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## Major Crimes Plummet PG2



**TCI Bags 11  
International Dive  
Honours PG10**

# \$200M KEMPINSKI BREAKS GROUND IN TCI

**Luxury Resort Set to Open in 2028**

**Property will host 119 Keys and 150 B/R**

CHRISTIAN'S  
ESTATE  
TURKS & CAICOS  
Grace Bay

TURKS & CAICOS

SEE PAGE 5

# MAJOR CRIMES PLUMMET IN TCI AS POLICE FORCE MARKS 226 YEARS OF SERVICE

Major crimes across the Turks and Caicos Islands have dropped significantly, with notable declines in murder, attempted murder, and rape, according to newly released statistics from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF).

The update was delivered by Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey during a press briefing held on Tuesday, November 18, at Police Headquarters in Providenciales, where he outlined the latest crime figures and reflected on the force's historic 226 years of service to the nation.

Bailey described the reductions as both encouraging and reflective of strengthened policing strategies, improved community partnership, and enhanced operational capacity.

"We are resolute in our determination not to return to the past; a time when fear and intimidation disrupted the peace of our neighborhoods, when families felt unsafe in their own homes, and when children could not freely enjoy the spaces meant for them," he said. "Those days are behind us, and together, we will keep them there."

According to the Commissioner, murders have decreased by 40% compared to the previous year, while attempted murders have fallen by 25%. Rape has also declined by 33%, signaling progress in tackling violent crime across the islands.

In addition to fewer incidents, Bailey revealed major gains in weapons seizures, with officers recovering 21 firearms and 500 rounds of ammunition so far for the year. This surpasses the total of 17 guns recovered in 2024, a metric he said demonstrates the success of targeted operations, intelligence-led policing, and strengthened

border vigilance.

"We are proud to share that our collective efforts are making a real difference," Bailey said. "These results show that together we are building a safer Turks and Caicos Islands, one where families feel secure, businesses succeed, and our children can enjoy the freedom and beauty of these islands without fear."

The announcement coincides with the RTCIPF's week-long celebration of its 226th anniversary, running from November 16 to 22 under the theme "Unity for a Safer Tomorrow." Bailey noted that while criminal statistics reflect progress, the force's mission extends beyond numbers to promoting fairness, equity, and fundamental human rights.

"Our approach is rooted in fairness, equity, and respect for human dignity, ensuring that every individual feels protected and valued," he said. He added that officers will continue to use all available legislative tools to preserve public safety while upholding professional standards.

"As a force, we will utilize every legislative tool at our disposal to ensure safety, equity, and fairness for all. We are on a transformational path, and while we recognize that change often brings resistance, we will push forward."

The Commissioner also addressed public commentary regarding policing, particularly concerns raised on social media. Bailey assured residents that criticisms are acknowledged but do not deter officers from their mission.

"Let me assure you that our commitment to serving this community remains strong and unwavering. Our mission is clear: to

protect, to serve, and to create a safe environment where residents and visitors alike can thrive. We value the trust you place in us and will continue working hand in hand with the community to ensure these islands remain secure, welcoming, and beautiful by nature."

Beyond crime reduction, Bailey highlighted institutional reforms focused on leadership development, succession planning, and a more comprehensive promotion framework. He noted that the promotion process has been restructured to ensure integrity and character are weighted alongside academic qualifications.

"Promotion will not be based solely on examination results. Integrity and other essential attributes will always be part of the equation. We are building an organization that goes beyond individual personas; an organization anchored on principles, professionalism, and excellence in service," he said.

Several officers are currently engaged in advanced training programmes as part of the force's capacity-building priorities. Five officers are enrolled in the Junior Command Course at the National Police College in Jamaica, while another officer is receiving international training in Dubai.

Additionally, four officers will soon begin a Diploma in Criminal Investigations, and the force is collaborating with external partners to strengthen investigative expertise and leadership within middle management. Bailey said these initiatives reflect a long-term investment in professionalism and organizational resilience.

"These actions reflect our steadfast determination to improve continuously and



Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey addressing the news briefing on Tuesday, November 18

uphold the highest standards of service. Together, let us remain focused on building a culture of integrity, professionalism, and excellence. This is how we will move forward stronger, better, and ready to serve Turks and Caicos Islands."

Commissioner Bailey reaffirmed the force's commitment to community partnership and national safety, urging residents to continue working alongside law enforcement as the islands push toward a future free from violence and instability.

## Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital promotes Antimicrobial Awareness Week November 18–24, 2025

Antimicrobial Awareness Week is a global campaign led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to shine a light on the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

AMR happens when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time and no longer respond to treatment, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of severe illness.

This year's theme is: "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future."

It's a powerful reminder that we all have a role to play in safeguarding the effectiveness of the medicines we rely on.

How can our TCI community help?

- Avoid self-medicating
- Don't share your medication
- Only use antimicrobials with a prescription
- Always complete the full course of prescribed treatment
- Practice good hygiene—especially regular handwashing

What are we doing at TCI Hospital?

- We use an Antimicrobial stewardship team
- We use hospital developed Antimicrobial guidelines to support our team in making decisions on your care
- We promote "Start Smart — Then Focus" principles: Start antibiotics only when truly needed and Review therapy at 48–72 hours
- Our lab team provide test results that help your care team guide your treatment
- Practice good hygiene—especially regular handwashing. Handwashing is for everyone!
- Educate the team and patients
- Partner with key stakeholders

Dr Denise Braithwaite, commenting on this year's Antimicrobial Awareness Week's theme noted, "Antimicrobial stewardship is not just a medical responsibility, it is a global duty and a community safeguard. As a hospital, we are committed to using antibiotics wisely so they remain effective for future generations.

Every step we take to prevent misuse helps protect our patients, our families, and the world from the growing threat of drug-resistant infections. Together, through responsible practices

and strong partnerships especially with our patients and community, we can preserve the power of these life-saving medicines and ensure a healthier, safer future for all."



# TOURISM & ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS MONTH 2025



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ALL ISLANDS

**SUNDAY, 2 NOVEMBER**  
**ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICES**

Location: All Islands

### GRAND TURK

**WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER**

**TASTE OF TURKS**

Location: Victoria Public Library,  
Queen Street, Grand Turk  
Time: 12PM – 6PM

**THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER**

**TOURISM CAREERS & ENTREPRENEURIAL  
FAIR**

Location: HJ Robinson High School  
Auditorium  
Location: 10AM – 2PM

### SALT CAY

**SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER**

**SALT CAY ECOSTAMP & LUNCHEON**

Location: Salt Shed  
Time: 10AM – 3PM

### PROVIDENCIALES

**SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER**

**NATURE'S PASSPORT FEST- AN ECO-  
EDUCATIONAL CELEBRATION OF TCI**

Location: Kids Park, Lower Bight  
Road  
Time: 11AM – 3 PM

### NORTH CAICOS

**MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER**

**SCHOOLS & STAKEHOLDER VISITS**

Location: North Caicos  
Time: 9AM – 11.45AM

**AUTHENTICALLY NORTH**

Location: Carlton Williams Promenade,  
Bottle Creek  
Time: 12 – 4PM

### MIDDLE CAICOS

**TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER**

**SCHOOLS & STAKEHOLDER VISITS**

Location: Middle Caicos  
Time: 8.30AM – 11AM

**AUTHENTICALLY MC**

Location: Lorimers Park, near  
Lorimers Creek  
Time 11AM – 3PM

### SOUTH CAICOS

**WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER**

**MORNING DEVOTIONS**

Location: Firm Foundations Ministries  
International  
Audience: Pre-K, Primary and High School  
students  
Time: 9AM

**MICRO CAREER FAIR**

Location: South Caicos Community Centre  
Time: 10:30AM – 1PM

**HARBOUR FEST**

Location: South Sporting Complex, (Parade  
Ground) Airport Road  
Time: 6PM – 9PM

### PROVIDENCIALES

**THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2025**

**HELLO TOURIST!**

Audience: Grade School Children  
Time: 9AM – 2PM  
Hosted by the Turks and Caicos Hotel &  
Tourism Association

**SATURDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER**

**ECOSTAMP - NATIONWIDE CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN**

Location: All Islands  
Time: 6:00 am – 8:00 am

**MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER**

**TOURISM FUTURES: YOUTH CAREER EXPO &  
NATIONAL TOURISM SPEECH COMPETITION**

Location: Graceway Sports Centre  
Time: 9AM – 3PM

**THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER**

**NATURE'S PASSPORT @ ISLAND FISH FRY**

Location: Stubbs Diamond Plaza  
Time: 5.30PM – 9PM

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# Turks and Caicos Islander Investment Incentive Policy Launched to Boost Local Ownership

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

A landmark policy aimed at increasing local ownership of national assets and ensuring economic participation keeps pace with the country's growth has been officially launched by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Turks and Caicos Islander Investment Incentive Policy, officially branded as the HTCI Policy, was introduced during a ceremony on Monday, November 17, at The Shore Club Resort in Providenciales, entitled 'Breakfast and Business'.

The policy provides a structured system of incentives to support Turks and Caicos Islanders with ancestral ties to invest in medium and large-scale development projects, closing gaps that have historically limited domestic ownership despite strong GDP and tourism growth.

Angella Musgrove, CEO of Invest Turks and Caicos, described the policy as a defining moment for economic inclusion.

"This is not just a destination; it is a turning point," Musgrove said. "It is a meaningful and deliberate step towards correcting long-standing inequalities within our economy and building one that is fair, inclusive and reflective of the people and heritage of the islanders who built these islands." While foreign direct investment has fueled economic transformation, she noted, it has also created disparities.

"Foreign direct investment accounts for more than 80% of our private investment," she said. "That growth has generated jobs and infrastructure, but it has also created imbalance. Local productive assets remain lower than we would like them to be. We need to see local ownership keep pace with the country's development trajectory."

Musgrove pointed out that Turks and Caicos Islanders currently represent about 40% of the population, a share, she warned, could further decline without targeted measures to strengthen domestic participation.

The HTCI Policy will provide a range of benefits for qualifying projects owned by Turks and Ca-



Angela Musgrove, CEO for Invest Turks and Caicos addresses the event.



Premier Hon. Washington Misick addresses the forum.



icos Islanders with verified heritage status, including:

- 100% import duty concessions on development materials, furnishings, equipment and related inputs
- Up to 50% reductions in stamp duty for eligible property acquisitions
- A streamlined 12-week approval timeline from complete application to Cabinet decision
- Recognition under the Encouragement of Development Act, improving access to existing national development incentives

Musgrove emphasized that the Act was never intended solely for foreign investors.

"The policy dispels the notion that development incentives were reserved for foreigners," she said. "We are providing a clearer, structured pathway for islanders to utilize provisions that were always available to them."

The policy also requires applicants to demonstrate lineage to Turks and Caicos Islanders, beyond Belonger status, through parent or grandparent documentation.

"This puts you at an advantage not just as a status card holder, but someone who can establish a genuine heritage connection," she added.

The Turks and Caicos Islander Investment Incentive Policy complements the National Investment Policy and the MSME Programme, creating what officials describe as a seamless investment ladder.

"From a small manufacturer to a



Questions were entertained from members of the audience

multi-island developer, we want a defined and supported pathway for expansion," Musgrove said. "This is a step in the right direction, but it is not the finish line." Premier Hon. Washington Misick, credited as architect of the new policy, said its success will depend on collaboration with the private sector and continued policy evolution.

"Our policy establishes a clear foundation that opportunity must be equitable," Misick said. "But the real work lies in sustaining momentum and adapting our instruments to build a fairer, more resilient economy."

He encouraged investors to engage actively with government.

"We want to hear from you, what it takes to make your projects work," he said. "We may not be

able to provide everything immediately, but we will work toward supporting you."

He added that the government plans to improve access to financing, build technical capacity and foster public-private partnerships. "This policy is an open door for every entrepreneur, professional and investor who calls these islands home as a Turks and Caicos Islander," he said.

As implementation moves forward, Invest TCI will guide qualified applicants from concept to Cabinet approval and onward to execution.

"We want to keep the momentum moving, policy by policy, project by project, toward a future where economic success truly reflects our heritage, our talent and our people," Musgrove noted.



*Kristi Blake, Corporate Director of Public Relay for Kempinski Hotels presents Premier Hon. Washington Misick with gift package containing a porcelain feather, crafted by the Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory. The feather reflects the spirit of Turks and Caicos: light, rare, and quietly radiant.*



*Walter Gardiner Jr. (left) of Christies International Real Estate Turks and Caicos and Rex Messam of Engel & Völkers Turks & Caicos are exclusively responsible for the sale of the property.*

# \$200M Kempinski Grace Bay Resort Breaks Ground, Marking Major Luxury Expansion on Iconic Beach

A new era of luxury hospitality officially began on Grace Bay Beach this week as Kempinski Hotels, Europe's oldest luxury hotel group, joined global developer JTRE to break ground on the \$200 million Kempinski Grace Bay resort.

The highly anticipated development will introduce 119 rooms and residences across 150 keys, along with a collection of beach-front villas that promise to raise the bar for upscale living in Turks and Caicos.

Nestled on 11 acres of secluded coastline, the project marks the debut of the Kempinski brand in the Turks and Caicos Islands and brings its 128-year tradition of European-style hospitality to one of the world's most celebrated beaches.

The ceremonial launch took place late Thursday afternoon against the iconic backdrop of Grace Bay's powder-white sands and turquoise waters. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, senior members of government, and executives from Kempinski and JTRE, alongside international partners and investors. Premier Misick hailed the development as a milestone in the territory's tourism evolution.

"As global interest in the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to grow, Kempinski Grace Bay brings one of the world's most distinguished hospitality names to our pristine

shores," he said. "This development represents an important step in our evolution as a world-class destination, offering investors and visitors alike a chance to experience our cultural heritage and natural beauty through the lens of luxury and impeccable service."

## Blending European Heritage With Caribbean Landscape

Kempinski Grace Bay is being designed as a low-density, environmentally sensitive development characterized by refined minimalism and open-air architecture meant to complement rather than compete with the surroundings. The resort will feature 119 private residences and four oceanfront villas, each positioned to maximize panoramic sea views. Natural textures including limestone, timber, and glass will reflect the serene hues of the island while merging indoor and outdoor living spaces. Barbara Muckermann, Group CEO of Kempinski Hotels, said the property will set a benchmark within the brand's global portfolio.

"As one of the world's oldest hospitality groups, we are pleased to bring our art of hospitality to one of the true gems of the Caribbean," she said. "The property will stand as a flagship — an enduring expression of our heritage, craftsmanship, and belief that true luxury is as timeless as the culture and beauty of the destination."

Marek Baca, JTRE's Chief Representative for the Americas, em-

phasized the development's cultural and economic significance. "This groundbreaking marks the start of a new chapter, not only for Grace Bay but for the entire Turks and Caicos community," he said. "Our vision is to create a sanctuary that blends timeless European elegance with the natural splendor of Grace Bay, setting a new standard for Caribbean luxury rooted in its natural seascapes and rich culture."

## Luxury Amenities Designed for Lifestyle & Wellness

The resort will offer a suite of high-end amenities tailored to both residents and short-term guests. Planned features include:

- Signature fine-dining restaurants
- A beachfront club and bar
- A 3,000-sq-ft wine cellar
- A European-inspired spa and wellness center
- Ocean-view fitness facilities
- Tennis and padel sports pavilion
- A children's club
- Private pools and dedicated villa services

Sustainability is a core design pillar, with plans to incorporate insulated glass, solar technology, recycled irrigation systems, and native landscaping to minimize environmental impact.

Rasha Lababidi, Chief Product & Experience Officer for Kempinski Hotels, said every detail is curated to embody the essence of luxury

with local authenticity.

"Kempinski Grace Bay will be a defining destination in the Americas," she said. "It captures our ethos of rarity, authenticity, and timeless grace — where every stay becomes a story and every moment is crafted with intention."

## Continuing a Proven International Partnership

The project builds on an existing collaboration between Kempinski Hotels and JTRE, whose joint developments span London, Slovakia, and Germany. Christophe Piffaretti, Kempinski's Chief Development Officer, was credited for advancing the partnership and guiding the resort's integration into the brand's global growth plan.

Construction is scheduled to continue through 2026, with full completion anticipated in 2028. Property sales are being represented exclusively by Christie's International Real Estate Turks & Caicos and Engel & Völkers Turks & Caicos, with private purchase appointments currently open to qualified buyers.

Kempinski also gifted members of the government and other individuals with a porcelain feather, crafted by the Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory. The feather reflects the spirit of Turks and Caicos: light, rare, and quietly radiant. It also symbolizes balance, beauty, and the effortless grace found along these shores, which are qualities that guide the vision for Kempinski Grace Bay.

# Turning devastation into a blueprint for a resilient Jamaica

The outpouring of generosity from the Jamaican people following the devastation of Hurricane Melissa has been nothing short of godsent and deeply admirable. Our innate spirit of community and compassion has filled a critical void, offering immediate solace and supplies to the most affected families over the past two weeks. Across the island an extraordinary groundswell of citizens, churches — especially the Seventh-day Adventist Church — community groups, and corporate partners has mobilised to provide food, clothing, and shelter to those in dire need.

However, this generosity shines a harsh light on a troubling reality: the official government response remains mired in bureaucracy and delay. While private citizens and businesses have acted swiftly, often at personal expense, the machinery of Government has moved slowly — still “planning”, even as families sleep under tarpaulins. In this moment of national urgency governmental red tape works directly against the pressing need to get relief to the most shattered communities.

To bridge this gap and accelerate aid delivery we must implement an immediate, data-driven logistical overhaul rooted in community knowledge and executed with speed, transparency, and coordination.

The first step towards efficiency is leveraging existing community-based assets. It is surprising that the Social Development Commission (SDC) — an agency with detailed profiles of Jamaica’s roughly 800 communities — has not been placed at the centre of the relief effort. The SDC has the data, personnel, and local intelligence necessary to make aid delivery both equitable and efficient.

The blueprint must be built on three critical pillars:

1) Parish focal points: Each of the six most affected parishes must have a clearly identified focal point coordinating with local councillors, community development officers, and church-based response teams. While a hub-and-spoke model has been an-

nounced for 22 designated communities, reluctance to engage elected councillors remains.

This must change. Councillors serve as the direct link to the people, understanding terrain, vulnerabilities, and local needs. Their inclusion ensures aid distribution is based on real-time information, not distant assumptions.

2) Central coordination centres: Each parish should have a central clearing house — a single coordination centre to register incoming donations, manage distribution schedules, and prevent duplication.

This structure would guide volunteers and donors, ensuring care packages reach verified need areas and avoid oversupply in some districts while others remain underserved. A transparent tracking system — digital or paper-based — could be managed by parish disaster committees, supported by HEART/NSTA Trust interns.

3) Standardised care packages: To improve clarity, fairness, and efficiency, care packages must be categorised and standardised according to recovery phases. This ensures beneficiaries receive appropriate support based on immediate and medium-term needs.

a) Package 1 — Emergency relief: Designed for survival and immediate comfort, including:

- non-perishable foods (canned goods, dry cereals, rice, flour, sugar, crackers, and ready-to-eat meals)
- water (minimum 5 liters per person per day)
- toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary napkins, toilet paper, disinfectant wipes, deodorant)
- clothing (undergarments, T-shirts, sleepwear, children’s clothes, slippers)
- medical and hygiene essentials (first-aid kits, pain relievers, masks, gloves, hand sanitisers)

b) Package 2 — Immediate shelter and home repair: Aimed at restoring basic living conditions and preventing further exposure, contents may include:

- construction materials (tarpaulins, blocks, cement, steel, plywood, zinc sheets, 2x4 boards,

nails, hurricane straps)

- tools (hammers, saws, measuring tape, gloves)
- lighting (solar lamps or rechargeable flashlights)
- bedding (mattresses, sheets, blankets)

c) Package 3 — Livelihood restart: Focused on restoring economic independence, varying by occupation:

- farmers: seeds, fertiliser, small tools, animal feed, water drums
- small business owners: small generators, vouchers or starter kits to replace tools, stock, or equipment
- fisherfolk: nets, ropes, safety gear

These packages are not charity, they are investments in recovery and resilience.

Hurricane Melissa’s destruction offers a tragic but necessary turning point in Jamaica’s housing and settlement planning. The time has come to move beyond emergency repairs towards building stronger, more resilient communities. This requires tough but compassionate decisions on landownership. Many destroyed wooden dwellings were semi-permanent structures on informal or unsettled land tenure. Without addressing this, new housing investments will remain insecure. The Government must prioritise regularising land ownership and implementing policies that ensure both legal security and structural soundness.

To guarantee genuine resilience, climate-smart construction must become a national standard. All buildings should begin with respect for the natural environment. Three priority actions are essential:

1) Universal approval and inspection: All housing construction, including temporary repairs, must undergo municipal approval and inspection. Certified contractors, paid by the State, should inspect every roof installation for compliance with wind-resistance standards to prevent failures and save lives.

2) Resilient construction standards: Traditional lightweight housing is no longer viable. Jamaica must adopt best practices:

- reinforced structures with hurricane straps, anchor bolts, and continuous load paths connecting roof, walls, and foundations
- elevated foundations in flood-prone and coastal areas to reduce water damage
- wind-rated materials certified to withstand Category 4 or 5 hurricanes

3) Prioritising infrastructure: Resilient homes are futile without adequate infrastructure. A national drain rehabilitation and maintenance programme must be immediately funded and implemented. Proper drainage, road networks, and water management are vital to protect lives and property.

We cannot afford to rebuild past vulnerabilities. The Jamaican spirit has shown its generosity and resilience; now the Government must show resolve. By streamlining logistics through local expertise, standardising care responses, and enforcing climate-resilient building standards, Jamaica can transform this tragedy into a blueprint for safety, strength, and sustainability.

The choice is clear: Rebuild as before — or rebuild for the future. Denworth Finnikin is a university lecturer. Send comments to denworth.finnikin@gmail.com.

Hurricane Melissa’s destruction offers a tragic but necessary turning point in Jamaica’s housing and settlement planning. Hurricane Melissa’s destruction offers a tragic but necessary turning point in Jamaica’s housing and settlement planning.



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

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



CROWN LAND  
AMNESTY PROGRAMME

# CONVERSION TO FREEHOLD

## WITH THE CROWN LAND AMNESTY PROGRAMME

### AMNESTY ENDS MAY 31, 2026



Scan to visit  
our website.

#### OPTION 4 AND WHAT IT MEANS:

This option allows eligible persons to reduce their parcel size or possibly exchange it in extreme cases. Specific criteria apply for the latter, so contact us to learn more.

#### HOW DO I KNOW IF I QUALIFY?

The amendment applies to Residential CPL and Offer Letter holders of said parcel (or executors of estate) who have evidence to support that they can afford the reconfigured parcel.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Reconfigure the parcel to a size you can afford.
- Exchange defective parcels.
- All the primary benefits of the Amnesty Programme.

649-338-5346 | 649-338-2642  
[www.gov.tc/crownland](http://www.gov.tc/crownland)

#### HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete the application Option 4 application form and submit it, along with the \$100 fee, to the Crown Land Unit Office.

Application forms can be found at the Crown Land Unit offices on Providenciales and Grand Turk, with your local district commissioner on the sister islands, and on our website at [www.gov.tc/crownland](http://www.gov.tc/crownland).

#### HAVE QUESTIONS?

Visit our website or come see us at one of our offices to learn more about all four options available under the Crown Land Amnesty Programme.

Grand Turk:  
On Pond Street in the Government Complex

Providenciales:  
6 Parade Avenue,  
Downtown





Astwood: "Relief Must Come Now. Not as Election Theatre"

Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin A. Astwood has reiterated a firm call for the government to immediately bring forward a supplementary Bill to deliver long-promised stimulus payments to the people of the Turks and Caicos Is-

lands before the end of the year. Astwood stressed that residents are currently facing real and mounting financial pressures, from rising living costs to persistent inflation, and can no longer wait on political timing or pre-election

## Opposition Leader Demands Immediate Delivery of Promised Stimulus

promises.

"The time to act is now," Astwood declared. "Not weeks before an election, today. Our people are in genuine need." Astwood expressed full support for the swift passage of a supplementary stimulus Bill, saying he would stand with the government to approve it through all three readings in a single sitting if necessary.

He underscored that the matter should transcend party lines.

"This stimulus is not about politics or timing; it is about practical relief for households struggling with essential expenses. I am prepared to support the Bill immediately, transparently, and without delay."

The Opposition Leader reminded the House that both major political parties, the governing PNP and the opposition PDM, promised a stimulus as part of their 2025 General Elections campaigns. He reiterated that his own proposal promised quarterly stimulus payments of \$500, funded through revenues directed into a national Wealth Fund for the people.

Drawing on his five years of detailed review on the Appropriations Committee, Astwood noted that such a quarterly stimulus would have been financially

workable in the absence of major disruptions.

Astwood was critical of the government's decision last year to issue stimulus relief only weeks before the General Election, arguing that the timing appeared politically motivated.

He added that while last year's payment was justified as a cost-of-living adjustment, the cost of living has continued to rise sharply since the election, and many families are now in urgent need of support.

"The cost of living in the Turks & Caicos has risen since the elections," he said. "Many of our people require immediate relief to cope with rising costs."

Astwood outlined two direct expectations for the government:

- Immediate announcement of a concrete plan for a stimulus-related supplementary Bill
- A scheduled debate and expedited passage, with a readiness for cross-party cooperation

Astwood emphasized that his appeal is grounded in the welfare of the people rather than political posturing.

"This is about people first. It is about action over rhetoric," he said. "And it is about delivering what our citizens deserve: timely, meaningful relief now."

## Ministry of Health Urges Vigilance as Influenza Season Peaks

The Ministry of Health and Human Services is urging residents to remain alert as the annual influenza season reaches its peak.

While flu outbreaks can begin as early as September, the highest levels of activity are typically recorded between December and February, coinciding with increased circulation of other respiratory infections, including COVID-19.

According to global estimates, respiratory viruses such as influenza and COVID-19 cause between 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness annually and an estimated 290,000 to 650,000 deaths worldwide. High-risk groups include young children, the elderly, pregnant women, healthcare workers, and individuals with chronic medical conditions. Both the flu and COVID-19 are highly contagious viruses that may present with symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle and joint pain, headache, and loss of taste or smell.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding public health and is encouraging residents to visit their community Primary Health Care clinics to receive free influenza and COVID-19



vaccinations. The COVID-19 vaccine currently available is the Moderna brand, recommended for persons with chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDs), including children aged six months and older, and seniors.

### Prevention Tips

Health officials are also advising the public to adopt everyday protective measures to reduce the spread of respi-

ratory illnesses:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Dispose of used tissues immediately.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use alcohol-based sanitizer when soap is unavailable.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and

mouth to prevent germ transfer.

- Limit contact with sick individuals, and stay home if experiencing flu-like symptoms—especially to protect vulnerable persons.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, and school.
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle by staying hydrated, eating nutritious meals, exercising, managing stress, and getting adequate rest.

The Ministry noted that routine hygiene measures can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases and offer added protection throughout the flu season. However, vaccination remains the most effective defense.

### Get Vaccinated

The Ministry is encouraging the public to get their annual flu shot as soon as possible.

### Contact Information

For health advice, contact your local healthcare provider or the Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit at 338-2772 or 338-4942.

For vaccine-related queries, contact the Primary Health Care Department at 338-5469.

# RTCIPF Launches Highway Patrol Pilot to Boost Road Safety and Visibility

By Vivian Tyson Newsline Editor-In-Chief

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has launched a new Highway Patrol Pilot Initiative aimed at reducing traffic accidents, enhancing public safety and increasing police visibility across the territory.

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey announced the initiative during a press briefing on Tuesday at Police Headquarters in Providenciales. He said the programme, launched on Friday, November 14, is intended to support safer travel throughout the islands.

"This program is designed to increase police visibility, enhance public safety, and reduce road traffic accidents and fatalities," Bailey said. "Enforcement visibility and safety enhancement will protect lives and property and ensure that residents and visitors can travel across our islands with confidence and peace of mind."

Bailey expressed appreciation to the Governor and the Government for continued investment in the force, noting the recent addition of 10 new vehicles to the police fleet.

"The recent acquisition of 10 new vehicles will significantly enhance our oper-

ational effectiveness and strengthen our ability to respond swiftly to crime and violence, ensuring better service to the public," he said.

The RTCIPF has also expanded its maritime capabilities with two newly acquired jet-drive vessels, with additional marine assets currently being procured.

"These resources are critical to improving our reach and resilience across land and our maritime domain," Bailey said.

He added that the force's recruitment drive remains active, with staffing levels expected to increase in the coming months.

"All these initiatives are part of a broader strategy to make the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force a self-sufficient institution, fostering knowledge transfer and sustainable growth," he said.

## CHRISTMAS CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

As the holiday season approaches, Bailey announced the launch of the Christmas Crime Prevention Plan, Operation Shepherd, beginning Friday, November 21, 2025. The initiative will increase police presence and visibility in commercial zones during the festive period, with all officers called to be available for deployment.



Governor for the Turks and Caicos Islands Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (fourth from left), Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams (third from right), and Premier Hon. Washington Misick (fourth from right), take a snap with Commissioner of Police (right), Fitz Bailey and his executive team in front of a newly-acquired police vehicles, recently at the Police Headquarters in Providenciales.

"Our goal is simple: to create an environment where everyone can enjoy this season of cheer and giving in safety and peace," he said. He added that the force has coordinated joint security efforts with major security companies and private sector stakeholders.

With the peak tourism period nearing, Bailey said policing efforts will also be strengthened in business districts and nightlife zones.

"I am making a commitment to create a secure, enjoyable nightlife experience that leaves every citizen, resident and visitor feeling confident and welcomed," he said.

Between January 1 and October 31, 2025, police recorded 43 incidents involving tourists: 18 offences against the person, 23 property-related crimes involving unattended items, and two offences against the state. Bailey noted that these incidents represent a very small percentage

of the approximately two million annual visitors to the islands.

"These reports represent approximately 0.00215 percent of tourists being victims of crime," he explained. "If we focus only on incidents where a person was likely present, that figure drops to 0.0009 percent."

Bailey said the force remains committed to building trust and long-term institutional improvement.

"Our transformational journey is about building a police force that stands the test of time; professional, accountable and deeply connected to the people it serves," he said. "With unity and shared purpose, we will create a safer tomorrow for all who call these islands home."

He closed by thanking teams across the organisation including operations, serious crime, marine, human trafficking, financial crime, tactical units, civilian staff, community safety and media relations.

# Flow Launches "Christmas On Us" with Festive Customer Appreciation Events in Provo, GT

Flow ushered in the holiday season with a spirited series of Customer Appreciation events under the theme "Christmas On Us," energizing celebrations in Providenciales on Friday, December 14, and Grand Turk on Monday, December 17. The annual holiday launch featured giveaways, entertainment, and exclusive seasonal promotions designed to thank customers for their continued loyalty.

Both locations were transformed into festive hubs as Flow stores welcomed large crowds for a day of music, refreshments, and holiday cheer. Customers were greeted by enthusiastic staff and treated to one of the event's biggest attractions—the crowd-favourite

Spin the Wheel—which offered a variety of prizes throughout the day. Dozens of attendees walked away with gifts, adding surprise and excitement to the celebrations.

As part of the official launch, Flow introduced a lineup of limited-time Christmas offers available across both islands, including:

- New iPhone 17 at U.S. Price when adding Postpaid to an existing broadband plan, with the option of convenient monthly payments.
- Win a \$500 Gift Card or 50" TV with the addition of a new Broadband package.
- Bonus Data Days to keep customers connected throughout

the season.

- Holiday Shopping Spree Giveaways in both Providenciales and Grand Turk.

- "What's in the Ball" Prize Challenge at the Providenciales store, where customers can guess the contents of a decorative Christmas ball for a chance to win up to \$3,000 in cash.

Flow is encouraging customers to visit its stores throughout the season as more surprise promotions and in-store exclusives are set to be revealed.

Through its Christmas On Us campaign, Flow aims to spread holiday cheer while offering customers more ways to save, win, and stay connected this Christmas.



A customer spinning the wheel of fortune at one of the Flow Stores.

# Turks and Caicos Dive Sector Earns 11 International Honours

The Turks and Caicos Islands has once again been recognised as a premier global dive destination, securing 11 awards at the 2025 Scuba Diving Readers' Choice Awards held on Tuesday, November 11th, in Orlando, Florida.

The annual awards, determined by votes from thousands of divers and marine enthusiasts worldwide, celebrate destinations known for exceptional underwater experiences, vibrant marine ecosystems, and high-calibre dive operations.

Turks and Caicos placed in multiple categories, including:

- 2nd Place – Wall Diving
- 3rd Place – Big Animals
- Top 5 – Health of Marine Environment
- Top 10 – Best Overall
- Top 10 – Macro Life
- Top 10 – Underwater Photography
- Top 10 – Beginner Diving
- Top 10 – Advanced Diving
- One of the Best – Snorkelling
- One of the Best – Cave/Cavern/Grotto Diving
- One of the Best – Shore Diving

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo

Jolly said the awards reaffirm the natural value of the destination's marine assets as well as the collective responsibility to protect them.

"The world continues to recognise what we treasure every day, our waters are extraordinary," he said. "These awards honour the beauty of our reef and wall, but they also reflect the dedication of operators and communities who protect our marine environment. With this recognition comes responsibility, and we remain committed to sustainable practices that safeguard these ecosystems for generations to come."

Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos, Mr. Paul Pennicook, noted that the DMO will continue strengthening partnerships with local dive operators to further expand sustainable tourism efforts. "These wins reflect not only natural beauty, but the dedication of our local operators, conservation partners, and communities who protect our marine environment daily. Sustainability is essential to the future of our dive sector," he said.

The Scuba Diving Readers' Choice Awards have served as a benchmark in the global dive industry for more

than 30 years, marking a significant achievement and signalling continued growth for the Turks and Caicos dive niche.

## TCI Featured in 48-Page Spread in Fodor's Essential Caribbean Guide

In addition to the dive accolades, Turks and Caicos has received major travel media exposure with a 48-page feature in the newly released Fodor's Essential Caribbean Guide. The 926-page publication includes a full chapter on the destination, highlighting its history, beaches, accommodations, dining, attractions, and activities across all islands.

Minister Jolly said the comprehensive feature reflects ongoing efforts to promote tourism benefits across the wider archipelago.

"The coverage of the Turks and Caicos Islands in such an established travel publication is major," he said. "I am especially pleased with the emphasis on our sister islands as we continue encouraging visitors to explore beyond Providenciales so that all our communities benefit fully from tourism."

Pennicook noted that the guide will be particularly valuable heading into peak season.

"This 48-page feature is a testament to the strength and appeal of our destination," he said. "As we enter the busy winter season, this guide will be an invaluable resource for visitors planning itineraries and for those considering Turks and Caicos for the first time."

Fodor's Travel has been a leading global travel publisher for more than 80 years. The guide is available via major booksellers including Amazon.



Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos, Mr. Paul Pennicook.

Beaches



## JOB FAIR

November 26, 2025

## DREAM BIG WITH US!

Opportunity, training, education, and the potential to turn dreams into a better life, that is the story of Beaches Turks and Caicos Resorts and it can be yours too.

Join us in our mission to create Caribbean moments and memories that inspire people, their families, and our global community to dream bigger and live more prosperous, sustainable, and fulfilling lives.

- Assistant Butler Manager
- Food Beverage Manager
- Assistant F&B Manager
- Assistant Bar Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Boat Captains \*
- Scuba Instructors \*

- Dive Master\*
- Junior Accountant
- Income Auditor
- Sales Executive
- Wedding Coordinators
- Project Coordinator
- Room Attendants

- Resort Shop Attendants
- Cook 1,2,3
- Room Technicians
- Stove Technicians
- Banquet Server
- Pool & Beach Servers
- F&B Administrative Assistant

- Finish Carpenter
- Restaurant Servers
- Restaurant Cleaners
- Laundry Attendants
- Groundsmen
- Bartenders
- Bar Porters
- Stewards

**REQUIREMENTS:** Updated Resume | Passport | Freelance Permit | Residence Permit | Permanent Resident | Local Status Document [Belonger Card Certificate, Naturalization Certificate] | Qualifications/Experience required

**BENEFITS:** Healthcare | Education and Training | Staff Transportation | Competitive Salary Packages | Opportunities for Growth & Development

# When Institutions Confuse Scrutiny with Attack

An Op-Ed by Audley A. Astwood

Sabrina Green has overcome the odds to be where she is in life. She's one of the few Turks and Caicos citizens that I know, who speaks at least three languages.

She has accomplished a lot both professionally and academically. Her article to the newspapers didn't require me to get involved. From her writings, she represented herself more than adequately. But then a week later, I read the Registrar's rebuttal.

The Registrar's response didn't feel like clarification. It felt more like a dismissal of a citizen's right to question power. It didn't sit well with my soul. Green wasn't just asking questions on her behalf, she was asking for the public. I felt compelled to respond to him.

Public institutions often preach transparency. That's easy. What's difficult is maintaining transparency when citizens ask hard questions. The Registrar's statement in response to Sabrina Green is a clear example of how quickly a simple request for clarity gets painted as an attack.

He describes her concerns as serious and unfounded. That's not accountability; that's avoidance. Label a citizen's questions as baseless, and you never have to answer them. Green submitted a proposal, was told funds weren't

available, and only later discovered that discussions were underway with other providers for the same service. Anyone would question that. If funding wasn't available, why were others being engaged for identical work?

The Registrar leans heavily on phrases about fairness, transparency, and international best practice. Repeated slogans aren't proof. Evidence is. Green didn't attack the Judiciary; she asked it to practise what it preaches. When explanations don't add up, public confidence naturally erodes.

The Registrar points to procurement rules and tender thresholds as justification. If that's the case, the Judiciary should have no trouble publishing the timeline, the proposals received, the criteria used, and how interest from other providers was evaluated. If the process was clean, showing the paperwork shouldn't be a problem. Claims of best practice mean nothing without verification.

The Judiciary must be beyond reproach, not beyond criticism. Green raised questions that deserved answers, not characterisations. When institutions treat scrutiny as hostility, the public is right to wonder what's being protected.

If the Judiciary wants trust, it must earn it. Accountability isn't optional. It's the cost of authority. And if the Regis-



trar believes Green's concerns are unfounded, the strongest response isn't condemnation; it's transparency. Publish the facts. Put the entire matter into daylight. Let the public see the full picture without filters or framing.

Silencing criticism never strengthens institutions. Truth does. Candour does. Receipts do. The people of this country can handle the truth. What they won't tolerate is evasion dressed up as reassurance.

# To Support Local Culture Is to Support Sovereignty (Part 1)

An Op-Ed by Hezron Henry

In Caribbean island states shaped by centuries of extraction, spectacle, and displacement, calls to "support local culture" are often mentioned with good intentions but little depth. At worst, they're gestures: buying handcrafted items, attending a festival, tasting the local food. Yet when considered through the frameworks offered by Antonio Benítez-Rojo in "The Repeating Island" and the exhibition "Tropical Is Political: Caribbean Art Under the Visitor Economy Regime", this idea of support reveals itself as a far more radical and necessary undertaking that requires political awareness, economic justice, and a commitment to cultural autonomy that challenges both tourism and neocolonial power.

Benítez-Rojo describes the Caribbean not as a unified region but as a "meta archipelago," a complex, ever-repeating cultural system marked by chaos, hybridity, and rhythm.

In this vision, the islands are not isolated or homogenous but linked by shared legacies of violence, invention, and resistance. Repetition in this context does not mean sameness. It refers to recurring cultural patterns, such as rituals, sounds, and gestures, that span geography and

time, adapting with each iteration. To support local culture, then, is to recognize this nonlinear, layered identity and resist the temptation to flatten it into a marketable aesthetic. Culture is not an artifact but a process: alive, unfinished, and defiant. The exhibition "Tropical Is Political: Art Under The Visitor Economy Regime (circa 2022)" deepens this argument by exposing the machinations of the visitor economy, a system that transforms island life into a consumable paradise for outsiders.

Artists like Joiri Minaya, Abigail Hadeed, and Donna Conlon reveal how tourism, offshore finance, and the legacy of plantation economies continue to shape Caribbean existence. Local culture, in this context, is curated for the foreign gaze, stripped of its history, conflict, and complexity. Support under this system becomes another form of control, where culture is tolerated only when profitable or picturesque.

To truly support local culture, then, is to dismantle these logics. It means honoring the cultural labor of those who remain unseen in glossy brochures: the performers, the stewards of land, the storytellers, the painters and poets whose work resists erasure.

It involves funding the institutions,

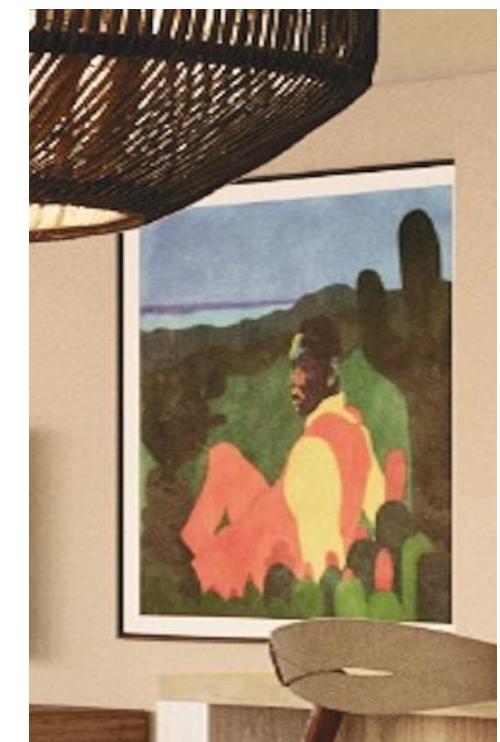
exhibitions, and publications that give voice to local artists on their own terms, not mediated by foreign curators or economic incentives. It is a stance that recognizes that cultural identity is not just inherited but continually made through struggle and creativity.

Supporting local culture also demands engagement with material conditions such as land ownership, labor rights, and access to education and technology etc. One cannot claim to value the music of a place while ignoring the musician. Nor can one celebrate indigenous food while the land itself is being privatized or poisoned. As "Tropical Is Political" illustrates, cultural support is inseparable from political and environmental sovereignty.

To support local culture is to allow space for ambiguity, contradiction, and critique.

In Benítez-Rojo's framework, culture is not a neatly packaged story but a polyrhythmic performance: ritual, rupture, and reassembly. It should not be smoothed to fit tourism slogans or state-sponsored branding. True support means allowing culture to breathe, to protest, to evolve without needing to explain or entertain.

In totality, supporting the local cul-

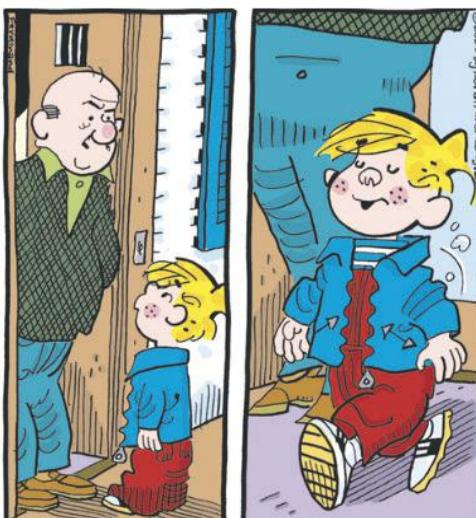


ture of an island state is not a passive or symbolic act. It is a commitment to justice, autonomy, and complexity. It means resisting the forces that reduce identity to spectacle and reclaiming the right to define selfhood beyond the gaze of the visitor. It asks us not just to admire the island, but to listen to its repetitions, the sounds of resistance and the whispers of memory.



# NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

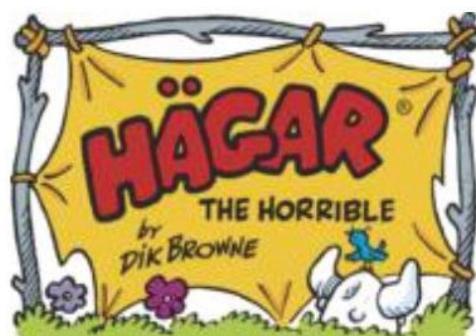
IF MY DOG MAKES YOU NERVOUS, I'D BE HAPPY TO LOCK YOU IN THE OTHER ROOM.



"A TEACHERS CONVENTION? SO YOU'RE MISSING SCHOOL TODAY?"

"NOT A BIT."

Long story short - I've repeated last Friday's strip.



Catatonic



Patients may experience bloating and nausea, while physicians may experience lucrative consulting gigs and speaking engagements.





# Rock iguana

NEWSLINE  
Heritage

The Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana (*Cyclura carinata*) is one of the most distinctive and ecologically significant animals found in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Endemic to this region, it exists nowhere else in the world, making it an important part of the islands' natural heritage and a symbol of local biodiversity.

#### Appearance and Habitat

The rock iguana is a medium-sized reptile, usually gray or brown with a pale underside. Adult males can reach over 20 inches in length, including the tail. While generally shy and non-aggressive, these iguanas are an important keystone species in the local ecosystem.

They primarily inhabit dry, rocky coastal areas, small cays, and scrubland. Most of the remaining wild population lives on small, uninhabited islands such as Little Water Cay (Iguana Island), Pine Cay, and Water Cay. These isolated locations have allowed them to survive without the threats found on more developed islands.

#### National Significance

The rock iguana is more than a rare reptile—it is a living symbol of the unique wildlife that sets the Turks and Caicos Islands apart. Its survival depends on continued public awareness and responsible environmental stewardship.

As development continues across the islands, preserving native species like the Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana ensures that future generations can continue to learn from and appreciate the natural beauty that defines the TCI.

#### Ecological Role

As herbivores, rock iguanas feed on leaves, flowers, and fruits, playing a critical role in seed dispersal and vegetation balance. Their presence helps shape the local plant communities and contributes to the overall health of the coastal ecosystem.

#### Conservation Status

The Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana is currently listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Major threats include habitat loss, development, and the introduction of invasive species such as cats, dogs, and rats, which prey on iguanas and their eggs.

Conservation efforts led by the Turks and Caicos National Trust, the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), and international partners have focused on habitat protection, predator control, public education, and research. Little Water Cay is now a designated nature reserve and eco-tourism destination where visitors can observe the iguanas in their natural environment with minimal disturbance.

#### References:

Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks and Caicos Islands Government  
Plants of the Eastern Caribbean (Botanic Gardens Conservation International / Kew Gardens Project)  
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species  
"Wild Plants of the Turks and Caicos Islands" by Sara and Mark Putnam  
TCI National Symbols – Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service (GIS)  
Caribbean Biodiversity Information Network (CBIN)



Members of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, Management and Staff and staff across the Grace Bay Resorts share in a photo moment with student at the Clement Howell High School at the Kisiwa Village, which is part of the Grace Bay Resorts Private Villa Collection.

# Grace Bay Resorts Launches Landmark Hospitality Training Program for Clement Howell High Students

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Grace Bay Resorts, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, officially launched a transformative two-year hospitality training program on Friday, November 14, at the Kisiwa Villa in the Bight, Providenciales.

The program is designed for fourth-form Clement Howell High School students, who . The initiative aims to create a clear pathway from classroom learning to real-world careers in the tourism sector, the backbone of the Turks and Caicos Islands economy.

Under the programme, the students will be trained

The launch ceremony brought together government ministers, hospitality executives from Grace Bay Resorts, educators, and 28 students chosen for the inaugural cohort.

"This isn't charity, this is smart," stated chairman for the event Almando Rigby of the Rock House, which is part of the Grace Bay Resorts.

"This program isn't about fulfilling positions," Rigby said. "It's about building futures. The best talent, the most authentic energy, the people who will truly care about our guests... they're already here in Providenciales. We just have to open the door." Tiffany Minnis, General Manager for

the Grace Bay Resorts Private Villa Collection, and who is the initiator of the programme, was elated at its roll-out.

"This is an opportunity to showcase what this island has as young talent," Minnis said. "I am so honored that Grace Bay Resorts took on the challenge... This program is intended to live on, not just in your fourth form but also into your fifth and continuing on."

She added, "At the end of this, I want you to be able to say, 'I've accomplished what I would like to dream big about.'"

Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles encouraged students to take ownership of the opportunity.

"When you meet guests with questions or concerns, don't say 'I don't know.' Go and find the solution," Knowles said. "Everyone remembers the person who takes the time to help... Let that person be you."

He urged students to see the program not as time away from school but as "an opportunity that will definitely change your lives for the years to come."

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavarro Jolly, encouraged the students to grab the opportunity with both

hands, reminding them that the vocation could be a vehicle to their life-long profession.

"This step you're taking now is going to help you get wherever you want to go," Jolly urged. "The smartest investment you'll ever make is the investment in yourself... Once you learn the art of service, I promise you, you will be successful, and you will make a lot of money."

Nikheel Advani, Chief Operation Officer of the Grace Bay Resorts, used his personal story to encourage the students. He also encouraged the students to stay focused.

"Don't let anybody tell you you're not good enough," he said. "You can be whatever you want to be. I started as a dishwasher 35 years ago... and now I help run a company in one of the most amazing islands in the world."

Advani also credited the vision and passion of program creator Tiffany Minnis.

"She believes you can be anything you want to be. And she fought to make this program happen," Advani noted.

Thierry Grandsire, Vice President of Operations at Grace Bay Resorts, highlighted the practical motivation. "We know the talent is here," he said.

"Some of the most talented managers and executives at Grace Bay Resorts are Turks Islanders. If we want the best, we start in the schools."

He added, "This country allowed us to grow this company. We have a calling to give back."

Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor delayed stressed the value of hands-on experience. She, too, encouraged the students to make most of the opportunity offered by Grace Bay Club.

"Internship is an easy matriculation into the job market. That's your résumé right there," she said. "And I want this program expanded throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands."

Nadia Wilson, Vice Principal for the Clement Howell High School expressed the school's pride and commitment to the programme.

"When I saw our students so smartly dressed in their black and white, I felt such a sense of pride," she said. "We are committed to seeing this program succeed... We will provide the scaffolding they need to ensure their success."

The students were also presented gift packages by Grace Bay Resorts, symbolizing the start of their two-year training journey.

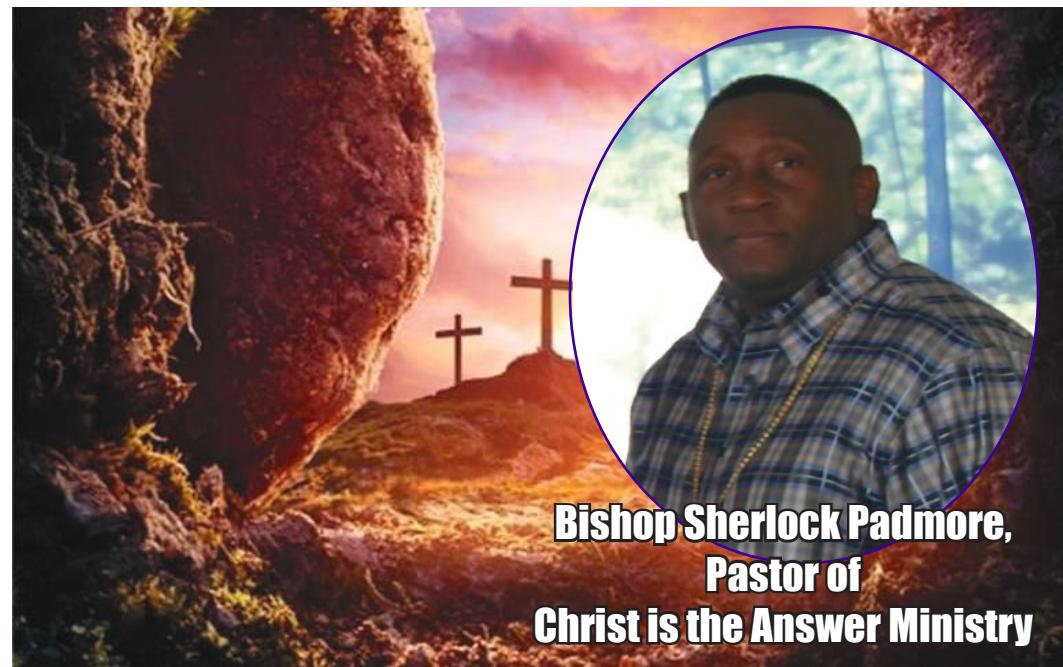


# FEATURED CHURCH

## Christ Is The Answer Ministries

This week on NEWSLINE's Life-Line Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on Christ is the Answer Ministries. Christ is the Answer Ministries, located at George Alley off Aviation Drive (the Street Opposite Mackey's Tires), Providenciales, is pastored by Bishop Dr. Sherlock Padmore.

The church has provided weekly opportunities for worship. On Sunday at 7p.m. Sunday Service. Bible Study is held on Tuesdays at 7pm. For further information on how to attend church services, contact 241-8030.



**Bishop Sherlock Padmore,  
Pastor of  
Christ is the Answer Ministry**

## 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 Prophecy,**  
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 Prophecy,**  
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, Providenciales  
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](mailto:contact@newslinetci.com)*



# RED HOT FASHION SHOW WAS HOT

On Saturday, November 15, the grounds of The Palms Resort in Grace Bay, Providenciales were transformed into a vibrant runway as patrons gathered to enjoy the Red Cross Red Hot Fashion event. Among the models gracing the catwalk were Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam and Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams. Held annually, the showcase highlights the wide selection of clothing available for purchase at Red Cross stores. Below are photo highlights from the evening.





# WHEN CAFFEINE ISN'T THE ANSWER

*Supporting natural energy without relying on your coffee fix*

By Monica Uttamchandani  
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Caffeine gives you a quick burst, but it often comes with a crash. If you're relying on coffee or energy drinks just to feel functional, it may be time to explore why your energy is dipping in the first place.

Fatigue is not just a normal part of adulting. It's your body's way of asking for support. And while coffee is a common go-to, it doesn't address the root of the issue... it just masks the symptoms.

## Why You Might Be Tired (Even If You're Sleeping)

Energy dips aren't always solved with more rest. Some common causes include:

- Blood sugar imbalances (sharp highs and lows drain your reserves)
- Poor sleep quality, especially if you're waking often or not getting deep rest
- Nutrient deficiencies like B12, iron, or magnesium
- Chronic stress and adrenal fatigue
- Under-eating or skipping meals (especially breakfast)
- Overtraining without proper recovery

Even emotional burnout, mental load, and inflammation can leave you feeling like you're dragging through the day.

## Gentle Ways to Support Real Energy

If caffeine is your crutch, start by supporting your energy before reaching for the second cup:

- Start your morning with natural light. 10 to 15 minutes of sun within the first hour of waking helps regulate cortisol and reset your internal clock
- Eat a blood-sugar-balanced breakfast within an hour of waking. Think protein, healthy fat, and fibre (like eggs, greens,



and a slice of sourdough)

- Stay hydrated, especially with electrolytes. Fatigue is often dehydration in disguise. Add a pinch of sea salt and a squeeze of lemon to your water
- Swap your second coffee for a gentler option. Matcha, rooibos tea, cacao with maca, or golden milk with turmeric and cinnamon
- Try an adrenal cocktail (orange juice, cream of tartar, and coconut water or salt) in the mid-afternoon instead of another coffee. It supports mineral balance and stress response
- Wind down early. Deep sleep restores energy stores. Turn off screens an hour before bed and try magnesium, gentle stretching, or breath-work to prepare your nervous system

• Check for deficiencies. Many women I work with are low in B vitamins, iron, or magnesium, especially during times of stress or hormonal shifts. Support First, Then Stimulate. Lasting energy doesn't come from pushing through. It comes from nourishment (physical, emotional, and hormonal). By building in supportive rhythms, your body learns to trust that energy is available.

For more on mineral-rich drinks, caffeine swaps, and fatigue-fighting rituals, come explore daily wellness tips on [@balancedbymonica](https://@balancedbymonica).

**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.





# The Turks and Caicos Islands leads the English-speaking Caribbean region with the introduction of the VPD-SMART.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Primary Health Care Department recently conducted a three-day training workshop on the use of VPD-SMART from 3 - 5 November 2025.

The training was conducted by Claudia Ortiz and Felipe Aguilera Millacura, consultants from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) in Washington DC and Chile.

VPD-SMART is built on district health information system (DHIS2) which is an open-source software developed and implemented by the health information system platform (HISP) network, a global collaboration between HISP centre and the University of Oslo in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas.

The VPD-SMART tool was implemented by the Pan American Health Organisation in 2023. It is a modernised process in epidemiological surveillance for diseases under elimination in the Americas and the Caribbean like measles, rubella, and acute flaccid paralysis. The tool was introduced to the Caribbean EPI Manager's group during their 2024 annual meeting. Following this introduction, the Turks and Caicos expressed their interest in using the tool to improve communicable disease surveillance and reporting.

Ten (10) nurses from the Primary Health Care Department were trained in the use of the VPD-SMART tool from across the TCI. Each clinic was represented in the first group. The first part of the training was done virtually over a period of three (3) days.

The second part was an in-person training which allowed the participants to get hands on practice of the tool. The objectives of the mission were to analyse and map existing processes to understand data flow, note the strengths and weaknesses of our surveillance system and establish sustainable data processes to implement standardise protocols to ensure data quality, promote long-term system sustainability and facilitate the transition to VPD-SMART.

"PAHO's visit for this training was significant as it marks the first android-based implementation of VPD-SMART in the Caribbean tailored to the regional needs. The TCI is the first in the English-speaking Caribbean region to introduce VPD-SMART.

This gives us the opportunity to assess the usefulness of the tool and determine any challenges to make the introduction as seamless as possible. One of our team members will have the unique opportunity to share their experience with other countries and act as trainers

once others decide to implement VPD SMART in their country.

While the virtual training was good, it had its limitations, and the in-person training was more effective. We are always seeking innovative ways to make our work more efficient and effective and the introduction of VPD SMART is just another step in modernising our health information system". Alrisa Gardiner – Primary Health Care Manager.

"The TCI Ministry of Health is proud to be the first in the English-speaking Caribbean to introduce the DHIS2-based VPD-SMART platform. This innovative digital

system will significantly strengthen our surveillance and response to vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, rubella, and polio.

"By enabling real-time data collection, analysis, and reporting, VPD-SMART enhances our ability to detect outbreaks early and make evidence-based decisions to protect the health of our people.

"This marks an important step toward modernising our national health information systems and ensuring a healthier, safer future for all residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands." Hon Kyle Knowles - Minister of Health and Human Services.





Mark Fulford (right) with Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Home Affairs, Religious Affairs and Transportation.



Chief Justice Mabel Agymang addresses the event

## Attorney Mark Fulford Launches 'Law & Constitution' Book; Aims to Empower TC Islanders

The ballroom of The Palms became a vessel of national spirit on the evening of November 8, 2025, for the launch of Law & Constitution: Navigating the Legal Landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the landmark work by attorney Mark A. Fulford that is already being described as one of the most important constitutional texts written for the islands. Under the theme "A Nation in Print," the evening united leaders from across the judiciary, government, education, and civil society in a celebration of civic renewal and shared identity. It was, as one guest described it, a defining night for the empowerment of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In his keynote address, Fulford told the packed ballroom, "When a people lose sight of their laws, they lose sight of themselves. Tonight is not about a man or a book. It is about a people and a promise."

He explained that what began as a legal manuscript became "a mirror that reflects who we are, and a map of who we might yet become." Citing Nelson Mandela, Fulford reminded the audience that "freedom is not granted, it is lived," and that "justice without humanity is no justice at all." He continued, "I wrote this book because I grew tired of seeing our people shrink before systems they could command, if only they knew how. The Constitution belongs to you. Knowing your rights is the first step to protecting your freedom."

Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, described the book as "a work that not only reflects the depth of our constitutional heritage but also speaks to the living

spirit of nationhood and justice within the Turks and Caicos Islands." She observed,

"Our Constitution is more than a legal instrument; it is the framework that anchors our democracy, defines our institutions, and protects the rights and responsibilities of all. But as Mark's book reminds us, a constitution is not self-executing — it must be embraced and animated by the people. Its values must be understood, debated, and lived."

The Governor went on to note that Fulford's publication is "an act of nation-building" and "a rare and commendable endeavour in a legal landscape where, too often, the pursuit of business eclipses the principled discourse our Constitution deserves." She concluded, "Your work is a gift to the present and a legacy for the future. May it inspire a new generation of lawyers, scholars, and citizens to engage with the Constitution not as a remote authority, but as a living guide to governance, justice, and national unity."

Her Ladyship Chief Justice, Honourable Justice Mabel Agyemang, offered deeply reflective remarks on the importance of the Constitution and the contribution of Fulford's work, stating,

"Many nations ground their continued existence and wellbeing in the constitution of the land which mirrors their history and engages their aspiration. The constitution is the passport of the citizen to life in a well-ordered society. But how does one make use of one's endowment of which one is unaware? The gift of knowledge becomes the gift of power. This book Law and Constitution

sheds light on the complex relationship between law and constitutional principles, examines the principles of justice, equity, and the rule of law, and challenges the citizen on ways to safeguard democratic values in an ever-changing socio-legal landscape."

The Honourable Attorney General, Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles, OBE, KC, who was unable to attend in person due to illness, conveyed her remarks through Deputy Attorney General Khalilah Astwood, expressing heartfelt admiration for Fulford's achievement. She reflected,

"As we gather to celebrate the publication of Mark's book, I can't help but reflect on how far we've come as a people — from the days of raking salt and donkey carts to these beautiful surroundings. We stand on the shoulders of our forefathers, who could only have dreamed of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who would become national and industry leaders, or who would be so bold as to author our own story. A book about the constitutional history of a place tells the story of its people — their struggle, their dreams, and their ideals. Tonight is the moment when years of solitary work meet the world's conversation."

The ceremony opened with the Turks and Caicos Symphony Orchestra and a prayer from Pastor Peter Kerr, followed by a poignant moment when two children from the United Way Turks and Caicos Islands "Yes I Can Read" Programme, who just a few months ago were unable to read, confidently read passages from the book, embodying its message of empowerment through education. Ris-

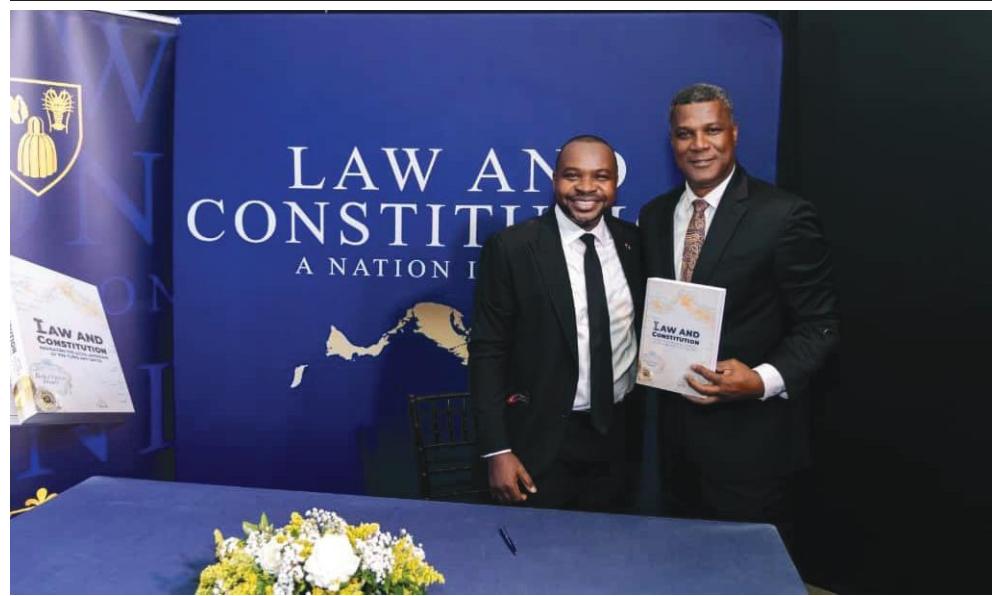
ing attorney Dominique Rolle, Esq., delivered a stirring spoken-word performance on Mary Prince of Salt Cay, drawing parallels between emancipation and the modern pursuit of justice.

In one of the most moving moments of the night, Fulford's children and godchildren entered carrying seven lit candles representing Justice, Freedom, Integrity, Unity, Hope, Belonging, and Wisdom before the formal unveiling of the book. "What took two and a half years to write took one hour to reveal," Fulford said. "But in that hour, I saw our nation illuminated by its own light."

Fulford announced that Law & Constitution will travel to North and Middle Caicos, South Caicos, Grand Turk, and Salt Cay, carrying the same message of knowledge, empowerment, and belonging that began in Providenciales.

- Contributed

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Mark Fulford (left) and former premier Rufus Ewing



Attorney Mark Fulford is pictured with his family



Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams is pictured with attorney Mark Fulford, who prepares to present her a signed copy of the book



Attorney Mark Fulford addresses the event



Attorney Mark Fulford presents a copy of the book to Supreme Court Registrar Narandra Lallbeharry



And group of children with lit candles was also part of the evening's atmosphere



A section of the audience



Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam addresses the audience at the event

# How menopause affects your heart

Let us talk about menopause – the topic most women were never truly prepared for. So many women enter this stage of their lives feeling confused, frustrated, and alone; but it does not have to be that way.

A fair amount of research has connected menopause with cardiovascular disease, including risk factors such as rising LDL (bad cholesterol) and decreasing HDL (good cholesterol).

Studies that have followed women over a period of time have found that those women with early menopause (45 and younger) have more cardiovascular health issues later on than those who have menopause closer to the normal age (around 50).

Complex hormonal changes are taking place during menopause, particularly when menopause occurs at a younger age, compared to the average menopausal age of 50 years. Early menopause seems to have some effect on cardiovascular health, but there is still much debate as to exactly what that effect is, and how much.

During menopause, the ovaries gradually stop producing estrogen. Hormone replacement therapy is a way to give back some of the estrogen and help regulate common menopausal symptoms, such as hot flashes, as well as prevent osteoporosis. Estrogen products are commonly taken orally as a pill, applied to the skin with a cream or a patch, or taken intravaginally.

Taken alone, estrogen can increase a woman's chance of developing endometrial cancer (cancer in the uterine lining). During a

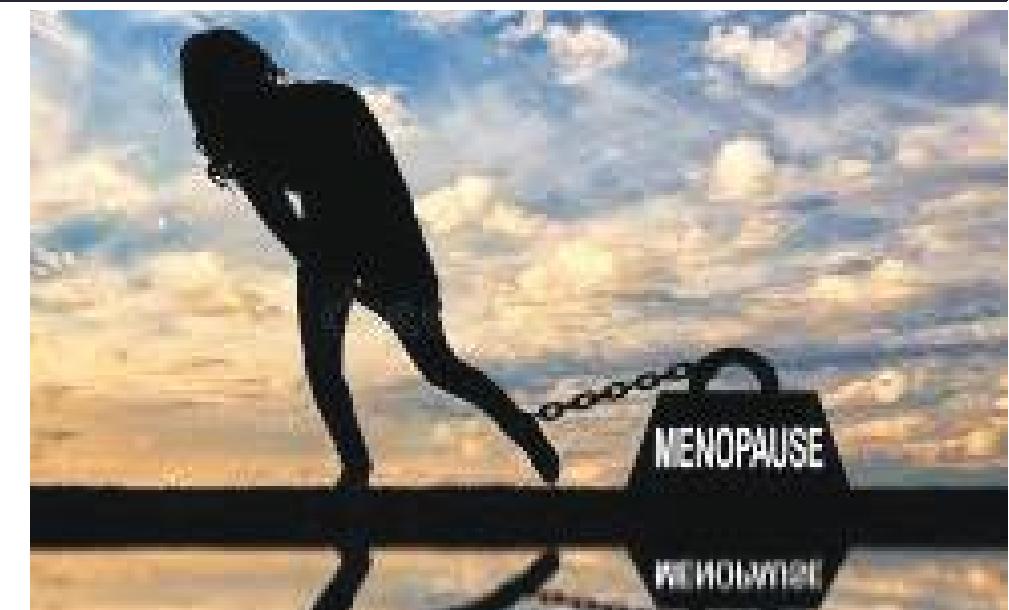
woman's pre-menopausal and reproductive years, menstruation causes the body to shed endometrial cells. During menopause this stops happening, and introducing estrogen can cause an overgrowth of these cells. Estrogen is often prescribed with progesterone to mitigate or reverse the growth of endometrial cells. For women who have had a hysterectomy, this overgrowth of cells is not an issue, so estrogen is prescribed by itself. According to Nicola Clarke, a life coach, as women move through perimenopause and menopause, their hearts deserve extra attention. This is not about fear, she said, it is about understanding the changes happening in their bodies and taking aligned action that supports long, vibrant health.

The hormonal changes that occur during menopause can bring increased cardiovascular risk in the form of higher blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

If cardiovascular disease runs strongly in the family, it is also important that you see a cardiologist to further assess the likelihood of having cardiovascular disease and to optimise treatment.

"Estrogen declines during this transition, and with it some natural cardiovascular (heart) protection. Around this time, many women see shifts in their cholesterol, blood pressure, body fat distribution (more around the middle), and insulin resistance, factors that can raise cardiovascular risk over time," Clarke said.

"Hot flashes and night sweats are not just symptoms. Research links frequent night



sweats and hot flashes to higher blood pressure, changes in the blood vessel health, and an increased risk of possible later cardiovascular events," she added.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO – PRACTICAL AND PROTECTIVE STEPS

- Know your numbers: Ask your doctor about a midlife heart check – blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose (sugar). Repeat on a schedule they recommend. Talk to your doctor about any other heart tests that you should now be doing during menopause, such as an EKG.

- Move with intention: Aim for moderate aerobic activity plus two days of strength training to support blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose control. Even 10- to 15-minute workouts add up.

- Eat for your heart: Build plates around plants (vegetables, fruit, legumes), whole grains, nuts/seeds, and oily fish; choose olive oil over highly refined oils; and be mindful of added sugars and ultra-processed foods. These patterns support cholesterol,

weight, and inflammation.

- Support sleep and stress: Hot flashes and poor sleep can drive blood pressure and cravings upwards. Gentle breathwork, consistent bed/wake times, cooling sleep environment, and talking with your doctor about symptom relief.

- Alcohol and tobacco: If you drink, keep it light, and perhaps skip days; if you smoke or vape, seek support to quit. This is one of the most powerful heart-protective choices you can make.

Menopause is a pivotal window to recommit to your heart. With the right information and daily practices, you can feel better now and protect your future self. Menopause Mondays will host a Breaking Through Conference on November 15 at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel, where cardiologists and other expert speakers will have real conversations, and empowering solutions, to help you thrive throughout menopause.

Source: Nicola Clarke – life coach, Menopause Mondays, John Hopkins University.

# Checkups and tests you should not miss

SOME PEOPLE see their doctor every year for a physical to make sure that they are in good health. There is debate about whether you need to go that often. However, in the end, it depends on your age, general health and risk factors for certain problems.

You should not miss essential checkups like annual physicals, blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol screenings to catch health issues early. Routine cancer screenings (mammograms, pap tests, colorectal cancer screening, and prostate checks) and regular eye and dental exams are also crucial for long-term health. Do not forget to schedule mental health check-ins and bone density tests as you get older.

## • HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

Whether you go for a regular physical or some other checkup, your doctor probably will get your height and weight. They need it to measure your body mass index (BMI). Keeping your BMI in a healthy range helps protect you from things like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and some forms of cancer. Your BMI is based on a formula of height and weight. If you are not in the healthy range, your doctor will suggest ways to help get you there.

## • BLOOD PRESSURE

You can also get your blood pressure tested. It is a measure of the pressure of your blood against your arteries. If it is too high, your chances of heart disease and stroke go up. Normal blood pressure is less than 120 over 80.

Doctors define high blood pressure, or hypertension, as 130 over 80 or higher. You should get your blood pressure checked at

least every two years starting at age 18. If it is high, you may have to take it more often. Ask your doctor how often you should have yours taken.

## • CHOLESTEROL

This is a type of fat in your blood. High cholesterol can lead to heart disease and stroke. You should get your cholesterol checked every four to six years if you are older than 20. Your doctor will likely recommend that you get it checked more often if you are an older adult, male, overweight, or you have a family history of heart disease or high cholesterol, diabetes or a personal history of high cholesterol.

## • BLOOD SUGAR TEST

This is a way to check for diabetes or prediabetes. It is a simple test that measures the level of sugar (also called glucose) in your blood. You should start routine testing once you reach age 45. Your doctor may suggest having it done sooner if you are overweight, have high cholesterol or high blood pressure or have had gestational diabetes.

## • SKIN CHECK

It is a good idea to check for any changes in moles, freckles, and other marks on your skin. Experts say you should do a skin self-exam once a month. When skin cancers are found early and treated, they are almost always curable. If you or someone in your family has had skin cancer, it is smart to have your skin looked over regularly by a doctor.

## • MAMMOGRAM

This X-ray test looks for changes in your breasts. Experts disagree on how often you need this test and when you should start. Talk to your doctor about it once you turn

40. They may tell you to wait until you are 50, or they may have you get your first one right away. Once you start, some experts have you get one every year. Others say every two years. Talk to your doctor about what is best for you.

## • DENTAL CHECKUP

Hopefully you brush and floss every day. But it is important to also see a dentist regularly so they can look for cavities, gum disease, and other problems in your mouth. You may need to go once or twice a year. It depends on your oral health and what you need to do to keep your mouth and smile looking and feeling good.

## • BONE DENSITY CHECK

This is a preventive health checkup, and

starting at age 65, people should get a bone density test to check for osteoporosis, a condition that weakens bones. Individuals who have a family history of fracture, and a low body weight, have a history of smoking and use of steroids, etc., have extra risk factors for osteoporosis and should discuss being checked sooner with their physician. If you want to make sure that you are truly healthy, regular health checkup is the way to go, because with preventive health checkups, your doctor will tell you when to take action. Regular check-ups and testing can help identify issues before they arise and at an earlier stage, when treatment options and prospects of recovery are more favourable for you.



# Maskanoo Stalled by Years of Underfunding, Says Founder David Bowen

David Bowen, former Director of Culture and widely credited as the pioneer behind Maskanoo, says the iconic cultural celebration has yet to reach the scale and cultural impact he originally envisioned largely because it was never properly funded.

Bowen, who now serves as Wellness Director at Grace Bay Club, has walked away from the event, while still avail himself as an advisor. For many residents, Maskanoo is inseparable from his name and stage presence. Still, he maintains that despite its success, the festival evolved only through personal sacrifice and informal support networks rather than sustained financial investment. "The biggest problem with Maskanoo was that it was not properly funded," Bowen lamented. "I worked on a shoestring (budget) for years just making things work."

He explained that instead of institutional backing, the event often relied on favors from friends and artisans who discounted their services to support him personally.

"A lot of times people only came out to do certain things because they were my friends and they didn't charge me a lot of money. We didn't get the kind of financial support that's required. Maskanoo could have been a lot further along."

Bowen said he always imagined the festival growing into a larger, more immersive celebration that would stand uniquely as a Turks and Caicos cultural showcase, rather than blending into a regional trend of carnival-style productions. He warned against

allowing the event to become derivative, saying the island's heritage should remain the core focus.

"What I've always wanted was for us to build our own identity, not copy what happens in other carnivals," he said.

His vision includes expanding stage performances and parade elements, growing the presence of local cuisine rooted in traditional foodways, and giving artisans a larger platform to exhibit and sell authentic craft-work.

"It's to make the experience again a Turks and Caicos experience," he said.

Bowen's absence from recent editions of Maskanoo raised questions from long-time attendees, many noting that beyond performing, he played a pivotal educational role. His storytelling often woven into drumming, dance, and historical narration, was viewed as a cultural anchor that helped audiences understand the event's origins in West African masquerade traditions and Bahamian Junkanoo influences.

Bowen agrees that his role has always been more than entertainment. Through performance, he said, he teaches culture.

"My presence was never just to perform. I share history while I'm on stage. That's always been important to me."

His decision to step back, however, was driven not by artistic differences but by family circumstances. Bowen said his daughter recently gave birth to a child with complications, and he chose to redirect his time



David Bowen demonstrates the playing of the Ripsaw at a TIDES Training.

toward family rather than managing a major cultural production.

"I didn't want to have the planning and the headaches of doing Maskanoo at a time when the family was going through the situation," he said. The unexpected pause also offered him a rare moment of personal rest. "I realized, whoa, I enjoyed my Christmas time," he added, noting that years of organizing the festival meant he rarely had a traditional holiday season.

Although Bowen remains passionate about Maskanoo's cultural significance, he said he will not return without a clear budget and meaningful financial commitment.

"If I were given a budget of X amount of money and a go-ahead, trust me, I would be back there in a second," he said. "I'm just tired of having to go begging for two cents to color a \$10 thing. I can't do it any longer." Still, Bowen says he is proud of what the event has become and hopes current organizers continue building upon the foundation he established.

"I did my part. I showed that it's possible," he said. "I hope the people who are doing it now stick with the original idea, to keep it local, to keep it focused, and build up from the foundation that's already established."



Entertainer Sean Paul (second right) distributing relief supplies during a visit to hurricane-ravaged parishes earlier this month.

Following a recent visit to parishes destroyed by Hurricane Melis, multi-Grammy-Award-winning entertainer Sean Paul says the devastation was unfathomable.

Recalling places that once held precious memories, the singer said Hurricane Melis left so much destruction in her wake, his walk-through felt like "a scene from a hor-

## Sean Paul offers support for hurricane-ravaged parishes

ror movie".

"The devastation is real; the people are hurting and in need of urgent help. Jamaica is my home and, honestly, I could hardly recognise any of the places that hold so many memories for me as we travelled through Manchester, St Elizabeth and Westmoreland," he said. "Even some of our landmarks were destroyed. It felt like a scene from a horror movie. It is going to take a lot of help, an immense amount of money and time to rebuild."

Still, even as he lamented the living conditions many Jamaicans now face, the entertainer, through his Sean Paul Foundation (SPF) and a partnership with Food For the Poor (FFTP) Jamaica, delivered relief through care packages.

His team recently visited communities and schools in Westmoreland to distribute food, bottled water, hygiene packages, and other essential items to affected families.

In addition, Sean Paul and his team conducted damage assessments to identify ways to support long-term recovery and rebuilding of homes, schools, and livelihoods.

As the entertainer spoke to residents some recalled the terror of Hurricane Melis. Cleveland Brown of Congress Hall, Westmoreland, told Sean Paul that he tried to

secure his home as best he could, but Melis's fury was simply too much for it.

"It was a very difficult experience being in the middle of the hurricane. When I heard it coming I tried to secure my home, but I could only do so much. All I remember is the zinc starting to tear off while getting some food and, when I looked around, everything was lifting up, even the plate outta my hand," he said. "My friend came with his daughter seeking refuge, but before we could settle, the whole house started to move. I grabbed the door and, with my brother, ran toward the top of the hill. I couldn't keep track of my friend with his child. Honestly, if it wasn't for God, we wouldn't be alive."

FFTP Field Officer Stewart Lynch said Brown's story is one of many as he outlined his team's commitment to offering support. "We are present on the ground and ready to assist him and others like him, and we are committed to getting these communities the help that they need. It takes a certain level of mental strength to handle this kind of devastation, but their resilience pushes us," he said. "Our team is full of passionate people who just want to see how best they can help with rebuilding the affected communities."

## Ocean Legacy Lane



The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund has found its permanent home! We are building an innovative research facility and interactive education center equipped with our living coral biobank, wet and dry lab spaces, and so much more!

Become a part of the legacy and have **your name** on the very stones that pave the way around the new property. Pledge your commitment to the people and environment of these Beautiful by Nature islands.

## Introducing: Ocean Legacy Lane

## \* Small Pavers - \$250 (total of 1,000 available)

For Individual or Family Names

## \* Large Pavers - \$500 (total of 150 available)

For Businesses or 'In Memory of' Plaques

## \* Ocean Life Pavers - \$5,000 (Only 20 available)

These fun ocean life shaped pavers will adorn the paths throughout the property with your choice of quote or dedication engraved.

## \* Founder's Circle - \$10,000 (Only 10 available)

The Founder's Circle will have a prominent location on the property- A lasting legacy showcasing your commitment to our oceans.



Support Our Projects

Scan this QR code or visit [www.tcreef.org/donate](http://www.tcreef.org/donate) to pledge your donation via PayPal or Credit Card

Please make sure to include your name spelled exactly how you would like it on your paver.

The Turks & Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) announced that it has entered into a purchase agreement for a 1.45-acre waterfront property on Blue Water Road, Long Bay, establishing the organization's first permanent

headquarters and research center with dock access and space to house a living coral biobank, wet and dry laboratories, and education facilities.

The property includes an existing two-sto-

# TCI Reef Fund Secures Permanent Home for Marine Research, Education Facility

rey building, a 50-foot concrete dock, and space for modular lab units. Stage 1, already funded in part, will install a fully equipped laboratory and expand TCRF's living coral biobank, with capacity for 1,000+ colonies, within 10 months of closing.

"This is a generational step for TCI," said Alizée Zimmermann, Executive Director of TCRF. "A permanent home means year-round science, stronger local training, and faster reef recovery—led by Turks and Caicos Islanders. We're \$200,000 away from closing this chapter and opening the doors." Government support for the project has been strong. The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) has formally expressed full support for the rezoning from Low-Density Residential C to Civic to accommodate TCRF's base of operations, noting the increased national capacity for coral and marine conservation and education.

The Long Bay Hills Property Owners Association has also indicated community support, emphasizing respectful operations within a residential neighborhood.

"It has been my goal since becoming Chair in 2023, that we establish a permanent

home for the T&C Reef Fund for the study and preservation of the coral reefs which protect and sustain the islands, their beaches and their beauty. This could be a hub for cutting-edge research for the Caribbean and British Overseas Territories," added Chair Joel Goldfarb.

To help bridge the final \$200,000 of the purchase, TCRF is inviting the public to join Ocean Legacy Lane, a new initiative where supporters can have their names engraved on pavers that will line the property's paths. Tiers include Small (\$250), Large (\$500), Ocean Life (\$5,000; 20 available), and Founder's Circle (\$10,000; 10 available).

"This campus will anchor innovative reef research including work with genetics, house a living coral biobank, and, in later stages, aquaculture for critical herbivores like Diadema, King Crab, and the culturally important Queen Conch are all possibilities we look forward to exploring. All of this while opening our doors wider to schools, researchers, and the public," added Zimmermann.

## Call to Action

Donate or sign up for a paver today at [tcreef.org/donate](http://tcreef.org/donate). Every gift moves TCI closer to a resilient ocean future.

# Wymara Resort + Villas Introduces The Isle of I Do in Turks & Caicos

There's a new stage for celebrating love stories in the Caribbean. Wymara Resort + Villas has introduced The Isle of I Do, a collection of venues and experiences for weddings, honeymoons, vow renewals, and milestone celebrations.

The marquee addition is Land + Sea at Sunset Cove, the resort's newly debuted waterfront restaurant reimagined as a striking venue for ceremonies and gatherings, where contemporary design meets effortless island beauty.

With its coastal design and uninterrupted views of the bay and the in-ocean pool, Land + Sea expands the ways celebrations can unfold at Wymara. The restaurant and terrace open directly to the shoreline, accommodating up to 500 guests. Couples can exchange vows on the sand, gather for cocktails at sunset, and continue with dinner under the stars, while the adjoining lawn provides a seamless flow into open-air receptions.

The beach provides one of Turks & Caicos' most photogenic backdrops for barefoot vows.

To further elevate each occasion, Wymara has introduced a new Celebrations Curator role to beautifully orchestrate each detail, ensuring events feel effortless, personal, and Fabulously Yours.

"From the initial conversation to the last toast, our aim is celebrations that feel elevated, effortless, and personal," says Elisha Jennings, Wymara's new Celebrations Curator. "The Isle of I Do gives couples real choice

across the resort's settings while keeping the focus on design, service, and intimacy."

## SIGNATURE SETTINGS

Beyond Sunset Cove, Wymara draws on its full portfolio of settings along Grace Bay Beach, consistently ranked among the world's best shorelines. For complete privacy, the resort is available for full buyouts of up to 200 guests, with ceremonies on Grace Bay and receptions staged across the resort's signature venues.

Within the resort, the Infinity Pool Deck hosts up to 200 for cocktails or 120 for dinner beneath the palms and bougainvillea, where the setting feels as intimate as it does expansive. Blue Water Bistro accommodates 120 for cocktails or 80–100 for dinner, while the adjacent Pink Bar lawn suits private events for up to 200. Indigo offers refined indoor–outdoor dining, with exclusive buyouts available for up to 200 guests.

For more intimate gatherings, the Oceanfront Penthouse Suite—3,700 square feet (345 sqm) with an expansive wraparound balcony and panoramic views—is ideal for 25–50 guests, its contemporary interiors providing a serene canvas for smaller-scale moments.

## PRIVATE VILLAS, SHARED MOMENTS

Whether it's a wedding week or a milestone birthday, the villas turn every celebration into a shared stay. Families settle in under one roof so the days find a rhythm: a welcome dinner on the deck, a quiet morning by the pool, vows or a birthday toast at sun-

set, and a relaxed brunch the next day.

The new six-bedroom estate villas add generous lawns and broad terraces for hosting, while the beach and overwater sun decks offer a change of scene without leaving the enclave. Here, luxury feels lived-in, creating a setting where time together becomes the true highlight.

## REFINED RITUALS

Wellness and ritual shape the celebration as much as the setting. At The Spa at Wymara, couples prepare with 111SKIN facials and holistic treatments by Wildflower Botanicals, while bridal parties gather for sunset

yoga or curated wellness sessions.

"While The Isle of I Do was created with weddings in mind, it extends naturally to other milestones," says Elisha. "Anniversaries, vow renewals, birthdays, and family reunions all find a fitting stage across the resort's portfolio, from an intimate dinner in a private villa to a reception on the pool deck for 200 guests."

At Wymara, celebrations are defined as much by the setting as by the moment. Contemporary design meets the island's natural beauty, creating occasions that feel effortless in the present and enduring in memory.





*Mrs. Rhoda Williams - Principal of Ona Glinton Primary School, Ms. Chervita Williams - Ona Glinton Primary School, Hon. Rachel Taylor - Minister of Education, Ms. Chrissy Williams - Eliza Simons Primary School, Mrs. Nyree Williams - Principal of Eliza Simons Primary School*



*Mr. Mark Garland - Director of Education, Mrs. Juliet Thewell - Education Officer, and Mr. Amin McCartney - Deputy Permanent Secretary*

# 3RD ANNUAL SCHOOL CENSUS DAY

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture proudly celebrated the 3rd Annual School Census Day. Each year, October 31st marks the Ministry's official deadline for all public and private schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands to submit their school-level data to the Policy and Planning Unit, ensuring timely reporting to UNESCO and CARICOM.

School Census Day also serves as a national moment to spotlight the importance of data awareness. In its inaugural year, the focus was on understanding the significance of educational data and its role in decision-making, policy development, and long-term sustainability. In year two, 11 private schools entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry as part of an initiative encouraging the use of OpenEMIS in exchange for Microsoft 365 licenses.

In its third year, the Ministry showcased the accomplishments across every sector including Heads of Departments, Principals, Teachers, and Students. The Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Honourable Rachel Taylor, commended the dedication demonstrated across the system and reinforced her charge to the Ministry:

"School Census Day is more than a reporting exercise, it is a powerful reminder that data is the backbone of effective education systems. This year's theme, 'Delving into Data Dynamics,' encourages us to not only collect data, but to understand it, use it, and allow it to guide our strategies for national development. I am immensely proud of our team and all our partners who continue to champion data-driven leadership." Minister Taylor further applauded the collective efforts of educators and administra-

tors:

"The achievements highlighted today reflect the commitment of our educators, school leaders, and support staff who work tirelessly to ensure that every child in the Turks and Caicos Islands receives quality education. I congratulate all the award recipients. Your dedication helps shape a system that prepares every resident with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to contribute meaningfully to our society and economy."

#### AWARD RECIPIENTS

Heads of Departments:

Mr. Mark Garland – Director of Education  
Ms. Candice Williams – President/CEO, TCICC

Mr. Jarrette Forbes – TCI Sports Commission  
Ms. Arielle Neely – National Internship and Apprenticeship Program

Dr. Anya Malcom – Special Education Needs Services  
Mr. Cecil Graham – Library Services

Ms. Kecha Delusma-Chase – Library Services  
Ms. Odessa Forbes – Department of Culture

Education Officers:

Ms. Juliet Thelwell  
Mr. David Bowen

Principals:

Ms. Robin Cox-Foster – Thelma Lightbourne Primary School  
Ms. Eileen Elliot – Iris Stubbs Primary School  
Ms. Rhoda Cox-Williams – Ona Glinton Primary School  
Ms. Nyree Taylor-Williams – Eliza Simons Primary School  
Ms. Jenna Mae Forbes – MILLS Institute  
Ms. Darlene Lightbourne – BEST Institute



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



*Mr. Mark Garland - Director of Education, Mr. David Bowen - Education Officer, and Mr. Amin McCartney - Deputy Permanent Secretary*

sponsors and service providers: The Honourable Otis Morris, FLOW TCI, Island Printing, Olympic Construction Ltd., Peaches Restaurant, Unique Creations, Grand Turk Events, Sub-tronic Entertainment, and Mr. Salorne McDonald for their exceptional contributions.

The Policy and Planning Unit team under the leadership of Ms. Michelle Agard, Education Policy and Planning Manager, and Ms. Diandra Gray, Assistant Education Policy and Planning Officer, remains steadfast in its mission to lead data-driven initiatives that yield sustainable outcomes aligned with the needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Ms. Sophia Garland – Enid Capron Primary School  
Ms. Shanta Seymour – Clement Howell Primary School

Teachers:

Ms. Chervita Williams – Ona Glinton Primary School  
Ms. Chrissy Williams – Eliza Simons Primary School

High School Essay Winners:

Jeffca Forbes – Clement Howell High School  
Nathanael Marcellin – A. Louise Garland Thomas High School

Bre'Anna John – Raymond Gardiner High School  
Excellence in Service Award:

Ms. Diandra Gray – Policy and Planning Unit  
The Ministry extends special thanks to its



# WE ARE HIRING!

## BIOSECURITY OFFICER

The Department of Agriculture invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Biosecurity Officer**.

**Location:** Providenciales

**Salary:** \$46,000.00 per annum

The successful candidate will play a critical role in protecting the Turks and Caicos Islands from the introduction and spread of animal disease, plant pests, and invasive species of national concern.



The position also contributes to the Darwin+ Strategic Project: '*Enabling Effective Biosecurity for the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories*', advancing regional collaboration to strengthen border security and invasive species management.

### KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conduct inspections & enforce animal & plant health laws
- Train port, customs & government staff on biosecurity & invasive species management
- Improve biosecurity infrastructure and facilities at ports of entry
- Support regional collaboration & reporting under the Darwin+ Project
- Prepare & submit inspection & compliance reports

### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Environmental Science, or related field
- At least 3 years' experience in quarantine or related agriculture/environmental work
- Knowledge of biosecurity, invasive species, & port operations
- Strong communication, analytical & report-writing skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Valid Driver's License (asset)

**Applications should include a cover letter, resume, copies of qualifications, & two (2) reference letters to be submitted by 1 December, 2025 to: [agriculture@gov.tc](mailto:agriculture@gov.tc)**



## Sandals Foundation and Great Shape Inc.! Produce More than 3000 Smiles in Providenciales

Staying true to the high quality of service it is known to provide, Sandals Foundation, Beaches Turks and Caicos and Great Shape! Inc, have served over 3,000 Turks and Caicos Islanders with state of the art free dental care in its recently concluded clinics- 1000 Smiles.

From October 20 to November 1, a dental volunteer mission team of 140 practicing professionals provided cleaning, filling, extractions, root canals, sealants and oral health education to residents of Providenciales. Its fifth year being implemented in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), the programme's reach indicate growing support and trust of the initiative facilitated by the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International

While visiting the site at the Blue Hills Church of God of Prophecy church in Providenciales, Minister of Health and Human Services the Hon Kyle Knowles shared his satisfaction with the work noting, "As the Minister of Health, to see firsthand the quality of work being executed is an amazing feeling. Being able to see residents of Providenciales getting quality dental care being provided by professionals who have committed themselves to volunteering is what makes this initiative more meaningful."

"The continued relationship between Sandals Foundation, Beaches Turks and Caicos and the government of the TCI augurs well for the development of our people and our communities. For two weeks, more than 3,050 residents were served including adults and students at our primary and secondary schools," Knowles added.

Managing Director of Beaches Turks and Caicos James McAnally shared, "We are humbled by the numbers of persons that came out this year. As a resort, we value partnerships and through the Great Shape! Inc.'s healthcare partnership, together we have created history with the number of clients being served in any one visit to a region. We are proud to have been involved in creating brighter and healthier smiles for the residents of Providenciales."

In explaining the customer-centric approach practiced by the medical vol-



unteers, Programme Director of Great Shape! Inc., Shantelle Clarke said, "Some people come in with anxiety and are a little bit scared to get stuff done, but, as we talk through the procedure, explain what we're doing, and why we're doing it, we are able to build the trust of patients who develop a sense of ease."

For the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Chief Dental Officer Dr Janice Baron, the value of the Great Shape! outreach is priceless noting, "It has established a good example of best practices in the field".

Meanwhile, more than 1,600 students from Thelma Lightbourne Primary, Richmond Hill Preparatory, Community Christian Academy, Mills Institute, Ashley Learning Centre and Elite Schools also benefited from dental care education through a school tour executed in the first week. Led by the Great Shape! team,

students and teachers were reminded about the importance of proper brushing, flossing and oral care through interactive sessions.

"The sessions were dynamic, educational and children-friendly. Students were able to interact and ask questions which the team were able to answer in a fulsome manner which provided much needed information for the students," says Principal of the Ashley Learning Centre, Shericia Grant-Banton.

Great Shape! Inc. is one of the largest dental volunteer missions in the world. The dental outreach, which commenced in TCI in 2021, is made possible with Beaches Resorts providing accommodations and the charitable arm, the Sandals Foundation, spearheading logistics and offsetting the costs for transportation, as well as food and beverage for the clinics.



# ST. FLEUR, ROBINSON TOP DWF ROAD RACE



Kindly St. Fleur collects his winning prize from Jarrett Forbes, Director of Sport.

Lyn Robinson, the top female runner at the Delano William Foundation Road Race, collect her prize from Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson.



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

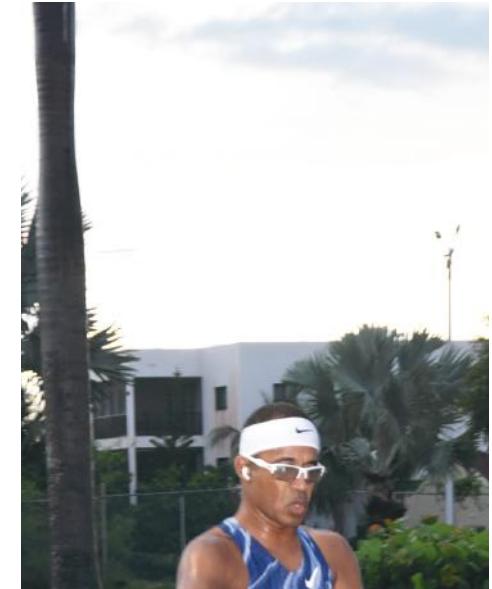


Nominations close: November 10th, 2025  
Nominate a deserving young person today!  
Contact info: [youthdepartment@gov.tc](mailto:youthdepartment@gov.tc)





## SCENES FROM THE DELANO WILLIAMS FOUNDATION ROAD RACE



# Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Announces

## 2026 Open Water Swimming Competition

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is calling on swimmers, sports enthusiasts, and supporters to mark their calendars early for one of next year's major sporting events: the Salt Rakers Open Water Swimming Competition, set for March 28, 2026 in Grace Bay, Providenciales. Hosted at Rickie's Flamingo Café on Grace Bay Beach, the event aims to bring together athletes of all levels in a vibrant outdoor setting. With the theme "From Shore to Glory, One Stroke, One Ocean, One Challenge!", the competition highlights the endurance, technique, and spirit of open-water swimming, while celebrating the natural beauty of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Participants can register for multiple distance-based challenges, including:

- 2K Swim

- 1K Swim
- 500M Swim
- 100M Swim

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club says the event is not just about competition, but about building community, promoting health and fitness, and increasing interest in aquatic sports across the islands. Swimmers, families, and supporters are encouraged to plan ahead and make the event part of their 2026 sporting calendar.

For more information or to register, the public may contact the organizers at (649) 241-1272.

With clear waters, a world-class beach setting, and a growing culture of competitive swimming in the TCI, the Salt Rakers Open Water Swimming Competition promises a thrilling start to the 2026 sporting season.



Benneth Williams, Head of the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club



The Ona Glinton Primary School Team



The Ona Glinton Primary School Team

The Inter-Primary School Football Competition reaches its climax this Satur-

day, November 22, 2025, as Match Day 4 brings the final playoffs to the TCIFA

## Thrilling Final Playoffs Set for Saturday at TCIFA Academy Field

By Vivian Tyson  
NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Academy Field.

Group matches, placement playoffs, semifinal battles, and the grand finale will all unfold in one decisive day of competition.

The first round of action begins at 10:30 AM with two opening fixtures. Oseta Jolly Primary School (OJPS) faces Eliza Simons Primary School (ESPS) in Game 19 in a matchup that could determine their pathway to the championship rounds. At the same time, Community Christian Academy (CCA) meets Adelaide Oemler Primary School (AOPS) in Game 20.

The group stage continues at 11:10 AM. Enid Capron Primary School (ECPS) takes on Provo Primary School (PPS) in Game 21, followed by Thelma Lightbourne Primary School (TLPS) going head-to-head with Elite Primary School (EPS) in Game 22. The outcomes of these matches will establish the semifinal qualifiers.

Schools not advancing to the semifinals will play in ranking matches at 11:50 AM to determine overall tournament placement, with the lowest-ranked teams competing in Game 23 and the next lowest in Game 24.

The semifinals begin at 12:30 PM. The winner of Game 19, potentially Oseta

Jolly Primary School, will face the winner of Game 20 in Semi Final 1, while the winners of Games 21 and 22 will battle in Semi Final 2. Victories here will send two teams straight to the championship match, while the defeated sides will play for third place.

The third-place match kicks off at 1:30 PM between the losing teams from the semifinals. The highly anticipated championship match follows at 2:10 PM, where the winners of both semifinals will meet to determine the 2025 Inter-Primary School champions.

Oseta Jolly Primary School enters the final stage with confidence and ambition, aiming to convert a strong opening performance into a championship run. Known for their disciplined play and competitive spirit, OJPS will look to advance through their group fixture and push into the title match. Spectators and school supporters are expected to pack the sidelines, creating a spirited atmosphere filled with colours, cheers, and campus pride.

With eight schools competing and multiple elimination rounds compressed into a single afternoon, Saturday promises fast-paced action and memorable football moments. As the tournament comes to its conclusion, anticipation builds to see which school will rise above the rest.



Kyron Thomas, winner of the 5K collects his trophy from Courtney Missick



Tanaire Gardiner, winner of the 5K in the female division collects her trophy and other prizes from patron of the event, Delano Williams



Paola Stipa, winner of the Under 12 5K race collects her trophy from patron Delano Williams.



Kian Jules, the winner of the Under 12 5K and the first overall to cross the finish line, is being presented with his trophy race patron Delano Williams

# St. Fleur, Robinson Top Delano Williams Foundation Road Race

Kindly St. Fleur and Lynn Robinson stormed to victory in the 10K division of the Delano Williams Foundation (Provo leg) Road Race on Saturday morning, overcoming a heavy downpour that began just seconds before the start of the race.

The event started and finished at the Graceway Gourmet parking lot in Grace Bay, taking runners through Leeward before looping back to the finish line.

St. Fleur topped perennial winner Kevern DeBellot, to clocked 41:40 to win the 10K Male category, earning a prize package that included a West Bay dinner certif-

icate, Twin E-Bike gift certificate, trophy, and medal. Robinson claimed the 10K Female title in 49:31, taking home cash and gift prizes along with a trophy and medal.

Emma Chapman finished second in the women's 10K at 49:46, while Jessica Carly placed third in 51:50. On the men's side, Erwin St. Fleur secured third place. In the 5K race, Tanaire Gardiner topped the women's field, while Kyron Thomas claimed the men's title. Carola Stipa placed second in the women's division, with Haisley Gardiner finishing third. Erick Gachelin placed

second in the men's category.

Youth competitors also delivered standout performances across several age groups:

- Youth 5K Female (Under 12)- Paola Stipa claimed first, followed by Hailey Gardiner and Josephine Leacroftshire.
- Youth 5K Male – Kian Jules, age 11, won his category and finished first overall in the 5K race. Hensley Grant Jr. took second, and Odyn Nielsen third.
- Junior (12–13) 5K Female- Tanaire Gardiner captured her second win of the event, followed by Kiara De-

filpe and Hiden Harris.

- Junior 5K Male -Love Longchamp placed first, Kyron Thomas secured silver, and Erwin St. Fleur earned bronze.

The race received sponsorship from, among others, Alexandra Resort, Inter-Health Canada, The Palms, Grace Bay Club, Gold Smith, CIBC, CIBC FirstCaribbean, and Twin E-Bike Tours and Rentals.

Despite the rain-soaked start, the event once again proved to be a community favourite, promoting youth development, fitness, and athletic excellence across the Turks and Caicos Islands.