

Prime Minister Browne Hails Pelican Court as Historic Transformation of Booby Alley and Celebrates China's Contribution to National Development

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda — 16h October 2026 — Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne has described the completion and official handover of the Pelican Court Housing Development as an historic achievement in Antigua and Barbuda's urban renewal programme and a powerful demonstration of the enduring friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China.



Delivering the feature address at Thursday's handover ceremony, Prime Minister Browne expressed profound gratitude to the Government and people of China for financing the approximately EC\$50 million housing development, which has transformed the former Booby Alley community into a modern residential complex comprising 150 condominium units.

The Prime Minister described the development as one of the most socially significant projects undertaken with Chinese assistance, noting that it will directly improve the living conditions of families who previously occupied inadequate housing in the area.

He emphasized that the transformation represents far more than the construction of new buildings. It reflects a commitment to improving lives, restoring dignity and creating opportunities for families who have endured difficult living conditions for generations.



Prime Minister Browne recalled that the vision for redeveloping the community originated more than two decades ago, when plans for the transformation of the area were incorporated into the City West 2010 development initiative.

He explained that the project remained a priority upon his administration's assumption of office in 2014, particularly as major investments were being undertaken in the nearby cruise and cargo port facilities.

The Prime Minister said it would have been unacceptable to undertake extensive waterfront development while leaving surrounding communities in substandard housing conditions.

He paid tribute to the People's Republic of China for responding positively to the Government's request for assistance and providing the financing necessary

to bring the project to fruition.

The Prime Minister also used the occasion to reaffirm Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to its diplomatic and development relationship with China, which was established in 1983.

He described China as Antigua and Barbuda's most significant development partner and credited Chinese cooperation with making substantial contributions to the country's social and economic infrastructure over several decades.

Prime Minister Browne maintained that the relationship is founded on mutual respect, practical cooperation and shared development objectives, and declared that Antigua and Barbuda would continue to defend and strengthen its longstanding friendship with China.

The Prime Minister expressed appreciation to the Chinese Ambassador, the Embassy's staff, former ambassadors and the technical teams responsible for implementing the project.



He also commended Minister responsible for Housing Maria Browne, the management and staff of National Housing, the Ministry of Works, APUA and other individuals and agencies that contributed to the development.

The handover ceremony included the formal signing of the relevant certificates by Prime Minister Browne and the Chinese Ambassador, marking the transfer of the completed development.

The Prime Minister said the transformation from Booby Alley to Pelican Court should inspire similar developments in other communities throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

He reaffirmed that the Government's central objective is to ensure that economic growth and national development translate into meaningful improvements in the living standards of ordinary citizens, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

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