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Norton refuses to rule out coalition with US-sanctioned Azruddin Mohamed

By Staff Reporter - May 10, 2025



PNC/R Leader Aubrey Norton

IN a move that has raised eyebrows both locally and internationally, Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton on Friday refused to categorically rule out the possible formation of a coalition with US-sanctioned businessman Azruddin Mohamed.

Speaking to reporters at his weekly press conference on Friday, Norton admitted that while no formal talks are underway with Mohamed or Team Mohameds, he remains open to future discussions.

“We are a political party and we know you never say never,” the opposition leader said, brushing aside the fact that the businessman, his father and their companies are currently sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department.

When pressed on whether engaging with Mohamed is responsible in light of the current sanctions, Norton deflected: “What if you wake up tomorrow morning and the U.S. says there’s no longer sanctions on him?”

Critics argue that such ambiguity sends the wrong message about the opposition’s standards and willingness to align with individuals facing serious international allegations. The Mohameds were sanctioned for alleged gold smuggling, money laundering and tax evasion.

But Norton has defended his stance of remaining open to a possible coalition, insisting that he would “talk with anyone,” and emphasised that political decisions should be based on “analysing every situation.”

A few months ago, the Mohameds were photographed meeting with leader of the Alliance For Change (AFC), Nigel Hughes at his Hadfield Street office in Georgetown.

Norton’s comments come even as he accused the current government of having previously been “in bed with Mohamed,” a statement seen as an attempt to shift the spotlight away from his own openness to future collaboration.

When asked directly by reporters whether it would be risky to embrace Team Mohameds in a coalition, Norton said, “Anything you do in life has negatives and positives, including embracing Mohameds.”

Observers contend that Norton’s remarks reflect a troubling lack of political judgment, with some questioning whether the opposition is prepared to compromise core principles for political power.

Already, several individuals associated with the Mohameds have had their U.S. visas revoked since the sanctions were imposed in June last year.

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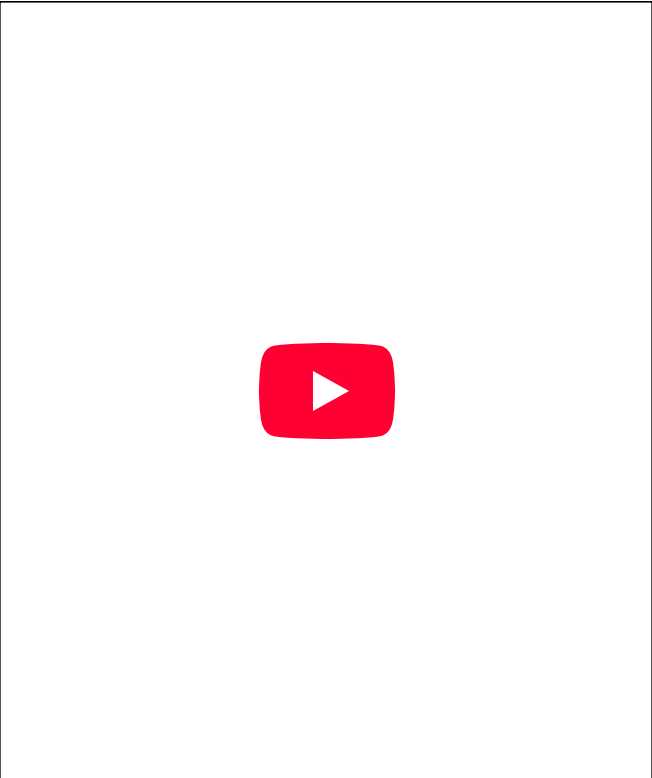
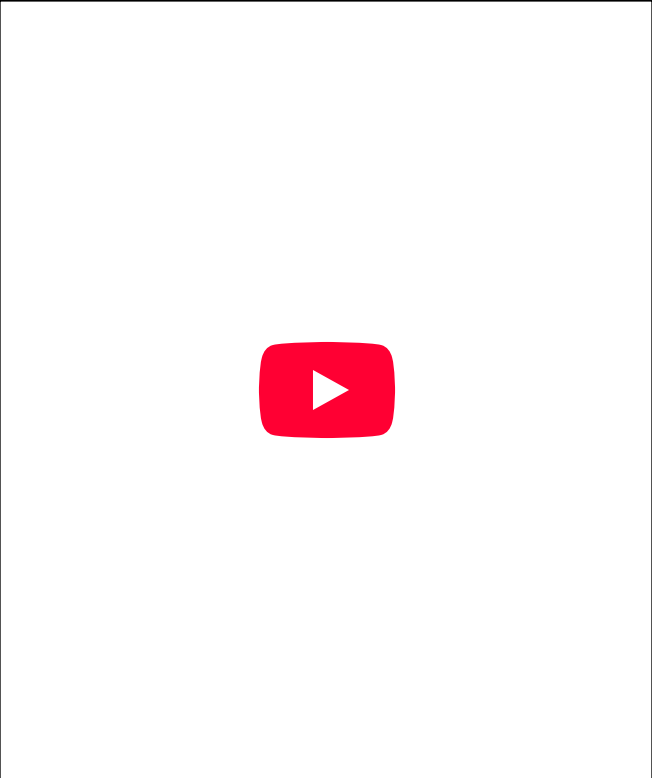
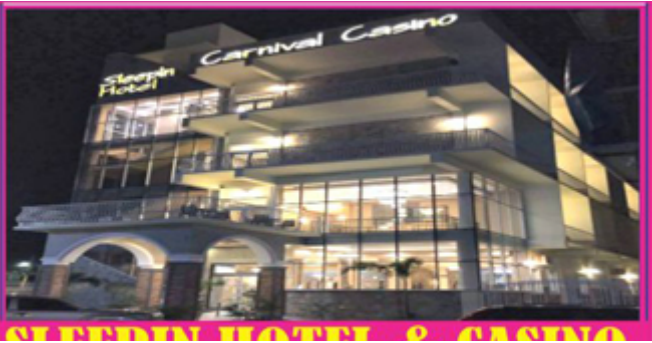
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