

UNTOLD STORIES OF THE ARGYLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THROUGH THE EYES OF A YOUTH BY GAILORN BROWNE



SHANE CADOUGAN

As the Argyle International Airport (AIA) approaches its eighth anniversary on Valentine's Day 2025, national swimmer Shane Cadougan reflects on the major impact the airport has had on his career and the sporting community at large.

The athlete, who won a 2018 CARIFTA medal just a year after the airport's opening in 2017, credits the AIA for giving him better access to more training and competitions.

Since its opening, the AIA has provided cheaper, more frequent flights, increased security and a more comfortable travel experience- factors that Cadougan says have allowed local athletes to compete internationally on a more level playing field.

This praise of the AIA does not come from Cadougan alone. He says the feedback from fellow athletes has also been great, noting that they have definitely benefitted from the development.

Cadougan, who is also the Competitions Administrator – CONCACAF, recalled that the ET Joshua Airport required multiple connecting flights which took a toll on an athlete's body. Additionally, he states that the presence of the international airport has significantly decreased the risk of dehydration and jet lag, adding that the pressure changes from several connecting flights affect the body as an athlete.

He explains that now, with direct flights and better scheduling, he is able to focus on preparing for competitions.

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS, POLICIES AND INITIATIVES AT AIA



Investment (USD)



Local
Employees



International
Flights



SHANE CADOUGON

PRESIDENT, FOUNDER OF ALL ATHLETES INCORPORATED



UNTOLD STORIES OF THE ARGYLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THROUGH THE EYES OF A YOUTH (CONTINUED)

Cadougon noted some of his favourite improvements experienced at the Argyle International Airport are the ability to accommodate more travellers due to the larger number of check-in counters, Air-conditioned waiting areas for his flights, jet bridges for easier boarding, the convenience of increased flights from the airport, and the opportunity to compete in more international events.

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“The feedback from my fellow athletes has been great”. He says, “As athletes, we know that we have the capacity to develop ourselves within, and so we respect and appreciate development that helps to facilitate us as competitors because you want to level the playing field as much as possible coming from a small island developing state such as St. Vincent and the Grenadines.”



FEB 14TH MARKS EIGHT YEARS OF OPERATION

As the AIA marks eight years of operation, its role in supporting athletes, tourism and economic growth continues to be a game changer for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. With easier access to training and international competitions, Vincentian athletes have greater opportunities to develop their skills and achieve new milestones, setting new standards for sporting success.