

T Caymanian Times



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An afternoon thunderstorm

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Wednesday, May 4, 2022 Issue No 761

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Cayman Islands Government

Financial Services Minister Welcomes GAIM Ops' Return to Cayman

Financial Services Minister the Hon. André Ebanks recently welcomed 500-plus financial services industry attendees to GAIM Ops, after the conference's three-year hiatus as a result of the pandemic.

Deloitte Cayman Islands and Cayman Islands-based international law firm Walkers were the principal conference sponsors for GAIM Ops, which was held from 24-27 April at The Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman. The event attracted attendees from the US, UK, Europe, Bermuda, and Canada.

Minister Ebanks delivered the opening keynote on Monday, 25 April.

"Technology has greatly supported the global financial services industry's ability to continue conducting business during this unprecedented pandemic," he said, after his keynote.

"But for sound, long-term business relationships that contribute positively to the Cayman Islands' socioeconomic stability, nothing surpasses face-to-face meetings," he said. "That's why it was great to see so many attendees reconnecting, and making new connections, at GAIM Ops."

GAIM Ops is considered to be the key knowledge and networking event for institutional fund investors and compliance professionals. It attracts C-suite and senior-level professionals from hedge funds, private equity, venture capital and private credit.

In his remarks, Minister Ebanks provided updates on several pieces of legislation, including the Insurance Act, Exempted Limited Partnership Act and the Virtual Asset (Service Providers) Act. He also announced that the Ministry of Financial Services and Commerce will issue industry consultation soon regarding commercial enhancements to the Companies Act.



► Financial Services Minister the Hon. André Ebanks delivers the GAIM Ops keynote address on Monday, 25 April, at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman.



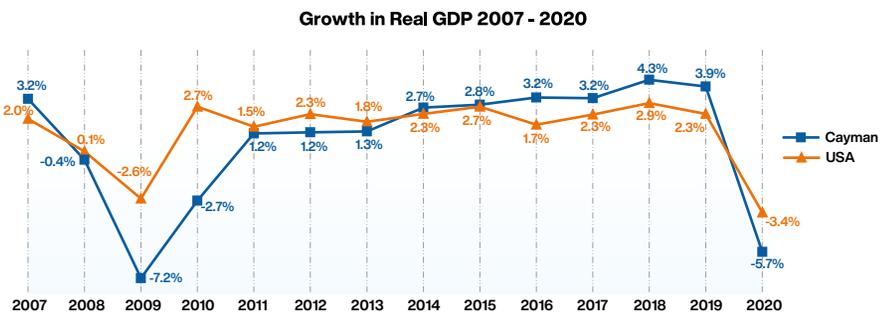


Business Survey 2022

Your Response Matters!

In 2020, Cayman's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined more significantly (-5.7%) than the GDP for the USA (-3.4%).

Growth in Real GDP 2007 - 2020



Year	Cayman (%)	USA (%)
2007	3.2%	2.0%
2008	-0.4%	0.1%
2009	-7.2%	-2.6%
2010	2.7%	2.7%
2011	1.2%	1.5%
2012	1.2%	2.3%
2013	1.3%	1.8%
2014	2.3%	2.7%
2015	2.7%	2.8%
2016	3.2%	1.7%
2017	3.2%	2.8%
2018	4.3%	2.9%
2019	3.9%	2.3%
2020	-5.7%	-3.4%

How did this change in 2021?

The annual System of National Accounts (SNA) survey collects the information necessary to measure the health and performance of Cayman's economy and its various industries.

The survey runs April 11th to June 17th, 2022.

Data collected for the SNA survey is **CONFIDENTIAL** under the Statistics Act (2016 Revision) and is **EXEMPT** from the Freedom of Information Act.

Better Data...Better Decisions...Better Business

For assistance or enquiries, please check www.eso.ky or call 244-4676/244-4608.



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Issue # 761

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COVID-19 Regulations Amended; Indoor Mask Mandate Remains in Effect



Changes to the Control and Management of COVID-19 regulations, which have come into effect today Friday 29 April 2022, relate specifically to public gatherings, processions, parades, boating, sporting activities and ticket offences. The Cayman Islands' indoor mask mandate will remain in effect.

Interim Chief Medical Officer Dr Autilia Newton urged the public to remain compliant with the mask-wearing requirements as other restrictions continue to be eased. "While we acknowledge that some countries have lifted mask-wearing requirements, we have to consider and assess the implications for protecting our population and healthcare system. Mask-wearing is still required for indoor events where a distance of six feet cannot be constantly maintained, especially since we have noticed a recent increase in new cases over the last four weeks", she stated.

In addition, all travellers are also expected to comply with mask-wearing requirements, whether they enter the Cayman Islands by air or sea. In order for a cruise ship to call on the Cayman Islands, visitors must be vaccinated and tested prior to embarkation, in the same way as air visitors must be vaccinated and tested prior to arrival. Once in the Cayman Islands, they are expected to comply with local regulations by wearing a mask before entering establishments or taking public transport.

Owners and operators of restaurants and bars are reminded that servers and front of house staff are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings while serving customers.

While a number of U.S. based airlines have removed the requirement for passengers to wear masks on board domestic flights, inbound flights to the Cayman Islands will still require passengers to wear masks during the flight.

The regulations have also increased public gathering limits for indoor events to 750 persons. The public gathering limit for outdoor areas has been removed, as well as the requirement for a person to obtain permission from the Cabinet to hold a procession or a parade. The removal of the public gathering limit for outdoor areas extends to boats and sporting events, however boats and sporting venues must still continue to abide by their legal occupancy requirements.

These Control and Management of COVID-19 (No. 3) Regulations, 2022 are currently scheduled to expire on 30 June 2022.

For more information about regulations and other COVID-19 response measures in the Cayman Islands, please visit the official Cayman Islands Government web portal, www.gov.ky/coronavirus.



We're looking for students for our Summer Programmes

CUC is now accepting applications for its **Summer Internship and Vocational Programmes** for students with a keen interest and who are seeking to pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) or related fields that CUC supports (Finance, Customer Service, Engineering, Electrical Maintenance, System Operations, Production Maintenance, Transmission & Distribution Planning and Operations, Fleet Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, Occupational Safety, Health and the Environment and Corporate Governance).

Internship Programme

- Applicants must be:
- ▶ 18 years of age or older;
 - ▶ enrolled in tertiary (post-secondary) education;
 - ▶ Caymanian or hold Caymanian Status;
 - ▶ involved in school and/or volunteer activities.

Vocational Programme

- Applicants must be:
- ▶ between 15 and 18 years of age;
 - ▶ enrolled in secondary education;
 - ▶ Caymanian or hold Caymanian Status;
 - ▶ involved in school and/or volunteer activities.

During the summer, students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on work experience with seasoned professionals and further develop skills in relevant fields, which will benefit their studies and a possible future career with CUC.

Interested students are encouraged to visit CUC's website at www.cuc-cayman.com, click on the "Careers" tab on the home page, click on "Job Opportunities", scroll down and click on "Summer Internship & Vocational Programmes", complete the form and follow the instructions. Applications must be submitted not later than **Friday, May 6, 2022**. *Hard copies will not be accepted.*

For more information on our summer student programmes, please contact CUC's Human Resources & Employee Development Department via e-mail at careers@cuc.ky.



Scotiabank Introduces Inclusive Parental Leave Policy

Increases fully paid leave for all parents welcoming a new child including parents who have given birth, parents by adoption and legal guardianship



Scotiabank Cayman, today, announced that it will be adopting a new standard for parental leave for employees. The enhanced offering will include increased fully paid leave for all parents welcoming a new child, including adoptive parents, legal guardians and parents who have given birth.

Maternity leave will be increased to 16 weeks – up from 13 weeks, fathers, adoptive parents and appointed legal guardians with a new child, will receive 4 fully paid weeks of parental leave.

Janelle Milburn, Manager, Human Resources at Scotiabank Cayman commented on the improved policy saying: “We are very happy to be introducing this enhanced parental leave policy for our team. It reinforces our commitment to a culture of diversity and is one that puts the welfare of our people at the heart of our success. It is also a progressive move to accommodate and respect personal dynamics and the family situation of each of our employees, already helping to drive our business success.”

The Parental Leave Policy came into effect in March 2022 for Scotiabank

employees in The Cayman Islands and other countries in the region where the Bank operates.

“Delivering on our core purpose of ‘for every future’ underpins our approach to making our parental leave policy inclusive of all parents,” said Anya Schnoor, Executive Vice President, Caribbean, Central America and Uruguay (CCAU). “No matter where Scotiabankers are located, they will be able to expect quality coverage and flexibility that affords them the time away from work to support their families,” Schnoor said in closing.

Steppingstones Awarded Investors In People Platinum 2022



SteppingStones has once again been awarded the Investors in People Platinum Accreditation, the highest level of accreditation by Investors in People (IIP), further cementing the organization as an international leader in how they support their people both person-

ally and professionally through engagement, wellbeing and positive organizational culture.

This is the third time SteppingStones has been formerly recognized by IIP for having excellent, outstanding and industry leading people practices. Step-



pingStones Investors in People journey started in 2015 after being awarded the Investors in People Gold accreditation. In 2019 SteppingStones was the first company on the North American side of the Atlantic Ocean to receive IIP Platinum accreditation. Platinum is the highest level of accreditation possible to achieve on the We invest in people accreditation and something only 2% of IIP organizations achieve.

“To once again be awarded Investors in People Platinum level accreditation is a great achievement. Pam, Rosie and I are beyond thrilled and honored to receive such a high level of accomplishment,” said Milly Serpell, SteppingStones Founder and Managing Director. “These past few years have been challenging for so many organizations and the pace of change so rapid that establishing positive people practices has never been more important. Under Pam and Rosie’s leadership the team have

become incredibly resilient, agile, innovative, creative, and resourceful whilst always finding time for fun.”

“We find embracing IIP within our short- and long-term business planning helps us stay true to our culture and values and we believe this is critical to our success. I could not be prouder of our team for helping us work toward this achievement particularly after the last two years of uncertainty and challenges.”

Paul Devoy, CEO of Investors in People, said: “We’d like to congratulate SteppingStones. Platinum accreditation on We invest in people is a remarkable effort for any organization, and places SteppingStones in fine company with a host of organizations that understand the value of people.”

For more information about Investors in People accreditation visit www.investorsinpeople.com. For more on SteppingStones visit steppingstonesrecruitment.com.



The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman Named Five-Star Hotel In Forbes Travel Guide's 2022 Star Awards

The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman earns the prestigious accolade, bestowed by Forbes Travel Guide, a recognized global authority in luxury travel and lifestyle



The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman earned a new Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star award and is showcased with other honorees on ForbesTravelGuide.com, further recognizing the resort's status as a longstanding luxury leader in the Cayman Islands and the Caribbean region.

"We are incredibly proud and honored to receive this accolade once again and be recognized as a Forbes Five-Star Hotel. It is a true reflection of the dedication of our Ladies and Gentlemen to consistently provide personalized experiences and exceptional service to our guests. Over the last 16 years and especially after the challenges overcome since 2020, our Ladies and Gentlemen have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to this achievement through a journey of continuous training, outstanding attention to detail and demonstration of genuine care in our day-to-day activities," expressed Marc Langevin, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman.

Forbes Travel Guide, the only global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants and spas, announced its 2022 Star Awards.

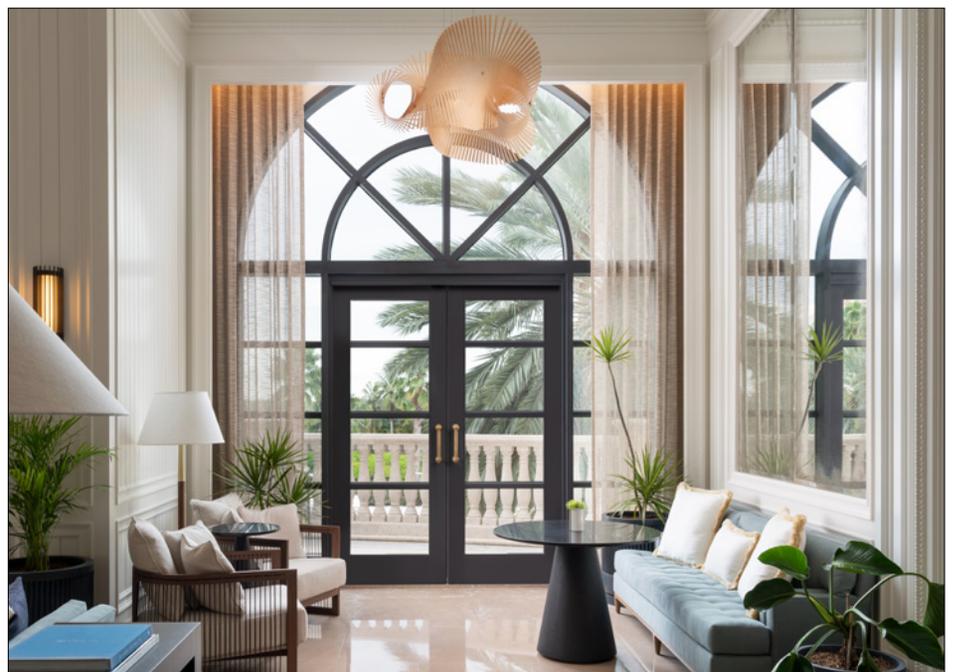
An enclave of relaxation and effortless elegance, The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman offers unparalleled service and thoughtful amenities. Much like the Cayman Islands itself, the resort's new design blends worldly influence with the one-of-a-kind character of Cayman, resulting in an elevated yet spirited tapestry. The resort features a refined new design inspired by the rich history and diverse cultural influences of the Cayman Islands. Blending modern coastal elegance with mid-century British Caribbean style, completely renovated spaces reflect an updated color palette featuring the deep blues of Cayman's night sky, lively shades of green inspired by the islands' botanical wonders, the whites and beiges of the island's smooth sands, and the sparkling shades of turquoise found in the Caribbean Sea.

The resort features six restaurants on property, including Blue by Eric Ripert,

an unrivaled fine-dining experience; an exclusive La Prairie Spa; The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, a nine-hole golf course designed by Greg Norman; Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program and remarkable signature events such as Cayman Cookout and Cayman Rejuvenate.

"Travel has come back strongly, and the resilient hospitality industry is creatively rallying to accommodate the increased occupancy demand for most regions," says Hermann Elger, CEO of Forbes Travel Guide. "While the industry faces some lingering issues, the 2022 award winners proved ready for those challenges and more, demonstrating the best that luxury hospitality has to offer."

Forbes Travel Guide is the world-renowned authority in genuine Five-Star service, and The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman is the latest addition to its illustrious annual Star Rating list.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Start of 2022 CSEC Examinations Delayed

The Department of Education Services (DES) announces that the written portion of the 2022 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examinations will commence on May 23, 2022, three weeks after the previously scheduled start date of May 2, 2022.

The decision was revealed by the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) on Wednesday afternoon (April 27), following a special emergency meeting with regional Governments to discuss the timing of the 2022 sitting of the examination.

In addition to the delayed examination start date, CXC will share with member

countries, for communication to candidates, broad topics to be assessed on Paper Two before the start of the examinations.

Other changes to the 2022 CSEC examinations include a delay in the deadline for submissions of School-Based Assessments (SBAs) to CXC by approximately two weeks.

DES Director, Mr. Mark Ray, who attended the virtual meeting, noted, "The Council has not yet provided all the specific details. However, we will notify parents, students and teachers of the outcomes once more details become available."

Spring 2022 Labour Force Survey Starts Sunday, 1st May 2022

The Spring Labour Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the Economics and Statistics Office (ESO) will begin on Sunday, 1st May 2022.

The LFS seeks to collect data on employed and unemployed persons in the Cayman Islands, as well as those who are not in the labour force.

Trained interviewers with ESO ID cards will administer the surveys to approximately 2,000 randomly selected households. These interviewers will exercise appropriate COVID-19 protocols using personal protective equipment (PPE).

The ESO thanks the households who

have already participated in the previous surveys as well as the 2021 Population and Housing Census, and is asking for the support of the general public in this Spring 2022 exercise.

The data collected is kept in the strictest confidence as mandated by the Statistics Act (2016 Revision). Individual data will not be published or used outside of the ESO and is exempted from the Freedom of Information Act.

For further information on any aspect of the survey or results of previous surveys, contact the Economics & Statistics Office at 516-3329, 949-0940 or visit www.eso.ky.

Girls Softball – Game Report



Saturday, April 30th Pizza Hut 10, Digicel 7

Girls Softball resumed on Saturday, April 30th after a two week Easter break and an extra week off due to rain at the fields. Avah Connors and Sofia Watler each had RBI singles in a six-run 3rd inning as Pizza Hut outlasted Digicel, 10-7.

Withney Jackson and Sofia pitched two innings each for the victors, combining for six strikeouts and allowing just two hits. Rio Windsor, Hanna Jackson and Withney each scored two runs for Pizza Hut, as the team scored four in the 2nd and six in the 3rd.

Clara Ramos pitched a complete game for Digicel, striking out five and making a couple of good defensive plays as well. Madison Malice and Renell Parchment scored two runs apiece for Digicel, while Clara had 2 RBI. Digicel were missing a few key play-

ers but they gave a valiant effort and nearly pulled off the win.

Last Wednesday's Digicel vs. Coldwell Banker game was postponed due to rain and it was rescheduled for Tuesday of this week.

Games will continue on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the month of May, and the girls will play their mini-tournament at the beginning of June.

For further information on Cayman Islands Little League, visit www.littleleague.ky, or check out the Facebook or Instagram pages.

Scoring by inning:

TEAM	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Pizza Hut	0	4	6	0	10
Digicel	1	3	3	0	7

Standings:

TEAM	Won	Lost	Tied	RF	RA	GB
Pizza Hut	5	1	2	80	63	-
Coldwell Banker	4	1	1	57	50	-
Digicel	0	7	1	78	102	5.5

Another First for Cayman Carnival Batabano - Carnival Village



This year all the great events associated with Cayman Carnival Batabano will happen in one place – Carnival Village at Festival Green, Camana Bay on Saturday 7 May, 2022. The day promises to be packed with excitement and activities including favourites such as the Food Festival, Junior Batabano Family Fun Day and lots of Arts and Crafts as we celebrate “All Nations, One Celebration.”

New this year are the Farmers Market, the finale of the Adult Parade and the Las’ Lap fete. You can find your favorite vendors from the Downtown Craft Market and Camana Bay at Carnival Village, so bring your shopping bags to fill up with lots of goodies.

For the first-time, mas bands will get a chance to meet each other on the Green as they parade on stage to the soca of choice at the finale of the Adult Parade. If you miss the bands on the road, Carnival Village is the best place to see the masqueraders in all their vibrant costumes – Tribal Cayman with their presentation Into Rio, newcomers – Fete for a Cause, Ascendn Mas and of course- Cayman’s “partiest” band – Party Animals. The Pirates are coming, so are the Filipinos, the Cubans, the Hondurans and of course, the Cayman Carnival Batabano Float!

The fun begins at noon – the sweet sound of steelpan, random quizzes with prizes to test your knowledge of all things Carnival, the mouth-watering smell of jerk, turtle stew, the best rice and beans, games for the kids to enjoy – all in one place – Carnival Village 2022.

Admission is only \$5 – kids under 5 are free. The Family Fun Day ends at 4pm making way for the start of the other festivities. See you to the Green!



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Platinum Cake Competition Declares Winner



The Cayman Platinum Cake Competition concluded Wednesday with a Taste Test at Government House where nine finalists were invited to present their cakes to judges Lori-Ann Foley, Brittani Seymour, Elizabeth Larsen and Mark Lea. For this final round, cakes were judged based on their creativity, taste, presentation and ability to scale up for the Queen's Birthday Party in June.

Home baker Anne Frawley was declared the winner for her "Cayman Sunrise Cake". The judges appreciated the simplicity of her cake and the creative ways in which she incorporated Cayman inspired flavours and art. The cake is based on a family recipe adapted to include flavours and ingredients native to the Cayman Islands. Also included were hand-painted white chocolate decorations of the Royal Cypher, the Cayman Islands Coat of Arms, a stingray, turtle, blue iguana, the Silver Thatch Palm and Banana Orchid showing her skill, effort, and appreciation for Cayman Islands and Her Majesty the Queen.

Governor Roper was delighted to meet all the finalists and learn about the inspiration for their cakes as well as meet the judges. *"The Cayman Platinum Cake competition is part of the extensive and excellent set of activities to mark the Platinum Jubilee and Her Majesty's incredible 70 years on the Throne. It was amazing to see the level of talent and skill within our community in this competition. All the finalists did an exceptional job and should be proud to have made it to the final. Well done to them all. It was also a pleasure to meet the skilled judges who graciously gave of their time and expertise to the competition."*

Competition winner, Anne Frawley now prepares to meet with Government House's Chef Mark Lea to work on her recipe and the creation of the cake for all to taste at the Queen's Birthday Party on 6 June.

To learn more about the upcoming Platinum Jubilee events visit gov.ky/jubilee

Youth Climate and Sustainability Activists Creating Their Own Seat at the Table

By Georgia Austin

Following a day of innovative and informative speakers, the National Trust of the Cayman Islands concluded their 35th anniversary Conference Day with an open discussion about the National Trust's future legacy with a panel of knowledgeable and pioneering youth activists.

Dejea Lyons, Julian Menko, Isabella Watler, Ally McRae, Brody Thomas, and James Elsmore joined forces virtually and in-person on the National Trust stage to share their experiences as climate and sustainability activists in Cayman.

National Trust Environmental Programmes Manager Catherine Childs moderated the discussion, establishing the importance of youth input in the face of the fast-changing future of Cayman.

Premier and Minister for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Wayne Panton said, "We know we cannot achieve our goals of sustainability and climate resiliency alone, it takes collaboration and partnership." In this nature of collaboration, Ally McRae identified one of the benefits of living in a small place as, "People in positions of power are very accessible," and McRae urged the PACT Government to make big changes, including prioritizing the National Development Plan and conservation laws.

Taking Panton's words further, the youth panel called for collective action and political engagement to tackle threats to Cayman's natural environment and historic sites, but also highlighted the critical need for individual action in amongst the various organisations inspiring change when protecting, preserving, and educating about Cayman's built and natural heritage.

Olson Anderson, Chairman of the National Trust explained, "This conference provides an opportunity to have



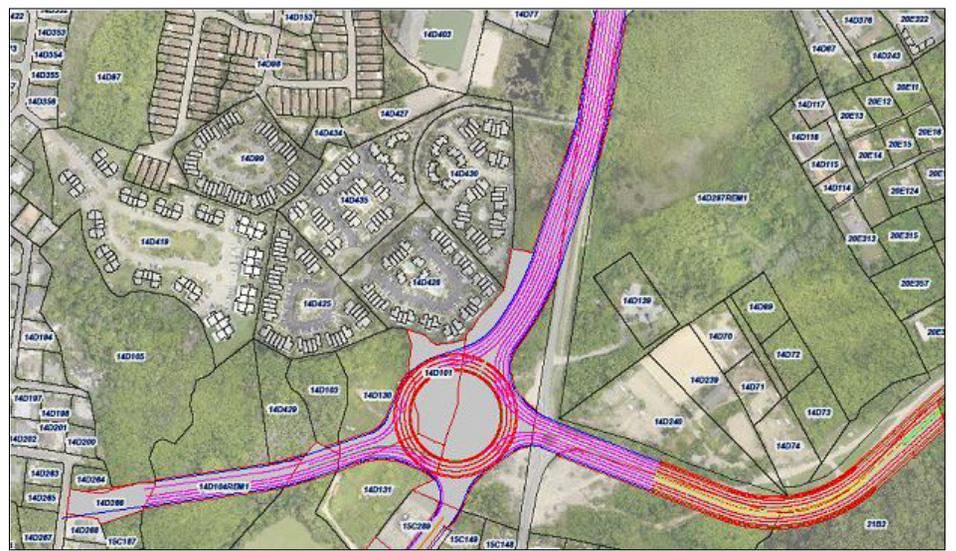
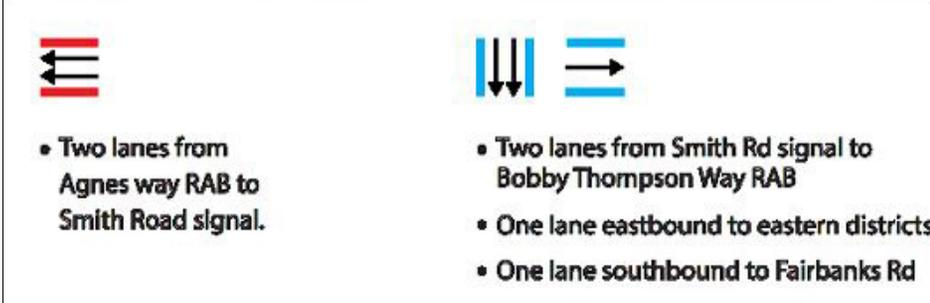
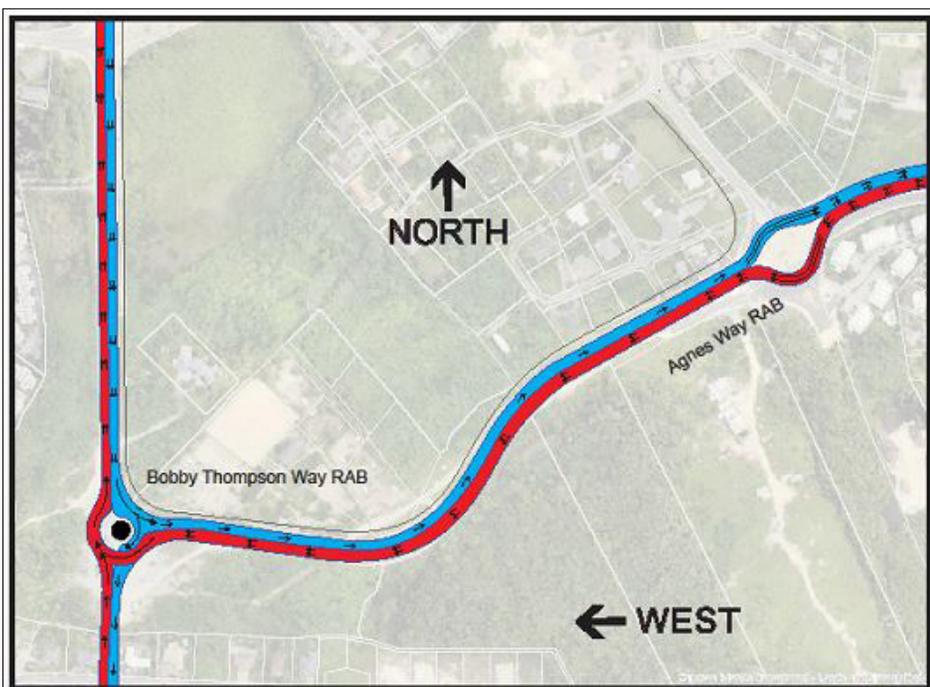
dialogue at a national level on what our community feels is important for our legacy."

And whilst the National Trust uplifted and amplified the voices of youth when starting a public discourse, this has not always been the case. Dejea Lyons spoke of youth activism groups having to create their own seat at the table to have discussions with larger organisations about the threats and solutions of the climate crisis in Cayman. Lyons went on to explain, "Young Caymanians are starting to get the opportunity to be well-versed in our global community" yet "as Caymanian youth we feel like we don't have a prominent seat at the table for some discussions and changes that we want to see in our community."

Bringing together the value of experience and youthful passion, Lyons both exposed and solved problems in the same breath, she continued, "In my opinion as youth, I think our role to conserve historic and the natural state of Cayman is to be the change-makers we want to see by creating our own table and our own seat."

Isabella Watler asked the public to "recognise value beyond financial gain," emphasising the value of Cayman's education system, community, and natural resources. These young advocates and activists prove time and time again that they are not just the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today.

Linford Pierson Highway New Temporary Road Layout Is In Effect



► Figure 2 – Final Road Layout

The National Roads Authority (NRA) has announced that the new temporary road layout along the Linford Pierson Highway is now in effect as the lane widening project continues. This is a temporary road layout offering some much needed congestion relief whilst the new lanes and larger roundabout are being constructed.

The Linford Pierson Highway widening project commenced on Monday, March 14 and is expected to be fully completed by the end of the second quarter of 2023.

Once complete the project will see a widening of the road from two travel lanes to six

travel lanes between Agnes Way Roundabout and the traffic signal at Bobby Thompson Way and Smith Road. The road will feature a raised grass median, along with enhanced drainage and street lighting.

Updates on the progress of the project will be provided in order to keep motorists informed of possible interruptions to the routine traffic flow within that area. Motorists are cautioned to take extra care when passing through the construction area.

The NRA appreciates the public's understanding whilst staff members work to improve the road network for all.

► Figure 1 – Temporary Road Layout

POLICE NEWS

Cayman rocked by second shooting murder



A 21-year-old man, Caine Demetree Thomas, was found shot dead in the early hours of Thursday morning on Seven Mile Beach between White Sands condos and the Sundowner villa. This is the second shooting murder this week, after a former prison guard, Harry Wenworth Elliott, was shot on Monday. The RCIPS are appealing for witnesses to the murder.

"This is becoming an intolerable situation with people being shot and murdered," Police Commissioner Derek Byrne said in a press conference held to inform the public of this horrific event.

The Commissioner said the RCIPS believed that the victim and the perpetra-

tors were known to each other, in fact, well-known to each other, he said, adding the police believed the meeting had been pre-arranged.

The victim knew the two men he was meeting and was then shot "multiple times", he advised, at least twice in the head and possibly up to six times.

The victim was the key witness in two key trials.

The Commissioner said the current spate of serious violent crime was being committed by a small group of individuals who had been identified by the police. And while the police were appealing for witnesses, they also advised that if members of the public were to come forward with information, they would be safe so long as they followed police advice and did what they told them.

There were additional patrols from the firearms response unit that were out in the police's crime task force unit who were actively seeking these people. As a result, one person had been arrested on Wednesday in connection with Monday's murder, and the police were actively seeking other members of the group, the Commissioner stated.

When asked why the police did not go and arrest the suspects, the Commissioner said if he could locate them he would arrest them.



"There are firearms in the community, there is information in the community. I and my colleagues understand about the concerns people have about becoming involved and providing information. We will do what needs to be done to protect witnesses that come forward, that's an assur-

ance," the Commissioner said. That needed to be done before more people got hurt, he said.

The Commissioner said the RCIPS was very open to using a reward system to encourage information from the public to become forthcoming

CICG rescues migrant vessel



On Thursday morning just after 0900HRS the CICG responded to a report of a migrant vessel to the North of the Island with a person onboard in need of medical assistance.

With the assistance of the RCIPS helicopter the vessel was located and persons in need of assistance were transported to shore and handed over to CBC

and EMT' personnel.

CG Vessels then returned to the migrant vessel and transported the remaining migrants to shore where they were handed over to CBC officers.

For any additional information relative to these, or other migrants please contact Cayman Islands Customs & Border Control at (345) 649-4579.

Cayman Islands Coast Guard Takes Possession of Two New Ford F550 Vehicles



On Friday morning 29 April, the Cayman Islands Coast Guard (CICG) took possession of two new custom built Ford F550 trucks to support their operations.

Commandant of the CICG, Commander Robert Scotland received delivery of the two trucks at the CICG base in Newlands, from Vampt Motors Mr. Adam Lawson, who has been working closely with the Coast Guard to manage the custom build and delivery of the heavy-duty vehicles.

"Up until this point we had been making do with trucks that were not entirely fit for

purpose, so we are thrilled to receive these new vehicles which meet our specific needs and requirements", says Lieutenant Commander Leo Anglin, who was the project manager for this acquisition.

With the assistance of the Director of DVES Mr. Stephen Quinland and Mr. Lawson, the vehicles were carefully considered to ensure they balance the needs of the CICG, whilst also delivering value on the investment, by selecting components that will offer the longest operational life possible and can be maintained locally on island. One vehicle, the Ford 550 Tow Body is capable of towing in excess of 30,000LBS, which allows for the safe trailering of vessels on the public roads. The second Ford F550, is a service body truck which has a crane, air compressor and welding plant that allows the CICG to be more self-sufficient in terms of repairs, vessel recoveries and unforeseen breakdowns.

"These new vehicles will greatly enhance our capability to move our vessels quickly and safely around the island, and we are looking forward to putting them into service immediately", says Commander Scotland.

Bvi Constitutional Future Uncertain

Michael L. Jarvis London UK

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) is facing the real prospect of being placed under direct rule from London by the British government.

The likelihood of the Caribbean British Overseas Territory having its constitution and its Parliament suspended is one of the key recommendations in a damning report by a UK-government-installed Commission of Inquiry (COI) into allegations of corruption and maladministration in the BVI government.

The situation for the territory's government became more precarious this week with the arrest and subsequent charging in Miami of BVI Premier Andrew Fahie on drug trafficking and money laundering charges.

However, the local government is seeking a less intrusive intervention by the UK.

DIRECT UK RULE RECOMMENDED

Already the UK Foreign Minister Liz Truss had issued two urgent statements on the crisis of governance facing the UK Overseas Territory both in the wake of the serious charges against its government leader and the COI report which has just been published.

The inquiry heard evidence since 2021 and its report was submitted a few weeks but only now released.

In a statement on Friday (following an initial reaction on Thursday) since the detention and subsequent charging of Premier Andrew Fahie, she said: "The arrest yesterday of the Premier of the British Virgin Islands on charges related to drugs trafficking and money laundering is extremely concerning and underlines the need for urgent action."

Premier Fahie has now been formally charged by US authorities in Miami with drug smuggling and money laundering. He remains in US custody and is due to make court appearances for a pre-trial detention hearing on May 4th and a preliminary hearing on May 13th.

According to the British Foreign Secretary who has overall responsibility for the UK Overseas Territories: "In January 2021, we set out significant concerns about the deteriorating state of governance in the British Virgin Islands, as well as the potential vulnerability of the islands to serious organised crime. The UK Government supported the then Governor's decision to launch an independent Inquiry into governance of the Territory."

She asserted that: "The Inquiry report published today by the Governor shows clearly that substantial legislative and constitutional change is required to restore the standards of governance that the people of the British Virgin Islands are entitled to."

Minister Liz Truss said she has "instructed the Minister for Overseas Territories to travel to the Territory immediately to speak to the Governor and key stakeholders. We will then announce a clear path forward."

BVI SEEKS LESS PUNITIVE MEASURES

With the suspension of the BVI constitution and parliament forming the core recommendations of the COI report, the Acting Premier of the BVI, Dr Natalio D. Wheatley has issued his perspective on the threat of UK direct rule facing the territory.

"The anchor of these recommendations is the recommended partial suspension of the constitution and direct rule by the UK for at least two years. I know that this will be of great concern to many persons, and I too am very concerned about the recommendation," he stated.

Dr Wheatley acknowledged that "what this would mean in real terms is that there would be no more elected representatives...there also would be no Government Ministers...all of this authority would be vested in the Governor."

The Acting Premier said he has written to the territory's British Governor, and also shared with UK Minister for the Overseas Territories, outlining what he said were his "initial thoughts on the recommendations as



► Composite image via Chanel 4 News UK
BVI Map via Wikipedia

a whole from the standpoint of good governance and democracy."

He argues that while the report makes several recommendations aimed at reforming and strengthening the systems of Government in the Virgin Islands, he feels "these can be achieved without the partial or full suspension of the Constitution in which direct rule would apply" and refers to "constitutional powers already exist under the constitution that can be exercised if necessary."

According to Dr Wheatley, who is leading the affairs of the BVI government while Premier Fahie is incarcerated and awaiting trial in the United States: "What I believe is in the best interest of the people of the Virgin Islands, is an enhanced cooperation mechanism or framework between the Governor and the Government to swiftly implement recommendations under a very tight timetable, without resorting to direct rule."

He proposes that "these arrangements can be extended every 12 months until satisfacto-

ry progress is made", adding that "we already have some very good examples of good cooperation of this kind."

Stating that progress is already being made in improving governance in the territory, the Acting BVI Premier underlines his plea for a fate less than direct rule, adding that the failures identified in the COI report are not limited to the current administration but spread across previous BVI governments.

"As partners, the UK and BVI are presently working together to protect democracy in Ukraine and around the world. Let us be the example we wish to see and maintain democracy in the Virgin Islands. It is time to turn the page."

The immediate future governance of the BVI will be discussed in the coming days when the UK Minister for Overseas Territories Amanda Milling visits the territory for talks with Governor John Rankin and Acting Premier Wheatley.

Uk Government Reacts To Miami Arrest Of Bvi Premier On Drugs And Money Laundering

Michael L. Jarvis London UK

In the wake of the arrest in Miami of the Premier of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), the British government says it will push for the urgent publication of the report by a UK Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption in the territory.

BVI Premier Andrew Fahie was arrested in Miami on Thursday (April 28th) on charges including drug smuggling, cocaine possession and money laundering.

In a statement shortly after the arrest was announced, the UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, said: "I am appalled by these serious allegations. This arrest demonstrates the importance of the recently concluded Commission of Inquiry...I have spoken to the Governor of the BVI and he will be holding an emergency meeting of the Territory's Cabinet later today (Thursday). He will set out next steps tomorrow, including urgent publication of the Inquiry's report."

In a statement, current BVI Governor, John Rankin, said: "I realise this will be

shocking news for people in the territory. And I would call for calm at this time."

The BVI (British Virgin Islands) is a British Overseas Territory.

The UK-funded and initiated Commission of Inquiry was set up in 2021 at the behest of the former Governor, Gus Jaspert.

Its remit was "to establish whether there is evidence of corruption, abuse of office or other serious dishonesty that has taken place in public office in recent years, and if so what conditions allowed this to happen."

There are no direct links reported between the remit of the Inquiry and the Miami arrest of Premier Fahie and a senior official of the territory's ports authority.

The arrest of Premier Fahie is being widely reported in the UK, US, Caribbean and international media.

According to a BBC news report and analysis of the shocking development: "Mr Fahie, the elected head of government of the British overseas territory, was arrested by US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

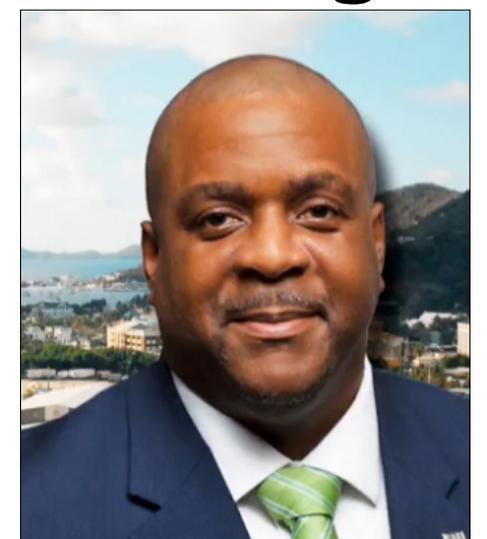
officials in Florida, alongside senior BVI port official Oleanvine Maynard.

A third person, Kadeem Maynard - Ms Maynard's son - was also arrested on Thursday in connection with the undercover DEA case.

The arrests were made after DEA agents pretended to be cocaine traffickers from Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel - said to be the largest supplier of illegal drugs to the US market and formerly run by now-imprisoned drug lord Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán.

The trio have been charged with conspiracy to import more than 5kg (11lb) of cocaine into the US and conspiring to commit money laundering, authorities said." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61266526>

In its analysis, the BBC said: "There have long been questions about the way the British Virgin Islands have been run. Since January last year, Andrew Fahie has been the subject of an inquiry into allegations of misgovernment and corruption. But now the premier of the British Overseas Territory is in custody, facing charges of drug trafficking and money laundering."



Appearing before the Commission of Inquiry last year, Mr Fahie denied that there was any corruption in the BVI. He said: "The key to any country is its reputation, but so far, and thank God for that, there is no evidence provided in the COI showing that the BVI is corrupt."

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7							4
		2	4		5	1		
				7				
	9							5
		3		1		2		
	4							9
				2				
		1	8		3	9		
	5							7

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Answer to previous puzzle

6	1	7	8	9	2	5	3	4
4	8	5	6	1	3	7	9	2
3	2	9	4	7	5	6	8	1
8	7	6	1	2	9	4	5	3
9	3	1	7	5	4	2	6	8
5	4	2	3	6	8	1	7	9
7	9	8	2	4	6	3	1	5
2	6	3	5	8	1	9	4	7
1	5	4	9	3	7	8	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/17

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beach gifts
 - 6 Houston one's own
 - 11 Concerning some
 - 12 Singer-songwriter Leonard
 - 13 Sullen sort
 - 14 Corundum, for one
 - 15 Keats work
 - 16 Melody
 - 18 Homer's neighbor
 - 19 Harden
 - 20 Travel stop
 - 21 Tapped item
 - 22 Nod
 - 24 Silent worker
 - 25 Campaign loser
 - 27 Radio format
 - 29 Goal
 - 32 Maximum amount
 - 33 Fuming
 - 34 Saloon quaff
 - 35 Corp. or Sgt.
 - 36 Yale rooter
 - 37 Not strict
- DOWN**
- 38 Marriage
 - 40 Take as
 - 42 More than
 - 43 Scoundrel
 - 44 Olympics award
 - 45 Passover feast
 - 1 Indian turnover
 - 2 Homes
 - 3 Motel sign
 - 4 Expected
 - 5 Tries hard
 - 6 Squirrel's find
 - 7 Boston team, familiarly
 - 8 Saying what's on one's mind
 - 9 Cash in
 - 10 Nervous
 - 17 Collectively
 - 23 Caribou's kin
 - 24 Spoil
 - 26 Some tires
 - 27 Shared bike
 - 28 Statue setting
 - 30 Go by
 - 31 One having a silent conversation
 - 33 Oscar winner
 - 39 Period
 - 41 Buck's mate

DELHI	BAWLS
ARIES	AVAIL
SANER	SIXTY
ELATED	
RADERS	FAT
USABLE	TINY
NINEINNINGS	
TACT	TUPELO
ONE	JOGPEN
HANGAR	
ABRAM	ERICH
BOOZE	TENSE
CODES	SATIN

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17		18		
19				20			21		
22			23				24		
		25				26			
27	28				29			30	31
32				33			34		
35				36			37		
38			39			40	41		
42						43			
44						45			

9-10

Word Search

P	V	P	H	S	U	F	B	S	P	W	P	C	D	
P	C	L	A	M	U	P	H	R	T	E	W	E	B	P
I	U	Q	G	L	S	D	V	E	A	J	Y	L	S	Q
J	L	D	C	D	M	T	P	A	N	K	O	T	G	G
F	I	L	L	U	P	R	U	K	D	W	T	G	M	Y
R	N	Y	P	O	R	A	G	U	T	I	E	U	P	
O	K	I	F	R	H	S	I	P	P	L	G	U	C	B
P	U	T	A	E	A	I	D	E	V	D	N	W	S	U
P	P	J	T	U	S	T	H	G	J	D	R	S	P	F
T	U	M	A	K	E	U	P	B	R	I	N	G	U	P
D	K	A	C	T	U	P	B	E	A	R	U	P	D	K
R	C	L	E	A	R	U	P	H	I	H	C	G	D	W
Y	A	G	U	V	U	I	P	U	E	V	I	G	A	E
U	B	P	K	S	L	Y	O	M	I	Z	G	O	Q	G
P	A	J	U	P	D	E	H	P	P	J	P	O	L	J

- Act up
- Add up
- Back up
- Bear up
- Blow up
- Break up
- Bring up
- Clam up
- Clear up
- Dig up
- Dry up
- Eat up
- Fill up
- Give up
- Hold up
- Link up
- Make up
- Sit up
- Stand up
- Tie up

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.



Have fun with
**CAYMANIAN
TIMES**

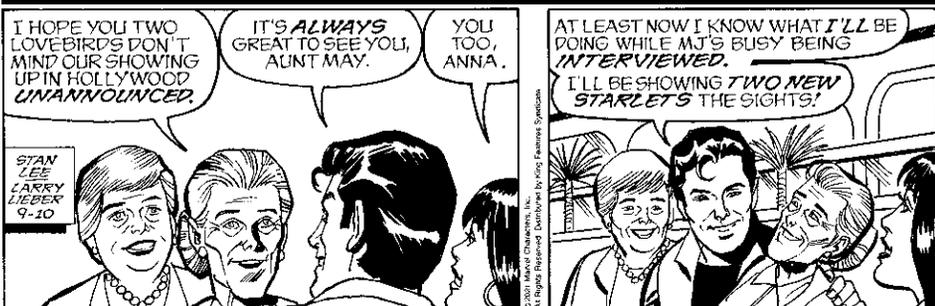
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



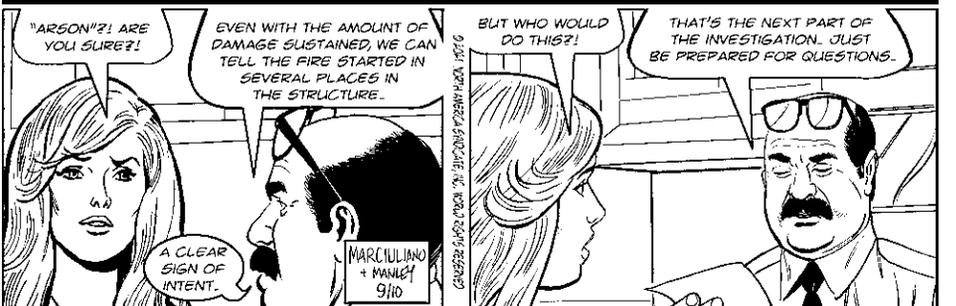
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Backlash for latest royal couple

The latest Royal tour of the Caribbean was just as controversial as before.

Prince Edward and Sophie, Countess of Wessex's tour drew more backlash. Queen Elizabeth's youngest child and daughter-in-law visited Antigua and Barbuda on Monday as part of a week-long tour of the Caribbean to mark the monarch's Platinum Jubilee. During a meeting with Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his cabinet, Browne told the royal couple that his country intends to become a republic in the future although there were no immediate plans to do so. He also urged them to use their "diplomatic influence" to achieve "reparatory justice" for the island country.

Browne said he understood that the royal family did not want to involve themselves in "contentious issues," but asked them to "understand these issues... use your diplomatic influence in achieving the reparatory justice that we seek."

"The reality is we have been left and bereft of modern institutions such as universities and medicinal facilities," he added.

Prince William and Kate Middleton also faced backlash during their tour of the Caribbean in March as the rising tide of social



► Edward and Sophie with St Lucia PM Philip Pierre



► Protestors made their emotions felt

and economic justice movements — including calls for slavery reparations and indigenous rights expansion — are rapidly reshaping contemporary views of the monarchy.

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission shared an open letter renewing calls for an apology for the role Britain played in the transatlantic slave trade ahead of Prince Edward and Sophie's arrival there.

The letter noted that the British royal family continues to "live in splendour, pomp and wealth attained through the proceeds of the crimes."

"We know that the British Crown, both as royal family and as institution, is historically documented as an active participant in the largest crimes against humanity of all time," it said.

The letter called for the UK and the other countries of Europe to partner in a constructive strategy "to meet the social and economic development gaps in the region, those imposed through slavery and colonialism".

Edward and Sophie also faced criticism after their visit to St Lucia on Friday, where

they met with the country's Prime Minister Philip Pierre. In a traditional gift exchange, Pierre presented Prince Edward and Sophie with a water colour painting depicting a sea turtle.

Prince Edward and Sophie gifted Pierre with a framed photo of themselves, which they had signed. Although it's commonplace for royals to present signed photos while on foreign tours, their gift was criticised on social media for being tone-deaf amid a royal tour that is being met with protests and calls for slavery reparations.

Jamaican kicks off 60th party



► Jamaica's Dunn's River Falls is immensely popular

Jamaica officially launched its 60th independence celebrations in London last week with its tourism minister confirming tourism numbers from the UK are already returning to pre-pandemic levels as he tipped full recover this year. Jamaica gained independence from Britain on 6 August 1962.

Tourist hot spots like Dunn's River Falls, the Bob Marley Museum, the Rio Grande River and Negril Beach are enjoying high visitor levels.

Edmund Bartlett said: "We're delighted that our British visitor numbers are already getting back to pre-pandemic levels, and our increased airlift and removal of Covid testing means we expect 2022 to be a true year of recovery."

"We expect to close 2022 having welcomed a total of 3.2 million visitors contributing more than \$3 billion to our economy."

The event on Monday was at White City House in London, and featured musical per-

formances and speeches in front of an audience including the Jamaican minister and members of the Jamaican community living in the UK.

The line-up of events planned in Jamaica during 2022 to celebrate the anniversary includes festivals, exhibitions and carnivals.

It was also confirmed that celebrations will take place in the UK, with events planned for this year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July and August.

Bartlett said: "We are 60. Sixty bold, brave years in which Jamaica and the Jamaican community has had an impressive impact on cultures around the world."

"We'll be marking this anniversary with a year of cultural activity throughout the year making this the year to visit Jamaica."

"And we'll also bring the celebrations to the UK with lots of activity around the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham this summer."

Hernandez held in New York jail



► Juan Orlando Hernandez faces a long prison term if found guilty

Former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez is in detention in a New York jail after his first court appearance after being extradited to the United States on drug and weapons charges.

US prosecutors said Hernandez, once a Washington ally, received millions of dollars from drug traffickers, including Mexico's Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman, while leading Honduras from 2014 until two months ago.

Hernandez used the money to enrich himself and finance his political campaigns, in return for protecting traffickers from arrest and giving them access to law enforcement information, according to an indictment unsealed on Thursday in federal court in Manhattan.

The defendant faces three criminal counts, including cocaine importation conspiracy and weapons possession.

Hernandez strongly denies the allegations, portraying himself as a fierce opponent of drug cartels and accusing traffickers of

smearing him to extract revenge and lighten their sentences. At a virtual hearing, he wore a blue jacket and glasses, and sat in front of a white wall while holding a phone to his right ear to listen to his Spanish interpreter.

He shook his head sideways as US Magistrate Judge Stewart Aaron described the charges, and through the interpreter said, "yes, your honour" when Aaron asked if he understood them.

Hernandez is expected to be arraigned on May 10. His US-based lawyer Raymond Colon agreed to his client's detention until then, pending a possible bail application.

Hernandez's younger brother, former Honduran congressman Tony Hernandez, was sentenced to life in prison in March 2021 after being convicted in Manhattan on federal drug trafficking charges. US President Joe Biden has focused on tackling corruption in Central America, with an added intention of stemming the tide of migrants from the region to the US.