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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 21

NOV. 03, 2023 - Nov. 10, 2023

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**NO JOBS WILL BE LOST**

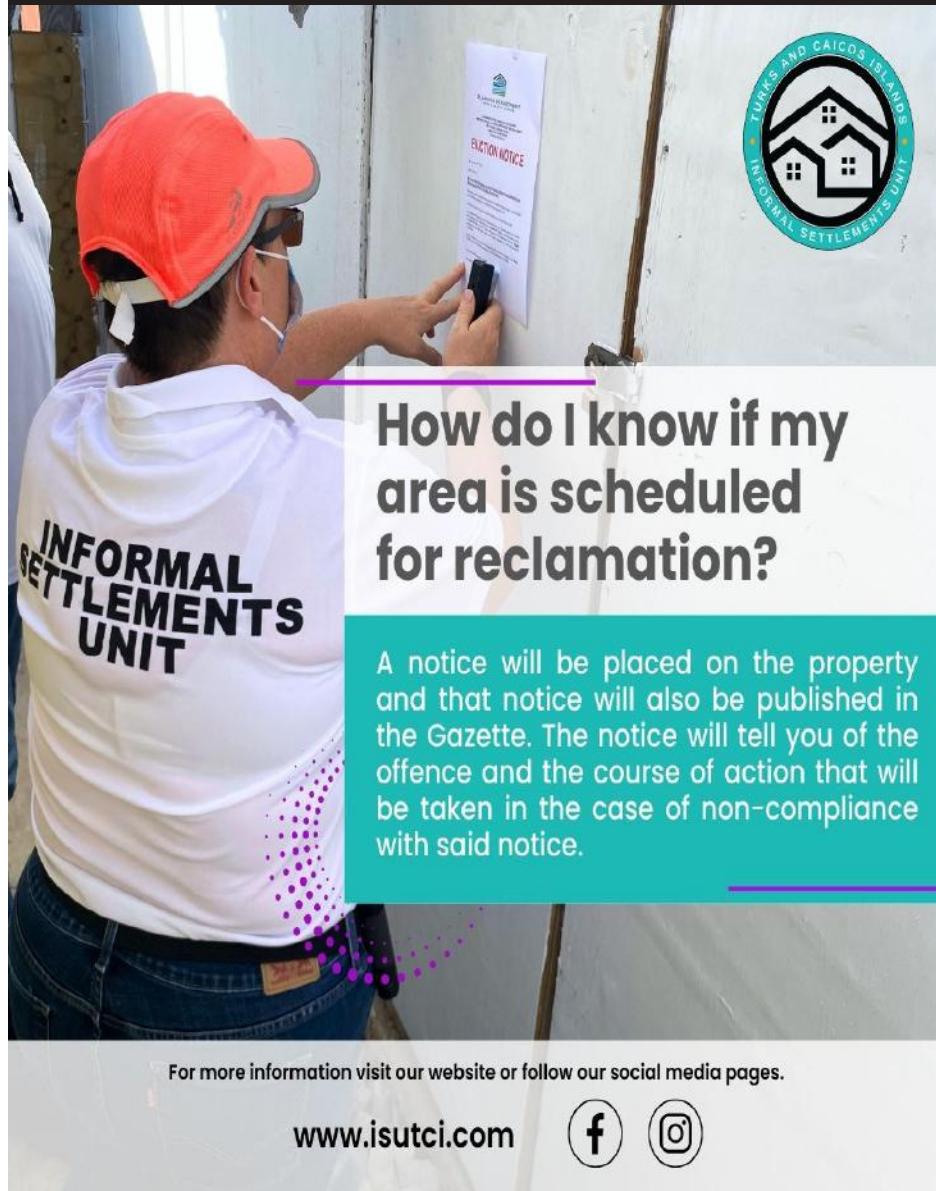
NIB/NHIP Ministers assure employees that they will not be axed with merger

SEE PAGE 5

# More Highlights From the Caribbean Food and Wine Festival Welcome Party

The Caribbean Food and Wine Festival concluded on Sunday, October 15, closing out the four-day festival, which was described as one of the best held. One of the biggest highlights of the event was the welcome party held at Grace Bay Club on Thursday, October 12. That event saw a variety of foods and wines, good music, cigar-rolling and lively conversations. The night was capped with scintillating display of fireworks. The following are photo highlights of the event.





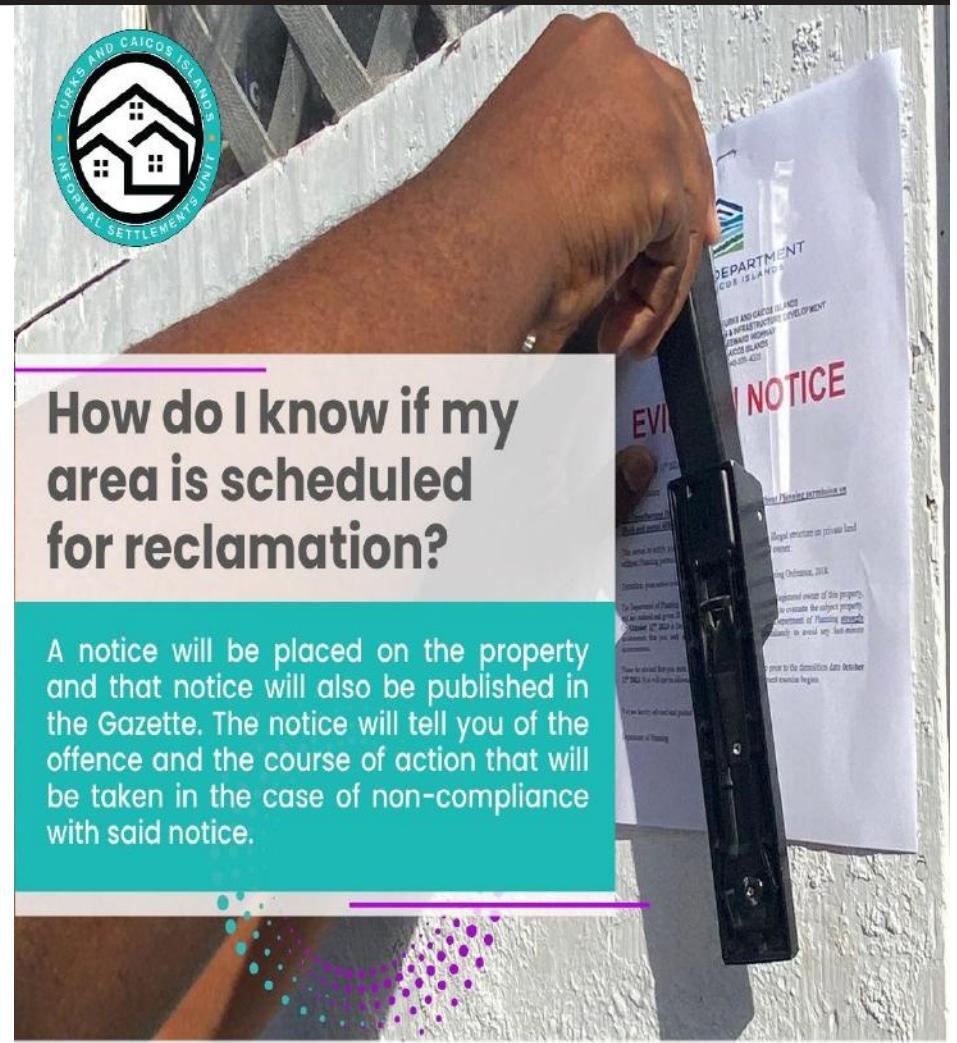
**How do I know if my area is scheduled for reclamation?**

A notice will be placed on the property and that notice will also be published in the Gazette. The notice will tell you of the offence and the course of action that will be taken in the case of non-compliance with said notice.

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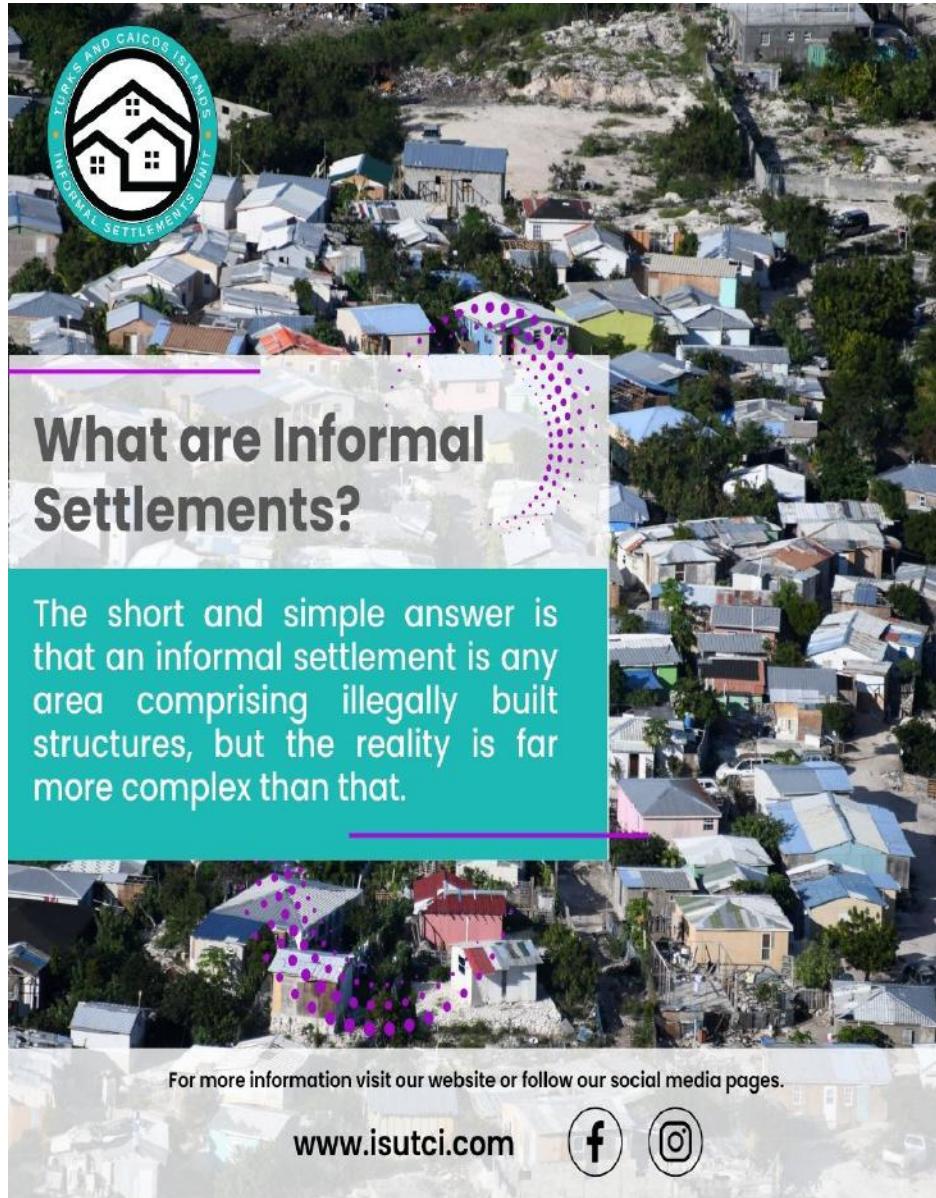
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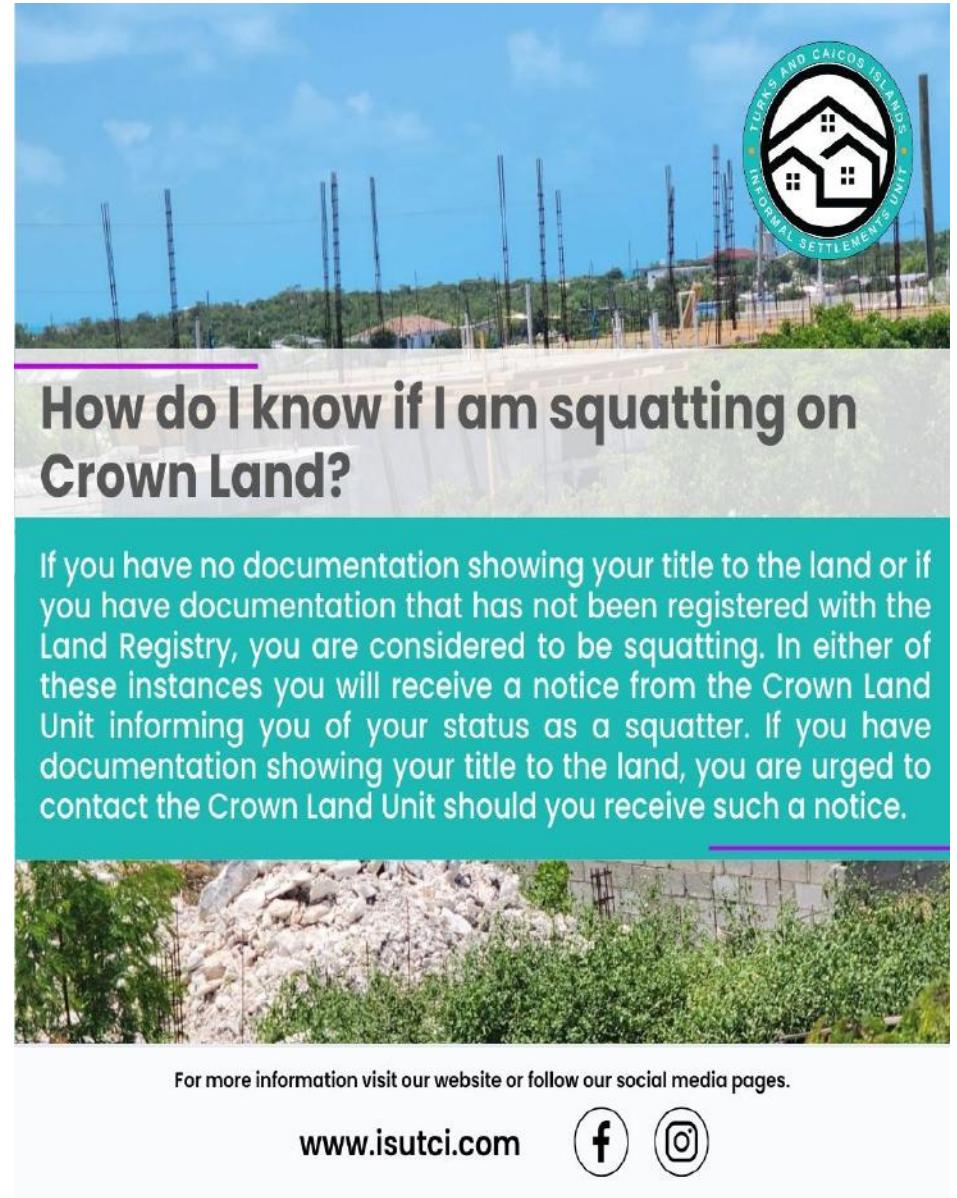
**What are Informal Settlements?**

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# Counterfeit Tylenol On The Market

**PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT**

## FALSIFIED MEDICATION

**ORIGINAL**



**FALSIFIED**





The Ministry of Health and Human Services has issued a warning regarding the sale and purchase of fake Tylenol products.

This alert comes in response to notifications from the Ministry of Health and Wellness in Belize and

the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) about the presence of counterfeit Tylenol in the Belizean market.

The fabricated Tylenol product in question is identified by the batch number GS13790 and bears an

expiration date of 03/24. The MoHHS is urging both local suppliers and the public to exercise extreme caution when purchasing Tylenol and to discontinue the sale and use of this specific batch if it is found in the market.

The Ministry said its primary concern is the safety of the public, and is strongly advising consumers to cease using the mentioned product and immediately contact their local suppliers.

If come across this counterfeit Tylenol batch, the MoHHS recommends reaching out to the Environmental Health Department at 338-2142 for guidance on the proper disposal of the product.

Additionally, consumers are encouraged to consult their pharmacists, physicians, or other healthcare providers if they have any questions, concerns, or if they have experienced any health problems related to the use of this particular Tylenol product. Any side effects or adverse reactions should be reported through the MoHHS' Adverse Drug Reaction form, which can be found at <https://gov.tc/docs/ADR.pdf>. For further information or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) at 338-3072.

The MoHHS said it is committed to ensuring the health and safety of the public and is taking proactive measures to address the issue of falsified Tylenol products in the market, noting that it is essential for all consumers and local suppliers to remain vigilant and act responsibly in the interest of public health.

## Complaints Commission Staff Benefit from IAS Training



Rita Gardiner, Head of the Complaints Commission

The Turks and Caicos Islands Complaints Commission recently benefited from a virtual training session on the Inter-American System (IAS) and its mechanisms, in collaboration with members of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association

(CAROA) and National Human Rights Institutes (NHRIs).

The training took place on the 18th of October 2023, and aimed to enhance the understanding and utilization of the Inter-American System among Ombudspersons in the Caribbean region.

The annual human rights training for CAROA began in November 2022, and the Complaints Commission had the opportunity to participate in both the inaugural training and the one held in 2023. The Commission's participation in this training underscores its commitment to improving cooperation with Caribbean states and its recognition of the need to strengthen awareness of the Inter-American system.

The Inter-American System of Human Rights is a vital framework for protecting and promoting human rights in the Americas, based on documents such as the American Declaration, the OAS Charter, and the American Convention, supplemented by various declarations, conventions, and additional protocols and principles developed over the years.

The training's main objective was to familiarize members of CAROA and Caribbean NHRIs with the mechanisms within the Inter-American System. The focus of the presentation in the 2023 session was on petitions and preventive measures, with real-life cases illustrating instances where victims' human rights were violated. Par-

ticipants had the opportunity to engage in discussions and analyze these cases to determine whether they should be pursued as petitions or precautionary measures.

The training and discussions were initiated in response to the challenges faced by Caribbean countries in addressing human rights violations, particularly those cases that cannot be successfully resolved at the domestic level.

It was acknowledged in a previous meeting between the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the President of CAROA that Caribbean countries shared common challenges in this regard.

As a result, the IACHR was requested to assist CAROA in improving the knowledge and understanding of its members concerning the Inter-American System of Human Rights and the mechanisms available for publicizing and protecting against human rights violations.

In summary, the training provided an opportunity for Ombudspersons and human rights advocates in the Caribbean to gain a deeper understanding of the Inter-American System and its mechanisms, with a particular focus on petitions and preventive measures.

This knowledge will enable them to better utilize the tools and mechanisms provided by the IACHR to address human rights violations and protect the rights of individuals in the region.

# NO NHIP/NIB STAFF CUTS



Hon. Rachel Taylor

Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Shaun Malcolm, and Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, and Social Services Hon. Rachel Taylor, have both asserted that no jobs will be lost at the National Health Insurance Plan (NHIP) and at the National Insurance Board (NIB) during the implementation of the Shared Services mechanism.

Both Ministers were reacting to rumors and concerns that with the emergence of the Shared Services Programme that Parliament aims to enact into law, some positions would be axed at both entities.

However, Malcolm, who is responsible for the (NHIP), and Taylor, who has responsibility for NIB, have both rubbished the rumors and sought to allay the staff concerns.

Malcolm gave the assurance when contacted by NewslineTCI. Nervous staff at both entities had this news medium to seek further clarification from the movers and shakers those sectors.

"No one will lose their jobs...that has already been communicated to the staff at NHIP. So, I think by now they should understand that, and put their minds at ease," Minister Malcolm said. When contacted, Minister Taylor, who is currently on vacation leave, also denied the rumors, adding that more than once the news has been communicated to the staff.

She however, recommended that NewslineTCI speak with Permanent Secretary in her ministry, Cherylann Jones, for reiteration's sake.

For her part, Jones, stated firmly that under the Shared Services regime, no long-term employees will lose their jobs, pointing out that NIB and



Hon. Shaun Malcolm

NHIP would still be operated as separate entities, but instead of customers having to pay their contributions at two separate offices, under the amendments, would pay at one office.

"On Tuesday, 7th November, the Bill that will bring the amendments to facilitate the Shared Services Project is going to go through its second and third reading in the House of Assembly," Jones said, noting that the amendments are geared towards efficiency and somewhat ease public hassle.

"It's really about compliance so that you would be able to pay at one place...it's really about sharing the services," she said, while urging members of the public to tune in to the House debate, so they could get more information on the partial amalgamation of the two entities.

"The intention at that point is not for anyone to lose their jobs. It is not going to be one agency...perhaps in the future. So, at this stage, there is not to be anything that suggest that people would lose their jobs," she said.

Jones stated that the Minister Taylor, as well as the CEO Rhesa Cartwright have already articulated that point to the NIB staff.

Meanwhile, Malcolm is slated to pilot the NHIP Amendment Bill through the House, while Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Arlington Musgrove, who is acting for Taylor, is named as the point man that will steer the NIB Amendment through the House.

Staff members at both entities who contacted NewslineTCI, stated that they were told in a meeting held approximately two weeks ago at the Blue Haven Resort Conference Room in Lee-

ward, Providenciales that their job security could not be guaranteed, and were advised to prepare for the possibility of having to reapply for their positions.

The conflicting information between the recent statement by the Minister and the previous communication to employees creates some level uncertainty and confusion surrounding the merger's impact on the job security of NIB and NHIP staff.

"It is essential for the relevant authorities to provide consistent and accurate information to employees to alleviate concerns and ensure transparency throughout the merger process," one NHIP staff told NewslineTCI. "Clarification and clear communication will be crucial to maintaining stability and trust."

Another staff noted: "A public statement from the government would provide much-needed clarity and reassurance to the employees, as it would indicate that their positions will either remain secure as the merger process takes place, or they would know whether to reapply or to seek employment elsewhere."

However, the clarification from the ministries should likely ease the anxieties and jitters of the affected employees and create a more stable and predictable environment during this significant organizational change.

The history of discussions about merging NIB and NHIB dates to 2012 when there were rumors of such a merger during the interim administration. Governor Ric Todd clarified at the time that there were no government plans to merge the two entities. The speculation about a merger arose from the collaboration between NIB and NHIB, particularly in collection, where both boards collected contributions from the same individuals. Governor Todd explained that the speculation about a merger had arisen due to the collaboration between NIB and NHIB, particularly in the area of collection. Both boards had their own collecting bodies, and they often collected contributions from the same individuals. As a result, they were considering merging their collecting functions, which seemed to be a logical step to improve efficiency.

The idea of this merger had been suggested in the 2010 actuarial report for NIB, prepared by Derek Osborne of Horizonow Consultants Ltd. The report noted that NHIB was already collecting contributions from employed and self-employed individuals, albeit with a higher ceiling than NIB. This duplication of efforts between two public sector agencies performing similar tasks raised questions about the cost-effectiveness of maintaining both entities.

Osborne's report highlighted that NHIB's collection process was more technologically advanced and appeared to be more efficient than NIB's. Additionally, the NHIB system was said to be capable of handling additional payments from employers and self-employed individuals. Therefore, the report recommended that NIB should compare the cost of outsourcing its collection functions to NHIB with the potential savings that could be achieved by no longer performing this task. Such a change might result in some job losses but could significantly reduce the operating costs of NIB.

# The Church and Zionism

Zionism is a religious and political effort that brought thousands of Jews from around the world back to their ancient homeland in the Middle East and re-established Israel as the central location for Jewish identity.

Like most people I watched with shock and horror the recent spate of violence that has taken hold of the Holy Land where the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and the Palestinian militant group Hamas have once again gone to war. And like so many times before, we have been faced with the decades-old question: Who is on the right side of this conflict?

On one hand, some would argue that Israel is in the right as they are defending their country from radical jihadist who, after their latest attack, have certainly earned the world's ire. On the other hand, others would point to the disproportionate nature of Israel's response as overkill, given that the actions of the IDF often leave more Palestinian civilians dead, especially women and children, while Hamas lives on to fight another day.

These two simplistic viewpoints are precisely the problem, which is why I think it is time that we reject this nonsense of trying to figure out who the "good guys" are and instead see this war for what it truly is. There are no heroes here, only villains on both sides, and opposing the murderous and vicious actions of one side should not be seen as supporting the murderous and vicious actions of the other. This, in truth, is no different from a feud that takes place between two rival criminal gangs. Who would be in the right there? Clearly everyone would be able to decipher that this is a conflict of evil versus evil, the only "good guys" here are the civilians, be they Jewish or Muslim, who get caught in the crossfire of a war they want no part of.

With all this said, I find it somewhat disturbing that many evangelical Christians would look on the scale of brutality and give tacit support to Israel, although it should be clear that the actions of the IDF are every bit as atrocious as those committed by Hamas. How is it that people who can clearly see that the actions of the Palestinians fighters are immoral cannot see that Israel's military is exactly the same? This stems, of course, from a grave misconception that sees the Zionist State as God's chosen nation.

Let me preface this part by saying that I myself am a Bible-believing Christian, who is very familiar with the story of biblical Israel; however, I refuse to believe that the modern State of Israel is the same country as the ancient Kingdom of Israel. One was established by God himself as a theocracy ruled by the Royal House of David, the other was established by the United Nations as a secular republic; therefore, any notion that modern-day Zionist Jews have a divine claim should be rejected.

I don't mean to sound like a heretic, but hear me out. In the book of Genesis the Lord told Abraham that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars and that he will give them the land that is Canaan. I would not dare dispute divine providence, but I would like to submit that the evangelical interpretation is less than accurate as one can reasonably argue that the Arab people (including Palestinians) are also Abraham's

descendants through his firstborn son Ishmael, and as such, that prophecy can in no way justify Zionism. It would mean that God's word would have been void from 70 A.D. when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans, until the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948. Such a suggestion would be heretical at best and blasphemous at worst, which means that this prophecy cannot be seen through Zionist lens.

The truth is that as a Christian I firmly believe that God's spoken word can never become void, and if he decrees that Abraham's descendants were to live in the Holy Land in perpetuity, then that is exactly what he means. What the prophecy spoken of in Genesis 22:17 does not state, however, is which set of Abraham's descendants were to occupy the land. To use that passage of scripture to justify the actions of Israel, one would have to ignore the writings of Old Testament prophets who constantly make reference to God dismantling Israel and sending the Jews into exile.

Don't mistake my intention here, this is not an attack on Jewish people per se but rather confusion as to why evangelicals continue to support Zionists while completely ignoring the genuine pain and suffering that they are causing the civilians of Palestine, who will feel the full force of Israel's wrath far more than Hamas ever will. How is it that the same people who were so quick to condemn Hamas for its attack on innocent Israeli civilians (a condemnation which I fully support) are now so reluctant to do the same when Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announces a complete siege of Gaza with no food, water, fuel, or electricity for the people living there? How can they not see that this is a clear humanitarian crisis?

And speaking of humanitarian crisis, the comments I have seen in several evangelical circles always seem to focus on the idea that Israelis are God's chosen people, but I have a problem accepting that in this Christian era the Jews still deserve such a designation. Modern-day Judaism literally rejects Jesus Christ and his salvation on the cross, their theology still teaches that what matters most is having the blood of Abraham while giving no credence to the blood of Christ and its power to deliver salvation. Such a teaching runs counter to everything that was ever taught in the New Testament; hence, I cannot help but be perplexed by the idea that God's chosen people are to be found among those who explicitly reject his son as Lord and Saviour. This is exacerbated by what I see as the erroneous theology regarding the construction of a "third temple" to replace the one destroyed in 70 A.D. This theology has long been a tenet of Rabbinical Judaism (hence the emphasis they place on the Temple Mount and the Wailing Wall) and has been subsequently adopted by evangelical Christians who are sympathetic to the Zionist cause. This idea, however, is nothing less than a dangerous heresy, not only was this never taught by Christ, the Apostles, or the early church fathers, Jesus himself directly addresses and debunks this idea in Matthew 24:2 when he stated in no uncertain terms: "See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another

that shall not be thrown down."

These words of the Lord proved too accurate, as roughly 40 years later the temple was indeed destroyed, and at no time did he ever predict that it will be rebuilt. Furthermore, scripture reinforces the idea that a third temple will never rise as told by the Apostle John in Revelation 21:22. Zionist Jews might be forgiven for their mistaken belief as they openly reject the Old Testament, but what excuse do evangelical Christians have for the same error when they should know better? They cannot claim to be accurately following the New Testament and also believe in the legitimacy of the Zionist cause at the same time, because one naturally precludes the other.

With all this said, let me reiterate, it is perfectly OK to stand with the Palestinian people without supporting the terrorist activities of the brutish and violent Hamas, who not only despicably target Israeli civilians but also use their fellow Palestinians as human shields. They are cowards, and in no way should they be seen as liberators as some anti-Semites try to claim.

But, on the other hand, believing in Israel's right to exist does not mean that it should come at the cost of collateral damage to the people who are now cut off from basic services because of the actions of jihadists. But most of all, this is certainly not the time for some elements in Christendom to take sides against one set of victims because of erroneous teachings, this not what Christ would want. In fact, I would even venture to say that he abhors all violence, whether it is inflicted upon the Jews or by them, and most of all, the Church should reject Zionism and be reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul, who says in Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile...for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

TAKEN FROM THE JAMAICA OBSERVER



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



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- Provide original documents (only if successful) proving citizenship or permanent residency, academic qualifications (clearly stating grades/passes), etc.

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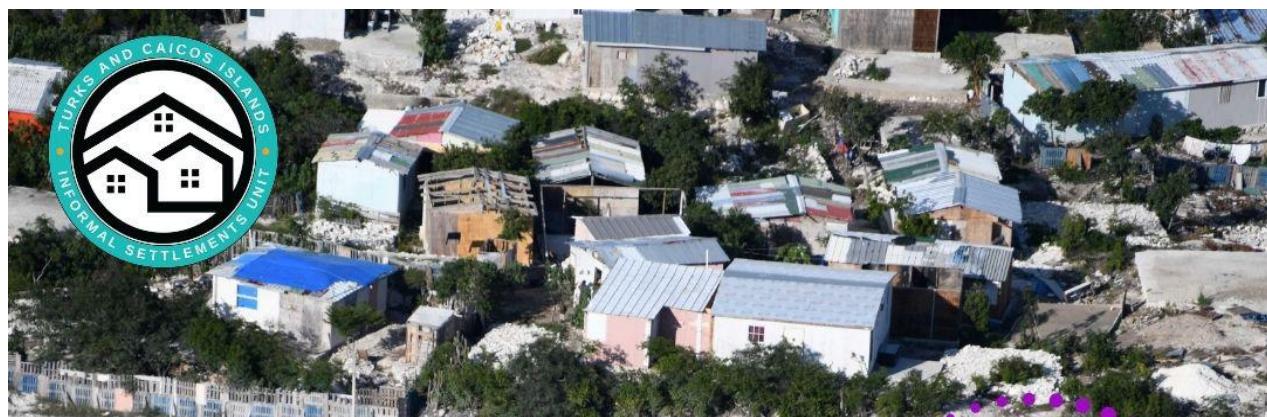
Completed applications should be sent to [recruitment@tcipolice.tc](mailto:recruitment@tcipolice.tc) and MUST be addressed to the Office of the Commissioner of Police, The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, H.R., Old Airport Road, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands; Subject Line: Police Constable/ APPLICATION.

**DEADLINE for applications: FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER, 2023.**

# FortisTCI Cautiously Hails The Renewable Energy and Resource Planning Bill



President of FortisTCI, Ruth Forbes



**How do I know if my land papers are legitimate and registered correctly?**

To verify the validity of your documentation you should contact the Crown Land Unit or check the registers of the title with the Land Registry.



Light and power company FortisTCI is hailing Renewable Energy and Resource Planning Bill, which was introduced in Parliament Thursday, but said it would undertake a study to determine the level of impact, if any, it would have on customers, its grid capacity general operation.

In a news release, FortisTCI said it has consistently advocated for the implementation of legislation that is tailored to the unique needs of the islands, emphasizing the importance of equitable legislation that promotes the seamless integration of renewable energy sources while safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders.

“The Renewable Energy and Resource Planning Bill 2023, introduced in the House of Assembly today, is a significant milestone for the Turks and Caicos Islands, as it will shape how the country’s energy landscape evolves,” the statement said.

The news release added: “As the public electricity supplier, FortisTCI has consistently advocated for suitably tailored and equitable legislation, which supports the orderly integration of renewable energy and balances the interests of all stakeholders.

The news release stated that the energy company was in the process of scrutinizing the bill’s provisions to determine its overall impact. Crucially, the company said it is also eagerly awaiting the establishment and revision of policies, regulations, and standards that will serve as the foundation for the new legislation.

“FortisTCI is currently reviewing the provisions of the Bill to determine how these will impact customers, grid capacity, the energy infrastructure, and the utility operation in general.

“The company also awaits the development and updating of policies, regulations, and standards intended to underpin the Bill. FortisTCI shares in the government’s commitment to sustainability, affordability, and energy security,” FortisTCI stated.

It added: “The company has made significant strategic investments to diversify the energy mix through solar microgrids, distributed energy systems and energy storage solutions, while continuing to provide safe, reliable and resilient electricity.

“The company seeks to engage in meaningful consultation with the TCI Government and the Energy and Utilities Commissioner’s Office, as the Bill advances through the legislative process.”

# Opposition Leader's Outlook on Recent Constitutional Talks



Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin Astwood.



The constitutional parties take time for a photo op.

Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood All would have seen the releases stating that the Constitutional talks had occurred last week, at Waterloo, Grand Turk.

My super team comprised the Opposition's Appointed Member, former Premier Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson, Mr. Allen Wood, KC, and myself.

Former Premier Robinson was appointed to the first Indigenous Constitution Review Body in 2002, and then again in 2006. She was a part of the 2015 Constitution Review Team and submitted new and supplementary proposals to the UK Government in 2019 as Premier. Those 2019 proposals, gathered from our people have for the basis of much of what is going forward now.

KC Allen Wood is no stranger to Judicial work in the Turks and Caicos Islands. He led the legal team during the election petition in 2012 Oral Selver vs Amanda Missick & Others, in which Mr. Selver was successful. Mr. Wood KC is also a Turks & Caicos Islander and has had a long-standing relationship

with the PDM Party. Those older persons who lived in Grand Turk should know of his aunt, we called her Ms. May Wood, who lived in the big pink house on Middle Street.

Hon. Alvin Garland, since becoming the Opposition Appointed member, has been a part of the constitutional talks between the Government and the Opposition leading up to the meeting with the UK delegation and has made significant contributions during the meeting with the UK delegation. Let me categorically state that it is my view that all the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories should at least have a constitution similar to that of the Cayman Islands. Full Internal Self-Government should be the Norm and not the exception. Being granted Full Internal Self-Government will make the transition to independence much easier.

It will give the next government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which will be the PDM, the opportunity to get as many of our people financially Independent as possible, to get as many of our people trained and educated to be leaders in all

sectors in the country, allow the PDM to get crime and illegal immigration under control, Health Care in a better place, True and attainable diversification of our economy, to name a few important milestones.

The Proposals for the Reform of the Constitution of the Turks & Caicos Islands contain a list of proposals for reforms to the Turks & Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011, the previous 2006 TCI Constitution, recent constitutional developments in other British Overseas Territories (especially those of the Cayman Islands – which indicate an acceptance of autonomous capacity in domestic affairs), and the report of the Constitutional Reform Committee (CRC) which was presented in 2019 after an extensive consultation exercise in the Islands.

These proposals have been previously submitted to the UK Government and had the benefit of a considered response from Mr. Adam Pile, Head of the Caribbean Department in the UK FCDO's Overseas Territories Directorate ('the Pile Letter').

## 10-Year-Old Student Reportedly Robbed At Gunpoint

The Ministry of Education has activated its Student Support Services and Child Safeguarding Policies and Protocols at the Ianthe Pratt Primary School after it was reported that a 10-year-old male student was held up and robbed of his bus fare and other possession at gunpoint by a lone bandit yesterday, October 31.

The incident took place minutes after 3p.m., while the child was waiting for transportation to take him home.

The Ministry said it was deeply disturbed, concerned and sadden by what it described as an unfortunate incident.

"It is with great sadness and concern that we address an incident that recently occurred at the Ianthe Pratt Primary School in Providenciales. We sincerely regret to inform the community that an unfortunate incident took place on October 31st, 2023, involving a student from our primary school," a news release said.

The news release continued: "According to the preliminary investigation, it has come to our

attention that a student returned to report to School Administrators of being robbed at gunpoint while standing at the bus stop outside of the school compound awaiting transport to travel home."

The school administrators immediately contacted the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force for assistance after the report was made by the student, but when they arrived the hoodlum was long gone. The police have since launched an investigation into the incident.

"This incident has deeply impacted our students, their families, and the entire school community. The Ministry has activated its Student Support Services and Child Safeguarding policies and protocols, as our primary and immediate focus is to provide support and care to those affected. We have arranged counselling services and support systems for students, parents, and staff members who may require assistance during this difficult time. Our dedicated team of professionals will be available to address any concerns or provide

guidance as needed," the ministry further said in the news release.

It added: "The ministry is working collaboratively with the Royal Turks & Caicos Islands Police Force to ensure heightened security and to facilitate a thorough investigation."

In the meantime, the Ministry of Education is urging calm in the community, while urging for supportive.

"We must come together as a community to address this incident responsibly and emphasize the importance of empathy, understanding, and respect for one another. We will continue to provide updates as the investigation progresses and continue to work diligently to ensure the safety and security of our students."

"Our thoughts are with the affected student, their family, and the entire school community. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of the community as a whole, as we navigate through this unfortunate situation," the Education Ministry said.

# ETA Implementation Will Not Affect TCI Travellers - Governor

Turks and Caicos Islanders and other British Overseas Territories citizens will not be affected by the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), according to the Governor's office.

The UK Government has officially launched the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme on October 25, which will apply to individuals visiting or transiting through the UK who do not require a visa for short stays and lack prior immigration status.

The ETA system will be implemented globally in phases, with full deployment expected in early 2024. It's designed to gather more precise data about visitors to the UK and their countries of origin, thereby enhancing border security by screening passengers before their departure to identify potential security threats. This ETA system is not a new concept, as similar systems are already in place in the United States (ESTA), Canada, and New Zealand. The introduction of the ETA will also contribute to the security goals of the Five-Eyes Intelligence Alliance, fostering greater cooperation among the CANZUK countries (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom) and the USA.

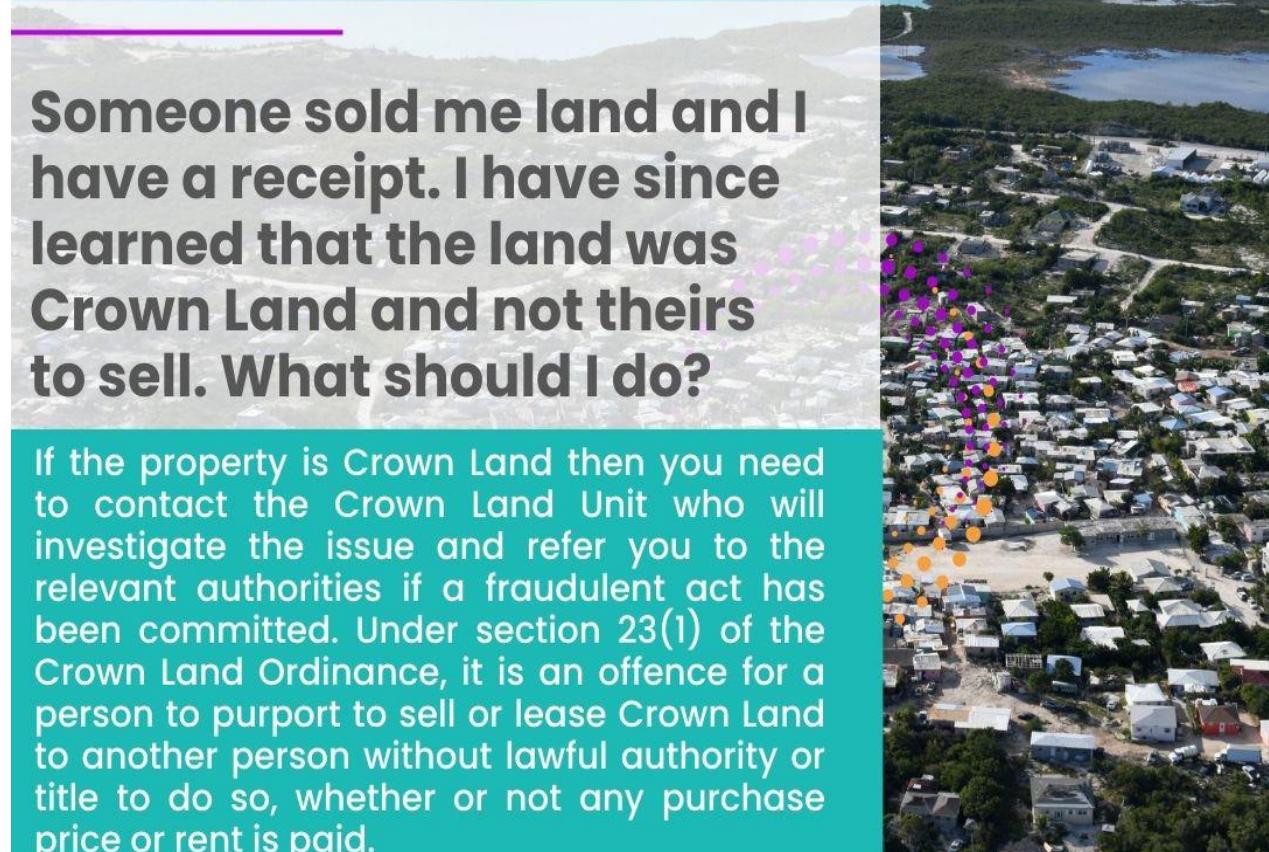
In terms of who needs an ETA, most European nationals and travelers from countries that typically do not require a UK visa for tourism or transit will be required to obtain an ETA. This includes Creative Workers visiting the UK for up to three months using the Creative Worker Visa concession.

However, several categories of individuals are exempt from this requirement. This includes British and Irish nationals, non-Irish nationals legally residing in Ireland and traveling to the UK from within the Common

Travel Area, individuals mandated to apply for a visa, and those who already possess a visa or alternative authorization, such as status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

The application process for an ETA is expected to be user-friendly and can be completed online or through a dedicated mobile app. The cost of an ETA is set at £10, making it a reasonable expense compared to obtaining a UK visa. Applicants will need to provide basic personal information, passport data, a recent photograph, and security-related information.

An ETA will be valid for two years or until the expiration of the applicant's passport, whichever comes first, allowing for multiple trips to the UK on a single authorization. While most applications are anticipated to be approved quickly, it's advisable to complete the process at least three days before the intended travel date. Importantly, there is no appeals process for a refused application, so applicants may need to submit a new application or consider applying for a standard visit visa to address concerns raised by the Home Office.



**Someone sold me land and I have a receipt. I have since learned that the land was Crown Land and not theirs to sell. What should I do?**

If the property is Crown Land then you need to contact the Crown Land Unit who will investigate the issue and refer you to the relevant authorities if a fraudulent act has been committed. Under section 23(1) of the Crown Land Ordinance, it is an offence for a person to purport to sell or lease Crown Land to another person without lawful authority or title to do so, whether or not any purchase price or rent is paid.

For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

[www.isutci.com](http://www.isutci.com)



# TCIG Introduces Ambitious Renewable Energy Legislation to Foster Sustainable, Clean Energy Future



Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Otis Morris: "Effective energy regulation is the compass guiding our journey towards a cleaner, more sustainable, and energy-secure future."

The Turks and Caicos Islands taking a significant step towards a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future with the introduction of the groundbreaking Renewable Energy and Resource Planning Bill 2023.

After an extensive period of public consultation, the government is unveiling a comprehensive Legislation that is aimed at transforming the energy landscape, fostering energy independence, promoting economic growth, and preserving the natural beauty of these islands.

The new Renewable Energy and Resource Planning Bill 2023 encompasses a wide range of objectives, all designed to contribute to a brighter future for the Turks and Caicos Islands:

**Transition to Clean Energy Sources:** The Legislation aims to achieve a substantial reduction in the reliance on fossil fuels by increasing the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix. The goal is to reach 33% of energy supplies from renewable sources by the year 2040.

**Renewable Energy Infrastructure:** The Legislation encourages the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and ocean energy, through incentives, subsidies, and regulatory support. It also emphasizes the importance of grid integration and energy storage solutions.

**Investment and Financing:** The government

seeks to attract private sector investments in renewable energy projects through tax incentives, grants, and other financial mechanisms. Partnerships with international organizations and donor agencies will be explored to secure funding for renewable energy initiatives.

**Job Creation and Economic Growth:** The government aims to stimulate the growth of a sustainable renewable energy industry, creating jobs and driving economic development. It will also support research and development activities to foster innovation and competitiveness in the renewable energy sector.

**Environmental Conservation:** Mitigating the environmental impact of energy production is a key priority, focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing damage to ecosystems. Responsible siting and development of renewable energy projects will be emphasized.

**Energy Resilience:** Enhancing the resilience of the energy infrastructure to withstand natural disasters and climate change-related challenges is crucial. Microgrid solutions and distributed energy resources will be explored to ensure critical infrastructure has a continuous power supply during a Natural Disaster.

**Policy and Regulatory Framework:** The Legislation includes the development and updating of policies, regulations, and standards to support

the growth of renewable energy while removing barriers to its adoption. Transparent and streamlined permitting processes for renewable energy projects will be ensured.

The Renewable Energy Bill's overarching goal is to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, increase energy diversity, enhance energy security, and support the transition to a sustainable energy future that will benefit the environment and the residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A key component of this Legislation is introducing a competitive Tendering Process run by the Energy and Utilities Department. This will ensure that the least-cost bids for renewable energy projects are chosen. This approach aims to promote energy affordability and reduce dependence on fossil fuels while diversifying energy sources for reliability and security.

Renewable energy producers must obtain licenses and pay a small levy to support public interest renewable energy initiatives and research. This step ensures fairness and promotes the growth of renewable energy systems on the islands.

Additionally, the Legislation introduces a Net-Billing Program that allows building and business owners to install renewable energy systems to meet some or all of their energy needs. Surplus electricity can be sold to the grid, with payments linked to the Monthly Fuel Factor.

The Turks and Caicos Energy and Utilities Commissioner will play a central role in overseeing and regulating these measures, ensuring the safe design and operation of renewable energy systems, licensing compliance, and setting performance standards for timely grid connections.

The Energy and Utilities Commissioner, Engineer Delano R. Arthur, states, "Powering the future with renewable energy is not just a goal; it's our responsibility. We can no longer sit idle, but together, we must light the way toward a sustainable and brighter tomorrow."

Hon. Otis C. Morris, The Minister for Home Affairs, Public Safety and Utilities, says, "Effective energy regulation is the compass guiding our journey towards a cleaner, more sustainable, and energy-secure future. Our commitment to smart, responsible policies shapes the path to a brighter tomorrow."

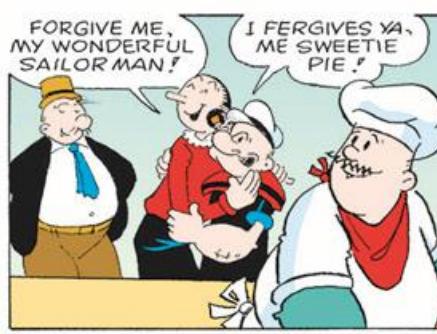
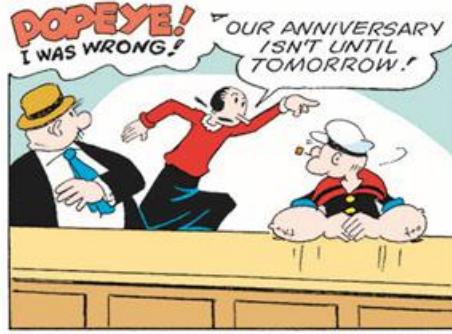
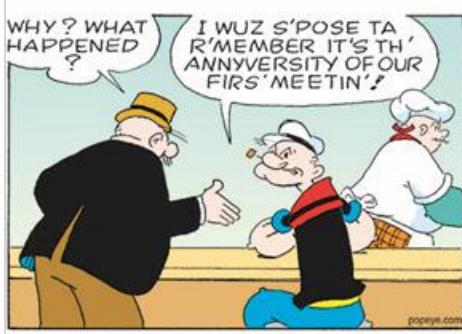
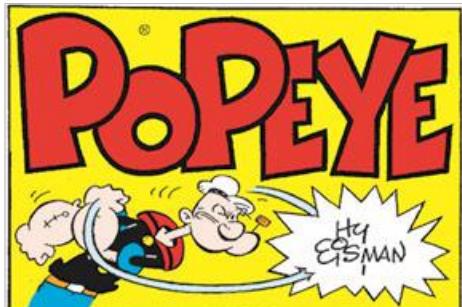
The government is committed to integrating renewable energy policies with broader energy policies to ensure that the development of non-renewable energy facilities is consistent with the transition to cleaner and greener energy systems.

The Renewable Energy and Resource Planning Bill 2023 represents a significant step forward in the Turks and Caicos Islands' journey towards a sustainable, environmentally friendly, and economically vibrant future. It is a testament to the government's commitment to securing a cleaner, more affordable, and more resilient energy landscape for all residents and the environment.

For more information about the Renewable Energy Legislation and its components, please refer to the full Legislation within the Gazette, or you can contact the Energy and Utilities Commissioner, Engr—Delano R. Arthur, at eud@gov.tc.

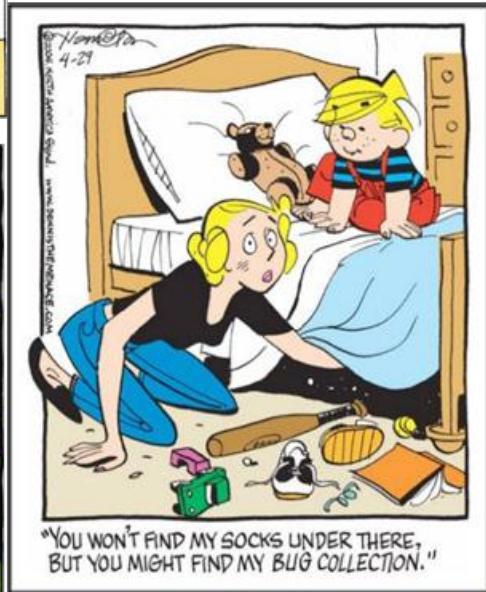
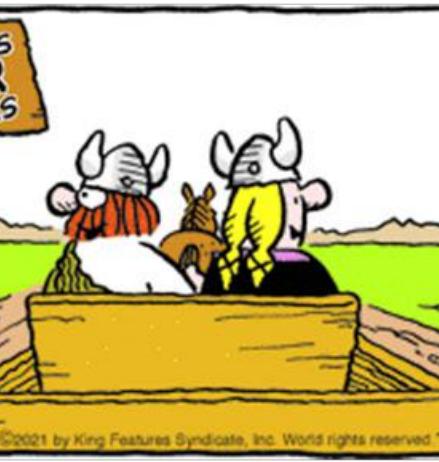


NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup>  
COMICS



I THINK GROWN-UPS JUST ACT LIKE THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

1



# RipSaw

**NEWSLINE**  
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

Ripsaw music is the national music of the Turks & Caicos Islands. The main instrument featured is the ordinary carpenters handsaw found in any hardware store. The saw is held with either end in a number of ways to produce a bend in the centre of the blade. A metal scraper, usually a knife or screwdriver, is raked and scraped over the teeth of the saw to produce a unique percussive scraping sound. This action is called "Ripping the Saw".

The term "ripsaw" comes from the local name for the handsaw. The term also refers to the "ripping" sound produced by the action of passing a metal object called the "scraper" along the side of the saw's teeth.

Bending the body and ripping the saw in time with the beat of the music produces a wobbled overtone. This gives you the characteristic sound of ripsaw music. This rhythmic style is accompanied by drums, shakers or harmonica. Rip saw music is often played during cultural events and celebrations.

There are several theories as to why the carpenter saw was used as an instrument and like all indigenous folk music, our ripsaw is the product of the passion of a people looking for a way to produce sound and music with available materials.

Sources: Turks And Caicos Tourism | My Turks & Caicos Blog | VisitTCI | TurksnCaicos.weebly.com | Pianity | Times Pub

# More Highlights from Andaz Turks and Caicos Resort

The groundbreaking exercise of the luxurious Andaz Turks and Caicos Resort took place on October 11. The event was attended by the Deputy Governor, Her Excellency Anya Williams, Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly, Minister of Infrastructure and Planning Hon. Jamell Robinson, Minister of Home Affairs Hon. Otis Morris and Minister of Health Hon. Shaun Malcolm. This seven-storey development is scheduled to open its doors to guests in late 2025. The following are more highlights of the event.





# Beaches Turks and Caicos Celebrates with Children at Summer Camp 2023



Recognition for the youth



Tie &amp; Dye



Youth engage in pool activities.

One of the core values of Sandals Resorts International and Beaches Turks and Caicos (BTC) is loving families.

In keeping with this, BTC was able to create opportunities of fun, love and warmth for its team members and their families at summer camp 2023. The planners and conceptualizers of the event, the Beaches Turks and Caicos Sports, Social and Cultural Club Summer Camp 2023 was designed to creatively engage children of team members who were on summer break.

Under the leadership of sports club executives the human resources department and the Kids Camp they were able to provide for more than 400 children over a one month period.

"We believe in not just providing guests with memories that will last a lifetime but also our team members and their families who are our family. The joy that we saw on the children's faces each day was satisfying," shared Romaine Adams, vice president of the sports club.

Sports club President Anesha Beckford, in celebrating the success of the event highlighted the value of partnership in providing a wholesome environment for the campers. Said Beckford, "We must commend the leadership of the resort and the different departments that allowed this to materialize. Our general manager, the human resources team along with the kids camp leaders made this camp the most memorable for all the years that we have hosted these young people."

The children were able to participate in swimming and water sports activities, art and craft, board games and outdoor activities that allowed them to experience the resort and the amenities available.

One camper, Isabella McKnight, shared, "I met many new friends at the summer camp and we had the chance to learn so many new activities. The playmakers from the entertainment department were very friendly and helped us to work as a team and to use whatever new activities they taught us as motivation to be comfortable with our abilities. I got the chance to snorkel as well as designed my own shirt in the tie and dye session. The camp was fun. My brother and I are so looking forward to next summer."

Another camper, Adine Chattell, was glowing while he spoke of his experience at the camp. "We had so much fun exploring the water park and the slides, face painting, the boat rides, and the many board games which created friendly rivalry. I was most impressed by the creative designs that we made during tie and dye activities. I'm already looking forward to coming back here next summer. Thank you to Beaches Turks and Caicos. I am happy that my mother is a team member here."

The campaign ran for four weeks from July 31st – August 25th. Each week a new cohort of children ranging from ages six years to 14 years were enrolled and had the pleasure of playing and learning on the grounds of BTC. Their lunches and refreshments were also catered by the resort.



# FEATURED CHURCH

This week in Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Community Fellowship Centre church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The Community Fellowship Centre, which also operates a school – the Community Christian Academy – is led by Pastor Bradley Handfield, who is also a trained teacher. Community Fellowship Centre conducts a series of engagements during the course of each week, starting with divine service on Sunday at 9a.m. On Thursday between 5a.m. and 6a.m. is early morning prayer meeting. Between Monday and Friday at 12noon is midday prayer meeting. Monday to Friday between 7p.m. and 9pm.m, is Bible study, while Youth Meeting is held on Friday.

## THE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP CENTRE



### 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.

**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

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Cleansing

This is just washing your face. This is the most basic and essential step of any routine. It is recommended by dermatologists to wash your face twice per day to avoid clogged pores, acne and dullness. The first step is to find a cleanser that's right for your skin type. Finding the right one will cleanse your skin without stripping it of essential oils. If having difficulties when looking for the right cleanser. The best option is to go for micellar water. It is soap free, suitable for almost all skin types and attracts dirt and debris.

Modern toners act as skin supplements which deliver extra shots of nutrients to the skin and also help your other products in your regimen to absorb better, while at the same time, helping to balance your complexion. When looking for a toner, keep an eye out for these ingredients:

- \* hyaluronic acid—boost hydration, treat fine lines and lock in moisture.
- \* rose water & green tea—calm irritation and reduce redness.
- \* vitamins E & C—fights daily exposure of free radicals that can age the skin.

Toners should be done after cleansing but before putting anything else on.

## Toner



## Moisturising

Moisturizers are the one product that dermatologists recommend using year round for all skin types as skin naturally loses the ability to retain moisture as we age. The most basic function of the moisturiser is to hydrate and soften the skin. The texture of the moisturizer will vary depending on your skin type.

- Oily skin—gel moisturizer
- Normal/ Combination—Lotion
- Dry—Cream/Soft Cream
- Inflamed or sensitive—Balm

*Basic*  
**SKINCARE**  
**EXPLAINED** 

# Caribbean Development Bank joins 2X Global Industry Group



President of the Caribbean Development Bank  
Dr. Gene Leon

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has joined 2X Global, a global industry group dedicated to increasing the volume and impact of capital directed towards women's economic empowerment worldwide. CDB's participation in 2X Global will increase the Bank's commitment, capacity, and investment in advancing gender equality in the region.

The 2X Global criteria has established the standard for gender lens investing consistent with the Bank's strategic policy objectives to improve gender equality data collection, scale-up development financing in developing countries for sustainable development, and promote social, economic, and environmental resilience in BMCs with gender equality as a cross-cutting priority.

CDB's partnership with 2X Global will assist the implementation of the Bank's Gender Equality Policy and Operational Strategic economic empowerment pillar. It will also contribute to the tracking and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDG), particularly SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 13 (climate action). Gender-smart climate finance is a top priority for 2X Global and its members, given the substantial nexus between gender equality and climate goals. The Bank's membership will advance its strategic objectives to build social, economic, and environmental resilience in BMCs.

Isaac Solomon, Vice President Operations, CDB said that the Bank was delighted to join the 2X Global Community.

"We see this as a chance to advance the Bank's mission in the Caribbean, which is to reduce poverty and transform lives through resilient, sustainable, and inclusive development. As the region's development bank and champions of gender-lens investing, we are excited to share our knowledge, lessons learned, and dedication to advancing gender-lens investing in the Caribbean. We also anticipate learning from other members to advance innovative and sustainable financial tools and solutions that will reach those who have the greatest need," Mr. Solomon said.

Jessica Espinoza, CEO of 2X Global welcomed the Bank to the organisation.

"We're really pleased to welcome the CDB and we're looking forward to working with them to deepen and widen the field of gender lens investing in the Caribbean and globally. Their membership underscores our shared commitment to advancing gender equity and inclusive finance and presents a great opportunity for mutual learning and collaboration," Miss Espinoza said.

The Bank has prioritised gender equality throughout its portfolio and in both public and private de-

velopment financing. CDB's recent investment in Portland Equity Fund III complements previous interventions targeted at the financial sector including 2019 partnership efforts with DFIs in the Caribbean to strengthen gender mainstreaming policies and institutional capacities towards an ecosystem for gender-lens investing.

CDB also has a track record of designing, financing, and executing interventions to assist women-owned and led MSMEs across the productive sectors. Through the Bank's Private Sector Unit, targeted support to women-led firms has been facilitated with the implementation of the Caribbean Technological Consultancy Services (CTCS) Programme, Standby Facility and the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIIF). Since its launch in 2018, more than 60% of CIIF-funded initiatives are businesses headed by women. Recognising the need to boost women's participation in technology and the increased vulnerability of the region to natural hazards and disasters, the CDB launched an incubator programme to assist Caribbean women entrepreneurs with developing locally appropriate solutions to climate-related concerns.

The Bank also recently launched the Caribbean SheTrades Hub in collaboration with the International Trade Centre which will facilitate innovative business and investment opportunities for women-led businesses, resulting in a stronger regional ecosystem that will benefit every woman across the Caribbean equally. The Bank will continue to create initiatives to boost the Caribbean investment ecosystem through a gender lens. The CDB and 2X Global are currently exploring initiatives to deepen their collaboration and strengthen gender-lens investing in the Caribbean Region.

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The Caribbean's Leading Luxury-Included Brand® offers an opportunity for highly motivated, flexible and enthusiastic persons with exceptional skills to join our team.

*Build A Career in Hospitality*

**WE ARE HIRING!**  
**COME TO OUR JOB FAIR**  
**Wednesday, November 15, 2023**  
**at 8:30am**

- **Boat Captains \***
- **Scuba Instructors\***
- **Dive Masters \***
- **Housekeeping Supervisor**
- **Income Auditor**
- **Wedding Planner**

- **Loyalty & Travel Consultants**
- **Accounts Receivable Clerk**
- **Cook 3**
- **Night Baker**
- **Housekeeping Room Attendants**
- **Room Technicians**
- **Security Officers**

- **Cleaner—Kids Camp**
- **Social Media Coordinator**
- **Dining Room Servers**
- **Groundsmen**
- **Bar Porters**
- **Laundry Attendant**
- **Stewards**

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

**BENEFITS:** • **Healthcare** • **Education and Training** • **Staff Transportation**  
 • **Competitive Salary Packages** • **Opportunities for Growth & Development**  
 • **Banking Details [Bank, Branch, Account#]**



# PDM Echoes Taxi Operators' Concerns



The People's Democratic Movement (PDM) said it is deeply concerned about some of the new renewal procedures facing taxi and VIP drivers in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In a recent meeting between various taxi operations at Howard Hamilton International Airport and the Deputy Leader of the PDM, Mr. Robert Been, several critical issues were discussed, and concerns were openly shared. "The PDM wishes to echo some of these concerns and to advocate on behalf of our taxi drivers who form a major part of our entrepreneurial community in TCI," the PDM said in statement.

"We acknowledge the significance of government's role in renewing licenses for taxi operators to safeguard the continuity of business operations, especially for those who have established their livelihoods and businesses within this industry. However, the PDM firmly believes that the proposal to cancel plates for non-compliance with the December 31st

deadline each year is unduly excessive and harsh," the PDM continues.

The opposition party noted that the role of government is to work with the stakeholders, "not against them".

"We believe in dialogue and consultation and are calling on the government to allow taxi operators to keep their license plates and impose a penalty/fine if the deadline is missed.

"The taxi drivers are also opposed to the idea of having to retake an exam for license renewal. They firmly support the notion that all previous license holders should be grandfathered in, allowing them to maintain their licenses without the need for re-examination," the PDM continued.

The news released noted that under a PDM administration: "We are committed to safeguarding the license plates of all taxi operators. We will implement measures to facilitate the transfer or inheritance of these plates, allowing family members the opportunity to

carry on the legacy of their business.

"The taxi operators have also expressed the need for a level playing field in the industry. While many of our luxury resorts have exclusive partnerships with specific taxi companies, we believe it is important to extend the opportunity to participate in this venture to all taxi operators who can meet the necessary quality standards. A PDM government will work with our hoteliers to find common ground on this issue so that more of our taxi operators can benefit from these service offerings."

The PDM said the issue of illegal taxi operators was also a central point of discussion, especially in Grace Bay, a prominent hub for tourist activity.

"Ensuring fairness in the industry is of utmost importance. While we recognize the need for individuals to earn a living, it's crucial to emphasize that regulations are in place to safeguard the interests of all stakeholders. Under a PDM government, we will enforce these regulations and work to ensure that illegal operators are given a pathway to legitimize their operation, the PDM added.

It further stated: "Taxi operators also emphasized that their rates should not be solely dictated by the traffic department. Instead, they believe that rates should be determined based on a range of factors, including fuel costs, maintenance expenses, and other fees associated with their business operations.

This approach would ensure that pricing reflects the actual costs of providing their services and is fair to both the taxi operators and their customers.

"The PDM wishes to assure members of the various taxi associations in the TCI that we will continue to listen to your concerns as you are a vital part of our economy.

"We also call on the Traffic Department to meet with taxi operators to discuss these and other important matters affecting this group," the PDM further stated.

It said the quality of taxi stands at the Howard Hamilton International Airport was much to be desired.

"Taxi drivers have voiced their concerns regarding the existing conditions, and the PDM strongly advocates for the construction of a new, purpose-built facility. This facility should not only be equipped to meet the needs of taxi drivers but also includes amenities such as restrooms, kitchen/lunch room, and a comfortable sitting area.

"Meeting a taxi driver is one of the first points of contact for tourist visiting the TCI and we must ensure that we provide a good working environment for them. Such a facility should be part of the airport redevelopment plan.

"The PDM remains committed to representing all stakeholders in the tourism industry and will keep the government accountable to the people's interest," the PDM noted.

# CIBC First Caribbean Sells Its Banking Assets In Curacao and St. Maarten



FirstCaribbean International Bank Limited has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, FirstCaribbean International Bank (Cayman) Limited ("FCIB Cayman"), has agreed to sell its banking assets in Curaçao and St. Maarten to the Curaçao-based Orco Bank.

The transactions are subject to regulatory approval, including from the Cayman Islands Monetary Agency, the Central Bank of Barbados, and the Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint. Maarten, and are expected to be finalized in the coming months.

Orco Bank was established in 1986. Originally focused on offshore activities, bond trading, and investment banking, the bank has now broadened its scope to deliver banking products and services to individuals and businesses in the region.

Orco Bank offers an extensive range of banking solutions designed to meet the unique needs of personal customers. These include a variety of account options such as current accounts and savings accounts, as well as credit and debit card choices. The bank also provides flexible financing options with mortgages, personal loans, and car loans, along with insurance brokerage services.

In announcing that Orco and CIBC FirstCaribbean had reached agreement on the terms of the transaction, CIBC FirstCaribbean's Chief Executive Officer, Mark St. Hill, noted that: "these transactions are the final ones in our programme of country divestitures that began in 2021 with the sale of our assets in Aruba and some of our OECS territories.

"This programme began as part of our strategy

to enable CIBC FirstCaribbean to optimize and simplify its business, further enhance efficiency and focus on core markets to accelerate growth. When these divestitures are completed, it will allow our bank to turn its full attention to growing our business, consolidating our position in our core markets and optimizing our strategy of providing a second-to-none omni-channel banking service to our clients."

St. Hill added: "A decision to leave a market is never an easy one but we are certain that we are leaving our clients with a competent team, led by Edward Pietersz and Desiree Alberto-Martina of Orco Bank, who will focus on delivering a personalized service and an enhanced customer experience to its customers, to ensure high compliance standards, and portfolio management, to conform with guidelines and regulations of the Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten (CBCS)."

"Acquiring CIBC FirstCaribbean's banking assets presents an excellent opportunity for Orco Bank," states Edward Pietersz, Managing Director, and CEO of Orco Bank. "We are thrilled to welcome new customers and remain dedicated to delivering superior service to both our existing and new clientele. With an expanded reach, we are well-positioned to fulfil our mission of being the preferred partner, offering innovative, customer-driven solutions that enable financial freedom in a responsible and sustainable manner while creating shared value for our communities. Both banks are working diligently to ensure a seamless transition for CIBC FirstCaribbean's customers."

These transactions are not expected to have a material impact on CIBC FirstCaribbean's Tier I and Total Capital ratios.

## CTO Announces Theme and Social Media Showcase for Caribbean Tourism Month 2023

### CARIBBEAN TOURISM MONTH 2023

#### ONE CARIBBEAN: INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE, PROTECTING OUR PLANET, PROSPERITY FOR ALL

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has declared the theme for this year's Caribbean Tourism Month in November as "One Caribbean: Investing in Our People, Protecting Our Planet, Prosperity for All".

The 2023 theme echoes the sentiments of the

recently concluded 2023 World Tourism Day, focusing on "Investing in People, Planet and Prosperity", underscoring the interconnectedness and the shared future of Caribbean nations and territories.

In a dynamic region renowned for its vibrant culture, beaches, rivers, majestic waterfalls and warm hospitality, Caribbean Tourism Month 2023 is set for another landmark celebration that not only highlights the scenic beauty and diverse cultures of the Caribbean but also emphasizes the importance of sustainable development and investment in human capital.

Secretary-General and CEO Dona Regis-Prosper remarked, "This year's theme, 'One Caribbean: Investing in Our People, Protecting Our Planet, Prosperity for All', reflects our deep-rooted commitment to fostering an environment that nurtures our people's gifts, talents and abilities, safeguards our natural resources, and promotes sustainable prosperity as a goal for every man, woman and child," she said. She continued: "We believe that the path to sustainable tourism and inclusive growth lies through concerted efforts in these critical areas."

Throughout November, the CTO will showcase

the unique attributes of each of its 25-member destinations across its social media platforms. Designed to celebrate the diversity and resilience of the Caribbean, this campaign offers a window into the rich cultural tapestry and the majestic natural environments of CTO members. The hashtag for the campaign is #OneCaribbean.

Regis-Prosper added, "Our social media showcase is more than just a promotional activity. It's a canvas for storytelling, sharing the narratives of our people, the custodians of our planet, and the architects of our shared prosperity. It will be a testament to the distinct yet unified spirit that comprises our Caribbean region."

CTO invites residents, travelers, industry stakeholders, and the global community to join this month-long celebration. Through engagement, exploration, and shared dialogues, Caribbean Tourism Month 2023 aims to strengthen the bonds within the Caribbean community, encourage responsible travel, and showcase the myriad opportunities for investment and collaborative growth within the region.

For further information about the Caribbean Tourism Organization, visit [www.onecaribbean.org](http://www.onecaribbean.org).

# NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> & Chill

## Spring Word Scramble

URLMLBAE

---

TSFUETREIBL

---

REFWOSL

---

SNUYN

---

UTISLP

---

NHSIUNES

---

LSBMOOS

---

BAORIWN

---

NICPCI

---

GENRDA

---

9. Picnic 10. Garden

5. Tulips 6. Sunshine 7. Blossom 8. Rainbow

1. Umbrella 2. Butterflies 3. Flowers 4. Sunny

## Brain Teaser

I can be short and sometimes hot. When displayed, I rarely impress. What am I?

Answer: Temper

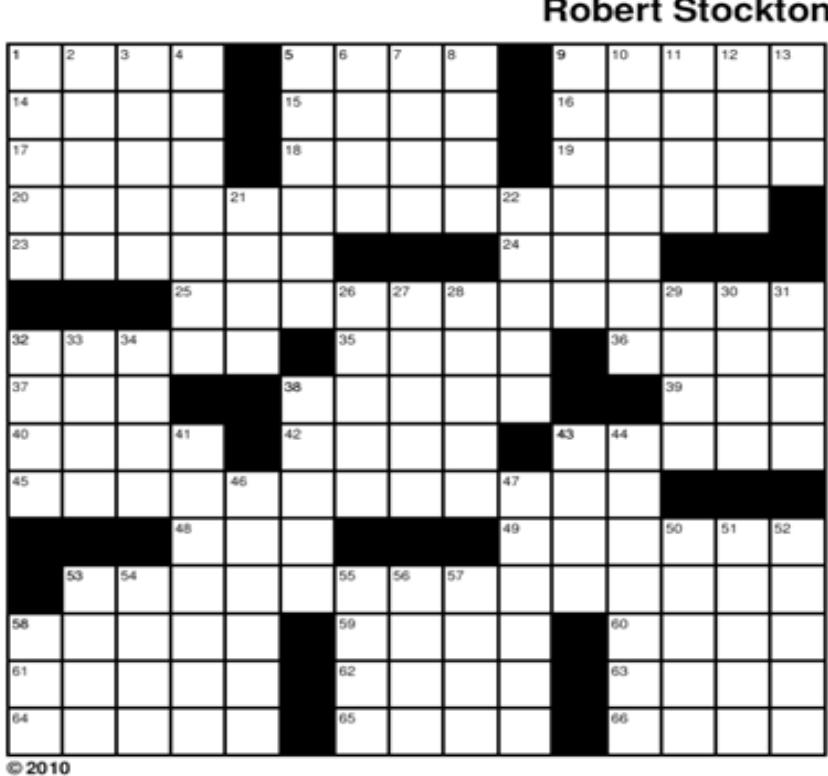
## The Wrath of....

### ACROSS

1. He may cross the line
5. Literary Finn
9. Divide
14. Desire
15. Eye with desire
16. Desire
17. Made mad
18. "Kaboom!"
19. Loosen up
20. CON
23. Affirm at the altar
24. Liza Doolittle's dwelling
25. CON
32. Drilled
35. Domain of Eos
36. Put to flight
37. Hollywood Gardner
38. Stan's comedic pal
39. Former fort near Salinas
40. "99 Luftballons" singer
42. Freshman, typically
43. Dates with a Dr., perhaps
45. CON
48. Word with go or by
49. Recited in rhyme, perhaps
53. CON
58. Tartan garment
59. "Night Sins" author Tami
60. SASE, typically
61. Dancer's support
62. Fit
63. "Dollhouse" heroine
64. Jerk
65. Mexican sauce
66. Eye affliction

### DOWN

1. Sends to stores
2. Jazz Chick
3. Rich Little's trade
4. Place for a glasses case
5. Rub elbows
6. Unpleasant-sounding citrus



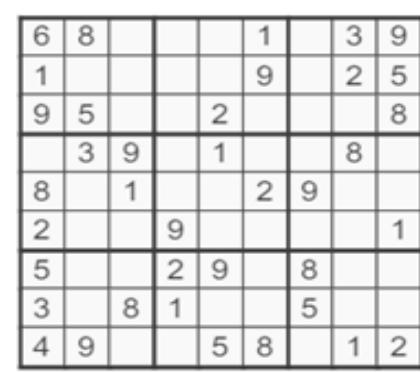
7. They may have their own tartan
8. 1996 VP candidate
9. Cut corners
10. Factory configurations
11. "Mission: Impossible" composer Schifrin
12. "Meatballs" director Reitman
13. Popular cowboy nickname
21. Was laid low by a high?
22. Broadcasting pioneer Arledge
26. Jung contemporary
27. Yarns
28. "Dallas" family name
29. "Breakfast for Dinner" eatery
30. \_\_\_\_ cloud (home for comets)
31. Assents
32. "Kaboom!"
33. Out's partner
34. Punjabi princess
38. SNL alum, Cheri
41. Surreptitious romances
43. Love personified
44. Jazz-men Ellis and Russell
46. Type of bicycle
47. High point
50. Color lightly
51. Like wool sweaters, for some
52. Daphnis's love
53. Response to a rake
54. Legal opening?
55. Imitation
56. Bindlestiff
57. Eden event
58. NOVA network

Warbler  
Hummingbird  
Vireo  
Gnatcatcher  
Osprey  
Gull  
Tern  
Cattle egret

Dowitcher  
Mangrove cuckoo  
Bananaquit  
Brown pelican  
Stilts  
Sanderling  
Green heron

## Birds Seen In TCI

O S C L N N R T S X W B D R  
O A L A D O J E V T R J E V  
K N Y N T B R K L O L H T D  
C D R E Q T B E W B C I O T  
U E R N R Y L N H T R W T B  
C R L I B P P E A N I A A S  
E L N L B E S C E T E N W Y  
V I R R L G T O C G A E V M  
O N D I E A N H L N R I R X  
R G C L N T E I A M R E M G  
G A G G J R R Q M E T R T Z  
N M U K N R U Y O M M D V B  
A W L B M I P K N J U M N P  
M R L T T D N K M P Y H V L



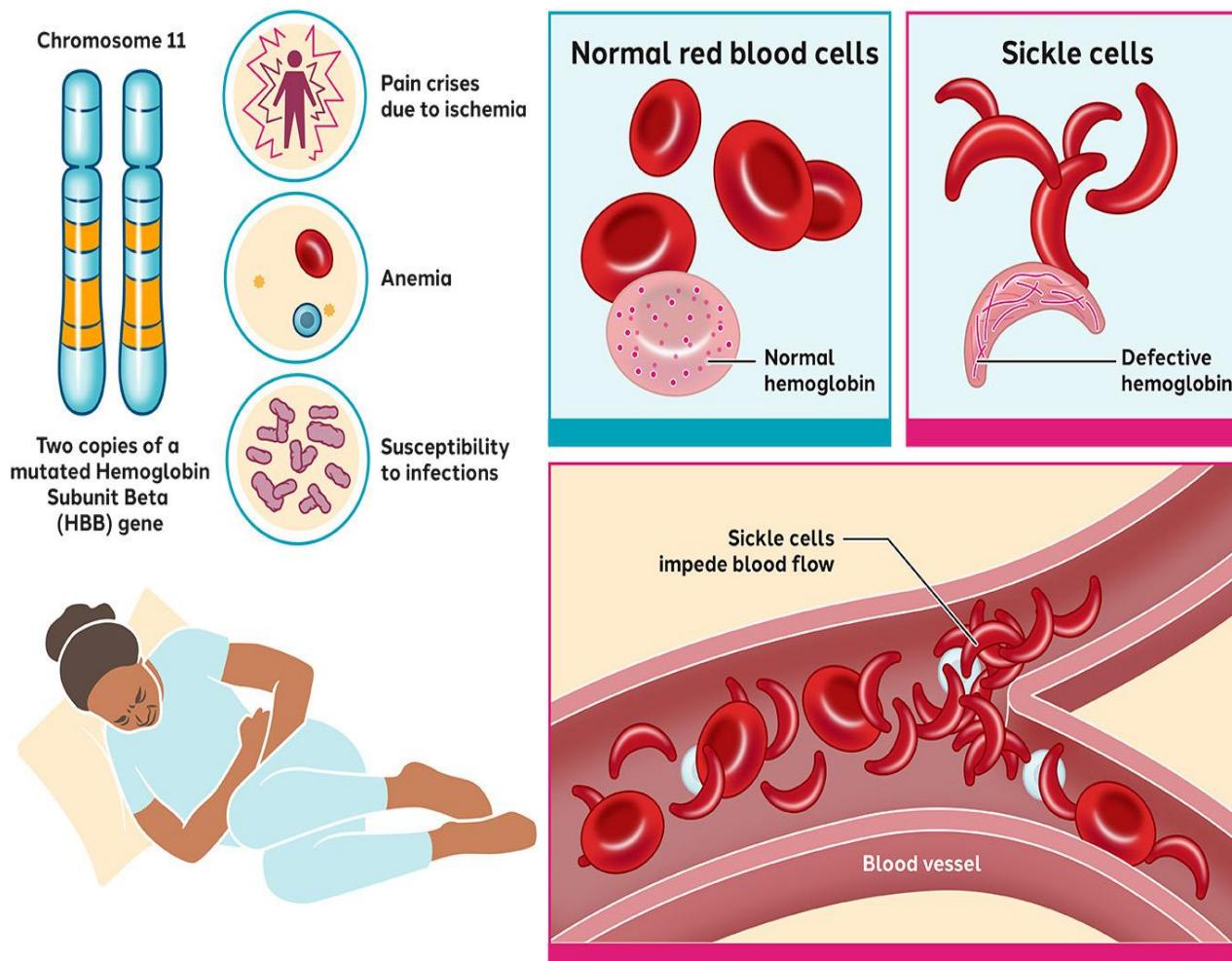
## Joke of the WEEK

I went down the street to a 24-hour grocery store. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey! The sign says you're open 24 hours." He Said, "Yes, but not in a row!"

## SUDOKU

# A new cure for sickle cell disease may be coming

## What is Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)?



The only cure for painful sickle cell disease today is a bone marrow transplant. But soon there may be a new cure that attacks the disorder at its genetic source.

On Tuesday, advisers to the Food and Drug Administration will review a gene therapy for the inherited blood disorder, which in the U.S. mostly affects Black people. Issues they will consider include whether more research is needed into possible unintended consequences of the treatment.

If approved by the FDA, it would be the first gene therapy on the U.S. market based on CRISPR, the gene editing tool that won its inventors the Nobel Prize in 2020.

The agency is expected to decide on the treatment in early December, before taking up a different sickle cell gene therapy later that month. Dr. Allison King, who cares for children and young adults with sickle cell disease, said she's enthusiastic about the possibility of new treatments.

"Anything that can help relieve somebody with this condition of the pain and the multiple health complications is amazing," said King, a professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "It's horribly painful. Some people will say it's like being stabbed all over."

The disorder affects hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. A genetic mutation causes the cells to become cres-

cent-shaped, which can block blood flow and cause excruciating pain, organ damage, stroke and other problems.

Millions of people around the world, including about 100,000 in the U.S., have the disease. It occurs more often among people from places where malaria is or was common, like Africa and India, and is also more common in certain ethnic groups, such as people of African, Middle Eastern and Indian descent. Scientists believe being a carrier of the sickle cell trait helps protect against severe malaria.

Current treatments include medications and blood transfusions. The only permanent solution is a bone marrow transplant, which must come from a closely matched donor without the disease and brings a risk of rejection.

No donor is required for the one-time gene therapy, "exa-cel," made by Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics. This new treatment involves permanently changing DNA in a patient's blood cells.

The goal is to help the body go back to producing a fetal form of hemoglobin — which is naturally present at birth but then switches to an adult form that's defective in people with sickle cell disease.

When patients undergo the treatment, stem cells are removed from their blood and CRISPR is used to knock out the switching gene. Patients get medicines to kill off other flawed blood-pro-

ducing cells and then are given back their own altered stem cells.

The treatment has been tested in a relatively small number of patients thus far, the nonprofit Institute for Clinical and Economic Review said in an evidence report.

In a briefing document released Friday before the advisory committee meeting, Vertex said 46 people got the treatment in the pivotal study. Of 30 who had at least 18 months of follow-up, 29 were free of pain crises for at least a year and all 30 avoided being hospitalized for pain crises for that long.

The company called the treatment "transformative" and said it has "a strong safety profile."

Victoria Gray, of Mississippi, the first patient to test the treatment, shared her experience with researchers at a scientific conference earlier this year. She described suffering with terrible bouts of pain since childhood and receiving high-dose pain medications and sometimes blood transfusions. She described feeling she "was being reborn" the day she got the gene therapy.

Now, she's able to run around with her kids and work a full-time job. "My children no longer have a fear of losing their mom to sickle cell disease," she said.

But the FDA is asking an outside panel of gene therapy experts next week to discuss a lingering issue that often comes up when discussing CRISPR: the possibility of "off-target effects," which are unexpected, unwanted changes to a person's genome. The FDA is looking for advice on whether the company's research on such effects was adequate to assess the risk or whether additional studies are needed. While the agency doesn't have to follow the group's advice, it often does.

If the treatment is allowed on the market, the company has proposed a post-approval safety study, product labeling outlining potential risks and continuing research.

The FDA is expected to decide on the second gene therapy for sickle cell, made by Bluebird Bio, before the end of the year. Bluebird's treatment works differently. It aims to add functional copies of a modified gene, which helps red blood cells produce "anti-sickling" hemoglobin that prevents or reverses misshapen cells.

The companies have not released potential prices for either therapy, but the institute report said prices up to around \$2 million would be cost-effective. By comparison, research earlier this year showed medical expenses for current sickle cell treatments, from birth to age 65, add up to about \$1.6 million for women and \$1.7 million for men.

King, the St. Louis doctor, acknowledged the new treatments would be expensive. "But if you think about it," she said, "how much is it worth for someone to feel better and not be in pain and not be in the hospital all the time?"

# Pro-Palestinian protesters descend on Senate, interrupt Blinken testimony, demand 'cease-fire now'



Protesters repeatedly interrupted Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday as he delivered testimony to a Senate committee on the administration's emergency funding request for Israel and Ukraine.

As Blinken sought to give opening remarks, the demonstrators called for a "cease-fire now" and accused the U.S. of supporting a "massacre" in Gaza, which has been under bombardment from Israel since Hamas launched a surprise attack on the nation in early October.

Victims of the assault were executed, bound and burned alive, and other bodies were found decapitated. Approximately 1,400 Israelis were killed and more than 200 people were kidnapped. Israel responded to the shocking attack with airstrikes in the Gaza Strip that the Hamas-run health ministry says have claimed the lives of 8,525 Palestinians.

"Save the children of Gaza," an unidentified protester shouted. "Cease-fire now. Where is your pride in America."

Another protester yelled as he was led out of the room by security: "Stop the brutal massacre."

The group of more than a dozen demonstrators, who appeared to be part of the activist group CODEPINK, raised their hands in the air, and held up several signs including one that said, "All the walls have got to go." Their hands were painted red. Protesters also chanted in unison, "From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have got to go."

Blinken eventually finished his testimony. Committee

chair Patty Murray, D-Wash., suspended the hearing briefly, before Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin began his opening remarks, so Capitol Police could clear the hearing room.

The interruptions during a Senate Appropriations Committee were evidence of the challenges facing the Biden administration as it seeks congressional approval for a historic \$106 billion aid package that provides support to Israel and Ukraine and humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip. The money would also help to replenish U.S. weapons stockpiles and modernize equipment. Blinken told the committee that the U.S. had stressed to Israel to act in accordance with international humanitarian law and to take all possible measures to avoid civilian casualties.

## Senators press on Gaza Strip assistance

Biden asked Congress for more than \$61.4 billion for Ukraine, roughly half of which would go toward replacing equipment the U.S. has sent the nation to defend itself against Russia, and \$14.3 billion for Israel.

He is also requesting money for U.S. border security, the administration's efforts to counter China and humanitarian assistance, including for the people of the Gaza Strip.

Senators pressed Blinken on Tuesday on the delivery of humanitarian aid and whether it was being diverted by Hamas, the militant group that governs over the Gaza Strip.

The secretary of state said the U.S. has not received reports from the United Nations or Israel of diversions

and it is tracking the situation closely.

U.S. Capitol Police officers remove a protester from a hearing as Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Capitol Police officers remove a protester from a hearing as Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

More than 50 trucks of relief are entering the Gaza Strip, he said, and the U.S. is seeking to raise that to 100 trucks by the end of this week. But aid organizations previously sent 500-800 trucks a day in, Blinken testified.

"Can I promise you and this committee that there will be 100% delivery to the designated recipients? No. There will inevitably be some spillage," Blinken said. "The overwhelming – overwhelming majority of the assistance thus far is getting to people who need it. And we need more."

The U.S. has provided \$1.6 billion in assistance to the Palestinians over the course of the administration, he said, and it is pushing its partners and allies to step up their support.

U.S. opposes a cease-fire in Israel-Hamas war  
The U.S. has opposed a cease-fire but says it could support temporary humanitarian "pauses" that would allow aid to flow into certain communities and hostages and civilians to leave the country safely.

Israel says that approximately 240 people are being held hostage by Hamas. The U.S. has said that at least 10 Americans are among the captives.

Blinken shared in gruesome detail the slaughter of civilians, including families and children, in Israel by militants during the Oct. 7 attack as he reaffirmed U.S. support for Israel's military defense.

"No nation could tolerate that," he said of the slaying.

Biden administration pushes for Ukraine

Republicans in the House of Representatives are pursuing legislation that breaks out assistance to Israel from the rest of Biden's request. The approach runs counter to the Senate's strategy and the Biden administration's push for additional military assistance for Ukraine, which is running low.

Blinken told senators that if the U.S. does not continue to provide assistance to Ukraine, Russia could potentially fire on a NATO member state next, drawing America's military into the war.

"We are much better sustaining our effort now, seeing this to success, than having to pay a much higher price later," Blinken said.

Ukraine has been able to regain 50% of the territory that Russia initially occupied, Austin said in his testimony. He argued that they "have made remarkable progress."

## GOP wants answers on Iran

GOP Senators were especially forceful in their questioning on Iran and the administration's response to drone and rocket attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

The U.S. struck two facilities linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its affiliates in Syria last week.

Austin said the U.S. will do what is "necessary" to protect American troops and interests. He emphasized that the Pentagon had moved assets to the region to serve as a deterrent.

"The president has been clear, and I have been clear... if this doesn't stop, then we will respond," Austin said.

"We maintain the right to respond, we have the capability to do that, and we will respond at a time and place of our choosing."

# ALGTHS Are Boys National Football Champions

By Vivian Tyson



General Secretary for the TCIFA Oliver Smith (right), shares in a photo moment with the 2023 National Football Champions the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School. At left is Head Coach, Jody Pusey

A magnificent display of goalkeeping by eventual Golden Glove winner Edwin Garland vaulted the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School to championship honors in the TCI Sports Commission/Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Inter-High School Boys competition over a shellshocked TCIPS on Saturday at the National Stadium in Providenciales.

The Long Bay school secured the title with a close 4-3 on penalty shootout win, thanks to Garland's heroics, after both teams had played to a 1-1 scoreline at the end of regulation time. Victorious coach Jody Pusey lauded his boys for delivering the championship, stating that sticking to the game-plan was the result of the triumph.

"First, I want to thank God for bringing us out here safely, and to achieve this victory," Pusey

said. "On the field of play, we just stuck to the plan, be an organized team and got the job done, which led us to be victorious."

He said his charges were well wary of the TCIPS custodian - Emmanuel Harvey - who saved four penalty kicks during the semifinal penalty shootout against Maranatha Academy. He said ALGTHS sent out their best kickers to take the penalties.

"We can't underestimate our opponents, we know that they had a very good goalkeeper, and so we sent our most experienced players to deliver our kicks, which they did well, and again, we ended up being victorious," Pusey noted, adding that his team only took small breaks from training throughout the year as they wanted to get better at their craft and gel as a team.



Louise Garland Thomas High School goalkeeper Edwin Garland, accepts the Golden Glove Award from Technical Director of the TCIFA Dane Richie.

"Our season has always started from September and go all the way back to the next September...from one to the other year. So, from one year to the next year we have always been recruiting, developing players, and today's victory is the product of our programme," Pusey said.

It was TCIPS who broke the deadlock in the 28th minute, when their number 16 player Ancy Dawens buried a ferocious left footer from the left side of the field.

However, during the celebration they were conceded against. Referee Omar Edwards signaled the restart of the game, as TCIPS prolonged their celebration, resulting in the ALGTHS number 9 player Idelin Gardiner, shooting from the center circle into an empty goal. Protest from the players and the bench went on deaf ears, and it was all to play for again.

Both teams pressed to break the deadlock, with ALGTHS getting the better chances, but muffed them each time, allowing the TCIPS defenders to recover and clear.

The expectation was that Gardiner, who was magnificent against Maranatha in the penalty shootout, would replicate his sterling performance in the final but rather it was the reverse, as he saved only one kick, while his ALGTHS counterpart blocked two.

Gardiner was also named MVP for his team in final, while Dawens was the TCIPS MVP.

It was a three-way tie for the golden boot. The trophy was shared by Idelin Gardiner of ALGHS, Joseph Alandy of TCIPS and Fedenslove Delsonna HJ Robinson High School.

Marco Williams of Marjorie Basden High School was adjudged the league's MVP.



# 17 Local Coaches Earn National Coaching Certification



In a recent development, seventeen local coaches in the Turks and Caicos Islands have achieved 'National Coaches Certification' following their successful completion of a three-day Track and Field Coaches' Course.

This program, funded by the Turks and Caicos Sports Commission, was designed to equip these coaches with the knowledge and skills needed to analyze and implement training programs aimed at enhancing the performance of athletes in various track and field disciplines.

The course was organized and conducted by the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletics Association (TCAAA) and was led by David Riley, the National Technical Director for the Jamaica Under 20 Track and Field Programme.

Riley, an accomplished level five world athletics coach specializing in sprints, hurdles, and relays,

is also actively involved in coaching at Excelsior High School and Community College. Additionally, he owns and operates "The Techniques Lab," a facility that offers analytical assessments for athletes, identifying muscle weakness, technical deficiencies, and imbalances. The primary objective of the course was to ed-



David Riley (left), carrying coaches and athletes through the process.

ucate coaches from all across the Turks and Caicos Islands on various aspects of coaching. Key topics covered during the training included:

- Identifying Athlete Competence: Coaches were taught how to evaluate an athlete's abilities and determine the most suitable track and field event for each individual.
- Periodization: The course emphasized planning training cycles based on the time of year, ensuring that athletes' training regimens are well-structured and aligned with their competitive seasons.

- Constructing Training Programs: Coaches learned how to design effective and tailored training programs that cater to the specific needs and goals of their athletes.
- Facilitating Athlete Peaking: The course explored techniques to help athletes reach their peak performance levels during competitions and important events.
- Transitioning Junior to Senior Athletes: Coaches were educated on the strategies and considerations involved in transitioning junior athletes to the senior level.

National Track and Field Coach, Randy Ford, addresses the seminar.



Edith Skippings (right), President of the TCAA, presents Coach Kayla Mills with her certification. At left is Alvin Parker, Deputy Director of the Sports Commission.

The certification of the local coaches was based on their active participation in both theory and practical sessions. The practical component included working with volunteer student athletes from Clement Howell High School, providing coaches with valuable hands-on experience. David Riley encouraged the certified coaches to apply their newly acquired knowledge to improve both themselves and the athletes they work with, ultimately elevating the standard of track and field in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Importantly, the entire budget for this course was covered by a grant from the TCI Sport Commission, highlighting the commitment to enhancing sports coaching and performance within the region. The successful completion of the National Coaches Certification is expected to have a positive impact on the development of track and field in the Turks and Caicos Islands, nurturing local talent and potentially producing top-level athletes in the future.

# ALGTHS REIGN SUPREME

Long Bay school crowned Inter-High Boys Football Champs

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