VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

Jan. 09, 2026 - Jan. 16, 2026

FEVER PITCH



SEE PAGE 32

NEWS LINE TCI

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

Find Us Online!



Boat Interception Nets 51 as Early-Morning Raids Capture 14 Undocumented Migrants PG2



VISA OVERSTAYS, CRIME BY WORK PERMIT HOLDERS TRIGGER IMMIGRATION BILL 2026 PG3



LION'S SHARE

Treatment Abroad Programme Gets Biggest Chunk of 2ND Supplementary Budget

>>> STORY ON PG5

Boat Interception Nets 51 as Early-Morning Raids Capture 14 in Blue Hills and Wheeland

A coordinated maritime interception and a series of early-morning enforcement raids carried out on Thursday, January 8, have resulted in the detention of sixty-five people, as authorities intensified efforts to curb unlawful migration into the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Marine units from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment intercepted a vessel at sea earlier that day carrying fifty-one individuals. The group comprised forty-one males, including one minor, and ten females. Following the interception, the individuals were transported to South Dock, where officers from the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force took custody and initiated processing in accordance with national immigration laws.

Later that same morning, at approximately 5:00 a.m., officers from the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force conducted coordinated compliance and enforcement operations across the constituencies of Blue Hills and Wheeland. The joint land-based operation, executed alongside the RTCIPF, resulted in the apprehension of fourteen individuals, three females and eleven males, all confirmed to be Haitian nationals.

Authorities reported that all sixty-five individuals apprehended during the maritime interception and land raids are currently undergoing interviews and verification checks. Detention arrangements have been secured, and repatriation processes are underway in strict accordance with the laws of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Director General of the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force, Emilio Seymour, was present in the field during the January 8 operations. He received briefings from officers on the ground and provided strategic direction as the multi-agency actions unfolded.

"The Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force remains resolute in its mission," Seymour stated. "Our presence is deliberate, our partnerships are strong, and our resolve is absolute. We will continue to pursue those who enter this country unlawfully and ensure that our borders are protected in the interest of national security."



Emilio Seymour, Director General of the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force.

Border Force officials noted that Thursday's actions reflect a sustained national strategy that integrates maritime surveillance with targeted community enforcement. The agency emphasized that close collaboration with the RTCIPF and the TCI Regiment remains critical to disrupting illegal entry routes and identifying individuals who facilitate unlawful migration.

The Border Force issued a stern reminder to the public that harbouring, transporting, or employing persons who are unlawfully present in the Turks and Caicos Islands constitutes a criminal offence and will be met with prosecution under local law.

Residents are encouraged to assist national security efforts by reporting suspicious activity or information related to illegal migration and other illicit conduct. Reports may be made confidentially and anonymously via Emergency Services at 911, by calling the Border Force at 232-6616, emailing TCIINTEL@gov.tc, or through the Border Force website.

Authorities reaffirmed that operations such as those conducted on Thursday, January 8, will continue as part of the government's ongoing commitment to safeguarding national borders, upholding the rule of law, and protecting the safety, security, and prosperity of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



A file photo a laden Haitian Boat being intercepted by local authorities

VISA OVERSTAYS, CRIME BY WORK PERMIT HOLDERS TRIGGER IMMIGRATION BILL 2026



Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Rising concerns over visa overstays and crimes committed by work permit holders are among the key factors shaping the Government's proposed Immigration Bill 2026 and its accompanying modernization framework, according to an official consultation document now released for public review and feedback.

The draft legislation, which is intended to repeal and replace the existing Immigration Act and Regulations, introduces sweeping reforms that affect non-local developers, long-term residents, work permit holders, investors and those seeking to obtain Turks and Caicos Islander Status.

Tougher Residency and Citizenship Pathways

Under the proposed framework, long-term residency requirements will become more stringent. The qualification period for a Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) based on residency would increase from ten to fifteen consecutive years for individuals holding work permits, designated status or residence permits. Government officials say the change reflects a more deliberate approach to permanent settlement.

The Bill also repeals provisions for Permanent Residence by Investment and replaces them with a new Long-Term Residence Permit (LTRP), valid for 25 years and renewable. Eligibility requires significant financial investment, including a minimum of US$1 million for new home construction or purchase and renovation of distressed properties in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos, Middle Caicos or North Caicos, or US$5 million in other islands. Business investment options are also included, with job-creation requirements.

Investments would be subject to a mandatory five-year retention period, annual reporting obligations and penalties for non-compliance.

New Points-Based System Introduced

A major innovation in the draft legislation is the introduction of a Residence and Employment Rights Certificate (RERC) supported by a Points-Based Assessment (PBA) System. Applicants would be required to score at least 130 points out of a possible 185 to be considered, with annual quotas applying.

Points would be awarded across several categories, including age, education, English-language ability, years of residence in the Turks and Caicos Islands, skilled employment, financial stability, investment, and demonstrated assimilation and service to the community. Successful applicants could ultimately be recommended for Islander Status.

Changes to Work Permits

The proposed reforms also significantly reshape the work permit system. The Freelancer's Work Permit would be discontinued, while new rules governing temporary work permits are outlined, including emergency permits of up to 10 days and regular temporary permits of up to six months, which would not be renewable.

A new provision would require a mandatory three-month break from the Islands after reaching the maximum renewal period, five years for skilled workers and three years for unskilled workers , with exemptions for critical sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, utilities, aviation, marine services and law enforcement.

New Visa Rules and Stronger Enforcement

The Bill introduces and clarifies multiple visa categories, including business visitor visas, student visas, seaman's visas and special visas. A notable addition is the Visa Bond, which may require visitors to post a cash bond for the duration of their stay to ensure departure.

Enforcement measures are also strengthened through a detailed list of ticketable offences with fixed penalties, covering violations such as failure to carry identification, failure to report cessation of employment and failure to give notice of arrival. The legislation further establishes a formal "Stop List," clarifies deportation processes and introduces regulation of immigration agencies.

Crime, Overstays and Policy Review

According to the consultation brief, the development of the new immigration framework was partly informed by a recent moratorium on visa and work permit issuance to certain nationals. The pause allowed the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services to examine links between increased crime, visa overstays and the growing number of foreign nationals entering the country.

Particular concern was raised about individuals entering on visitor visas, overstaying, and subsequently applying for work permits, as well as statistical correlations between criminal activity and some categories of work permit holders.

Call for Public Feedback

Government officials describe the Immigration Bill 2026 as a landmark piece of legislation designed to modernize border management, enhance national security, support economic stability and improve transparency.

Stakeholders and members of the public are being urged to carefully review the Bill, the accompanying Immigration Regulations 2026 and the Points System Regulations, and to submit feedback during the consultation period.

Officials say public input will be critical in shaping the final law to ensure it serves the long-term prosperity, security and best interests of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

PUBLIC MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM – GOVERNOR

The public's confidence in the judicial system is the true measure of the rule of law, Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam said on Tuesday, as she delivered remarks at the opening of the 2026 Legal Year in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Speaking at the official ceremony, the Governor stressed that the occasion was more than a formality, describing it as a moment to reflect on the overall health of the justice system and its responsibility to citizens, victims, businesses and communities.

"Ultimately, the legitimacy of the rule of law is measured not by statute books but by public confidence," she said, noting that such confidence depends on the consistent and equal application of the law. She warned that when legal obligations are treated as binding on some but optional for others, respect for the law is diminished and principle is replaced by expedience.

Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam acknowledged the progress made over the past year by law enforcement agencies, highlighting significant and measurable strides in tackling serious crime. She commended the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, working alongside the TCI Regiment, Border Force and partner agencies, for strengthening intelligence, improving coordination and demonstrating determination in confronting criminality.

Quoting Edmund Burke, the Governor said enforcement agencies had "refused the comfort of inaction" and delivered tangible results in reducing major crime. However, she cautioned that enforcement alone does not complete the task of justice.

"Justice is fulfilled in the courts," she said, pointing to the importance of fair process, timely resolution and outcomes that command respect. As the new Legal Year begins, she said attention must now turn to the performance of the judicial system and the legal profession.

Drawing on Charles Dickens' Bleak House, the Governor warned against inefficiency and delay, describing them as barriers to public trust rather than neutral conditions. She emphasised that responsibility for addressing inefficiency is shared, not only by the judiciary, but also by court administrators and members of the legal profession, whom she reminded are officers of the court before participants in the market.

The Governor also underscored the importance of public confidence at a time when courts are increasingly asked to consider cases involving major government policy decisions. She said while courts are not policymakers, they play a critical constitutional role as guardians of legality, fairness and proportionality.

Judicial independence and impartiality, she added, must not only be upheld but also be clearly seen, and constitutional scrutiny should be understood as strengthening, rather than weakening, democratic governance.

In this context, she welcomed renewed engagement by the Judicial Services Commission and acknowledged its leadership, including Chair Justice Neville Adderley and Commissioners Dame Janice Pereira and Justice Carlos Simons, describing their involvement as a signal of shared commitment to stronger judicial governance and accountability.

Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam also paid tribute to Chief Justice Mabel Agyemang, praising her leadership and service to the Turks and Caicos Islands. She said the Chief Justice's commitment and constructive engagement had advanced meaningful reforms, strengthened institutional capacity and laid a firm foundation for a modern and credible justice system.

Concluding her remarks, the Governor thanked all those serving within the justice system and expressed her hope for a Legal Year marked by integrity, efficiency and renewed public trust. Quoting poet T.S. Eliot, she urged legal professionals to ensure that knowledge is guided by wisdom, restraint and an unwavering commitment to justice.



Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam

CONFIDENCE IN NEW DPP APPOINTMENT

Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, has announced the appointment of Jeremy C. Taylor KC as the new Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for the Turks and Caicos Islands, following a what the Governor' Office described as competitive recruitment process.

The consultation was done with the Hon. Washington Misick, Premier, the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin Astwood, and the Judicial Services Commission, in accordance with Section 91 of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011.

The Governor's Office said Taylor brings more than twenty-six years' experience at the Bar, including over two decades in public prosecutorial service within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Jamaica.

Since 2014, he has served as Jamaica's Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, where he led and oversaw several specialised prosecutorial units including anti-gang, environmental law, extradition, organised crime, legal and legislative reform.

"A distinguished advocate and legal reformer, Mr Taylor has played a central role in complex, high- profile criminal prosecutions, authored key prosecution manuals and contributed to significant legislative developments and criminal justice reforms. In recognition of his service and professional standing, he was appointed King's Counsel in 2020 and awarded the Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service in 2022," the Governor' Office said.

Commenting on the appointment, Her Excellency the Governor said:

"This appointment follows a rigorous and highly competitive process, from which Mr. Taylor KC emerged as an outstanding candidate. His extensive prosecutorial expertise, proven leadership and steadfast commitment to the rule of law will be pivotal in delivering fair and effective justice outcomes and strengthening public confidence in our justice system. I am confident that he will serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with distinction."

In accepting the appointment, Mr Taylor KC said:

"I am honoured to be appointed as Director of Public Prosecutions for the Turks and Caicos Islands and grateful for the confidence placed in me. I am committed to upholding prosecutorial independence, strengthening institutional capacity and working collaboratively with justice-sector partners to ensure fairness, accountability and public trust."

Retired Jamaican DPP says Taylor is added value to the TCI



Jeremy C. Taylor KC, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) of the TCI

In the meantime, retired Jamaican DPP Paula Llewellyn said the appointment of Taylor as DPP for the Turks and Caicos Islands, alongside Fitz Bailey, Police Commissioner for the Turks and Caicos Islands, and former deputy commissioner of police in Jamaica, is expected to significantly strengthen efforts against gangs and transnational criminal networks.

Llewellyn said Taylor's work ethic and courtroom focus make him well suited to the role, particularly given the backlog and complexity of criminal cases in the TCI.

"Mr Taylor loves to live in court. The only other place that he loves like the courtroom is to be in front of his computer doing research," she told The Gleaner, adding that she expected him to work seamlessly with Bailey, who he knows professionally and personally.

Bailey, who retired in September 2024 after some 40 years in the Jamaica Constabulary Force, assumed the role of acting commissioner of police in the TCI shortly thereafter and was appointed commissioner last year.

Llewellyn recalled that during her tenure as DPP, Taylor – then head of the gang unit in her office – worked closely with her, former Deputy DPP Claudette Thompson, and Bailey on the preparation and prosecution of several major gang and transnational crime cases.

"I'm not surprised that Mr Taylor was found suitable in the Turks and Caicos Islands to take up this appointment," she added.

"He has always been a very hard worker, and he loves court work. He is known for his great research capabilities and has presented several papers on numerous legal issues. I wish him well, and I have no doubt that the Turks and Caicos jurisdiction will be the better for having Mr Taylor there as director of public prosecutions," she said.



Daniel-Selvaratnam: Mr. Taylor KC emerged as an outstanding candidate



Llewelyn: "I'm not surprised that Mr Taylor was found suitable in the Turks and Caicos Islands to take up this appointment,"

She also offered advice on the leadership demands of the role, stressing the importance of management skills and emotional intelligence.

"Leadership in any role demands one thing: that you are prepared to be shoulder and shoulder with your staff. So not only should he be mindful of that high-quality professionalism as it relates to his research and advocacy skills in court but also to the science of management and the twin issues of being able to give the tough love but at the same time have a lot of emotional intelligence to get the best out of your staff. He should always be prepared to lead from the front and to mentor so that every member of staff he interacts with will be left better professionally and otherwise his leadership."

Additional reporting by the Jamaica Gleaner

TREATMENT ABROAD TAKES BIG CHOMP INTO PROPOSED 2ND SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Spending on overseas medical care dominates the Second Supplementary Estimates for the 2025/2026 financial year, with a substantial $11.4 million allocated to the Treatment Abroad Programme, the single largest adjustment in the revised budget.

Presenting the Second Supplementary Estimates in the House of Assembly on January 8, 2026, Premier and Minister of Finance Hon. Charles Washington Misick said government is seeking an additional 27.3 million in spending to cover a number of priority areas.

He said the heavy investment in the Treatment Abroad Programme is a response to increasing demand, rising international healthcare costs, and the moral obligation of the State to protect the health and lives of its people. He stressed that healthcare remains one of the pillars of Government policy, even amid other competing national priorities.

The Premier emphasized that the prominence of the Treatment Abroad allocation sets the tone for the Supplementary Budget as a whole, which he described as people-centred, responsive and compassionate. While the Estimates also address infrastructure, land acquisition and institutional strengthening, he noted that urgent human needs, particularly access to medical care, were placed at the forefront of the revised spending plan.

Overall, the Second Supplementary Estimates, according to the premier, seek to increase Government's revenue envelope by $16.5 million, moving from $549.4 million to $567.0 million. According to the Premier, this increase is largely driven by the formal recognition of revenues already collected, including excess revenue remittances from Statutory Bodies and higher-than-anticipated collections from Share Transfer Duties. Correspondingly, expenditure is proposed to rise by $27.3 million, from $553.5 million to $580.8 million.

As a result of these adjustments, the fiscal position reflects a net deficit of $14.9 million. However, Premier Misick underscored that the deficit will be fully financed from prior-year cash reserves, ensuring that no new borrowing will be required. He described this approach as clear evidence of Government's disciplined and prudent management of public finances, even while expanding spending to meet urgent needs.

Beyond healthcare, the Supplementary Estimates include a series of targeted recurrent expenditure adjustments aimed at improving service delivery and meeting pressing obligations. These include $8.2 million for strategic land acquisition to



Premier Hon. Washington Misick

secure assets critical to national development, and $2.7 million to settle legitimate claims against Government, ensuring that lawful obligations are honoured.

Social protection also features prominently, with $1.8 million allocated for social welfare interventions to assist the country's most vulnerable citizens. Education receives additional support through a $98,000 allocation to help address teacher shortages, while $350,000 has been earmarked for the enhancement of sports infrastructure.

The Judiciary is set to benefit from an additional $163,000 in operating expenses to help reduce delays and clear case backlogs. Meanwhile, $1.3 million has been allocated for professional and consultancy services, focused primarily on revenue enhancement and institutional strengthening across Government. The reinstatement of the Director of Business Transformation post is also included in the Supplementary Estimates, which, according to Premier Misick, reinforcing the administration's commitment to public sector reform.

Infrastructure and maintenance remain key areas of focus, with $1.5 million allocated for maintenance works across the islands. Grand Turk, in particular, will see $1.5 million directed to the Grand Turk Economic and Shipping Authority for infrastructure development, reflecting increased cruise passenger numbers during the fiscal year. Additional allocations include $655,000 for data centre equipment for Government operations in Grand Turk and Providenciales, and $500,000 to support a Special Advisor Programme aimed at improving public sector performance. A further $75,000 has been set aside for faith- and religious-based affairs.

On the capital side, the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) for 2025/2026 is proposed to increase modestly by $861,250, moving from $48.9 million to $49.8 million. New and reallocated projects include $4.5 million for works on secondary roads, $546,000 for upgrades to the Grand Turk Fish Market, and $565,000 for a fibre-optic project designed to enhance digital connectivity.

At the same time, some projects have been temporarily deferred, including $500,000 for the Wheeland Enhancement Project and $900,000 for refurbishment and equipment at the Aged Care Home. Additional funding has been approved for road and electrification development, including the Causeway and Spine Road, as well as for the refurbishment of the Gustavus Lightbourne Complex. Administrative adjustments and re-allocations were also made to better align project names and scopes with actual implementation.

Providing an update on year-to-date financial performance, Premier Misick reported that as at the end of November 2025, aggregate recurrent revenue totaled $356.8 million, approximately three per cent below budget, but seven per cent higher than the same period last year. Underperformance in areas such as Hotel and Restaurant Tax, Stamp Duty on land transactions, Import Duty and Customs Processing Fees was partially offset by stronger collections from work permits, statutory bodies and share transfer duties.

Total recurrent expenditure stood at $295.3 million, about 13 per cent below estimates but 13 per cent higher than the previous year. The Development Fund balance at the end of November was $85.3 million, with capital expenditure of $15.1 million, resulting in a year-to-date operating surplus of $56.9 million and an overall net surplus of $41.8 million after capital spending.

The Premier also highlighted Government's strong cash position, with total balances of $410.6 million across the Consolidated Fund, Development Fund, National Wealth Fund and other statutory funds. He concluded that the Second Supplementary Estimates demonstrate a Government that is careful, compassionate and forward-looking, addressing urgent national needs, led by healthcare, while safeguarding long-term fiscal sustainability as he sought Parliament's approval.

CG MANAGEMENT CO LTD

HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR A

HOUSEMAN

- CLEANS, MAINTAINS AND PREPARES ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE GUEST ROOMS AND BATHROOMS.
- HIGH LEVEL INSIDE & OUTSIDE CLEANING, SHIFTING FURNITURE'S USING HEAVY CLEANING EQUIPMENT, LADDERS, SHAMPOO AND VACUUM CARPET
- MAINTAIN AND CLEAN ASSIGNED PUBLIC AREAS & GUEST ROOM
- COLLECTS SOILED LINEN FOR LAUNDERING FROM HOUSEKEEPING CARTS
- CLEANS AND RESTOCKS THE FACILITIES, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES AND

This position is held by Work Permit Holder. Qualified Belonger candidates with clean police record are encouraged to submit a CV by e-mail to: marsha@misickstanbrook.tc (Marsha Blanche) Applications should be received no later than January 9th, 2025.

CARICOM at the crossroads of pressure

By Ronald Sanders

The Caribbean Community stands at a moment that calls for less rhetoric and more realism. CARICOM is experiencing a period in which external pressure is intensifying, new norms are hardening among powerful states, and the need for small states to navigate emerging demands is growing.

The central challenge before CARICOM is not disagreement between governments. Diversity of view is inevitable among governments, which are transient by nature and whose policies are shaped by domestic political cycles. The deeper question is whether all governments — acting as a community of interests — can strengthen collective planning and coordination in a world where economic, political and security shocks increasingly spill across borders.

Economic stress in one CARICOM country never remains confined. The region's economies are interlinked through trade, investment, labour movement, tourism and financial flows. Intra-CARICOM exports — particularly from the more industrialised CARICOM economies — have direct implications for revenues, employment and growth across the community. A downturn in any one economy translates into lost income and reduced demand across regional supply chains.

Political stress behaves similarly. When a member state faces external pressure or coercion, even well-intended but qualified support within the community can dilute deterrence, signal hesitation and encourage further testing of regional resolve. Therefore, CARICOM's unity must be expressed, not only in declarations, but in timely, consistent and unambiguous collective action.

This reality applies equally to Guyana. Oil and gas revenues have transformed its national prospects, but wealth does not confer immunity from geopolitical risk or diplomatic pressure. Guyana looks to all CARICOM governments for political and diplomatic support on matters touching its territorial integrity — just as Belize has long relied on the community's consistent backing in defence of its borders and independence. A weakened community would be less persuasive in defending its members when pressure mounts. That is why Guyana and Belize, no less than others, have a stake in helping to bolster the economic resilience of all CARICOM countries.

Against this backdrop, recent public questioning of CARICOM's reliability misses the larger point. For more than 50 years, CARICOM has provided a framework for cooperation in trade, security, health, disaster response and diplomacy. The record is imperfect but the outcomes are real — and, without them, individual states would be far more exposed.

In security, the facts are clear. CARICOM does not support drug trafficking, organised crime or illicit enterprise. On the contrary, the community has worked closely with each other and with international partners, including the United States, through intelligence-sharing, law-enforcement coordination and maritime security mechanisms. These arrangements are professional, active and indispensable.

Similarly, CARICOM's advocacy of the Caribbean as a zone of peace reflects respect for international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the recognition that stability is the foundation of economic survival. For small states, peace is a necessary condition for prosperity.

What distinguishes this moment is the accumulation of pressures that now require greater collaboration, not less.

Storm clouds are forming over the citizenship by investment (CBI) programmes operated by five CARICOM states. The European Union has signalled a decisive hardening of its position, suggesting that the existence of such programmes may, in itself, justify the suspension of visa-free travel to the Schengen area, regardless of reforms undertaken — a shift from conditional scrutiny to structural opposition.

At the same time, the United States has made clear that CBI programmes across the region are under close scrutiny, with particular focus on identity verification, security vetting and the integrity of passport issuance. If these pressures intensify, the consequences will extend beyond the five states involved, affecting investment flows, fiscal stability, financial services and confidence across the region.

This is why the countries that operate CBI programmes must redouble their efforts to ensure that applicant vetting meets the highest international standards; that jointly agreed regulatory and oversight frameworks are fully and consistently implemented; that breaches attract prompt sanctions; and that the systems are insulated from corruption or political interference. Every reasonable step must be taken to reassure international partners that Caribbean CBI programmes are secure, credible and effectively enforced.

Visa policy has also become a sharper instrument of leverage in international relations. Measures applied to one country can widen unless concerns are addressed early and collectively. The economies of all CARICOM states depend on mobility for tourism, education, business travel, remittances and diaspora engagement. No government can afford a fragmented response.

Another pressure point has emerged around the Cuban medical cooperation programme, which, in 2025, became a central issue in US policy towards Latin America and the Caribbean. Governments face a genuine dilemma: health systems rely heavily on these medical personnel, yet geopolitical realities and international conventions cannot be ignored. Responsible governance requires preparation — developing alternatives to protect public health services — while engaging candidly with all partners, including Cuba.

These challenges share a common feature. Each reflects the asymmetry of power between small states and larger partners. None can be managed effectively by individual countries acting alone. All underscore the need for reciprocity in international relations.

Cooperation, however, cannot mean acquiescence without regard to consequence. If small states are expected to alter policies that affect livelihoods, revenues and social stability, then powerful partners must recognise the costs imposed and engage in solutions that preserve viability, not merely compliance. Reciprocity must be negotiated and agreed — not imposed.

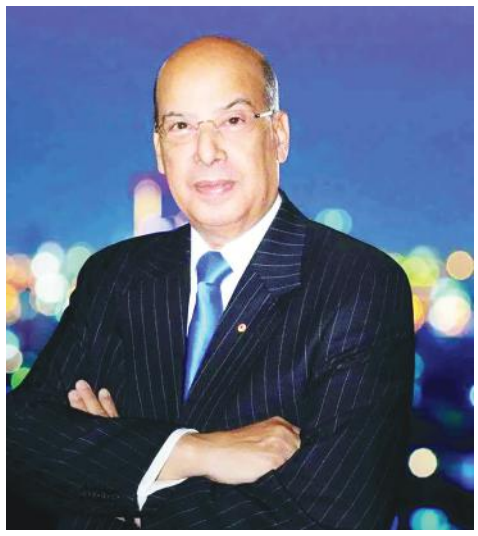
For the Caribbean, strong and predictable relations with the United States remain indispensable. The region's objective must be partnership that recognises the constraints small states face and the shared benefits of stability, growth and democratic resilience.

CARICOM's task is clear. The community must move from coordination after the fact to planning in advance: shared risk assessment, early consultation and collective strategies that prevent external pressures from forcing unilateral decisions.

As 2026 begins, CARICOM faces a choice. It can treat each challenge as a national problem to be managed alone or recognise that the future resilience of the Caribbean depends on planning together, speaking with discipline, and acting with foresight.

In a world where power is impatient and rules are applied unevenly, small states endure not by standing apart, but by standing together — clear-eyed about risks, prepared for change and united in purpose. That should be the work of every CARICOM government in the year ahead.

Sir Ronald Sanders is the ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS. For responses and previous commentaries visit www.sirronaldsanders.com.



Sir Ronald Sanders

NEWSLINE TCI
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

NEWSLINE TCI is located at
1085 Leeward Highway,
Providenciales,
Turks & Caicos Islands, BW1.

Our numbers are:
1649 348-9587
1649 **242-6695**
You can email us at
contact@newslinetci.com or
viviantyson@newslinetci.com

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

CLASP
INITIATIVE

OUTREACH EVENT

Come out and learn all about the **Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP)** and how it is redefining land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands!

Learn about:

- New Homes for Turks Islanders
- Environmental Protections
- Beach Access Reform
- The Crown Land Amnesty Programme
- Social Needs Assessments
- and much more!

Join Us

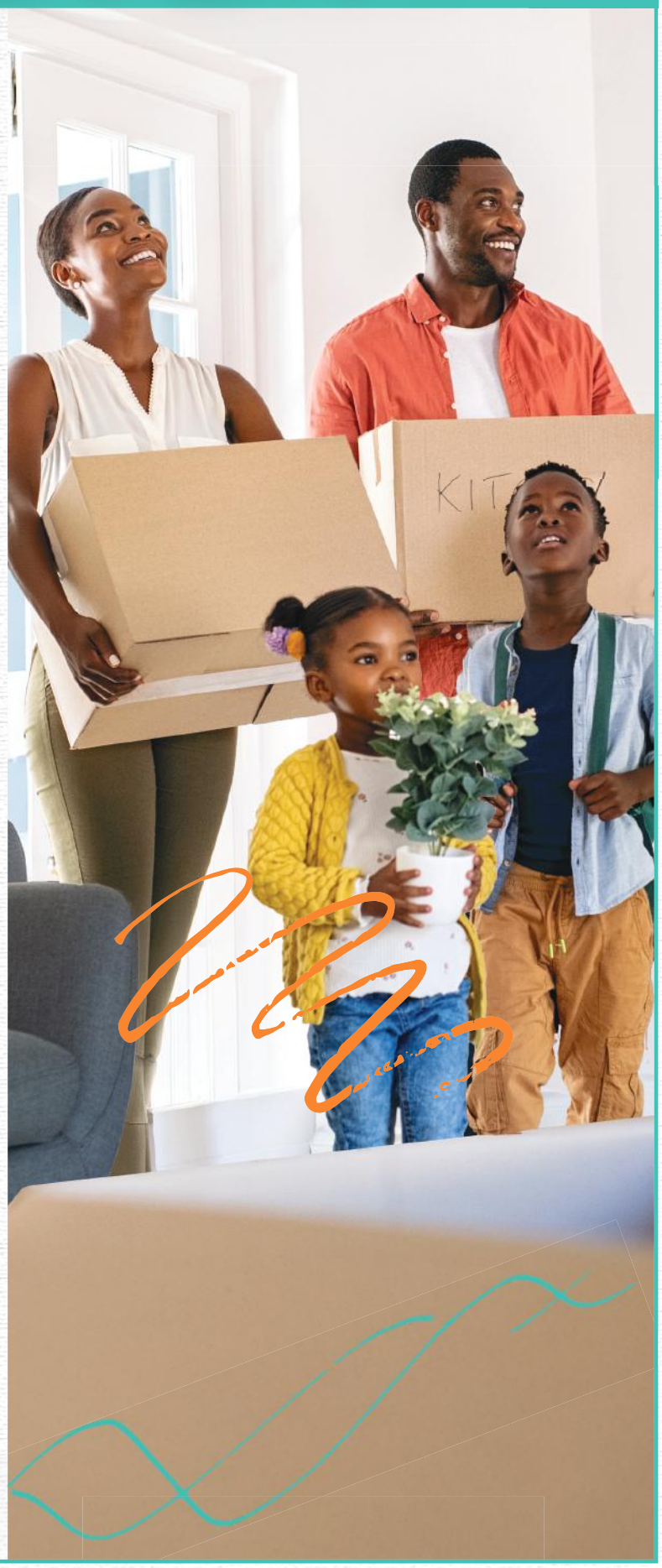
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex

Open Day - 3:30 p.m.

Town Hall - 5:30 p.m.

The CLASP Initiative involves multiple departments of the TCIG working together to redefine land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



TCI Top Model Launches Search for Cycle 7, Grand Finale Set for May 2026

The Turks and Caicos fashion scene is poised for another major moment as TCI Top Model officially launches its search for Cycle 7, with the highly anticipated TCI Top Model 2026 competition set to culminate in a spectacular Grand Finale on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at Brayton Hall.

The announcement was made by celebrated fashion icon and event organizer Mr. Courtney Robinson, founder of the long-running modeling platform, which has played a transformative role in shaping the local and regional fashion and entertainment industries.

As the countdown begins, aspiring contestants, models, and creatives are invited to attend the official registration and casting session on Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre.

The competition is open to individuals 16 years and older, with specific height and size requirements established for both male and female contestants and models. Beyond modeling hopefuls, the platform also extends opportunities to designers, photographers, stylists, and other creatives, reinforcing its reputation as a comprehensive incubator for fashion talent.

Since its inception in 2009, TCI Top Model has built an impressive legacy, launching numerous local models onto international runways and into prestigious fashion publications and global events. Alumni of the program continue to make their mark across the Caribbean and beyond, underscoring the competition's influence and staying power.

Founder Mr. Courtney S. Robinson, MSc, Managing Director of Good Street Management, emphasized that the program is about more than competition.

He noted that TCI Top Model remains committed to equipping aspiring models and creatives with practical skills, professional guidance, and industry exposure, ensuring participants are prepared for sustainable careers within fashion and entertainment.

With Cycle 7 now officially underway, TCI Top Model 2026 promises to once again elevate local talent and spotlight the Turks and Caicos Islands as a growing hub for fashion excellence.

Shakem Charles was the winner of the 2025 edition of the TCI Top Model, which was regarded as the most exciting of all the stagings.



Shakem Charles, the winner of the 2025 edition of the TCI Top Model



Photo Credit : TCI Top Model

Courtney Robinson (left), the TCI Top Model Organiser is seen here in New York with Cycle 7 winner Shakem Charles (third from left), Hu Prospere (right), 1st Runner-Up, and Britney Bien-Ame



This photo shows the land being cleared of the illegal structure



The illegal structure on the property at North Creek, North Caicos

ILLEGAL STRUCTURE REMOVED AT NORTH STUBBS CREEK POINT

The Informal Settlements Unit supported the removal of an illegal structure located within the informal settlement site identified as PS:24 – North Stubbs Creek Point on 18 December 2025.

The enforcement exercise was led by the Crown Land Unit in accordance with its statutory authority under the Crown Land Ordinance, with security support provided by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and operational support from the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force. The Informal Settlements Unit played a coordinating and support role to facilitate inter-agency collaboration and ensure the orderly execution of the exercise.

Prior to the removal, the Crown Land Unit conducted a series of inspections at the site and identified an illegally constructed concrete structure on Crown land. Notices of Illegal Occupation were subsequently posted on the structure in keeping with the provisions of the Crown Land Ordinance. The individual or individuals responsible for the construction failed to comply with the notice, resulting in enforcement action being taken.

One concrete structure, which was at the belt beam stage of development, was removed during the exercise. The parcel is now in a partially reclaimed state following the enforcement action.

The Informal Settlements Unit said it remains committed to supporting lawful land management and the protection of Crown land. The Unit also noted that will continue to work closely with partner agencies to address illegal settlement activity while promoting orderly development and adherence to national land policies.

11th Annual 'An Exclusive Evening of Art' Slated for Shore Club Jan. 31

The Edward Gartland Youth Centre (EGYC) has announced the 11th annual An Exclusive Evening of Art, an elegant and highly anticipated art exhibition and fundraiser taking place on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the prestigious Shore Club in Long Bay, Turks and Caicos Islands.

This unforgettable evening will bring art and culture together in a sophisticated setting, showcasing exceptional artwork by acclaimed local and international artists, complemented by live entertainment, fine hospitality, and an atmosphere of celebration, all in support of the vital programs of the Edward Gartland Youth Centre.

A highlight of the evening will be the participation of Sotheby's New York Vice President and Auctioneer, Phyllis Kao, who will preside over the live auction. Phyllis Kao is an internationally respected auctioneer, whose experience brings a global perspective to the rostrum.

Kao is also well known for her philanthropic work, having raised funds for leading institutions including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Dallas Museum of Art, Sundance Film Festival, American Friends of the Louvre, and Asia Society, among many others.

The evening will also proudly feature internationally renowned contemporary artist Bradley Theodore, a Turks and Caicos native, whose career began in New York City and has since taken him onto the global stage. Known for his bold, colorful skeletal depictions of modern icons,



Sotheby's New York Vice President and Auctioneer, Phyllis Kao



Internationally renowned contemporary artist Bradley Theodore

Theodore's work explores themes of memory, emotion, and the shared human experience. His large-scale murals and sold-out exhibitions span New York, London, Tokyo, Paris, Milan, and beyond.

Now in its 11th year, An Exclusive Evening of Art has become one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' most distinguished cultural and philanthropic events, raising essential funds to support youth development, education, and community programs at the



Roxann Wake-Forbes, Executive Director Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre

Edward Gartland Youth Centre.

The Edward Gartland Youth Centre gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our event sponsors Gilley's Enterprises, Turks and Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, The Shore Club, and Finishing Touch.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Edward Gartland Youth Centre, helping to empower and inspire young people across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

General Tickets are available for purchase at the following locations, Ticket Locations; Edward Gartland Youth Centre, The Wine Cellar, Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, Unicorn Bookstore, Framing TCI or Online via Isle Help.

For more information on VVIP tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact the Edward Gartland Youth Centre on 649-331-9602 or email info@ecgyouthcentre.com.

People Afraid to Publicly Discuss Immigration Bill – Green

Sabrina Green, former Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Director, says fear and uncertainty are preventing many residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands from publicly expressing their views on the proposed Immigration Bill 2026, a concern she believes could limit meaningful public participation in legislation that will shape the country's future for generations.

Green, an attorney and community activist, says she has been approached by numerous individuals seeking clarity and guidance on the Bill, particularly regarding its potential impact on families, businesses, workers, and national development. While interest in the legislation is widespread, she noted that many people feel constrained by personal or professional circumstances that make open discussion difficult.

In response, Green has announced the creation of a confidential and responsible platform designed to allow residents and stakeholders to share their concerns, recommendations, and lived experiences without fear of exposure. The goal, she explained, is to ensure that these perspectives are carefully considered and presented constructively as the Immigration Bill moves through the parliamentary process.

Green emphasized that her initiative is not intended to stir division or fuel anxiety around immigration reform. Instead, she says it is rooted in principles of good governance, fairness, and long-term national stability.

The Immigration Bill 2026 has generated increasing public discussion as residents attempt to understand how proposed changes may affect residency status, employment opportunities, family unity, and the broader development trajectory of the country. Green believes that inclusive consultation is essential, particularly in a small society where policy changes can have far-reaching social and economic consequences.

She is encouraging members of the public to take the time to review the Bill carefully and reflect on how it may affect them personally or impact their communities. Submissions, she said, can include concerns, suggestions for amendments, or broader reflections on how immigration policy should support national development while remaining fair and humane.

The deadline for submissions is January 20, 2026, after which Green plans to compile and present the feedback in a manner that supports informed debate as the Bill goes before Parliament.



GREEN: I am creating a confidential and responsible space for residents and stakeholders to share their concerns, recommendations, and lived experiences so that these views may be carefully considered and presented constructively as the Bill goes before Parliament.

Opposing the Public Holidays Amendment Act 2025

By Dr. Porsha Stubbs

I read with interest the article by Dr. Carlton Mills, a supporter of the now-holiday on the Turks and Caicos Islands calendar, Constitution Day. Sir, thank you for the history lesson, which holds a significant place in my heart and library of knowledge.

However, as an opponent of this change, I believe it should not have been added to the calendar of holidays for the Turks and Caicos Islands until we achieve Independence as a country.

The Turks and Caicos Islands remain the envy of the Caribbean, despite Bermuda's constitution, the effectiveness of Cayman Islands immigration legislation, and the strength of the British Virgin Islands' external financial economy. Yet every little breeze from the North influences what we do as a country and how we ensure that the culture, character, and creativity of the Turks and Caicos remain uncertain.

For example, there were many expressions on social media regarding Maskanoo 2025, held annually in partnership with internal stakeholders in the Turks and Caicos Islands on Boxing Day.

As a former minister of the cabinet (2012- 2016), depending on who you ask, and at what time, the Turks and Caicos Islands celebrate both Massing and Junkanoo. When things are not adequately documented and adapted, chaos continues.

I oppose the recent addition of Constitution Day to the calendar of Holidays in the Turks and Caicos Islands. My reason: the growth of anything commences internally, and we seem to have a propensity always to destroy what we have built to please the palate of a few of us. Yes, we need to be reminded of where we came from and how we got here, but the day could have been added to the calendar as an acknowledged day rather than a recognized holiday.

As former holders of cabinet positions, we are expected to agree to some things we do not personally agree with. Without a confession, I can only assume that you (Dr. Mills) did not agree to all the decisions and changes made every time, a lesson I learned as minister responsible for culture during the 2012-2016 period. In my humble opinion, neither history nor culture was efficiently or accurately dispersed, nor were the alignment nor the specifics aligned.

The creation of the Culture Policy framework, which I have yet to see a copy of, commenced, or may not have commenced, can assist this.

The country's achievements are significant, yet the will to achieve what is vital to us as Turks and Caicos Islanders is not adequately celebrated, which is why the lesson you so ably outlined should not be celebrated in that form. The day without programs and resources will die, as many vital recognitions in our country do.

The National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving, recognized on the calendar as the National Day of Thanksgiving, was born to give God thanks and praise for the achievements, lessons, and words inserted by us in the preamble of the Constitution, "The people of the Turks and Caicos Islands are a God-fearing people with convictions based on sound Christian culture, values and principles..." the removal symbolizes that we are uncertain in what we believe.

The stand indicated that the Government took this commitment to God and country seriously, admonishing our citizens not to take prayer and thanksgiving lightly, and by choosing a day on which to celebrate it as a nation. The change of date in 2025 was improperly advised, and the government should have consulted. It is not JUST a holiday for shopping; it was a day set aside to strengthen what remains. Yes, most of the island residents participate in religious practices on Saturday and Sunday, but this holiday symbolized the government's dedication to God and country.

Evidently, history is vital to who we are, and it must be taught. Hence, to those in authority, consider these: overwhelm our citizens daily with our history, partner with civic groups, offer information sessions for aspirants to public office, and include orientation seminars for future and existing public servants, and the inclusion of such important information in the education curriculum, in our own social studies text. In line with the culture policy, increase amplification during National Heritage Month celebrations (October, 31 days) through programs and widespread marketing to ALL. Nothing happens overnight except by some miracle, but we must cease to appear uncertain and dictatorial.

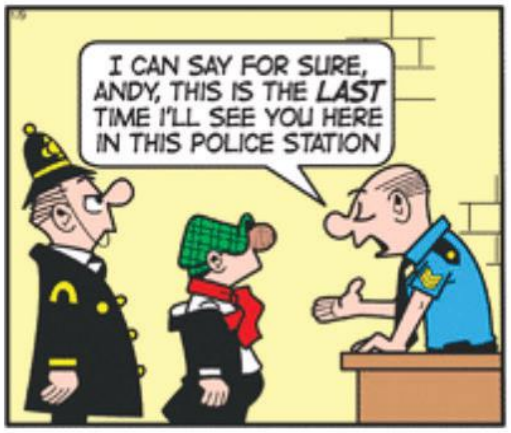
To the Government, our government, 16-3, please return the National Day of Prayer and the Thanksgiving holiday, which belong to God and the people of our nation. Consider this, there would be no Mills, Higgs, Hall, Lightbourne, Stubbs, Williams, Misick, Missicks, Forbes, Pratt, Delancy, Malcolms, Fulford's, Gardiners, Grants, Rigby, Durhams, Neat, Saunders, Dickenson, Astwood, Jolly, Howell, Swann's, Morley's, Robinsons, Butterfields of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Therefore, my fellow citizens, I urge you to advocate and call your Member of Parliament, asking them to please return the day set aside for Prayer and Thanksgiving – the National Day of Thanksgiving- to the Public Holidays Amendment Bill as a holiday, not an acknowledged day.

I end with the words of the Oseta Jolly, "WE are Out to BUILD the Turks and Caicos."

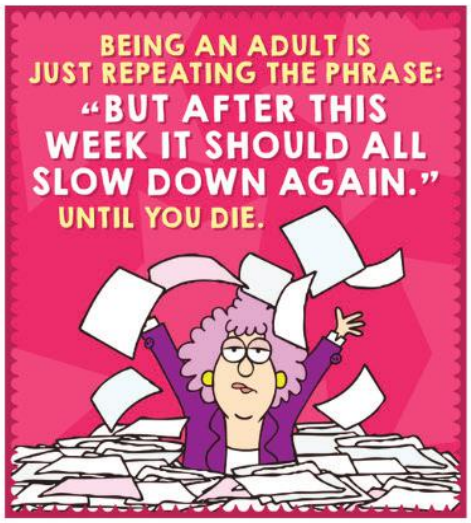
Dr. Porsha Stubbs, a graduate of Regent University, holds a Doctorate in Strategic Leadership, a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Houston Victoria, and a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science. Former Cabinet Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (2012- 2016), Member of the House of Assembly (2016-2020). Author of the book 'No Fault, a personal journey on leadership and life experiences'.







NEWSLINE TCI COMICS



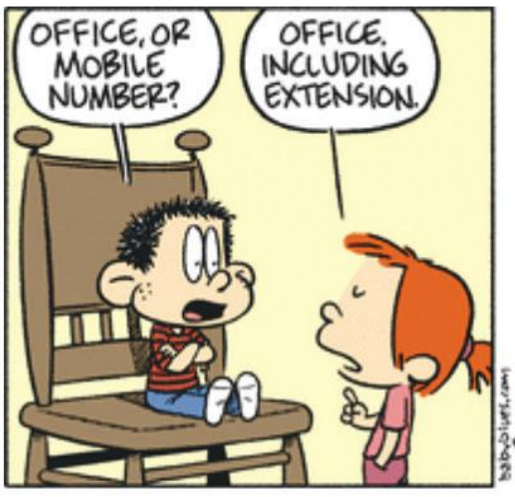


















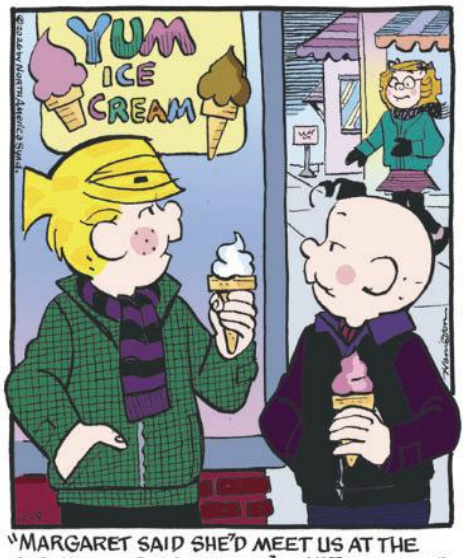


"More suction. MORE SUCTION!"







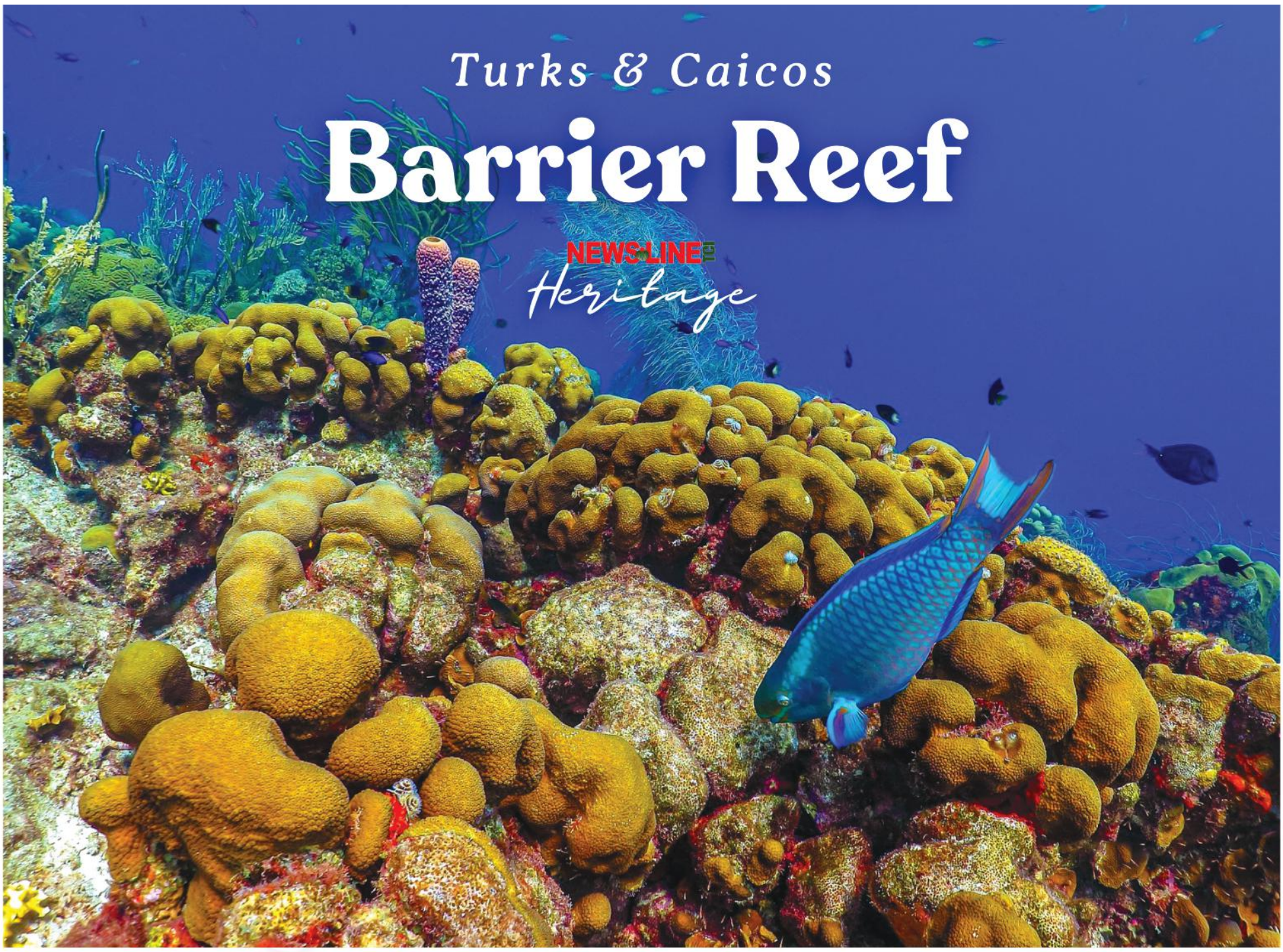


"MARGARET SAID SHE'D MEET US AT THE ICE CREAM PLACE, BUT WE'RE NOT PAYING!"

Turks & Caicos

Barrier Reef

NEWSLINE Heritage



The Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef: A Living Legacy Beneath the Sea

Spanning over 340 miles, the Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef is the third-largest coral reef system in the world and the most significant continuous barrier reef in the Atlantic region. This sprawling underwater ecosystem is more than just a diver's paradise — it's a vital part of our national heritage, shaping our environment, culture, and economy for generations.

A Natural Fortress and Cradle of Biodiversity

The reef acts as a natural fortress, shielding the low-lying islands from strong ocean currents, storm surges, and coastal erosion. It creates the calm, shallow waters that have become iconic to the TCI experience.

But its beauty lies deeper. The Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef is home to an astonishing diversity of marine life. Over 60 species of hard and soft coral thrive here, including staghorn, elkhorn, and brain coral. These form complex habitats for a wide range of species — from schools of blue tang and angelfish to nurse sharks, eagle rays, spiny lobsters, and sea turtles. In these waters, reef fish and invertebrates carry out an age-old dance of survival, reproduction, and balance.

Economic Lifeline and Cultural Symbol

For generations, the people of Turks and Caicos have relied on the reef for their livelihoods. In earlier centuries, it supported local fisheries that fed families and fueled trade. Today, it powers a modern economy centered on eco-tourism. Tourists flock to the islands for world-renowned snorkeling and diving experiences in Grace Bay, Smith's Reef, and the dramatic wall drop-offs of Grand Turk and West Caicos. The reef not only draws visitors — it also draws admiration, awe, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

The reef is also part of our cultural consciousness. Fishermen, boat captains, artisans, and tour operators all draw from its rhythms. Its bounty has inspired local music, folklore, and the culinary heritage passed down through generations. Protecting the reef, then, is not only an environmental responsibility — it is a cultural one.

Fragile Wonder, Shared Responsibility

Despite its resilience, the Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef faces numerous threats. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, overfishing, and pollution have taken their toll. The loss of coral not only threatens biodiversity but undermines the very fabric of island life.

Thankfully, efforts are underway to protect this irreplaceable heritage. Organizations like the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund and the Department of Environment & Coastal Resources (DECR) work to raise awareness, enforce marine protection laws, and support reef restoration initiatives. Community-based conservation, sustainable tourism practices, and education are key to ensuring the reef's survival for future generations.

References:
DECR (2022). Turks and Caicos Islands Department of Environment & Coastal Resources.
IPCC (2021). Sixth Assessment Report – Climate Change Impacts on Marine Ecosystems.
National Geographic (2015). The Molasses Reef Wreck: Uncovering the New World's First Shipwreck.
NOAA (2022). The Role of Coral Reefs in Coastal Protection.
Smithsonian Ocean Portal (2022). Coral Reefs: Biodiversity and Conservation.
TC Reef Fund (2023). Turks & Caicos Reef Facts and Preservation Initiatives. https://www.tcreef.org
Visit TCI (2024). Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef Overview. https://www.visittci.com

'TWAS A DEMANDING LEGAL YEAR

Remarks by Mark A Fulford,President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association



May it please Your Ladyship.

I have the honour, on behalf of the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association, to rise in support of the Motion for the Opening of the Legal Year.

The opening of the legal year invites us not only to mark the passage of time, but to reflect on the stewardship of justice in our jurisdiction. It is a moment for accountability, continuity, and renewed commitment to the rule of law that underpins our constitutional democracy.

On behalf of the Bar Association, I extend sincere appreciation to Your Ladyship for your leadership of the Judiciary throughout 2025 and to all other judges and judicial officers and their support teams who all contribute so much.

It has been a demanding year, marked by heavy caseloads, complex matters, and heightened public scrutiny, yet the courts have continued to function with discipline, independence, and institutional steadiness. The Bar recognises and values that leadership. Ultimately, it is public confidence in the courts at home that gives meaning to every other development we celebrate.

Members of the profession sometimes joke that we measure the year not by months, but by court lists and bundles and by that measure, 2025 was undoubtedly a full year. It is therefore fitting that we pause today to acknowledge the work done and the responsibility carried.

I also acknowledge the Attorney General and the Office of the Attorney General for their stewardship during the year, navigating an evolving legislative and policy environment while maintaining fidelity to constitutional principles. Likewise, the Bar recognises the Director of Public Prosecutions and her office for the weighty responsibility of prosecutorial decision-making, particularly in a period of heightened public concern about crime and safety. That role demands not only legal skills, but judgment and restraint, and the Bar acknowledges the seriousness with which it continues to be discharged.

Your Ladyship, 2025 has also been a significant year for the standing of the Turks and Caicos Islands legal profession beyond our shores.

Throughout the year, the Bar Association deliberately strengthened relationships with counterpart Bars across jurisdictions, including formal engagements throughout Africa and the Caribbean—reinforcing professional ties, shared standards, and mutual respect. These relationships matter because the law does not operate in isolation, and even small jurisdictions benefit greatly when their legal institutions are connected, visible, and respected internationally.

In that same spirit, the Bar was honoured in 2025 to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands at the International Bar Association, the world's largest gathering of legal professionals. This marked the first occasion on which a sitting President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association addressed that global forum. It signalled that this jurisdiction—though small in size—is confident in its institutions, its lawyers, and its contribution to the development of the law, not for prestige, but to ensure that the standards we apply locally are informed by, and accountable to, the highest professional traditions.

Crucially, Your Ladyship, the Judiciary itself has played a leading role in placing the Turks and Caicos Islands at the forefront of legal innovation. The Bar formally recognises the courts for becoming the first in the world to adopt a Practice Direction governing the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence in court proceedings. This step was not about technology for its own sake, but about safeguarding fairness, transparency, and integrity in an era of rapid change.

It is a development that has drawn international respect, and one for which the Judiciary deserves commendation. At the same time, the Bar welcomes the clear signal that innovation must always remain subordinate to due process, open justice, and judicial oversight.

Your Ladyship, we practise law in a time when public confidence in institutions is tested not by a single controversy, but by the pace and complexity of change itself. Expectations of the justice system are high and often urgent. The enduring role of the law, however, remains constant, to provide fairness, due process, and reasoned decision-making, even when patience is strained. For the ordinary litigant, delay or inaccessibility is not an abstract concern, but a lived experience, and the profession remains mindful of that reality.

In this context, the Bar sees its role as a bridge, between public expectation and legal process, between urgency and fairness, between change and continuity. Our duty is owed first to the court, always to our clients, and ultimately to the rule of law. That duty requires competence, civility, preparation, sound judgment and accountability, including the discipline of our own members where standards fall short.

The Bar has also continued its constructive engagement with the Attorney General on matters of professional regulation, contributing to ongoing discussions on modernising the legislative framework governing the legal profession, always with full respect for constitutional process and institutional roles.

As we look ahead to 2026, the Bar does so with a commitment to steadiness rather than haste, refinement rather than division, and cooperation rather than conflict. Strong justice systems are built not only on decisions, but on conduct, consistent, principled, and measured. That discipline is especially vital in a small constitutional democracy such as ours, where institutions are close, visible, and deeply felt.

Your Ladyship, the Bar stands ready to continue working constructively with the Judiciary, the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions and other stakeholders in the year ahead.

We do so in a spirit of service, even when that service is difficult, demanding, or unpopular, confident in the strength of our institutions and the integrity of our shared mission.

For these reasons, and with confidence in the path ahead, the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association is pleased to support the Motion for the Opening of the Legal Year.

May the year ahead be one of wisdom, balance, and continued confidence in the administration of justice.

Before I close, a small disclaimer. AI was not used in the generation of this speech, and no one was hurt during its preparation.

May it please the Court.

Domestic Worker (Nanny) Required

ERIK DOUGLAS
of Providenciales

is seeking an experienced and reliable ***Nanny*** to assist with childcare, household cleaning, laundry, errands, and light cooking. Employer provides a competitive hourly rate ($10 per hour), with transport for work-related duties.

Contact:
1 (649) 232-8194 | eriktci@gmail.com

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Community Fellowship Centre



This week, the NewslineTCI Featured Church spotlight shines on the Community Fellowship Center, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The Community Fellowship Center, which also operates a school- the Community Christian Academy- is led by Pastor Bradley Handfield, who is also a trained teacher. Community Fellowships Center conducts a series of activities during the course of each week, starting with Divine Service on Sunday at 9:00 AM. On Thursday and Friday between seven 7:30 AM and 6:00 AM., is early morning prayer meeting. Between Monday and Friday, at 12 noon, it conducts midday prayer meeting. Between Monday to Friday at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM it conducts Bible study. Youth meeting is held on Friday.

Life line Church Directory

Looking for a worshipping house to praise God and fellowship with members of the body of Christ, here is a list of some of the available sanctuaries you can attend throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Lee Street, South Caicos.
Telephone: 649-348-3581

Christ is the Answer Ministry,
George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales
Tel: 241-8030

One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales.
Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.

Touch of Love Ministries International Center
Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales
Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731

Abundant Life Ministries International
P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales
Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755

Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,
Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289

Bethany Baptist Church,
Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118

Church of God of Prophesy,
Lower Bight, Providenciales
Tel: 941-8854

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

Calvary Baptist Church,
South Caicos. Tel:946-3212

Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,
Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales.
Tel: 1649 333-2009
Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com.
https://www.harvesttci.tc.

Firm Foundation Ministries International
19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240

Church of God of Prophesy,
Providenciales Tel:941-3438

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

Faith Tabernacle Church of God,
Providenciales, Tel:946-4073

New Testament Church of God,
Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175

New Testament Church of God,
South Caicos Tel:946-3631

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

Healing Waters Ministries,
Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867

House of Prayer Church of God,
Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,
Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727

Mount Mariah Baptist Church,
Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205

New Beginning Harvest Ministry,
Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759

New Testament Church of God
Orea Alley
P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel: 946-1255
Airport Road, South Caicos
Tel:231-2402

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.
Telephone: 649-332-624

Paradise Baptist Church,
Five Cays, Providenciale
Tel:941-4349

Revival Faith Center,
North Backsalina, Grand Turk
Tel:946-2349

Salem Baptist Church,
Mission Folly, Grand Turk
Tel:946-2565

Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International,
Discovery Bay Providenciales
Tel: 946-5181

St. Monica's Anglican Church
P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales
Tel: 946-4046
Fax:946-4046;941-8499

Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists,
P.O. Box 803, Providenciales

United Pentecostal Church,
Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway,
Providenciales Tel: 956-5852

Wesleyan Methodist Church,
Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596

Editor's Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at: contact@newslinetci.com





Highlights of the 2026 Legal Year Opening

The Turks and Caicos Islands Legal Year for 2025 took place on Tuesday, January 6. The was characterized by pomp and ceremony, which saw the Police Marching Band leading along the Leeward Highway to St. Monica's Anglican Church, where an official service was held. From the church, the officials marched to the Supreme Court Annex, where several speeches , including the Chief Justice, Mabel Agyemang and Head of the Bar Council, Mark Fulford. The following are highlights of the event.























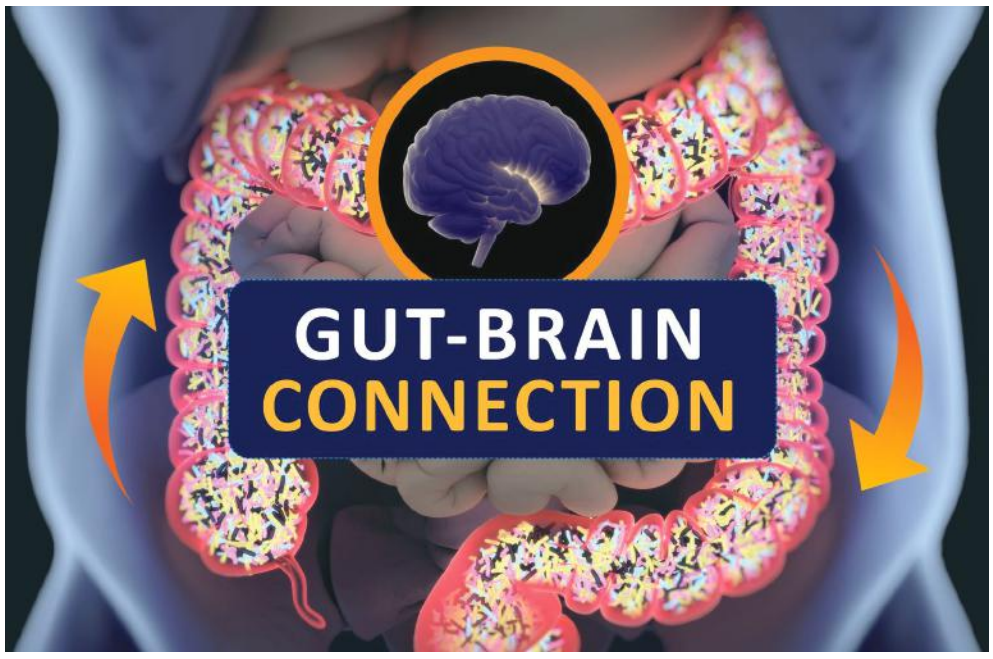


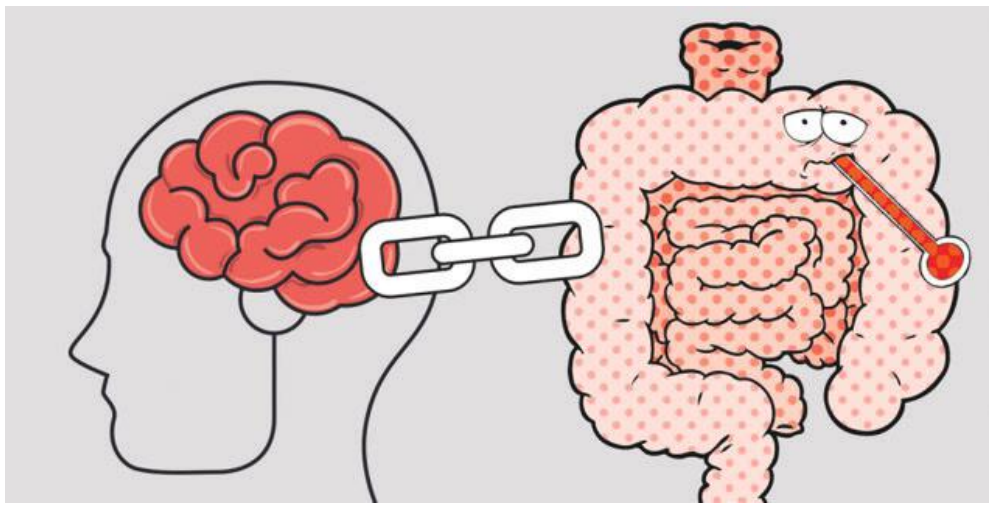


THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DIGESTION AND STRESS

Why your gut needs a calmer pace

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos





Digestion relies heavily on your nervous system. When you feel stressed, rushed, or distracted, your body moves into survival mode. Blood is diverted away from your digestive organs, enzyme production decreases, and your gut slows down. This can lead to bloating, reflux, cramping, and general discomfort.

Many digestive issues are not solely about what you eat, but how you eat. Eating in a calm environment supports better nutrient absorption and smoother digestion. Chewing thoroughly and taking time to notice the taste and texture of your food signals to your body that it is safe.

Even a few deep breaths before a meal can activate your "rest and digest" state, helping your gut function more efficiently.

Your gut is rich in nerves and hormones. It communicates constantly with your brain and requires steady support. Eating while anxious, on the move, or multitasking sends stress signals to your digestive system, which can worsen discomfort over time. Even small, mindful adjustments like sitting down, breathing deeply, and savouring each bite can make a big difference. Over time, these habits help your gut function more efficiently, reduce bloating, improve nutrient absorption, and leave you feeling calmer and more grounded.

Digestion Thrives in Safety

A calm gut creates a calm mind, and the relationship is always two-way. When your digestive system is supported, you feel more connected to your body, less anxious, and more energised.

Supporting your nervous system through mindful eating and gentle routines is one of the most powerful ways to support your gut. When your body feels safe, digestion flows, energy improves, and overall wellbeing increases.

For more nourishing approaches to gut health and stress balance, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands, supporting men and women in creating grounded, nourishing lives, one breath at a time. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.

National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme (NIAP) Student Registration Closes 30th January 2026

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture is pleased to announce that Registrations for the NIAP Cycle 2026 officially opened. Tertiary students across the islands and abroad are encouraged to apply before the deadline on 30th January 2026.

NIAP provides valuable work-based learning opportunities for students, helping them gain practical experience, develop professional skills, and enhance their employability. Over the past three years, the program has successfully assisted over 300 students in securing meaningful placements across various industries within their field of academic study.

Understanding the Difference: Internship Programme vs Apprenticeship Programme

Internship Programme: For tertiary students returning home for the summer break (15th June – 31st July 2026). This four- to six-week placement provides real-world work exposure and helps students apply their academic knowledge while exploring their career interests.

Apprenticeship Programme: For tertiary graduates seeking long-term professional experience, with enrolment open April–November. This 12–24-month placement offers in-depth, hands-on training that builds industry-specific skills and often leads to professional certification and or gainful employment.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 16 – 29 years old.
- Be enrolled in or have graduated from a tertiary institution (college/university).
- Provide proof of legal status (TCI Status Card or TCI B.O.T.C. Passport).
- Provide a resume and cover letter.

How to Register

To register, click the link: https://forms.gle/YxetKJcCXHzaAtgA8

The NIAP remains committed to building national human capital by bridging the gap between formal education and meaningful work experience. Through structured placements and skill-building opportunities, the programme ensures that participants are fully prepared to excel in their chosen career paths. Tertiary students are strongly encouraged to apply and take advantage of this valuable opportunity.



Beaches Turks and Caicos resort engineering department Supervisor Wilinx Jean (right) discusses an idea from a work order on a work tablet with Maintenance Manager Richard Lee Barker at the Engineering Department



Roosevelt Joseph, Beaches Turks and Caicos Finish Carpenter (left) shares a work order plan with the Engineering department Administrative Assistant Ilianna Frances in the general area of the department

Engineering Excellence

The Team Powering Progress at Beaches Turks & Caicos



Beaches Turks and Caicos resort Engineering department Room Technician Kerry-Ann Harris (left) discusses a light moment with Houseman Weadian Pearce from the Housekeeping department during her routine activities in the Caribbean Village

The beauty and sophistication of the Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort are supported by an impressive force behind the scenes - its engineering and maintenance department - the powerhouse that keeps the resort running and the nation's technical talent growing.

Responsible for many aspects of the resort's infrastructure, from HVAC systems and electrical networks, to carpentry, plumbing and auto mechanics - the department ensures that each village, inspired by the architecture of France, Italy, the Caribbean and Key West, operates seamlessly.

"At Beaches, we have a diverse team of technical professionals such as carpenters, electricians and plumbers, each dedicated to keeping the resort functional and efficient," explained Mario Campbell, director of facilities and engineering. "Their teamwork ensures that guests enjoy their vacation experience."

More than maintaining world-class facilities, the department is also enhancing local capacity. Through ongoing training, mentorship and partnerships with schools and vocational institutions, Beaches provides young Turks and Caicos Islanders with opportunities to gain science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based skills and hands-on industry experience.

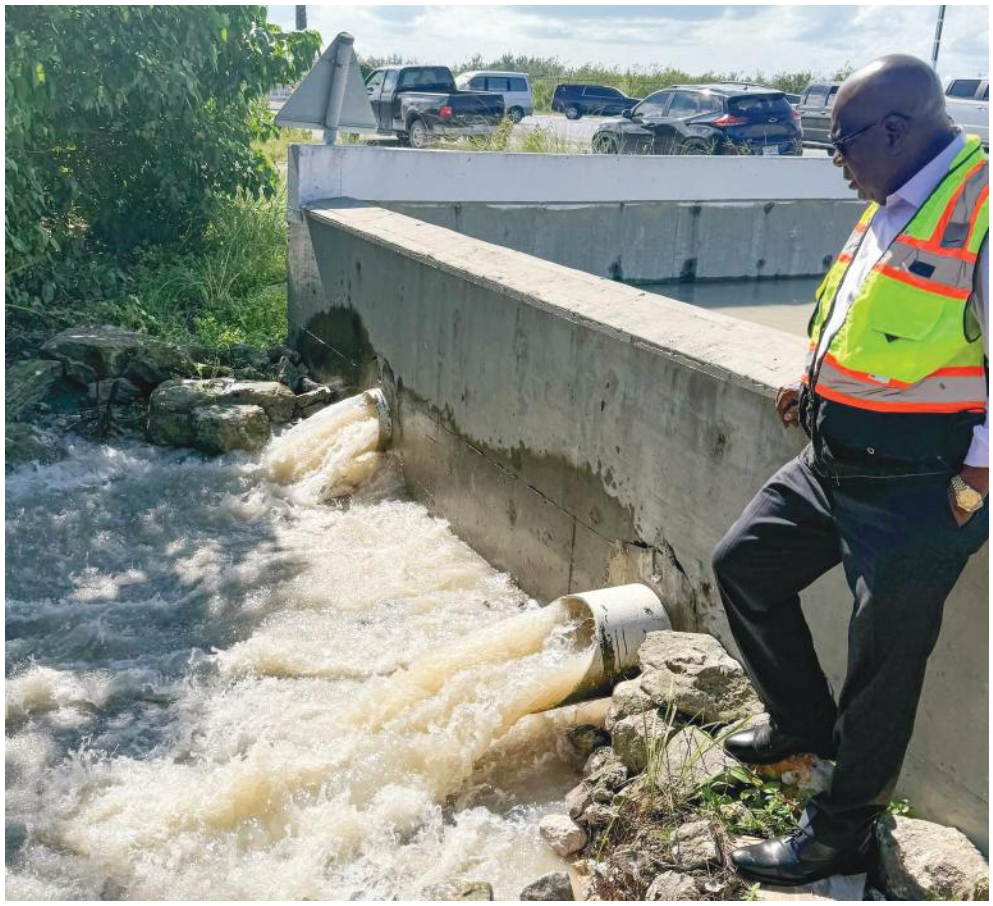
"Our engineering team represents the future of technical excellence in the Turks and Caicos," noted Managing Director, James McAnally. "We're proud to provide employment, training and growth opportunities that strengthen both our resort and the wider community."

Resort Finish Carpenter, Roosevelt Joseph added, "the hands-on training and guidance from experienced leaders help us grow our skills and careers. Beaches provides the perfect platform for young people to develop and contribute to the STEM industry across the islands."

Through collaboration with local businesses and continuous professional development, Beaches Turks & Caicos is not only powering its resort; it is energising national growth, creating jobs and nurturing a new generation of skilled professionals dedicated to the sustainability and success of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



The heavy rains caused Downtown Providenciales to be inundated with water



Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove observing the water being pumped from flooded area Downtown Providenciales, earlier this week. The systems, which were said to be operating at full capacity, removed more than 6,000 gallons of water per minute.

DDME Warns Public: Avoid Walking or Driving Through Floodwaters

The Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME) has issued a strong public safety warning urging residents and motorists to avoid walking or driving through floodwaters, after heavy rains caused severe flooding in parts of Providenciales earlier this week.

Officials stressed that floodwaters could appear deceptively shallow and calm while concealing strong currents, debris, open drains, and other hidden dangers. Even experienced swimmers, authorities cautioned, can be quickly overwhelmed by the power of moving water.

Following more than 24 cumulative hours of heavy rainfall, several communities across Providenciales experienced significant localized flooding. Low-lying and flood-prone areas, particularly in and around Downtown Providenciales, Kew Town, Aviation Drive, sections of the Millennium Highway, and Bible Street, were among the hardest hit. Water levels in some locations rose rapidly, restricting access, disrupting traffic, and raising safety concerns for residents and businesses.

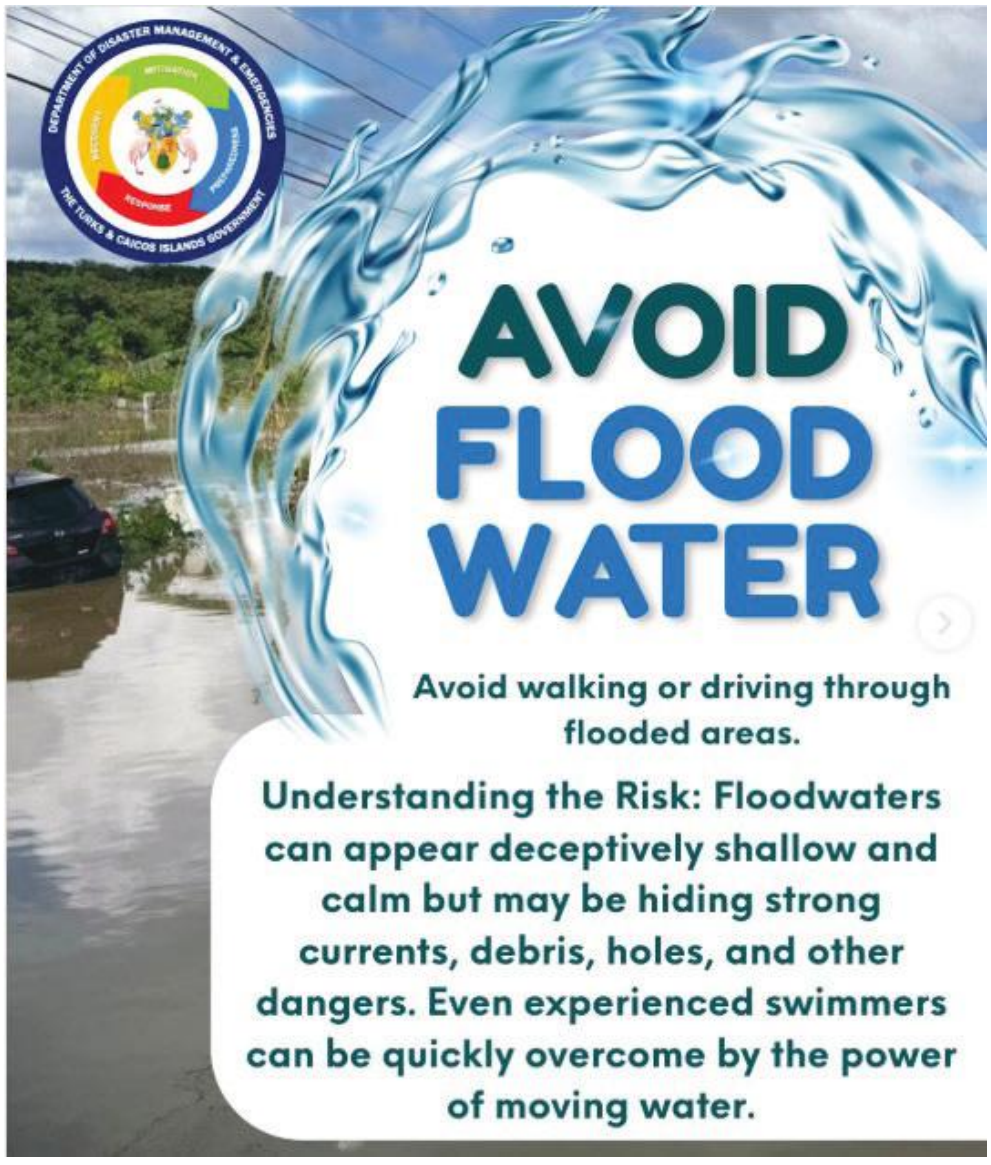
Authorities have continued to urge the public to limit non-essential travel, avoid known flooded zones, and exercise extreme caution, noting that water levels in some areas remain extremely high and will take time to fully recede despite ongoing mitigation efforts.

In response to the flooding, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, has visited the affected areas of Downtown Providenciales to assess conditions and oversee flood-management operations.

The Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development activated an intensive rapid response and restoration programme, with pumps and flood-management systems operating at full capacity, removing more than 6,000 gallons of water per minute from affected areas. Additional drainage wells and flood-control systems are also being installed in critical locations to improve water retention and accelerate water clearance.

Minister Musgrove said safeguarding residents, maintaining safe access to key facilities, and fast-tracking drainage improvements remain the government's top priorities. He praised ministry teams and partner agencies for their tireless efforts and reaffirmed the government's commitment to a swift, safe, and transparent response as conditions continue to evolve.

Residents are encouraged to avoid commuting where possible, minimise non-essential travel, and strictly adhere to public safety advisories. Authorities continue to strongly discourage driving or walking through flooded areas, warning that water depth can be misleading and that hidden hazards, including electrical infrastructure, may pose serious risks.



The DDME Warning Poster



Representatives from the What's in the Box promotion share a photo op outside the box, revealing the anchor, which was the item the public was asked to guess hidden in the box. From left – Denard Mighty of the Do It Center, Krystal Malcolm of the GBR Foundation, Keturah Miller of the Do It Center, Kier Adams- Hegner Do It Center, Aja Cooper of the GBR Foundation and Jessica Frattolillo also of the GBR Foundation.

ITS AN ANCHOR

"What's in the Box?" Holiday Campaign Reveals Mystery Item

The long-awaited reveal of the Grace Bay Resorts Foundation's popular "What's in the Box?" holiday campaign took place on Monday, January 5, at the First Caribbean roundabout in Providenciales — and the mystery item turned out to be a boat anchor.

After weeks of speculation and enthusiastic guesses from residents across the Turks and Caicos Islands, organizers lifted the lid to unveil a silver miniature anchor.

Although no participant guessed the exact item, three individuals were awarded prizes for coming closest to the correct answer following a name toss. Prizes included a gift certificate to the Spa at Grace Bay Club, dinner for two at Infiniti Restaurant, and dinner for two at Grace's Cottage.

The campaign, hosted by the Grace Bay Resorts Foundation in partnership with Do It Center, is a revival of the holiday tradition, which went dormant for a few years.

However, it once again proved to be an instant hit with the Turks and Caicos Islands populace. The What's In The Box campaign is creative way to engage the community while raising funds for charitable initiatives throughout the islands. Participants were allowed to submit multiple guesses, with options of one guess for $2, three guesses for $5, or eight guesses for $10.

Jessica Frattolillo, spokesperson for the Grace Bay Resorts Foundation, expressed gratitude for the strong community response.



Krystal Malcolm (centre) of the GBR Foundation, makes the big reveal what 'What's in the Box' on Monday, January 5. Sharing in the moment (from left) are: Keturah Miller - Do It Center; Kier Adams- Hegner Do It Center; Jessica Frattolillo also GBR foundation; and Denard Mighty of the Do It Center.

"We were so happy to revive this campaign this year. It was so fun seeing the guesses coming in, and we are so grateful to the whole community for getting involved and sharing in the fun," Frattolillo said. "Every guess contributes to meaningful charitable work, so everyone helped make a difference. We look forward to making this campaign even bigger and better next year."

Kier Adams-Hegner, Co-Director of Do It Center, also welcomed the campaign's return and the spirit of togetherness it inspired.

"We were thrilled to be part of this beloved campaign once again. The big reveal was full of surprise and excitement, and seeing the community come together for such a great cause was truly rewarding," Adams-Hegner said. "Every guess helped support local charities, which is what makes this initiative so special."

In a news release, the Grace Bay Resorts Foundation noted that it remains committed to uplifting communities across the Turks and Caicos Islands through education, cultural preservation, youth empowerment, and charitable outreach. The Foundation said it continues to support programs that strengthen families, honor local culture, and create lasting community impact.

The revival of the "What's in the Box?" campaign successfully blended fun, generosity, and community spirit, setting the stage for an even bigger return next holiday season.

How Is Glaucoma Treated?



You can use eye drops to lower eye pressure and prevent further damage from glaucoma.

A doctor can perform laser treatment in the office to help drain fluid from your eyes and relieve pressure.

Surgery is typically an option if eye drops and laser treatment do not work for your glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can lead to vision loss and blindness. It is caused by damage to the optic nerve, a part of the back of the eye. It can affect anyone, but some groups may be at higher risk, including people who are older than 60, have diabetes, or have a family history of glaucoma.

There are a few types of glaucoma, but the most common is open-angle glaucoma. Open-angle glaucoma develops over time and is caused by your eye having trouble draining fluid. This can lead to increased pressure in your eye, which can damage the optic nerve.

Glaucoma has no cure, but early intervention and treatment can prevent or delay vision loss. A doctor specializing in eye health, such as an optometrist or ophthalmologist, can work with you to recommend a treatment plan, including medicine, laser treatment, or surgery.

Medications

Medication is often the first course of action for glaucoma treatment. If you have glaucoma, your eye care provider will likely prescribe eye drops. Eye drops can reduce the pressure in your eyes, preventing further damage.

Eye drops can work in one of two ways. Some drops drain the fluid in your eye to lower eye pressure. These drops include:

Prostaglandins: These homrone-like substances include Xalatan (latanoprost), Travatan Z (travoprost), Zioptan (tafluprost), and Lumigan (bimatoprost).

Rho kinase inhibitor: This protein affects cell shape and size. One example of this medication is Rhopressa (netarsudil).

Nitric oxides: Medications like Vyzulta (latanoprostene bunod) include this combination of nitrogen and oxygen.

Miotic or cholinergic agents: These medications affect neurotransmitters (chemical messengers in the nervous system) and include Isopto Carpine (pilocarpine).

Other types of eye drops reduce the production of eye fluid. These eye drops include:

Alpha-adrenergic agonists: This class of medication includes IIopidine (apraclonidine) and brimonidine (sold under brand names like Alphagan P and Qoliana).

Beta-blockers: These blood pressure-lowering medications can also help with glaucoma. They include Betoptic (betaxolol) and timolol (sold under brand names like Betimol, Istalol, and Timoptic).

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors: This class of medication includes Trusopt (dorzolamide) and Azopt (brinzolamide).

The eye drops are used daily. Depending on which kind your doctor prescribes, you may need to use them up to four times daily.

Eye drops will not improve your glaucoma, but they will prevent further damage. Therefore, it's important to continue using them as prescribed to maintain your eye health.

Laser Treatment

Depending on the type of glaucoma you have, your eye care specialist may recommend laser treatment. Like prescription eye drops, laser treatment can help drain your eye fluid and reduce pressure. During the treatment, your doctor will numb your eyes using eye drops and direct a laser, or light beam, into your eyes.

Your eye care provider can perform laser treatment in their office. They may do both eyes on the same day or do the eyes a few weeks apart. Your eyes will be blurry afterward, so arranging a ride home from the doctor's office is important. Otherwise, you can likely resume normal activities the following day.

After treatment, you may need to continue using prescription eye drops. It's possible that the effect of the laser treatment can wear off, so you may need subsequent treatment or surgery depending on how well the laser treatment works for your glaucoma.

Surgery

Your eye care provider will likely only recommend surgery for your glaucoma if eye drops and laser treatment are ineffective or not well-tolerated. As with other glaucoma treatments, surgery can't improve your vision but can prevent further vision loss.

Your eye care provider would likely do surgery on one eye at a time, with recovery lasting about 2-4 weeks. You will need to use eye drops (different from your glaucoma treatment eye drops) to help your eyes heal. Many people find that surgery is effective long-term, while some need a second surgery.

Trabeculectomy

Trabeculectomy is used for open-angle glaucoma and only takes about one hour in the hospital. During this surgery, the doctor makes a small opening under your eyelid to allow eye fluid to drain.

Rather than general anesthesia, they will most likely give you medicine to numb the area and reduce any stress. While you probably won't need to stay over in the hospital, you will need someone to take you home.1

Glaucoma Implant Surgery

Glaucoma implant surgery can be used for multiple kinds of glaucoma, including glaucoma that's present at birth (congenital glaucoma) and glaucoma caused by an injury. Neovascular glaucoma, which is when new blood vessels form over the iris and anterior chamber angle (the part of the eye located between the cornea and iris), is another type of glaucoma that can benefit from glaucoma implant surgery.

The surgery only takes about one to two hours in the hospital. For glaucoma implant surgery, the doctor will put a tiny tube into your eye to help drain fluid. You would likely be awake for the surgery but receive medication so that you don't feel any discomfort and so that you stay relaxed.

You probably don't need to stay overnight at the hospital, but you will need to get a ride home.

Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)

For milder glaucoma cases, minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) can be used. MIGS refers to a group of new surgeries that use one of several kinds of new stents or filtration devices in your eye to reduce eye fluid.

MIGS reduces recovery time and decreases side effects compared to trabeculectomy and glaucoma implant surgery. However, the reduction in eye pressure with MIGS may not be substantial. Talk with your healthcare provider about the MIGS approach they will use and its effect on your glaucoma.

Medicated Implant

The newest glaucoma therapy is a medication placed inside the eye for long-term treatment. Durysta (bimatoprost SR) was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2020 and iDose TR in 2023, but several other sustained-release drug delivery systems are in development or under review.

For Durysta, a healthcare provider at a clinic or operating room inserts a medication-filled implant into your eye. The drug is steadily released over a span of 3-4 months to manage eye pressure. Since the implant is biodegradable, it does not need to be removed when all the medication has been released.

The iDose is an implantable reservoir inserted into the eye through an incision in the cornea.

Sustained-release glaucoma therapies are thought to be more efficient than eye drops since you don't have to remember to administer medication each day. This treatment type might increase in popularity in the coming years as more treatment options become available and more research is done on them.

Living With and Managing Glaucoma

If you're diagnosed with glaucoma, it's important to stay on top of treatment to reduce your chances of further vision loss. Glaucoma typically affects your peripheral vision (what you see to the side while looking forward) first. Without proper treatment, glaucoma may be more likely to eventually affect your central vision (what you see when looking forward).

Your eye doctor can work with you to choose the best treatment methods and then check in with you to see if they're working. They may check your eye pressure to identify any changes quickly and prevent further damage.

In addition, healthful lifestyle choices can help reduce the impact of glaucoma on your vision. Talk with your healthcare provider about your weight and blood pressure, which can contribute to glaucoma. You should also avoid smoking (or consider quitting if you currently smoke) and aim to be physically active several days a week.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Jamaica Strong concert raises over US$500k



Jamaica Strong executives Bobby Clarke (left), Irie Jam Radio; Kacy Rankine (second left), RoadBlock Radio; and George Crooks (right), Jammins Events, share lens time with Grammy-winning dancehall/reggae icon Shaggy.

The Jamaica Strong Benefit Concert, held on December 12, 2025, at UBS Arena in Queens, NY, USA, raised over US$500,000 (approximately $80 million) in net ticket proceeds, George Crooks of Jammins Events said.

Crooks said the funds raised will support relief and recovery efforts following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, uniting the global Jamaican Diaspora in a shared humanitarian response.

Bobby Clarke, co-founder of the Irie Jam Foundation said proceeds from the concert will be distributed to trusted organisations actively engaged in relief and recovery efforts, including US$150,000 to Shaggy's Make a Difference Foundation; US$150,000 to the Sean Paul Foundation; US$150,000 to the Government of Jamaica Hurricane Melissa Relief Fund; and US$50,000 to the Irie Jam Foundation, designated to assist with the repair and rebuilding of primary schools in the county of Cornwall, among the areas hardest hit by the storm.

"By directing funds to both national and community-based organisations we are ensuring that support reaches persons, families, and communities where the need is most immediate and the impact most meaningful," Clarke noted.

"Caribbean artistes donated their time and talent, using music and culture as vehicles for unity, healing, and advocacy during a moment of national crisis," Kacy Rankine, CEO of Roadblock radio shared.

"We express gratitude to sponsors, patrons, media partners, volunteers, the wider Caribbean Diaspora, and the artistes whose generosity made the initiative possible. Conceived as an urgent call to action during a national crisis, the concert was designed to achieve two critical objectives — increased global attention to the human toll of Hurricane Melissa and mobilise meaningful financial support for communities working to rebuild. Both aims were decisively realised," Rankine added.

Nearly 10,000 passionate supporters filled the arena, reflecting extraordinary engagement from the Jamaican Diaspora and friends of Jamaica who came together to demonstrate solidarity, compassion, and resolve.

The concert was organised by Irie Jam Radio, the Irie Jam Foundation, Jammins Events, and RoadBlock Radio, New York-based cultural and media organisations that came together to transform collective concern into coordinated action through transparency, accountability, and community-driven leadership.

While the concert marked a significant milestone, organisers emphasised that recovery remains ongoing and sustained support is essential to restoring stability, dignity, and opportunity for those affected by Hurricane Melissa.

Bob Marley most frequently mentioned historical figure in song lyrics — study

Arecent study by the history-inspired metal band Sabaton has identified reggae icon Bob Marley as the historical figure most frequently referenced in song lyrics.

Prior to composing their new album, the band was curious as to which historical figures had influenced songwriters the most to date.

The study revealed how frequently historical figures' full names have appeared in lyrics across unique songs via AZLyrics.

The full list features creatives who have shaped pop culture (eg John Lennon), leaders, revolutionaries and political figures (like Cleopatra), and philosophical, mythological, or infamous figures (eg Rasputin).

Bob Marley takes the lead with 927 lyric mentions — far more than any other figure analysed in the study. The Jamaican singer, songwriter and guitarist used his music to spread messages of unity and resistance, becoming a global symbol of freedom and the voice of Rastafarian culture. Among the songs he's been mentioned in are Jay-Z's Empire State of Mind and Red Hot Chili Peppers' Give It Away.

Second is the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, who has been mentioned in 737 songs. Plato shaped ideas about ethics, politics and knowledge that became the foundations of western philosophy and still influence modern society today. He is mentioned in Van Morrison's I Forgot That Love Existed and The Magnificent Seven by The Clash.

In third place is infamous outlaws Bonnie and Clyde, who rose to notoriety during the Great Depression and whose crime spree and dramatic deaths turned them into a symbol for doomed romance. The duo is mentioned in 712 songs, including Taylor Swift's Getaway Car and Red Hot Chili Peppers' If You Have To Ask.

Current United States President Donald Trump makes a surprise appearance in fourth, with 656 lyric mentions. The president is a polarising figure who has had a major influence on American and global political discourse. Lyric features include Frank Ocean's Lights and Mac Miller's Donald Trump.

Rounding out the top five most sung about figures is American gangster Al Capone. The infamous mobster has been mentioned in 550 lyrics, including Stone Cold Crazy by Queen, Superstar by Madonna and Al Capone by Michael Jackson.

Also among the top 10 most sung about figures are John Lennon, Biggie Smalls and Muhammad Ali.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS & CULTURE

NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS 2025

Youth with Purpose: Building a Sustainable TCI



Celebrate Excellence. Nominate Today!

Ages 12–35 | Individuals & Youth Groups
Recognizing leaders, achievers & changemakers

Scan the QR Code to Nominate

To nominate yourself or someone, access the form by clicking the QR code or the use the link below

Nominations close: November 10th, 2025
Nominate a deserving young person today!
Contact info: youthdepartment@gov.tc

American Airlines Adds 5,000 Extra Seats in the Caribbean As Regional Flights Resume

American Airlines has added nearly 5,000 additional seats and scheduled 27 extra flights serving 10 Caribbean destinations following the reopening of Eastern Caribbean airspace, as the carrier works to accommodate customers affected by the FAA-mandated airspace closure.

The airline resumed scheduled service on Sunday, January 4, and added 23 additional flights that day across the region, supplementing its regular operation with increased capacity, Caribbean Journal has learned.

Those flights served Caribbean destinations including Antigua, Aruba, Barbados, Curaçao, Dominica, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Maarten and St. Lucia, operating primarily from Miami, Charlotte and Chicago.

In addition to adding frequencies, American increased capacity by deploying larger aircraft where possible, including the Boeing 777-300, the largest aircraft in its fleet, on select routes.

The airline said the use of widebody aircraft was intended to add as much lift as possible as customers resumed travel to and from the region.

Additional flying continues on Monday, January 5, with four more added flights between Miami and San Juan, all scheduled to be operated using a Boeing 777-300.

American said the additional flying is in addition to flexibility already provided through its travel alert and fare caps, and that the airline will continue making operational adjustments as it works to support customers impacted by the closure.

Eastern Caribbean airspace reopened



early Sunday morning after the FAA lifted temporary restrictions that had been put in place Saturday following U.S. military action in Venezuela. The move was announced by US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy.

The military operation prompted the FAA to shut parts of Caribbean airspace, triggering widespread cancellations of flights to and from the region before airlines were cleared to begin restoring operations at 12:00 a.m. Sunday.

It should be noted that a number of destinations were not impacted by the closure and have been seeing normal flight operations for flights to and from the United States, including The Bahamas, Belize, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica, among others.

Barbados Leads the Caribbean in Cruise Passenger Growth

Barbados has emerged as the fastest-growing cruise destination in the Caribbean so far this year, posting the strongest passenger growth of any destination in the region through the first three quarters.

According to data from the Caribbean Tourism Organization, Barbados welcomed 496,256 cruise passengers through three quarters, representing year-over-year growth of 31.5 percent. The increase is the highest cruise passenger growth rate recorded by any Caribbean destination during the period.

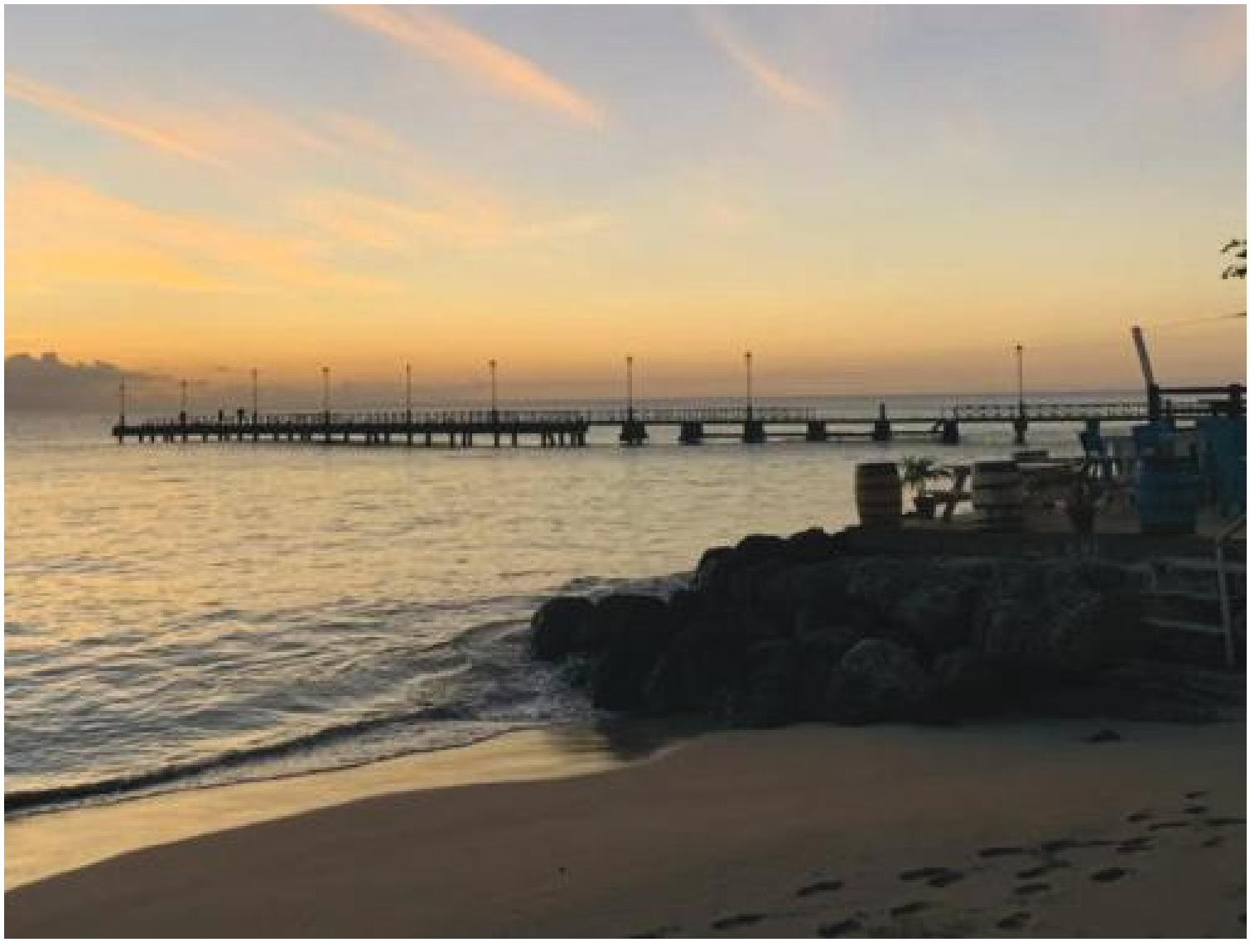
The performance places Barbados at the forefront of a broader regional rebound in cruise tourism, as cruise lines continue to expand deployment in the Caribbean and adjust itineraries to meet strong demand.

Industry officials point to several factors driving the gains, including continued investment in port infrastructure at Bridgetown, increased ship calls from major cruise operators, and the island's positioning as a culturally rich, walkable destination that pairs well with shorter port stays.

The growth also reflects the island's expanding cruise calendar, which has increasingly included larger vessels and higher-capacity itineraries during the peak winter season.

The surge in cruise traffic comes as Barbados continues to post solid performance across its wider tourism sector, with cruise arrivals adding incremental economic impact for transportation providers, retailers, tour operators, and waterfront businesses.

With the Caribbean remaining the world's leading cruise region, Barbados' year-to-date performance positions it as a standout destination in the current cruise cycle — and signals continued momentum heading into the upcoming high season.



Government issues warning to gold miners



Dr Irfaan Ali.

President Irfaan Ali says gold miners who fail to declare their production will face immediate consequences, including deregistration, prosecution, and possible expulsion as the government intensifies its crackdown on illegal and non-compliant mining operations.

"All registered dredges with no declaration will be deregistered, and all foreign miners operating illegally in Guyana must be identified for prosecution and expulsion," Ali said.

Guyana last year set a target of 500,000 ounces of gold and according to a government statement, Ali has directed that immediate action be taken to ensure that all gold miners fully comply with their obligations to declare all gold produced in 2025.

Ali, who met with senior officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) on Friday, said that special attention is focused on some Brazilian miners whose declarations are very low or absent.

They have been given a 24-hour deadline to fully comply with Guyana's mining laws and declare their gold to the Guyana Gold Board.

According to a government statement, the Natural Resources ministry and the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) will work together to ensure all miners across every category (small, medium and large) are properly registered and have a local bank account.

GGDMA's president, Ronaldo Alphonso, has called on miners to follow the law and sell gold through approved channels.

"It is our responsibility as miners to ensure the sustainability of the industry. We need to make it compliant, and we need to declare gold. Make 2026 the year of compliance and declaration," Alphonso said.

To strengthen the gold exportation system, the government has since established a task force to comprise the attorney general, the finance minister, the commissioner-general of the Guyana Revenue Authority, the head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, the governor of the Central Bank and representatives of the Guyana Gold Board, to identify the loopholes.

Late last year, Ali had announced that a comprehensive assessment of Guyana's mining sector will be completed and presented on January 5, as the government moves to strengthen accountability, environmental protection and production compliance across the sector.

New CARICOM chair says differences 'not unusual' to bloc

St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew says recent international developments, including geopolitical tensions in the region and external policy decisions affecting Caribbean nationals, "remind us of a fundamental truth: None will come to save us. We must save ourselves.

"Recent public discussions among member states, reflecting differing national perspectives, have unfolded in a way that has attracted regional and international attention," said Drew, who on January 1, replaced Jamaica's Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness as the chairman of the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for the next six months.

"While such differences are not unusual in a diverse Community such as ours, they remind us of the importance of managing our dialogue with care, mutual respect, and a resolute sense of regional responsibility," said Drew, who said he is assuming the CARICOM chairmanship with "optimism and a deep dedication" to the ideals of the regional integration movement.



St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew

Drew was no doubt making reference to the current tensions within CARICOM sparked by recent comments from Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar that CARICOM "is not a reliable partner" and "has lost its way".

But he reminded the region that "CARICOM was never conceived as a space free of disagreement.

"It was created as a forum where differences could be addressed constructively, internally, and with the shared understanding that our collective strength is greater than any single issue before us.

"This reality does not call for isolation, but for stronger coordination, clearer purpose, and deeper solidarity. It requires us to speak louder, speak with conviction, speak with one voice; where our shared interests are concerned, and to act with strategic maturity on the global stage."

Drew said that as Caribbean leaders, and as citizens of this region, "we must recommit to the principles that underpin this Community. We must strengthen our institutions, enhance consultation, and ensure that our engagement reflects the seriousness of the responsibilities entrusted to us by our people.

"Differences and all, we are one Caribbean people, heirs to a civilization that transformed suffering into strength and adversity into achievement. We have contributed to the world in profound and undeniable ways that continue to shape global culture, sport, intellect, and conscience."

Caribbean companies face higher tax bill due to OECD changes

THE recent implementation of new tax laws by some Caribbean territories, in order to comply with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) rules, has resulted in some large Caribbean companies facing higher tax bills.

CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited indicated in its recent 2025 annual report that its Bahamian subsidiary was subject to a domestic minimum top-up tax (DMTT) which increased its overall tax bill by US$10.98 million. As a result, CIBC's consolidated tax bill went up from US$26.57 million to US$35.95 million for its October 2025 financial year (FY). If this DMTT was not applied, CIBC's consolidated tax bill would have been US$24.97 million. The Bahamas has no corporate income tax.

"Barbados and The Bahamas have enacted the DMTT legislation in accordance with the OECD's pillar two initiative which became applicable for the bank this fiscal [year]. These regimes required the bank to have an effective tax rate (as calculated under the relevant legislation) of at least 15 per cent of net income in those jurisdictions. Where the bank's effective tax rate was less than 15 per cent, an additional top-up tax was levied to bring the effective tax rate to 15 per cent," CIBC's annual report stated.

The overall effective tax rate for CIBC Caribbean also went up from 8.9 per cent to 18.7 per cent. The Bahamas and Barbados's pillar two legislations for multinational entities (MNE) with consolidated revenue above €750 million (US$883.35 million) took effect for FY's beginning on January 1, 2024. This pillar two framework requires MNEs to pay a minimum effective tax rate of 15 per cent on profits in each jurisdiction. Depending on the circumstances between the entities in each jurisdiction and the ultimate parent entity/company (UPE), a DMTT might be paid in the jurisdiction with the lower tax rate or by the UPE in their domestic jurisdiction.

These changes came due to OECD/G20 pressure on jurisdictions with low tax rates which resulted in profit shifting in what was described as a race to the bottom. The pressure from the OECD intensified after the Panama Papers revelation in April 2016. This pushed forward reform to tax rates on certain jurisdictions which were threatened with blacklisting and the introduction of beneficial ownership requirements.

These changes have resulted in numerous legislative changes across the Caribbean, with Dominica repealing its international business companies (IBC) act while other jurisdictions changed tax rates and introduced new requirements for firms that continued as IBCs.



Barbados previously had a sliding scale tax rate for IBCs which was 2.5 per cent on the first BBD$10 million (US$5 million) in taxable income which went as low as 0.25 per cent of taxable income exceeding BBD$30 million (US$15 million). However, this was changed in January 2019 when the International Business Companies Act Cap. 77 was repealed and existing IBCs were required to continue under the Companies Act Cap, 308.

Effective January 1, 2022 the tax rates changed again, with the first US$500,000 of taxable income being taxed at 5.5 per cent and the highest rate of 1.0 per cent being applied on taxable income above US$15 million.

The ongoing tax reform has resulted in additional changes to tax rates in Barbados and other jurisdictions. Barbados previously had a domestic 25 per cent tax rate for resident companies but the corporate income tax rate is now 9 per cent for all companies effective January 1, 2024, except firms which fall under specific criteria. Companies registered as approved small businesses are now subject to a 5.5 per cent tax rate, with MNEs being taxed at the same 9 per cent tax rate.

These reforms are having a wide-ranging effect on different publicly listed companies that are now assessing the implications of their business in different jurisdictions. Massy Holdings Limited, a Trinidadian conglomerate in integrated retail, gas products, and motors and machines, reported in its 2025 audited financials that it did not pay a top-up tax for its Barbadian businesses.

This was due to the conglomerate benefiting from the transitional provisions made available in the law, resulting in no current tax exposure for the 2025 FY. This is against the backdrop of Massy's operating Barbadian subsidiaries having an effective tax rate (ETR) of 7.6 per cent for the 2025 FY. These businesses had accounting profits of TT$161.80 million (US$23.86 million) but a tax expense of TT$12.24 million (US$1.81 million).

"However, although the average effective tax rate is below 15 %, the group's exposure to paying pillar two income taxes might not be for the full difference in tax rates in relation to Barbados. This is due to the impact of specific adjustments envisaged in the pillar two legislation which give rise to different effective tax rates compared to those calculated in accordance with IAS 12," Massy said in its audited financial statements.

All of Massy's operating businesses, except for those in Barbados, have effective tax rates above 15 per cent. Massy's management team expects that the application of pillar two legislation is expected to increase the group's effective annual tax rate by one to two percentage points once effective in 2025. Massy's consolidated ETR for the 2025 FY was 33 per cent as it had TT$1.14 billion in profit before tax and TT$374.70 million in an income tax expense. This means that a one to two per cent increase will translate to an additional TT$11.41 million to TT$22.82 million (US$1.68 million to US$3.37 million) in taxes to be paid.

Productive Business Solutions Limited (PBS), a subsidiary of Musson (Jamaica) Limited, noted in its 2024 audited financial statements that it was part of a MNE with revenues above €750 million. However, while Jamaica has signalled its intention to implement a qualified DMTT, the country is at the preliminary stage of the legislative process and has not enacted pillar two legislation.

PBS itself noted that it was assessing its exposure to the pillar two legislation and that it would implement changes once it was adopted by the MNE in Jamaica. It also pointed out that not all entities in the relevant jurisdictions with tax rates below 15 per cent have legislative frameworks to accommodate the pillar two top-up tax. These entities are in the jurisdictions of Barbados, British Vergin Islands (BVI), Cayman Islands and St Lucia.

Both Massy and PBS also noted that their group exposure to paying pillar two income taxes might not be for the full difference in tax rates for the low-tax jurisdictions. In other words, the difference between the ETR and the 15 per cent rate might not be the amount due under the pillar two framework, due to specific adjustments which give rise to different ETRs than those calculated in accordance with accounting standards.

The OECD developments on Caribbean jurisdictions has had other implications for different listed companies. Whereas St Lucian IBCs used to be taxable at one per cent of taxable income, they are now subject to a 30 per cent tax rate for any income earned in St Lucia. However, some pure equity holding companies have applied provisions of the foreign source income exemption which results in no income tax being applicable to income earned outside of St Lucia.

Sterling Investments Limited (SIL) and Mayberry Jamaican Equities Limited (MJE) were exempt from paying income tax in 2024. However, SIL moved its investment assets to its subsidiary Sterling Investments (Cayman) Limited in 2022, in a move to be a pure equity holding company. Proven Group Limited (formerly Proven Investments Limited) also benefited from paying no income taxes at the company level since it derives its income outside of St Lucia.

The United States of America (USA) signed on as one of 138 nations for the OECD's two-pillar solution in October 2021. However, President Donald Trump issued an executive order on his first day to effectively withdraw the US from any participation in the global initiative.

Federal ruling blocks Hawaii's climate change tourist tax on cruise ships

\ A federal appeals court ruling on New Year's Eve blocked Hawaii from enforcing a climate change tourist tax on cruise ship passengers, a levy that was set to go into effect at the start of 2026.

Cruise Lines International Association challenged the tax in a lawsuit, arguing that the new law violates the US Constitution by taxing cruise ships for entering Hawaii ports. They also argued it would make cruises more expensive. The lawsuit notes the law authorises counties to collect an additional three per cent surcharge, bringing the total to 14 per cent of prorated fares.

The levy increases rates on hotel room and vacation rental stays but also imposes a new 11 per cent tax on the gross fares paid by a cruise ship's passenger, prorated for the number of days the vessels are in Hawaii ports. The lawsuit notes the law authorises counties to collect an additional three per cent surcharge, bringing the total to 14 per cent of prorated fares.

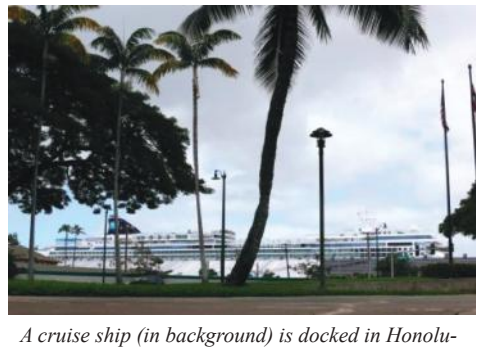
In the nation's first such levy to help cope with a warming planet, Hawaii Governor Josh Green signed legislation in May that raises tax revenue to deal with eroding shorelines, wildfires and other climate problems. Officials estimate the tax would generate nearly US$100 million annually.

US District Judge Jill A. Otake last week upheld the law and the plaintiffs appealed to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals. The US government intervened in the case and also appealed Otake's ruling.

The order by two 9th Circuit judges granted both requests for an injunction pending the appeals.

"We remain confident that Act 96 is lawful and will be vindicated when the appeal is heard on the merits," Toni Schwartz, spokesperson for the Hawaii attorney general's office, said in an email.

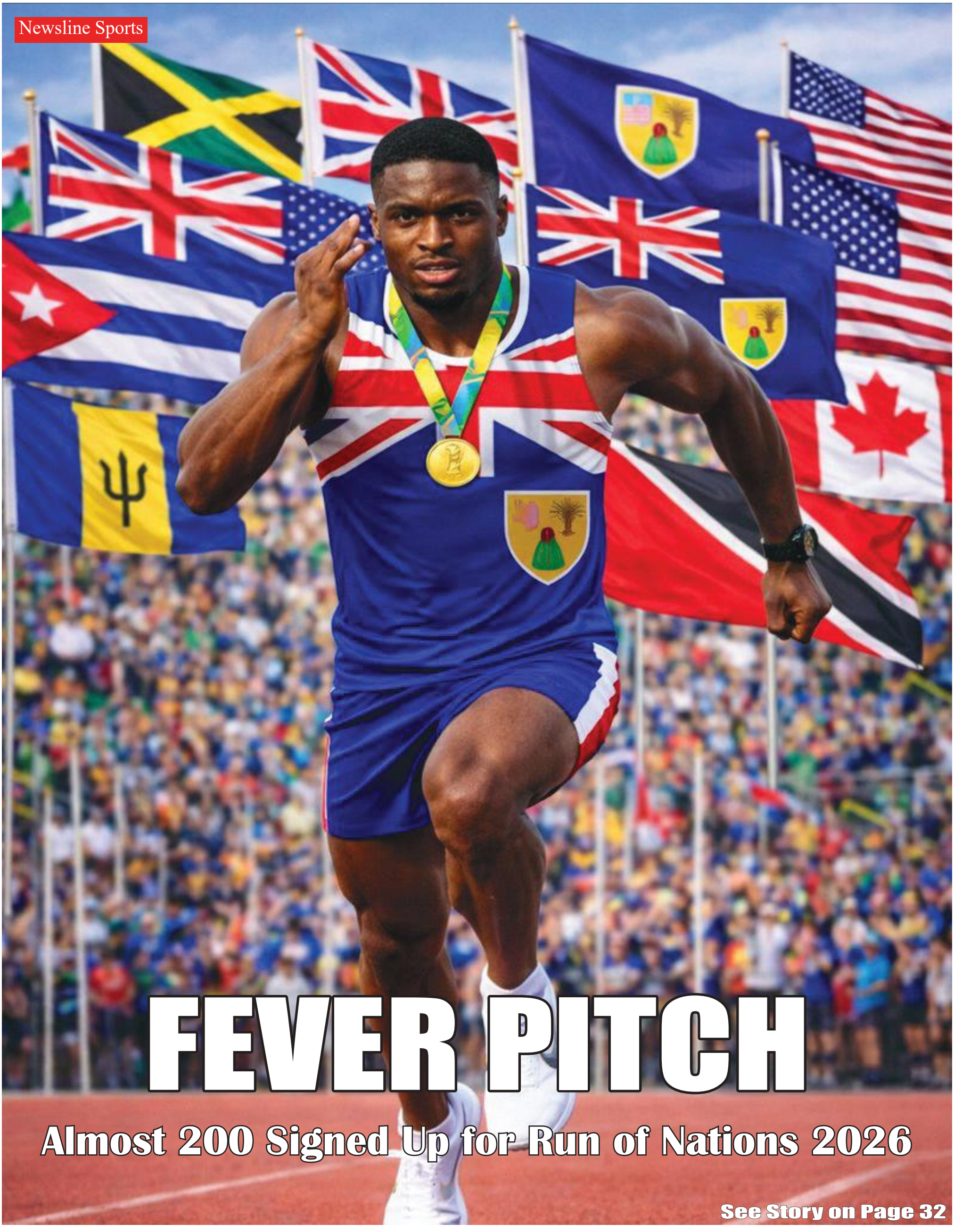
The order temporarily halts enforcement of the law on cruise ships while the appeals process moves forward, her email noted.



A cruise ship (in background) is docked in Honolulu, March 23, 2020.

The lawsuit challenged only the law's cruise ship provisions.

Cruise Lines International Association spokesperson Jim McCarthy said he wasn't sure he could get comment from the plaintiffs, given the timing of the ruling before a holiday.



FEVER PITCH

Almost 200 Signed Up for Run of Nations 2026

See Story on Page 32

Jamaica in strong position to host World Athletics events following stadium upgrade — Coe



World Athletics President Sebastian Coe (centre) speaks as Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA) President Garth Gayle and Jamaica's Sports Minister Olivia "Basby" Grange looks on during a press conference at the JAAA headquarters in St Andrew on Wednesday.

One of the main reasons given by the Government for upgrading the National Stadium in Kingston is to allow Jamaica to host more international sporting events, particularly track and field.

That goal could soon be achieved, as World Athletics President Sebastian Coe says the island may host major track and field events, including the World Under-20 Championships, once the redevelopment is completed.

During the final stop of Coe's four-day visit to Jamaica on Wednesday at the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA) headquarters in Kingston, Sports Minister Olivia "Babsy" Grange gave an update on plans to upgrade the 64-year-old stadium.

The construction phase, which was previously announced by Grange to have begun this year, will now take place in July 2027. The project, estimated to cost over $16 billion, will expand the stadium's seating capacity from 28,500 to nearly 40,000 seats. There will also be an introduction and modernisation of many facilities including the running track.

Coe says he's encouraged by the decision to redevelop the stadium and believes it will have a positive impact on both the sport and the country.

"I'm delighted that it's now moving ahead with pace and with purpose, and also pleased that it's going through those phases that it needs to do in order to come to fruition," he said.

"I know from my experiences in London [and] my experiences in World Athletics that having venues that are fit for purpose and allow more people to be involved in sport at the highest level and through training is also a pretty smart economic model, as well, in generating those revenues that are really important for the livelihood and well-being of people in Jamaica."

Following the completion of the stadium's upgrade, Jamaica's first confirmed assignment will be the hosting of games during the 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup.

However, Coe has hinted that talks have begun about Jamaica returning as a host of international athletics events for the first time since the World Junior Championships 24 years ago.

"It does mean that it would give you the opportunity to bid for our World Athletics Series events and already, we had a discussion about the potential for an Under-20 championships in years to come," he said.

"It was in 2002, of course that your favourite son [Usain Bolt] made his mark with that world record and that win in this city. So, of course, it's really important and if you have facilities, you have warm-up tracks, you have the infrastructure around the stadium that allows you to bid successfully for those events, that will only be warmly received by World Athletics as we would receive those invitations from anywhere in the world that wants to invest in their sport, we will always encourage them."

The host for the 2030 World Under-20 championships could be announced by the World Athletics council before the end of the year, though the 2032 games may be a more realistic option. The Jamaica Observer understands that the World Athletics Relays is also a possibility for Jamaica, given itoperates at a lower scale compared to full fledged competitions.

Last year, Grange said the stadium's upgrade would be completed by 2029 but would not confirm if that's still the target.

"I wouldn't want to announce an end date at this time. Yes, we are conscious that we have to be finished by a particular time and we do have a projected time frame to be ready," she said.

"However, by upgrading Stadium East, we'll be able to start the construction, we're hoping, much earlier because we will be having a lot of the activities that we would have in the National Stadium at Stadium East. But we would want to address that at a later date to be more specific."

Grange, though, says the stadium's redevelopment will see the country earning billions of dollars.

"Revenues are expected to go by about 169 per cent, mainly due to expanded commercial capacity and increased event hosting," she said.

"Operating costs will rise by around 83 per cent but overall government subvention to IPL (Independence Park Limited) will drop by 70 per cent. During the construction period, the project is projected to generate 70 billion in economic output and contribute 34 billion to GDP and create approximately 14,900 jobs."



Artistic rendering of the redesigned National Stadium in Jamaica

Netball Ja boss says Australia series offers rigid test ahead of Glasgow Games

Karen Baugh, president of Netball Jamaica (NJ), says the upcoming three-Test netball series away to world number one ranked Australia offers crucial preparation for the senior Sunshine Girls, with the main objective being the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland.

The games are scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 2, and the Sunshine Girls are aiming to build on their best-ever Commonwealth Games result, which was a silver medal at the 2022 Birmingham Games after losing to Australia's Diamonds in the gold medal match.

Before that, Jamaica secured bronze medals in 2002, 2014, and 2018, consistently placing as a top-tier netball nation.

"We had signed the agreement with Australia from early last year as a part of both of us [preparing], leading up to the Commonwealth Games. This is another series that we are using to fine-tune the Sunshine Girls for the Commonwealth Games," Baugh told the Jamaica Observer.

The series will be a tough challenge for the Sunshine Girls, but Baugh believes it's an important opportunity for them to assess their skills against top-tier competition.

"Everybody has the same mandate, the same objectives to try out different combinations with their players and to kind of size up the competition and so we all doing the same thing," she added.

The series is to open on February 5 at Adelaide Entertainment Centre, followed by a match on February 8 at Perth's RAC Arena, and is to conclude on February 11 at Melbourne's John Cain Arena. This will be the first standalone series between the teams in 15 years. Their most recent clash came at the 2023 Netball World Cup in South Africa where Australia defeated Jamaica in the semi-finals.



BAUGH... we really need to build depth in our squads as there are going to be times when everybody's not available

Despite chronic funding issues that have long-plagued NJ, Baugh said that everything is in place for the series.

"We are being supported. Obviously, we have some of our sponsors on-board here. We are also being supported by Netball Australia for the series to take place because, honestly, that is one of the things we struggled with — having enough funding to have these series on a regular basis, especially if it's not home and away. You know, this is an away series, so a large part of it is being funded by Netball Australia," she said.

The Sunshine Girls are coming off a 0-2 loss to host England Roses in the recent Vitality Horizon Netball series in December 2025. The Jamaicans were missing seven of their top players, but NJ president says the experience was valuable for the younger squad members

"Well, you know we played with a different squad than what was expected, but we still have to give kudos to the girls as they went out there and did their best. We really need to build depth in our squads as there are going to be times when everybody's not available.

"So we really have to continue to give people opportunities to get on court and build depth that any seven we put on court knowing that they can put on a good show. Some of the senior players will be back in squad. We are still finalising the squad for the series but some of them will be available and you will see a slightly different mix for the Australian series," Baugh said.

Baugh praised some standout performers from the England series.

"I think Crystal Plummer and Simone Gordon really stepped up and brought another level of play. We like to see when we put players out there on the court that, you know, somebody we never expected to will bring it and that all will come together for them on a particular series. So we continue to work on the whole squad," Baugh said.



Jamaica's Sunshine Girls celebrate during netball competition at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England.

Dwayne Bravo insists he was forced out of Windies Test team

Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has revealed that it was not his choice to retire from Test cricket almost 11 years ago.

Speaking recently on the Beard Before Wicket Podcast, the 42-year-old said he believed then West Indies Head Coach Otis Gibson was responsible for pushing him out of the side.

Bravo, considered one of the greatest-ever Twenty20 players, played 40 Tests for the West Indies, scoring 2,200 runs, inclusive of three centuries and 13 half centuries at an average of 31.42. He also took 86 wickets with two five-wicket hauls, at an average of 39.83.

"No, I didn't decide to give up Test cricket, they decided to give me up. So, it's funny that you ask that question because my assistant coach, Otis [Gibson], is the guy who was the coach of West Indies team back then, when my Test career came [to an end].

"I didn't think it had anything to do with Sammy because I think at that time Sammy was a young captain and the captaincy was just given to him, so he didn't have much influence, so much say over what team was selected," Bravo said.

"So, I always tell Gibbo it was him and the selectors back then and the board's decision. It was never my personal decision to finish Test cricket and that's [the] God honest truth."

Bravo said he made the tough decision to retire after he was left off the Test team for five years.

He recalled that the selectors saw him mainly as a white-ball cricketer, despite declaring his interests to play Test cricket.

"I had made it very clear that I wanted to continue my Test journey and obviously they had different plans and different ideas and there's not much I could have done.

"But if it was my decision, I would have played a lot more Test matches and longer," Bravo admitted.

However, while he was disappointed to have his Test career cut short, Bravo acknowledged that the outcome also opened the door to a different chapter of his career and one that would eventually redefine his legacy.

"It was cut short and you lose here, but I gained here. Because I think if I continued to play more Test matches, I would not have the T20 career that I have," he acknowledged.



BRAVO: "I didn't decide to give up Test cricket, they decided to give me up."

$1.7 Million Proposed for Major Repairs at Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex

By Benneth Williams



FORBES: "This upgrade will really fortify the facility, not only as a sporting venue but also as a shelter that protects the entire building."



Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor



The Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex

The Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex in Providenciales could undergo $1.7 million repair work following the tabling in Parliament on Thursday, 8 January 2026, of the $27.3 million 2nd Second Supplementary Spending Bill for the 2025/2026 financial year.

The proposed allocation was announced on Thursday, 8 January 2026, by Premier and Minister of Public Policy, Finance, Economic Development, Investment and Trade, Washington Misick.

Director of Sports Jarett Forbes welcomed the development, describing the investment as both timely and critical for a facility that is nearing two decades in age.

Forbes pointed out that the last major repairs on the facility was done in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

"This is not the first work done on the Gustavus Library Sports Complex. Some repairs were carried out following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, as well as other storm events, to address immediate damage," he stated.

He further noted: "This is the second major refurbishment since the facility was built around 2008–2009. The works focus on original elements, including the roof and hardwood floors, along with interior repairs linked to age and water intrusion. Given that the facility is a designated hurricane shelter and Providenciales' only public indoor sports facility, these upgrades are both timely and necessary."

According to Forbes, the funding will focus primarily on fixing the roof and refurbishing the indoor playing floor, both of which have been in use since the complex was originally constructed nearly 20 years ago.

"The roof has been done over multiple times, and the floors are just as old as the building itself," Forbes explained. "This upgrade will really fortify the facility, not only as a sporting venue but also as a shelter that protects the entire building."

The Director of Sports noted that the new flooring will significantly enhance safety, usability, and performance standards, allowing the complex to better serve youth programmes and host international-calibre sporting events.

"With a new floor, we can safely host higher-level competitions. It's necessary to do this now, before the current surface becomes unusable," he added. "The timing is perfect—there won't be any gaps in our ability to operate."

In addition to the roof and floor upgrades, the project will also address internal repairs, including painting and wall restoration, following water damage caused by roof leaks over time.

While the indoor facility is being prioritized this year, Forbes confirmed that improvements to the adjoining ballpark are scheduled for the next financial year, as part of the government's continued capital development plans for sports infrastructure.

Despite the upcoming construction work, the sports calendar remains active. Forbes confirmed that the National High School Championships are scheduled to get underway later this month, underscoring the importance of maintaining and upgrading the country's key sporting venues.

The $1.7 million investment marks a significant step toward revitalizing one of Providenciales' most important sporting hubs, reinforcing the government's stated commitment to youth development, sports tourism, and community resilience.

The Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex falls under the auspices of Ministry of Education, Youth, Sport and Library Services, of which Hon. Rachel Taylor, is the Minister.

Over 140 Runners Signed Up for Run of Nations 2026

With January 17, 2026, fast approaching, excitement is reaching a fever pitch ahead of the Run of Nations 2026, which is shaping up to be one of the most vibrant and anticipated sporting events on this year's calendar.

More than 140 runners have already registered, and organizers say interest continues to surge as race day draws nearer. From competitive athletes and recreational joggers to walkers and first-time participants, the Run of Nations is expected to attract a diverse and energetic field, setting the stage for a record-breaking turnout.

Beyond the competition, the Run of Nations stands out as a true celebration of culture, unity, and community spirit. Participants and spectators are being encouraged to proudly represent their heritage by dressing in country colors. Whether it's a national jersey, flag, or face paint, the event aims to transform the race route into a moving display of the many cultures that enrich the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This is more than just a race," organizers emphasized. "It's an opportunity for the entire community to come together, celebrate who we are, and show pride in our roots while promoting healthy, active lifestyles."

All registered participants will receive a giveaway bag, a finisher's medal, raffle entry, and post-race refreshments, ensuring that everyone who crosses the finish line leaves with lasting memories of the event.

Youth participation is also a major focus for this year's race. School children can register at a special discounted rate of just $20, making the Run of Nations an ideal activity for families and school teams looking to stay active together. Organizers believe the youth-friendly pricing will help inspire the next generation of runners while reinforcing values of teamwork, wellness, and national pride.



Members of the Road Dogs Running Club, which is organising the event

For those who have yet to sign up, there is still time. Registration remains open until January 15, 2026, giving prospective participants a final window to join the growing list of runners already preparing for race day.

As January 17 approaches, anticipation continues to build across Providenciales and beyond. Whether competing, walking, or cheering from the sidelines, the Run of Nations promises an unforgettable day of energy, color, and unity.

"So, grab your sneakers, choose your country colors, and get ready to hit the road. On race day, the streets will come alive as the Turks and Caicos Islands proudly showcase their spirit, one stride at a time," one of the organisers noted.

Registration link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7JJ95WM

Media Contact: Reno Palmer; RoadDogsTCI@gmail.com; or +1 (649) 344-5517.