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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARBADOS' NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM TRAINS IN ARGENTINA'S WORLD-CLASS BOCA JUNIORS FACILITIES

The Embassy of Argentina in Barbados and the island's U17 National Football Team have partnered to take the promising football team to Buenos Aires to train in leading Argentine football club, Boca Juniors' world-class facilities.

The intensive seven-day program commenced on December 8, 2018 and aims to assist Barbados in qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and continues the fruitful relationship between Argentina and the Caribbean island.

Ahead of the Boca Juniors' Copa Libertadores final held on December 9, the Barbados partnership was the first of its kind and bolsters the ties between both strengthened by Barbados' position as an athletic hub hosting marathons; a celebrated polo season; and a vibrant sports scene progressing towards the island's 2019 'Year of Wellness and Soft Adventure.'

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Minister of Culture and Sports, Hon. John King and Argentine ambassador Gustavo Martinez Pandiani organized the program to initiate a cultural and economic exchange for future opportunities. The U17 team arrived in Argentina via Copa Airlines' successful new Panama-Bridgetown flights, which provide the region with a Caribbean link like never before.

The increased airlift from Copa Airlines has grown Barbados' profile in Latin America, especially in Argentina, where the island has led various trade and consumer missions. "The popularity of our Copa Airlines partnership has proved a tremendous interest in Barbados from the Latin American market. Through this new initiative with Boca Juniors, we hope to position Barbados as a leader in athletics, culture, and history for Argentina and beyond and growing the island's relationship with the region," said Corey H. Garrett, director of Latin America and the Caribbean for Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.

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About Barbados

The island of Barbados offers the most authentic Caribbean experience with its exceptionally rich culture and history rooted in remarkable landscapes. Rated as one of the world's sexiest beaches in 2008 by Concierge.com; Barbados' Crane Beach in St. Philip stands as a premier destination for travellers. Barbados is also the first Zagat-rated Caribbean island and is known as the culinary capital of the Caribbean. Barbados has hosted several world class events including: The annual Barbados Food & Rum Festival; the 2006 PGA World Golf Championships-Barbados World Cup, the ICC Cricket World Cup Finals in 2007, the Sentebale Charity Polo match with Prince Harry of Wales in 2010, and the ICC Twenty20 Cricket Finals for 2010, and the Rihanna LOUD concert in 2012. Accommodations range from picturesque plantation houses and villas, to quaint bed and breakfasts and award-winning, five-star resorts. Grantley Adams International Airport offers even more non-stop and direct service from a growing number of U.S. cities, making Barbados the true gateway to the Eastern Caribbean. Barbados was voted eighth in the World by Trip Advisor's "2008 Travelers' Choice Destination Awards" in its Top 100 Destinations category. For more information on travel to Barbados, visit www.visitbarbados.org, follow on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VisitBarbados>, via Twitter @Barbados.