khan, the prime minister toured the site, where extensive construction activity is currently taking place, with local workers and technical experts actively engaged in advancing one of the Federation's most significant education infrastructure projects.

Speaking during the visit, Prime Minister Drew said he wanted the public to witness firsthand the substantial progress being made on the project amid suggestions that little or no work was taking place.

"I have come here today because we are hearing that nothing is happening on the Basseterre High School site," the Prime Minister said. "I wanted people to see firsthand the tremendous amount of work that is taking place here. I believe people will be shocked by just how much progress has been made."



Dr. Drew noted that the significant workforce on site reflects both the pace of construction and the project's positive impact on employment.

"We can see there are many local workers here, along with other experts, and we are pleased with the number of jobs that have been provided for our people," he said.

The prime minister described the reconstruction of Basseterre High School as the fulfillment of a longstanding national commitment.

"Once and for all, after many, many years, the Basseterre High School is being delivered by a Labour Government," he stated. "In just three and a half years, we have moved to a stage where significant construction is taking place."

We know from before that \$21 million was spent and not one block was laid. Today, we have more than blocks—we have concrete, we have steel, and we have materials from the quarry. That is real progress."



Dr. Drew affirmed that the government will continue to closely monitor the project to ensure construction remains on schedule.

The new Basseterre High School is being constructed as a climate-resilient, turnkey facility that will be fully outfitted with modern classrooms, laboratories, technology, furniture, and equipment upon completion, providing students and teachers with a safe, innovative, and unified learning environment.



Beyond its educational value, the multi-million-dollar project continues to generate employment for local workers and create opportunities across the construction and related sectors, contributing to economic activity while investing in the country's future.

**The Labour Spokesman
Newspaper**

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Ground is Broken on New Port Zante Cruise Terminal



Left to Right: Managing Director of Baley Project Management & Construction, Sunil Baley; Chief Executive Officer at the St. Christopher Air & Sea Ports Authority, Adeola Moore; Minister of Tourism et al, the Hon. Marsha T. Henderson; Prime Minister of St. Kitts & Nevis, the Hon. Dr. Terrance Drew, Minister of Public Infrastructure et al, the Hon. Konris G. Maynard, and Chairman of St. Christopher Air & Seaports Authority, Jonathan Bass.

Basseterre, St. Kitts (2 July 2026) — St. Kitts marked a historic milestone in its tourism development with the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new cruise terminal at Port Zante. The ceremony brought together government officials, tourism stakeholders, industry partners, and members of the media to celebrate the commencement of a transformative project that will position St. Kitts and Nevis as a premier cruise turnaround port in the Caribbean with the ultimate goal of offering full homeport services.

For many years, St. Kitts has benefited from the economic impact of cruise tourism. Millions of visitors have stepped ashore at Port Zante, supporting local businesses, creating employment opportunities, and contributing significantly to national development. The new terminal represents the next phase in the destination's evolution, creating new opportunities for increased visitor spending, overnight stays, enhanced airlift, and broader economic benefits for the Federation.

The facility is a key component of the Government's strategy to build resilience within the cruise tourism sector. Beginning in November 2027, St. Kitts will commence turnaround operations for two P&O Cruises vessels, marking a significant expansion of the country's cruise offering. Upon completion, the terminal will feature state-of-the-art security screening and immigration systems designed to facilitate the seamless processing of guests embarking and disembarking in St. Kitts. The development also supports the continued growth of the sector, with the destination already welcoming more than 950,000 cruise passengers this season.

The groundbreaking is the culmination of months of planning, coordination, and collaboration led by the St. Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority (SCASPA), the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), and the Homeporting Steering Committee, chaired by Mrs. Melnecia Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the St. Kitts Tourism Authority. Working alongside Baley Project Management and Construction Inc., technical advisors, architects, government agencies, finance advisors, and industry partners, the Committee has guided the project from concept to current construction.



Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, said the development reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to advancing its Sustainable Island State Agenda.

"This investment in the cruise terminal will drive economic impact felt across every corner of our tourism industry; regardless of your job," said Dr. Drew. "It also advances our vision for a Sustainable Island State: a nation resilient enough, and diversified enough, to not just survive whatever comes our way, but to thrive."



Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Marsha T. Henderson, highlighted the significance of the milestone and the collaborative effort that made it possible.

"This groundbreaking represents months of dedication, finally taking physical shape. This project did not begin with the turning of the sod. It began with dialogue, trust, and relationships that have been carefully cultivated over many years. It reflects the collective efforts of the Government, our public sector agencies, technical experts, financial advisors, and private sector partners, all working toward a common goal: advancing the future of St. Kitts and Nevis. The ceremony represents our determination to invest in infrastructure that strengthens our economy, creates new opportunities for our people, and enhances the competitiveness of St. Kitts and Nevis within the global cruise industry."

Once operational, the terminal will enhance the visitor experience, improve operational efficiencies, and further establish St. Kitts and Nevis as a leading cruise turnaround port in the Caribbean.

Right to Know. Right Now!

Sciver-Brunt leads superb England into World Cup final

By Matthew Henry

BBC Sport journalist at The Oval

Published BBC Sport

T20 World Cup, The Oval

England 169-5 (20 overs):

Sciver-Brunt 75 (47),

Knight 58 (47)

South Africa 129-8 (20

overs): Brits 51 (45); Bell 2-28

England won by 40 runs

England roared into Sunday's T20 World Cup final against Australia with a superb 40-run victory against South Africa at The Oval.

On a brilliant night under the lights in front of a jubilant and expectant crowd, England overcame their recent struggles in pressure matches in the biggest sign of improvement under coach Charlotte Edwards to date.

They wobbled early on, faltering at 23-3 in the fourth over, but captain Nat Sciver-Brunt hit an immaculate 75 from 47 on her return from a calf injury which had threatened to rule her out of the tournament.

She shared a partnership of 133 from 90 balls with England's other wise head, Heather Knight, lifting England all of the way to 169-5. Knight, equally as impressive as Sciver-Brunt, made 58 from 47.

And while those two provided almost all of the runs, England's excellence in the field was an all-round effort.

Their fielding - for so long a glaring weakness - was outstanding.

Sophie Ecclestone took a leaping catch to see off Proteas captain Laura Wolvaardt and break an opening stand of 43, and took a second tough chance later to dismiss Sune Luus. Danni Wyatt-Hodge also ran out Sinolo Jafta with a direct hit.

As for the bowlers, Lauren Bell and Charlie Dean took two wickets apiece, Ecclestone, Linsey Smith and Freya Kemp one each, as South Africa's hopes were snuffed out.

Their wait for a World Cup win goes on but England, although

they will be second favourites against their oldest rivals at Lord's, have a real shot at a first trophy since 2017.

Having come through the tournament unbeaten to this point, compared to South Africa, who lost to Australia and stuttered through their group, England were fancied for this game.

(cont'd on next page)

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Secret location & sleep devices: England bid to combat noisy Mexico fans



Thomas Tuchel - Image source, Getty Images

England set up a meeting with Mexico after beating DR Congo in the round of 32

By: Sami Mokbel

Senior football correspondent in Mexico City

Published BBC Sport

England are taking precautions before their arrival in Mexico to ensure boisterous locals intent on ruining the players' rest and sleep do not disrupt their preparations.

Thomas Tuchel's side face Mexico in their World Cup last-16 tie on Sunday (01:00 BST Monday) in a match live on BBC One and iPlayer.

The squad are due to arrive in Mexico City on Friday so will spend two nights before the game in the capital.

Mexico's last-32 opponents Ecuador lodged a complaint to Fifa after their squad were deliberately kept awake by noisy Mexico supporters, who used loudspeakers, horns and motorcycles outside the team hotel late at night.

The Ecuador team stayed in the Westin Hotel in Mexico City, and, while England want to keep their location undisclosed, there is a concern that the location will eventually be leaked on social media.

With that in mind, England players and staff who have not brought their own sleeping devices, such as ear plugs or sleep bands, are to be offered natural sleep remedies or white noise audio machines to ensure sleep is not impacted.

The arrival two days before the game is a change in schedule for England, who generally land in the host city the night before.

However, Fifa demands teams hold a part-open training session a day before the game.

England had been holding that in Kansas to date before flying

to the US city where their game is taking place.

However, it has been decided that England will train in Mexico instead.

Among the other challenges England will face is playing the game against Mexico in high altitude.

Mexico City has an average elevation of approximately 2,240 metres above sea level, meaning there is less oxygen available. This can impact the performance of some players, especially when they are not acclimatised to the conditions.

To that end, Mexico have played all four of their World Cup games so far at high altitude conditions, with three fixtures at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City and the other in Guadalajara - which is on average 1,566 metres above sea level.

Ideally, athletes competing at high altitude should spend a week or two living at that level in order to allow their body to acclimatise and generate more red blood cells.

Tuchel has conceded his team will be at a disadvantage when England face Mexico this weekend.

"The altitude will be a big disadvantage because we cannot physically adapt to it," said Tuchel.

Sciver-Brunt leads superb England into World Cup final

(cont'd from last page)

But with Amy Jones having cut to point, the tournament's leading run-scorer Wyatt-Hodge bowled and Alice Capsey pinned in front, albeit with an inside edge she failed to review, they ran into early trouble.

Memories of two previous semi-finals against South Africa, both sorry defeats, were looming large.

What followed was a sensational partnership from Sciver-Brunt and Knight, who drew on all of their experience.

There was only one boundary in their first 20 balls together. They calmed England's nerves but charged through the second half of the innings - Sciver-Brunt's ramps emerging and Knight increasingly taking the aerial route.

Plenty in the Oval crowd were standing when Sciver-Brunt reached her fifty. After missing the past three matches, she was passed fit for this match after coming through a training session on Wednesday but there were still huge doubts over whether she would be able to get through the game.

At no point did she look troubled by the calf. She even got off the mark with a quick single and later chased the ball down in the field.

This was, undoubtedly, one of England's best performances in recent memory.

England's exit at the last T20 World Cup at the hands of

West Indies in the group stage was their fielding nadir. They dropped five catches and were dumped out, and they were not much better in their dismal 2024-25 Ashes series.

Their fitness and athleticism was rightly questioned, but Edwards has calmly taken care of the issue. There improvement has been clear throughout the tournament but never more so than this.

Ecclestone's first catch, jumping and reaching above her head at mid-on, was the highlight. It was also crucial in removing Wolvaardt, who scored 169 against England in the Proteas' 50-over World Cup semi-final win last year.

Kemp was arguably the pick of the bowlers. The left-armer, unable to bowl until May because of her back injuries, mixed her pace and conceded only 11 from her three overs.

Dean took the big wicket of Marizanne Kapp, caught at cover off a leading edge, and Luus' dismissal came when Ecclestone held her nerve under a high catch which looped over her shoulder at short fine leg.

Wyatt-Hodge's run-out from backward capped off the performance in the penultimate over. With 12 balls to go, South Africa needed 51 - their race was run.

It meant England could celebrate in front of a crowd of 21,128 - a record for a women's match at The Oval, where England's women have still never lost.

Email: info@sknunion.com -

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THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

"And in four days, it's just impossible. More obstacles may come, but we are ready for that.

"My understanding is that we cannot adapt to the altitude. That is just a huge advantage that Mexico will have.

"It just takes too much time. We have only three days in between these matches. It's physically just not possible to adapt to the altitude, which is quite high. We knew that before.

"This is just something with which we will have to deal with. And I think we showed the attitude that we are ready for that."

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