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**RAPE SUSPECT GETS  
JUNE 7 SUFFICIENCY  
HEARING DATE - G4**



**600 HOUSES  
ANNUALLY -  
PG11**

**SEE  
PAGE 5**

**MULTI-  
MILLION  
DOLLAR  
MAKEOVER**



- **Millennium Highway to get 4-Lane Highway**
- **Road Upgrade to Cost \$1.8M**

# Celeb Chef Introduces New Peruvian Menu at SUI-REN

The SUI-REN Restaurant at the Shore Club Resort on Providenciales was the place to be on Saturday, April 27, where Celebrity Chef Devan Rajkumer, was the toast of the evening as he featured his new menu to that restaurant. SUI-REN is affectionately known for the Japanese Peruvian cuisine, and this new menu features more dishes inspired by the famed chef, who is the author of the recently released cookbook, *Mad Love*. Devan specializes in Peruvian Fare, and has raised the bar introducing tantalizing dishes, such as creative ceviche dishes, sushi rolls with Peruvian spices and other traditional Peruvian dishes. The private launch was a private launch and a sneak peek of the new menu which officially launched the following day at the restaurant.





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# Man Charged with Rape Gets June 7 Sufficiency Hearing Date

Accused rapist Elvethan McFarlan Handfield



The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has charged Elvethan McFarlan Handfield, a 47-year-old male from Glass Shack, Providenciales, with two counts of rape.

Handfield was denied bail during his appearance before a Magistrate on April 29th and is set to reappear in court on June 7th, 2024, for a Sufficiency Hearing. The charges stem from a report made by a female victim on April 20th, 2024. According to police reports, the victim boarded a jitney on April 19th, 2024, which took her to a residence in Glass Shack where she was sexually assaulted. The assailant dropped the victim off at

another location the following day. Following the victim's report, an investigation was launched by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit. They are urging anyone who may have relevant information or who may have been affected by similar incidents to come forward.

Individuals with information pertinent to the investigation are encouraged to contact the police at the Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit at 232-6696 or the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at 338-4013. All calls will be handled with sensitivity and confidentiality.

## TCI Red Cross to Celebrate 'Red Cross Month' with Month-Long Fundraising Activities

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, observed annually on May 8, pays tribute to the unwavering dedication of volunteers and the lasting influence of humanitarian efforts worldwide.

This significant day commemorates the birth of Henry Dunant, the visionary behind the Red Cross movement. Dunant's groundbreaking idea involved establishing national relief societies comprised of volunteers who would receive training during peacetime. Their mission: to offer neutral and impartial aid in times of war and crisis.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross (TCIRC), a vital part of this global humanitarian network, continues to make a difference in the lives of those affected by crises. "Keeping Humanity Alive": This year's powerful theme serves as a poignant reminder of the unwavering dedication of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Their commitment extends to upholding human dignity, alleviating suffering, and providing crucial assistance to those facing dire circumstances, especially in remote and hard-to-reach regions.

As we mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, let's recognize the commitment and service of our Turks and Caicos Islands' 200 + volunteers to alleviating suffering and promoting community resilience throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

### Red Cross Month Activities

Community Outreach on All Islands: We'll coordinate community outreach programs on each

of the islands. Our volunteers will focus on raising awareness about health, disaster preparedness, and hygiene when engaging with the community.

### First Aid Training Workshops

Wednesday 8th May 2024, 5pm to 7pm Community First Aid Workshop at Red Cross Building, Sunshine Plaza, 1005 Leeward Highway, Providenciales. Our first aid instructors will conduct first aid training sessions for community members.

This workshop empowers people with life-saving skills, such as CPR, wound care, and handling emergencies.

### Fundraising

Various fundraising events are organized to support our humanitarian work. Lady Grace Sunset Cruise (May 18th): The Lady Grace Saxophone Sunset Cruise on May 18th will be a memorable event. We'll set

sail, enjoy the beautiful music and breathtaking views. Funds raised will go towards supporting our first aid program.

### Dress in Red Day (May 31st):

On May 31st, we'll encourage everyone to participate in "Dress in Red Day." Islanders, businesses, schools, and organizations can wear red attire to show solidarity with the humanitarian cause. Let's flood the streets, workplaces, and schools with the vibrant color of compassion and support.

### The 3rd Annual Red Hot Challenge

You are invited to participate or attend this fun and vibrant sporting event scheduled for June 1, 2024, at the National Stadium in Providencia-

les. This event brings together individuals, businesses, and the community to support the Red Cross and its humanitarian efforts.

Here are the key details:

1. Date and Time: Saturday, June 1st, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
2. Location: National Stadium, Providenciales
3. Competitions: A total of 20 competitions, including 10 non-athletic games and 10 athletic contests
4. Activities: Participants can enjoy a range of activities such as spoon relay races, egg tosses, water balloon tosses, sprints, tug-of-war, arm wrestling, soccer kicks, and more
5. Team Participation: Both individuals and corporate teams are welcome. Teams can enter for \$1,000 each, with a maximum of 10 participants permitted
6. General Admission: Attendees can join in for a \$5 general admission fee, while children aged 12 and under enjoy free entry (accompanied by an adult).

As we celebrate Red Cross month this May we urge you to participate in our activities and consider registering as a volunteer and/or making a donation.

To volunteer visit our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/turksandcaicosislandsredcross?mibextid=ZbWKwL> or website: <https://www.redcross.org.tc>.

Donations can be directed to our account at FCIB (account number: 10305747) on Islehelp or on our website.

Let's support and salute our Red Cross volunteers who are actively 'Keeping Humanity Alive'.

# Blue Hills, Wheeland To Get four-lane Highway

By Vivian Tyson Editor-in-Chief



Deputy Premier and Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Jamell Robinson (centre) is photographed with his ministry team on Thursday, after the Media Luncheon at the One Season Plaza.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Jamell Robinson has announced that the Millennium Highway in Providenciales is to become a four-lane thoroughfare in short order.

At a media luncheon at the ONE SEASON PLAZA in Grace Bay on Thursday, 2 May 2024, the deputy premier and his team representing the various departments within that ministry, updated the media on the throng of capital and projects that either are already on stream or coming on stream shortly. This announcement should come as good news for the residents of Blue Hills and Wheeland, who, for the past several years have been experiencing traffic nightmares coming out of the general area in the morning and returning in the evening.

Specifically speaking on the Millennium Highway improvement, Minister Robinson revealed that that road corridor will be one of the thoroughfares earmarked for upgrading and, or rehabilitation.

He pointed out that the Millennium Highway expansion will be done in two phases. He pointed out that the first phase will begin at the entrance of the area located Downtown Providenciales and stop at the entrance of Bay Road in Blue Hills. He further explained that the second phase will begin at the Bay Road entrance and end at the end of the Millennium Highway in Wheeland.

"Millennium Highway is to turn into a four-lane highway. It will start from the Downtown Round-a-Bout straight down to the entrance of Bay Road. From that point, it will a four-lane highway. Now, that is phase one. We will continue straight along to the end of the Millennium Highway," the deputy premier said.

The Deputy Premier revealed that the value of phase one is just shy of \$2m, pointed out that Cabinet has advanced the expansion of the roadway.

"The value of phase one of the Millennium Highway Project is approximately \$1.8M. The tender has been noted in Cabinet and we are working to have a contract executed. Hopefully works will commence by mid-summer," Deputy Premier Robinson said.

He further pointed out that the Grand Turk Sports Complex is near completion, reminding that the NJS Francis Building, which houses the House of Assembly, after more than five years, have been completed recently.

He stated the West Road and Pond Street Bridges are near completion, pointing out that road-surfacing in West Road has begun, which forms part of government's Ponds, Bridges and Road Project. He said the Prison Road in Grand Turk has already completed, stating that the improvement work at

the HJ Robinson High School, which includes draining and fixing of the parking lot is in high gear.

"We have a number of road projects which are happening now valued more than \$4 million," Robinson said, stating that the number of roads that government aims to resurface or expand this fiscal year stands about 18.

The Minister pointed out that the Leeward Highway in Providenciales is also to undergo repaving exercise, and a number of community roads are to get expansive makeovers.

Recently making his contribution to the budget debate, Robinson told the country that in the last financial year, government efforts yielded much success through the following initiatives:

#### GRAND TURK:

- Construction of two (2) gazebos to the amount of \$80,000.00
- Construction of Lunch Shed at HJRHS to the amount of \$86,869.00
- RFP for the beatification of the Grand Turk sign to the amount of \$37,560.00
- Verge Cleaning works in the amount of \$90K

#### SALT CAY:

- Construction of fencing around landfill/dump site to the amount of \$98k.
- Verge cleaning: \$37K
- Works to water depot: \$9K
- Back-up Generator R.O Plant: \$214K
- Deans Dock Repairs: \$70k
- Gazebo- North District: \$52,500.00
- Gazebo- South District: \$47,501.00
- Refurbishment of pool area - Duncombe Point- \$9,325.00
- Garbage receptacles x 4- \$36,582.00
- Duncombe point \$8,895.00
- Hurricane Shelter- \$9,449.00
- Airport- \$9,298.00
- Dean's Dock- \$8,940.00
- Fencing to Salt Cay Clinic- \$5.849.85
- Refurbishment works to Salt Shed \$70k

#### SOUTH CAICOS:

- Construction of Boat slip/ramp to the amount of \$46K
- Construction of Drainage cover to the amount of \$36K

#### MIDDLE CAICOS:

- Demolition Works to the amount of \$150K.
- Construction of Sidewalks to the amount of \$382K
- Construction of gazebos to the amount of \$42K
- Construction of boat ramps to the amounts

of \$96K

- Construction of Welcome Sign to the amount of \$45K.

The minister also declared that Government has several new and ambitious projects for the CEP and Capital Projects this year.

#### GRAND TURK

- Grand Turk Market and Welcome Centre - \$2.5M
- Repairs to NJS Francis Park
- Refurbishment of Lester Williams Park
- Community Parks Development – North Back Salina Park
- Refurbishment of West Road Park

#### SALT CAY

- Works to Matthew Canal- Salt Cay- \$800K
- Refurbishment of the Cricket Field- \$250K

#### SOUTH CAICOS

- Improvement to Cockburn Harbour – XSC- \$1M
- Regatta Village- \$1M
- Conch Ground- \$1.5M
- Community Roads- \$1.5M

#### NORTH CAICOS

- Whitby Roads – XNC- \$1.14M
- Renovation of Whitby Community Center- \$50K
- Refurbishment of Hollywood Park- \$40K
- Refurbishment of Horse Stable Beach - \$550K
- Bottle Creek Community Centre- \$3.2M

#### MIDDLE CAICOS:

- Repairs to Lorimers Community Center - \$100K
- Refurbishment of Bambara Community Centre- \$50K
- Bambara Beach Project- \$800K

#### PROVIDENCIALES:

- Leeward and Long Bay
- Community Roads- \$350K
- Upgrade to Leeward Palms Park- \$85K
- Develop Long Bay Walking Park- \$100K
- Speed Tables- \$50K

#### THE BIGHT

- Speed Tables- \$50K
- Construction of Sidewalks \$100K
- Tower Drive Kids Park- \$100K
- Community Parks Development – Juba Sound- \$85K
- Upgrade the Bight Community Park- \$650K
- Community Centre- Bight- \$1.5M

#### CHESHIRE HALL

- Community Roads- \$400K
- Speed Tables- \$75K
- Construction of Sidewalks \$200K
- Refurbishment of Gustavus Lightbourne Complex- \$1.2M

#### BLUE HILLS

- Clementina and Fuller Walkin Park- \$550K
- Community Parks Development –Blue Hills
- Multipurpose court, kids shaded area, fencing lighting and parking- \$150K
- Water Connections- \$100K
- Construction of Community Entrance Signs \$150K
- Mobile Clinic- Blue Hills- \$450K

#### FIVE CAYS

- Beautification to Main Entrance to Five Cays – \$100K
- Sidewalks- Chalk Sound- \$250K
- Sapodilla Bay Beach Project- \$850K

#### WHEELAND AND WEST CAICOS

- Awarded/Commenced or Completed
- Recreational Pavilion- \$500K
- Construction of Community Entrance Signs \$100K

# The key to China's strong economic growth

China's just-released economic report for the first quarter of 2024 has shown that gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 5.3 per cent year on year, value added of high-tech manufacturing increased by 7.5 per cent, investment in fixed assets increased by 4.5 per cent, and investment in high-tech industries increased by 11.4 per cent.

A series of data shows that China's economy has grown fairly quickly, with better quality and greater efficiency, and was off to a flying start this year. The international community is generally optimistic about China's economic development prospects. Goldman Sachs Group and Citibank raised their forecast for China's year-on-year GDP growth this year to 5.0 per cent. Given the weak global economic recovery and overlapping regional conflicts, China's economic growth ranks top among the world's major economies and remains the largest engine of global growth. Many Jamaican friends are keen to discover the key to China's strong economic growth. I believe that new quality productive forces have played an important part.

Based on insights into the world's technological and economic development trends, President Xi Jinping proposed to advance industrial innovation through technological innovation and actively cultivate and develop new quality productive forces. New quality productive forces are different from the traditional economic growth mode and productivity development path. It takes the substantial increase in total factor productivity as its core hallmark.

Marked by innovation, and with high quality as the key, new quality productive forces are advanced productivity in essence. The proposal of new quality productive forces shows that China attaches greater importance to innovation as the first driving force.

China's national research and development (R&D) investment has reached US\$469.01 billion, accounting for 2.64 per cent of GDP in 2023, up from 1.91 per cent in 2012. The to-

tal number of R&D personnel, the number of published scientific papers, and the number of patent applications all rank first in the world. China's Global Innovation Index ranking rose from 29th in 2011 to 12th in 2023.

Technological innovation, like an incubator, creates new industries, new models, and new growth drivers. China has formed strategic emerging industries, including new generation information technology, biotechnology, new energy, new materials, high-end equipment, new energy vehicles, green environmental protection, and other industries. Its output value is expected to account for more than 17 per cent of GDP in 2025.

China's foreign trade exports were previously dominated by clothing, furniture, and home appliances, known as the Old Three. Now they have been upgraded to the "New Three", that is, electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and solar cells. Today, more than half of the electric vehicles on roads worldwide are found in China. In 2023, China's new energy vehicle exports reached 1.203 million units, a year-on-year increase of 77.6 per cent, and China has been catapulted to the world's largest automobile exporter.

China's steadfast pursuit of reform and opening up as well as high-quality development with new quality productive forces adds momentum to the recovery of the global economy. Through high-level opening up, China always shares a bright future with countries around the world, including Jamaica.

By 2023 China became the world's largest exporter and second largest importer for 15 consecutive years. In the first quarter of this year, the total import and export value of China's merchandise trade increased by five per cent year on year.

China's various high-quality products are well received by the international market and the international community has great confidence in the strength of China's supersized market.

For example, more and more Jamaican products have entered the Chinese market, such as Blue Mountain coffee, rum, and lobster, which are popular Jamaican goods in China and welcomed by Chinese consumers.

In recent days, some of my colleagues have been helping our Jamaican friends apply for visas to attend the 135th Canton Fair now under way in China. The scale of this ongoing event has reached a new high, with 680 global firms from 50 countries and regions, of which 64 per cent come from Belt and Road partner countries.

Last year the number of offline participants from Jamaica almost doubled compared to the previous year, and I believe there will be even more this year. China has recently adopted a series of new measures to facilitate people-to-people exchanges with foreign countries. Some Jamaican friends have raised questions about foreigners' mobile payments in China. I believe it will be more convenient for them to travel to China again.

In looking towards the future, China will insist on opening up, building more "Golden Bonds" for win-win cooperation, and sharing China's large market and new development opportunities with the world.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the strategic partnership between China and Jamaica and the signing of the cooperation plan on jointly building the Belt and Road.

Standing at a new historical juncture, China is willing to share its experience in developing new quality productive forces with Jamaica, continue to promote high-quality construction of the Belt and Road, and further deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields to better benefit both countries and their peoples.

Chen Daojiang is the People's Republic of China's ambassador to Jamaica



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

## What is an Ombudsman/Complaints Commissioner?

The Complaints Commissioner is an Ombudsman who is an official appointed to receive, investigate and report on private citizens' complaints about Government.

The word "Ombudsman" dates back to 1809 and is of Swedish origin meaning "grievance person" or "representative". It is used world-wide to designate impartial, confidential and independent offices that were created to ensure balance between the powers of government and its citizenry.

The purpose of the Ombudsman or Complaints Commissioner is to ensure accountability and encourage best practices in the delivery of public services through investigating and resolving complaints from members of the public against a public authority or institution and he or she can make recommendations to secure redress and ensure a fair settlement.

## When was the Complaints Commission Established?

The Office was established in 1994 in the Turks and Caicos Islands for the purpose of assisting aggrieved persons who believe that they have suffered injustices at the hands of Public Officers employed by Government Departments and Statutory Bodies as a result of maladministration.



## Mission Statement

The Office of the Complaints Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Turks and Caicos Islands seeks to investigate complaints of maladministration by Government Departments and Statutory Bodies as stipulated in the Ordinance, promote effectiveness and efficiency within services rendered to the community, educate persons about their rights and duties in a free and democratic society, and provide a service to the public in fairness, justice and without prejudice, so as to promote harmony and good governance in the country.

## What does a Complaints Commissioner do?

The Complaints Commissioner **Receives, Investigates, and Reports.**

The Commissioner receives complaints from members of the public who have been aggrieved by Public Officers, Government Departments, and Statutory Bodies.

These complaints are investigated in a fair and independent manner to ascertain whether injustice has been caused by improper, unreasonable or inadequate government administrative conduct otherwise defined as maladministration.

After the completion of an investigation the Complaints Commissioner sends a report of the investigation to the person who requested the investigation and reports his or her findings along with the necessary recommendations to the relevant government agency.

## Which Person or Authority Governs the Complaints Commission?

The Commissioner is wholly independent of all Government Officials and is appointed by the Governor after consulting with the Premier and Leader of the Opposition.

The office of the Complaints Commission is enshrined under Section 99 of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution.

*"In the exercise of their functions each of the institutions protecting good governance, and any person acting on its instructions or on its behalf, shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority"*

## Who can file a complaint?

Any individual, group of persons or corporations who have been mistreated, aggrieved, or had their complaints improperly dealt with by government agencies may lodge a complaint with the Complaints Commissioner.

The Ombudsman is a small man's institution, proceedings before him are informal, speedy, and **FREE OF COST**. There is no fee for filing a complaint, nor is an Attorney at law required.

## What is Maladministration?

This is the name given to a variety of failures by public officials in handling a citizen's dealings with the state. It could be any of the following listed examples, but may also include others not listed:

- ❖ Unreasonable delay in dealing with any request or application
- ❖ Abuse of power or authority
- ❖ Flawed procedures
- ❖ Failing to give reasons for decisions
- ❖ Courtesy, rudeness
- ❖ Lack of consideration for a person affected by any action
- ❖ Acting with bias, unfairness, neglect
- ❖ Incompetence
- ❖ Arbitrariness
- ❖ Failing to follow through on commitments made
- ❖ Making decisions based wholly or partly on a mistake of law or fact

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

# Cabinet holds First Meeting Since Repair of N.J.S Frances Building



Today's Cabinet Meeting is the first held at the Hon. NJS Francis Building, Pond Street, Grand Turk since 2017. This milestone aligns with the Government's commitment, upon assuming office, to reinstate the Helena Jones Robinson High School's Auditorium for its students and resume operations within the People's House.

From Left to Right (on floor): Minister for Home Affairs, Transportation, Broadcasting, Energy and Utilities and Telecommunications Commission, Hon. Otis Morris; Deputy Premier and Minister of Physical Planning & Infrastructure Development, Hon. Jamell Robinson; Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam; Premier and Minister of Finance, Investment, Trade and Public Policy,

Hon. Charles Washington Misick; From left (On Stairs) Minister of Health & Human Services, Hon. Shaun Malcolm. From Left to Right (above): Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Ms. Mailaka Lightbourne; Minister for Public Safety and Utilities, Hon. Kyle Knowles; Attorney General, Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles; Minister for Education, Labour, Employment & Customer Service. Hon. Rachel Taylor.

The Deputy Governor, H.E. Anya Williams, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Affairs, Culture and Heritage, Agriculture and Religious Affairs, Hon. Josephine Connolly, and the Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, were absent due to attending official business.

## Ashley Adams-Forbes Appointed Director of Social Services



The Office of the Deputy Governor is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Ashley Adams-Forbes to the post of Director of Social Development.

Mrs. Adams-Forbes holds a Master of Social Work Degree from Columbia University in New York City and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of London.

She is well-equipped to lead the Department of Social Development in its mission to support and empower individuals and com-

munities in need, having previously served as the former Deputy Director of the Department of Social Development for nearly eight years from November 2015 to March 2023, before taking up an appointment as Deputy Patient Administration Manager at the TCI Hospitals from April 2023 to March 2024.

During the period of her previous appointment as Deputy Director of Social Development she shared the core responsibility of specialising our core social work services and building staff capacity; specifically spearheading the establishment of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and the Probation and Parole Department, now known as the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Services.

Commenting on her appointment Mrs. Adams-Forbes stated:

"I am honoured to serve my fellow Turks and Caicos Islanders in the capacity of Director of Social Development. I am a champion for children and am passionate about powering our nation, positively impacting the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

When I think about my appointment, I am reminded of the Bible verse, Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, much will be required, and to whom much was handed over, they will ask more." As long as I am in this capacity, I intend always to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people in my community. My unwavering passion for serving and advocating for the vulnerable members of our community has been a driving force behind my work.

In this new role, I intend to oversee the

strategic direction of the Department of Social Development, working to address continued societal ills, strengthen existing programmes and implement innovative initiatives that promote social welfare and enhance the quality of life of all members of our community.

My extensive field experience and academic background in social work and public policy have equipped me with the knowledge and skills necessary to address complex social issues and to implement effective solutions, which I look forward to utilizing in this new role.

Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service Her Excellency Anya Williams in extending congratulatory remarks to Mrs. Ashley Adams-Forbes on her appointment stated:

"It gives me great pleasure to officially congratulate Mrs. Ashley Adams-Forbes on her appointment to the post of the Director of Social Development in the Ministry of Home Affairs and to welcome her back to the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service.

"With a specialized educational background in social work, coupled with her previous work experience, we are certain that Mrs. Adams-Forbes will perform exceptionally well in this new role having previously demonstrated a deep commitment and unwavering passion for social justice, advocacy, and service to those most vulnerable in our society during her previous appointment and wish her well on her new appointment.

"Congratulations and welcome back to the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service Mrs. Adams-Forbes."

# Sandals Corporate University, TCI Community College Augment Caribbean Hospital via MOU Signing



From left: Adam Stewart – Executive Chairman, Sandals Resorts International; Dr. Luz Longsworth – Senior Director, Sandals Corporate University; Hon. Rachel Taylor – Minister of Education; Hon. Washington Misick – Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands; Hon. Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam – Governor for the Turks and Caicos Islands; Hon. Jamell Robinson – Deputy Premier and Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development; Dr. Candice Williams – President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College; and Cheryl-Ann Jones – Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education.

The Sandals Corporate University (SCU) continues to strengthen its reach and impact in the Caribbean and, in doing so, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC).

This two-year agreement will assist the TCICC in strengthening its Hospitality and Tourism programme to build local capacity and develop leadership in the industry from within the Turks and Caicos Islands. The MoU signing is the second of its kind for the SCU in the region, following a recent agreement with the UWI Global Campus.

Held at the Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages and Spa, the ceremony was attended by the Premier of Turks and Caicos, the Hon. Charles Washington Misick, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Tourism, Environment, Heritage, Maritime, Gaming and Disaster Management, the Hon. Josephine Connolly, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International, Adam Stewart, President/CEO of TCICC, Dr. Candice Williams along with other dignitaries and leaders from both SCU and TCICC.

In his keynote address, Honourable Misick articulated the vision behind the partnership between the two entities. "The

partnership between Sandals Corporate University and the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College was conceived with the vision of strengthening the local workforce.

In under four months, we've made remarkable progress. By elevating educational standards and creating job opportunities, we're not just enhancing the Human Development Index (HDI) for the Turks and Caicos; we're building a more efficient economy.

"As we embark on this partnership with Sandals Corporate University, we recognise its transformative potential for our students and our country. Through collaboration, innovation, and shared expertise, we will enhance the quality of education and training and create pathways for our students to excel in their careers and become leaders in the industry," noted Dr. Candice Williams.

In his remarks, Mr. Stewart affirmed the significant role of Sandals Corporate University (SCU) in the region, encouraging team members to embrace it as a catalyst for personal growth and self-improvement.

He also commended the partnership with SCU and TCICC, noting "SCU's commitment to providing internships annually is just a fraction of the exciting opportuni-

ties available through this collaboration."

Honourable Taylor praised the partnership, adding that it represents "a visionary initiative aimed at harnessing our collective strengths to bolster a sector that is vital to our economy. As we formalise this agreement today, we are planting seeds for a future that holds unparalleled opportunities for our students, educators, and the hospitality industry at large."

The SCU will also work with the TCICC to identify subject matter experts from Sandals and Beaches Resorts who will be willing to give guest lectures, provide input into the curriculum being developed for the TCICC's Hospitality and Tourism Management programmes and provide opportunities to promote enrolment of Sandals and Beaches team members in relevant programmes offered at the TCICC.

Additionally, the SCU will endeavour to facilitate the placement of up to 100 interns from TCICC within Sandals and Beaches Resorts per year for work experience and a formal Internship programme for students at various levels. Lastly, the SCU will, where possible, provide the opportunity for TCICC students international certifications through their partnerships with accrediting bodies in all aspects of hospitality management and technical related areas.

# 'Change is Disruptive'

By Vivian Tyson Editor-in-Chief



STEWART... "And there is no one on God's planet that can convince me that this is not God's country..."

Change can be disruptive and causes people to become uneasy, but it is necessary for growth, this according to Executive Chairman for Sandals Resorts International, which includes the Beaches Chain of Hotels, Adams Stewart.

Stewart, who was speaking at the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU Signing) between Sandals Corporate University and the TCI Community College at the Key West Village section of Beaches Resort and Spa.

"As we go forward as a business, as an industry, we have to continue to reinvent. We can't drive the car looking backways," Stewart urged. "There's been more change in the last decade in the evolution of hospitality and how consumers think than there has been in the previous 30, 40 years."

He added: "Things are changing, and change doesn't come easily. So, with change, we have to disrupt. We have to disrupt the way we think. We have to go to a place that we're not very comfortable and evolve and make sure that we stay relevant to the customers so tourism can continue to be, as it has been, the leading industry economically, to allow the people, the people of each of these businesses, but indeed our nationals across the board in any industry to be able to live a better quality of life."

Seated from left are Candice Malcolm – President and CEO of the TCICC; Dr. Barbara Ambrister – Chair for the TCICC; Premier Hon. Washington Misick; Adam Stewart – Executive Chairman for Sandals Resorts International (SRI); Shawn DaCosta- Chief Operating Officer at Sandals Resorts International; Dr. Luz Longsworth, Senior Corporate Director for Sandals Corporate University Back row – Minister of Health Hon. Shaun Malcolm; Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam; Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly; Deputy Premier and Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Jamell Robinson; and Minister of Education Hon, Rachel Taylor.



Stewart told the gathering that while he believes the Turks and Caicos Islands is the most beautiful place on earth, the guests must still be convinced as to why they should vacation in the archipelago, and so, a great deal of reinvention must be done.

"We are trying to convince visitors that if they take their hard-earned money and they come here, that they will have a better experience than going anywhere in the world. And there is no one on God's planet that can convince me that this is not God's country and that this is not the most beautiful part of the entire world.

"So we get up every day, saying how do we outperform, how do we do better by, and what we are doing today is just one more commitment to the Turks and Caicos Islands, to the archipelago of the Caribbean, to the people of the Caribbean, to say everything that we have learned.

"We now want to widen that even further. We want to widen that beyond the team members of Beaches, Turks and Caicos, right into the Turks and Caicos community college," Stewart said, pledging his commitment to the TCI Community College and its educational development.

"...And as far as we can dream with you and go with you, we will go. So, I know

there is a commitment on the table to at least 100 internships a year. To me that's just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

Premier Hon. Washington Misick was one of the signatories on behalf of the Government and the Community College, while Stewart was one of the signatories on behalf of the Sandals Corporate University. The other local signatories were Candice Malcolm – President and CEO of the Community College and Dr. Barbara Ambrister – Chair for the Community.

**Vivette Jones  
of Providenciales  
requires**

**Kitchen Help/  
Domestic Helper**

to work 6 days per week,  
from 9am to 5pm.  
Salary \$8 per hour.

**Contact 243-9407**

# 600 Houses Annually

## Government moves to address woeful housing crisis



Misick: Our first priority is to ensure that the housing needs of Turks and Caicos Islanders are met.

Premier for the Turks and Caicos Islands Hon. Washington Misick said his government will build and support the construction of 600 homes per year for Turks and Caicos Islanders and other status holders as the demand for affordable housing skyrockets.

Making his contribution to the budget debate in the House of Assembly last week, Premier Misick indicated that his administration's new housing policy is designed to improve the quality and quantity of housing supply throughout the Islands.

"The aim is to provide a minimum of 600 new housing solutions annually," he said, pointing out that while government seeks to support low-cost housing, it will also support developers undertaking house construction. Individuals and developers are building houses and apartments and helping us reach that goal."

He said that last year, the Planning Department received applications for 293 Stand-alone Homes, 84 Apartment Buildings with a total of 453 Units. He further revealed that from January to April 12, 2024, applications were received for 108 Stand-alone homes, 31 Apartment Buildings with 360 units.

"This is a strong indication of confidence in the economy and the empowerment of our people through concessions. We put people first," the premier crowed.

He said government has been engaging the private sector to hammer out different solutions to meet all the needs of our people.

"These will include TCI Islander home ownership, rental support for low-income families, and immigrant housing. This will be achieved through new construction, upgrading of housing in established

communities and improving infrastructure where necessary.

"Our first priority is to ensure that the housing needs of Turks and Caicos Islanders are met. We are coming up with different ways to fix this problem, including giving financial support to islanders to upgrade their homes," he said.

### \$10,000 to \$50,000 Housing Repair Grants Now Available

"Nearly 300 grants of between \$10,000 to \$50,000 will be disbursed. Work should begin in the first quarter of this fiscal year. Contractors were recently approved and will receive their scope of work in short order," the premier said.

He pointed out that Turks and Caicos Islanders and British Overseas Territory Citizens (BOTC) are entitled to stamp duty exemptions and customs concessions.

"Those who want more information on the requirements can log on to [www.exemptions.gov.tc](http://www.exemptions.gov.tc)," premier instructed.

### Mortgage Corporation

He said government has started work on a Mortgage Corporation to benefit Status Holders who need loans to build or buy homes.

"In last year's budget, \$7 million dollars was allocated and this year, a further \$13 million is proposed. An amendment is proposed to accommodate this when Committee of Supply meets after the debate. We will continue to inject money until the fund reaches 50 million dollars," he said.

Premier Misick said government will spend \$18.6M on Housing and Community Amenities.

"The increased allocation will support estate management, water services, including water treatment and distribution to Grand Turk and Salt Cay. It will also fund improvements to housing and community renewal, as well as District Administrations.

He added: "For every family, home ownership is an important part of their wellbeing and stability. As new hotel rooms come on stream and more persons come here for work, the demand for affordable housing will increase."

Housing falls under the aegis of Deputy Premier and Minister of Physical Planning and Development Hon. Jamell Robinson.

## Police Seize Gun, Ammo; Three detained

Three men are staring down the barrel of lengthy prison sentences after they were apprehended with a gun and an undisclosed number amount of Ammunition by members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force on Thursday.

Up until press time, they men were yet to be charged. However, they remained in police custody.

Preliminary police reports state that, acting upon on information received, officers from the Serious Crime, Tactical, Operations, and Response Units intercepted a blue Honda Fit vehicle transporting five males exiting Five Cays, Providenciales, around 2:30 p.m.

Two males ran from the vehicle while the other three were detained. Upon search-

ing both the car and the men, a firearm and rounds of ammunition were recovered.

The suspects, ages 16 and 32, are currently in police custody under arrest. Commenting on the illegal firearm and ammunition find, Head of Crime, Safeguarding, Public Protection and Intelligence Superintendent Dean Holden said:

"The RTCIPF remains unwavering in our commitment to rid the streets of illegal firearms and ammunition. Today's arrest and seizure highlights the Force's sustained efforts in tackling this issue."

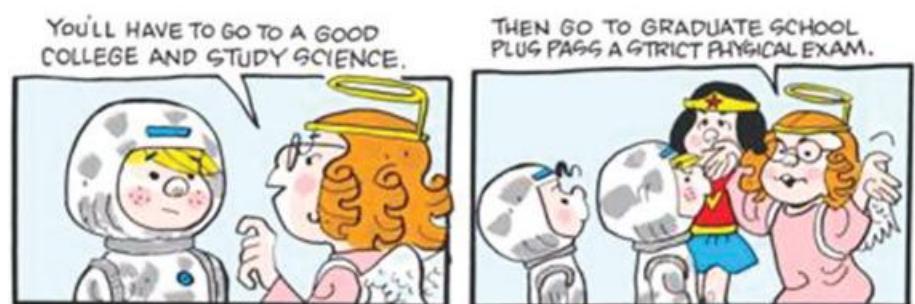
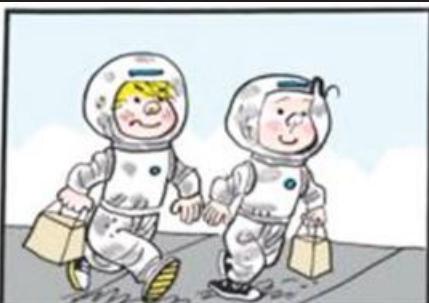
"This discovery underscores the ongoing challenge of illegal firearms circulating in communities and posing serious risks to public safety. The RTCIPF's commitment to removing these weapons from circulation

is crucial in preventing potential crimes and ensuring safety.

"Overall, while this find is a step in the right direction, it highlights the ongoing need for continued vigilance and concerted efforts to keep illegal firearms off the streets."

Additionally, Superintendent Holden indicated that the public also plays a vital role by reporting any suspicious activity or information related to illegal firearms.

"This partnership between law enforcement and the community is essential in effectively combating gun violence and creating safer neighborhoods for everyone. To my colleagues who daily place their lives on the line to protect and defend the law abiders of the TCI, thank you for your dedication, commitment, and service."



# TURKS head cactus

**NEWSLINE**  
A Journal of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



The Turks head cacti (*Melocactus intortus*) is a variety of small barrel cactus. A reddish cap tops the cacti, and it's easy to see where the cacti got its name as this cap resembles a Turkish fez hat. The Turks head cacti appears on both the Turks and Caicos flag and coat of arms. Due to the lack of competition, the Turks head cacti is typically found in exposed and dry regions. In the Turks and Caicos, these areas are usually natural eroded limestone bedding landscapes, or in some cases, hard sandy dunes. Unfortunately, the cacti has largely disappeared from the main populated islands. The majority of existing plants are located on East Caicos and Big Ambergris Cay, with small clusters on Middle Caicos and a select few other cays.

# Provo Water Company Says Efforts Being Made To Address Water Issues



PWC Workmen cutting new trenches to lay pipes for increased water supply

Provo Water Company (PWC) says it has made significant progress in addressing recent water supply issues caused by increased water demand on Providenciales, and while ongoing projects aimed at long-term solutions are proceeding as planned, nightly water restrictions will continue through

May.

This news comes as an update on the organization's 'swift' response to the rising water demand, which prompted the initial implementation of nightly restrictions to safeguard daily water reserves. The company says in a news release that it is actively pursuing multiple projects, including upgrades to the city water transmission main, the main city water line valves, and the Middle Booster Pump Station, alongside various other initiatives, to ensure long-term solutions to the supply issues.

Provo Water Company say it has reaffirmed its dedication to the residents of Turks and Caicos by continuing with a range of improvement projects aimed at innovative solutions for short and long-term distribution challenges. While diligently advancing these initiatives, the organization says it has determined that the nightly water restrictions remains necessary to ensure the replenishment of daily reserves as it strives to keep these projects on track.

These restrictions, it says, will be implemented on an as-needed basis to effectively manage water consumption efficiently. If deemed necessary, the restrictions will be in effect from 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., optimizing conservation efforts during off-peak hours.

In response to the extension, Managing Director Robert Hall expressed apologies to customers and stakeholders considering the extension. He reiter-

ates his organization's dedicated efforts to minimize the frequency of water restrictions and their eventual elimination in response to the extension. In a statement, Hall said, "We will implement these measures only as required throughout the month of May to efficiently regulate water usage. We recognize the impact of these restrictions, and we want to assure you that we are doing our utmost to minimize inconvenience and ensure that your needs are our top priority."

The transmission main project, which Provo Water Company says will enhance various aspects of the existing water supply network, ultimately improving water distribution across the island, is currently scheduled to be completed by mid-June 2024.

Hall concluded, "This project is pivotal in strengthening our water distribution infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and ensuring a reliable water supply for our community. By actively working towards its completion, we remain dedicated to serving our customers with the utmost excellence, reliability, and efficiency."

Provo Water Company pointed out that the public can learn more about its water efficiency and conservation initiatives by visiting [www.provowater.com](http://www.provowater.com). Follow on social media for tips and announcements: @ProvоМаркет on Facebook and @provowaterco on Instagram. For inquiries, please contact the customer service team at [customerservice@provowater.com](mailto:customerservice@provowater.com).

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motivated, flexible and enthusiastic persons  
with exceptional skills to join our team.

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**WE ARE HIRING!**

**COME TO OUR JOB FAIR**  
**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**  
**at 8:30am**



- **Gift Shop Manager**
- **Assistant Maintenance Manager-Waterplant/Plumbing**
- **Assistant Front Office Manager**
- **Boat Captains \***
- **Scuba Instructors\***
- **Dive Master\***

- **Income Auditor**
- **Housekeeping Room Attendants**
- **Room Technicians**
- **Stove Technician**
- **Finish Carpenter**
- **Security Officers**
- **Island Tour Specialist**
- **Project Coordinator**

- **Cost Controller (Projects)**
- **VIP Driver**
- **Restaurant Room Servers**
- **Groundsmen**
- **Bartender**
- **Bar Porters**
- **Laundry Attendants**
- **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**

\*Bring along your banking details [bank name, branch & account#]

# Life Line

# FEATURED CHURCH

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Church of God of Prophecy, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The church is led by pastor Andrew Stone. There are at least six opportunities for worship during the week. On Sunday at 9:30a.m. is Sunday School. On Sunday 11a.m. is Divine Sunday Morning Service. On Sunday at 7:30p.m. is Evening Service. On Tuesday at 7:30p.m. is Prayer Meeting. On Wednesday at 7:30pm is Bible Study, and on Friday at 7:30pm is Youth Ministry. For further about any of the worship opportunities, contact 1 649-941-3438.



## 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

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

**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, 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)

# Highlights from the Louise Garland Thomas High School Annual Careers Day

On Friday, April 26, the Louise Garland Thomas High School staged its Annual Careers Day on the school's ground. More than 40 businesses and government departments were on display at the event. Among the businesses were banks, beauty parlors, resorts, fuel providers, automobile parts businesses, medical providers and real estate businesses. The government departments included Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, the Police Department, the National Weather Service, Border Security and the Military. The following are photo highlights of the event.





# Divisional Parade Highlights



Constable Alesa Brown (centre) is flanked by ASP Kemron Lowhar (l) and Supt. Dwight Gardiner having received an Officer of the Month (March) certificate and plaque.



Constable Shawna Gray receives her plaque and certificate for Officer of the Month (March)



Constable Austin Etienne receives his plaque and certificate for Officer of the Month (February)

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force held its Divisional (B) Parade at the Ethel Ingaham Centre Wednesday, May 1.

At 7 a.m., police officers from Division B (Operations and Response) turned out for the parade, which included a formal inspection of uniforms and kit, under the command of Superintendent of Police Dwight Gardiner.

The parade was momentous, with Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police Kendall Grant and Assistant Commissioner of Police Darron Williams applauding the officers' dedication, bravery, and commitment.

Superintendent Gardiner delivered brief remarks to the officers present, encouraging them to continue seeking the best interest of the TCI. "Our roles are critical in society, not just enforcing laws but also building bridges with commu-

nities by being beacons of hope and serving with pride and integrity," Gardiner said.

Among the parade's highlights was the recognition of officers within the Division who exemplified teamwork, due diligence and a commitment to the communities they serve.

Commendation Certificates and plaques were presented to Sgt. Allan Scipio, Sgt. Philippe Jean, Constable Jermaine Jackson, Shawna Gray, Rohan Pennant, Dujuana Fulford, Durando Pinder, Foline Dor, Domareo Outten, Wisline Claire, Royan Manning and Travis Robinson for their swift response to a medical emergency on April 05th, 2024.

The officer's quick action at the Chalk Sound Police Station saved the life of a visitor who was suffering from chest pains, collapsed and was unconscious.



Constable Tyrone Cox won "Best Turn Out" officer at today's Divisional Parade.

Additionally, Officers of the Month awards were presented to Constable Austin Etienne (February) and Constables Alesa Brown and Shawna Gray (March), while the Traffic Enforcement Unit received Team of the Month (March). Constable Tyrone Cox was named "Best Turn Out Officer".



## OPEN JOB OPENINGS

### **A&G Department:**

- **General Manager**

To lead and direct the operations and financial activities of a five-star luxury resort, maintaining the highest level of guest service and owner satisfaction. Ensure the selection and ongoing direction of resort team members to achieve the highest levels of integrity, job satisfaction, morale and team spirit. The position ensures the Resort's operation meets the Company's target customer needs, ensures employee satisfaction, and focuses on growing revenues and maximizing the financial performance of the department. Develops and implements property-wide strategies that deliver products and services to meet or exceed the needs and expectations of the customer and property employees and provides a return on investment.

### **Job Specification:**

- Bachelor's degree in Hospitality/ Tourism Management or Business Studies or equivalent certified qualifications preferred
- At least 10 years five-star resort/international management experience in Senior Level Hotel Operations
- Minimum of 5 years of direct related experience as a General Manager for a five-star luxury property
- Must have pre-opening experience in a luxury hotel
- Strong Rooms or Food & Beverage background
- Luxury Brand Hotel Chain experience a must
- Delivers business results through effective management of planning, forecasting, improving yield, budgeting, cost management and all aspects of business

### **Management of Financial Resources:**

- Determining how money will be spent to get the work done, and accounting for these expenditures.

### **Applied Business Knowledge:**

- Understanding market dynamics, enterprise level objectives and important aspects of the company's business to accurately diagnose strengths and weaknesses, anticipate opportunities and risks, identify issues, and develop strategies and plans. Aligning individual and team actions with strategies and plans to drive business results.
- Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work. CORE WORK ACTIVITIES

### **Developing and Maintaining Resort Goals:**

- Sets expectations and holds all Resort's leadership team accountable for demonstrating desired service behaviors.
- Reviews financial reports and statements to determine how the Resort is performing against budget.
- Makes recommendations for CAPEX funding of overall Resort equipment and renovations in accordance with brand business strategy.
- Works with Resort's leadership team to determine areas of concern and develops strategies to improve the departments' financial performance.
- Establishes challenging, realistic and obtainable goals to guide operation and performance.
- Strives to improve service performance
- Develops and manages Resort budgets.
- Monitors the departments' actual and projected sales to ensure revenue goals are met or exceeded and opportunities are identified and addressed.

- Focuses on maintaining profit margins without compromising guest or employee satisfaction
- Salary: \$54,000- per annum**

### **Guest Services Department:**

- **Head Butler**
- **Butler**

Responsible for overseeing all aspects of the butler department.

### **Job Specification:**

- Manage and review systems and processes.
- Manage butler services.
- Manage crisis situations.
- Manage customer acquisition and retention programmes.
- Manage loss/risk prevention.
- Manage relationship with customers.
- Manage the service brand.
- Manage workplace challenges with resilience.
- Monitor and reward performance in a team to support achievement of results.
- Prepare budgets for the business unit.
- Solve problems and make decisions at managerial level.

### **Qualifications:**

- Experience in a resort management and residential service.
- Knowledge of etiquette and protocol Experience of formal service of fine wines and food Ability to represent the Resort.

### **Reports: Director of Rooms**

**Salary: \$40,000- \$45,000 - per annum**

### **Housekeeping Department:**

- **Executive Housekeeping**

### **Job Specification:**

- Reports to work on time, with a clean uniform, neatly groomed and in accordance with company guidelines.
- Follows hotel grooming and position dress standards, including name tag and proper shoes.
- Proceeds to Housekeeping Office immediately and follows procedures for signing/clocking in.
- Following department guidelines, collects assignment worksheets and keys as required. Take careful note of special requests including, early make ups, checkouts and arrival, late departure and arrivals.
- Take due note of announcements on Notice Board and actively seek out information relevant to daily departmental and hotel operations.
- Attend pre-shift briefings as directed.
- Remove cart, equipment and work supplies from storage area.
- Inventory all supplies on cart before proceeding to work station. Report discrepancies to Supervisor or Section leader immediately.

### **Qualifications:**

- High School diploma is a must but an Associate's degree in Hospitality, Tourism or Business Administration is preferred
- Experience working at luxury hotel standards
- Good organizational and time management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to multiple deadlines.
- Ability to work independently as well as on a team
- Ability to read and write English proficiently and perform basic arithmetic
- Must possess and demonstrate excellent time management skills and ability to manage resources and prioritize and organize work efficiently and effectively.
- Possess and demonstrate a keen eye for details
- Must be an extremely honest person with high levels of integrity

### **Reports: Director of Housekeeping**

**Salary: \$18,304 per annum**

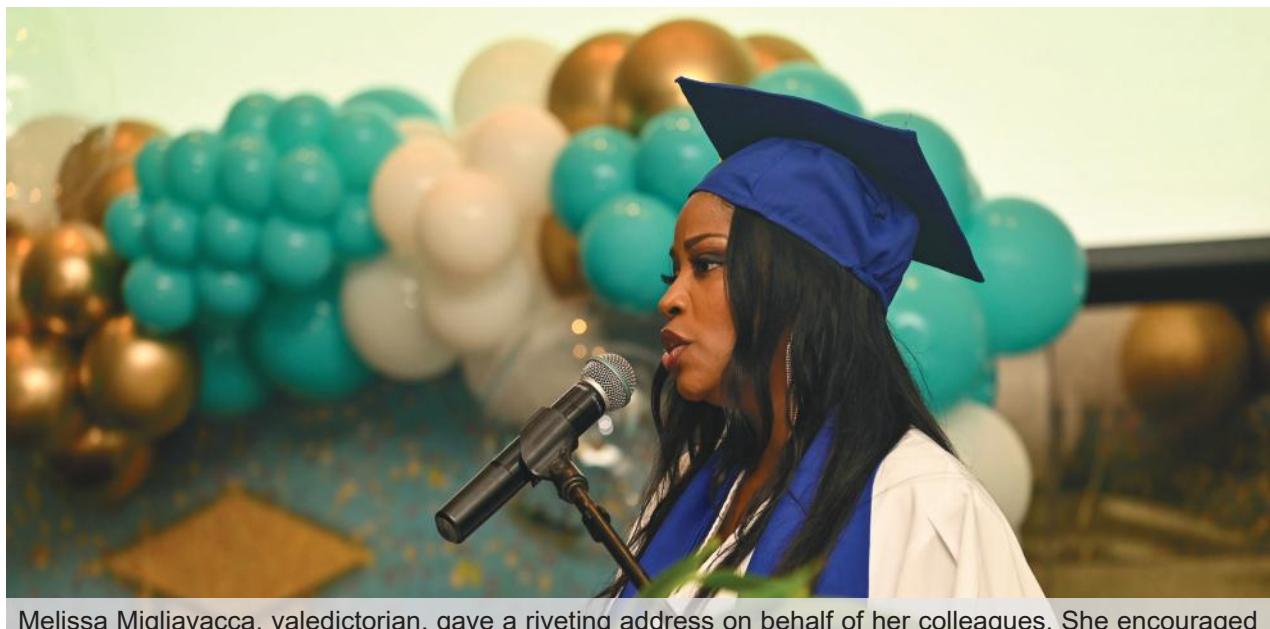
These positions are currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2.

Interested qualified candidates may submit their resume by May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to Director of Human Resources South Bank, Long Bay Marina.  
**Email address:** stbhr@gracebayresorts.com

# Sandals Corporate University Graduates 16 Managers



Proud graduates of Cohort B of the Diploma in Hospitality Leadership come together for their group shot ahead of their graduation ceremony. The cohort consisted of managers from Sandals Resorts to include Grenada, Barbados, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and St. Lucia.



Melissa Migliavacca, valedictorian, gave a riveting address on behalf of her colleagues. She encouraged them to return to their resorts and impart what they have learnt to empower their various teams



Melissa Migliavacca, valedictorian, gave a riveting address on behalf of her colleagues. She encouraged them to return to their resorts and impart what they have learnt to empower their various teams

In keeping with Sandals Resorts' mandate to train and develop 400 managers in the next three years, The Sandals Corporate University (SCU) has added another sixteen managers to its growing list of graduates in the Diploma in Hospitality Leadership Programme.

The leadership initiative, a partnership with the SCU, Florida International University (FIU) and Accelerating Leaders hosted its second graduation ceremony, at Sandals Barbados which was attended by members of the SCU team, Sandals and Beaches Executives, representatives of FIU

and Accelerating Leaders and well-wishers of the graduates.

In his greeting, Dr. Michael Cheng, dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism expressed his joy in celebrating with the team members. He shared, "all of you embody the spirit of service, innovation and community that is embedded into the DNA of Sandals Resorts International. You've demonstrated that true leadership is about more than just guiding others.

"It's about inspiring them, lifting them up, and striving for excellence in every endeavour. As you move forward from today, remember that the skills and knowledge you've acquired are tools not just for personal success, but for making a difference in the world.

"The hospitality industry, with its endless challenges and opportunities, awaits your contribution. You are the future of this industry, and we have every confidence that you will lead with integrity, creativity, and compassion."

Managing Director for Sandals Resorts International, Stephen Blackburne, in his keynote address expressed how impressed he was with the graduates for taking a very calculated approach to their future with the organization. He said, "waiting to be asked is a passive approach. Instead continue to be intentional and proactive in shaping your future and making a meaningful impact wherever you go. I urge you to embrace this moment with pride and excitement. You are not just graduates, you are ambassadors of excellence, emissaries of change and architects of the future."

Students for cohort B were recruited from Sandals Resorts across St. Lucia, Antigua, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Barbados and Grenada. Cohorts C and D will commence in April and May respectively, and the SCU anticipates that by the end of 2024, five cohorts will earn their diplomas.

To close out the evening on an inspiring note, Sandals Grenada's Spa Manager, and valedictorian for Cohort B Melissa Migliavacca, took the time in her address to motivate her colleagues as they look towards the future. She said passionately, "it took discipline, dedication and focus as well as effective time management for us to follow through.

"There were times that we stumbled upon obstacles but giving up was not an option. Lisa Nichols says, that in this life we can choose to be a victim or a victor, the choice is always ours. I'm so glad we're all standing victorious today because we made the choice to be brave and sign up for this programme and we saw it through to the end."

She concluded by encouraging her colleagues to pay it forward when they return to their operations by helping train team members and cultivating a standard of excellence.

The Diploma in Hospitality Leadership Programme is a six-month long interactive course leveraging workshops, discussion groups, case studies and industry best-practices. Entry and mid-level managers are challenged to apply new knowledge, gain advanced skills and create positive behaviours as they prepare for the future and continuous achievement of excellence in the industry.

# The Government Must Deal With Threats Seriously



Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood

If something serious is happening to our country and our people of the Turks & Caicos Islands, by now we all know who will be silent and who will be hiding from their responsibilities. If you said the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers, you are 100% correct.

I have never seen such a government that constantly hides from crises, and are afraid of speaking to serious issues affecting our people. The recent occurrence of daily threats to our air travelling residents and guest has been extremely disruptive to our people and also extremely harmful to our TCI Brand. But the Premier and his team are saying nothing and doing nothing, because they feel that they can buy their way out of every bad decision they make, and buy their way out of every inaction on their part. Their motto is "just throw some money at it" and the people will forget about it. However, that style of politics does not work with the majority of our people anymore, as now a days a government has to perform in all aspects of the people's lives and livelihoods.

This PNP government needs to understand that the importance of security and safety at airports cannot be overstated, especially in today's world where the threat of terrorism and other security risks looms large. Additionally, they must take into consideration persons who may want to harm our country directly, and those who do not agree with ours laws and way of life. They must also understand the fragility of our Tourism industry, and that there are many other destinations in the Caribbean alone that persons can choose as an alternative to coming to our country.

The individual/ individuals/ organization behind these current threats appear to know well that the Airports are critical hubs of trans-

portation and commerce, hence making them attractive targets to cause harm, sow chaos, or disrupt societal order. This is especially amplified in an archipelago nation and one that the economy is based on Tourism.

As such, action is needed by the government, not silence. What new robust security measures are being established to elevate the protect passengers, airline personnel, airport staff, and the general public from potential threats and acts of terrorism.

The government through the Airports Authority must have a plan to Ensuring Continuity of Operations, as these disruptions caused by security incidents at our airports can have far-reaching consequences, leading to flight delays, cancellations, and economic losses. I do believe that by maintaining a high level of security and preparedness, airports can minimize the impact of security incidents and ensure the continuity of operations.

Additionally, to address these challenges, our airports must enhance, and immediately implemented, a wide range of additional security measures, including access control systems, additional surveillance cameras, security patrols, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies. Also, advancements in technology, such as biometric identification systems and artificial intelligence-based security solutions, which are now being leveraged to enhance security capabilities and improve threat detection.

A government that is not out of touch like this current PNP government would have understood that as technology advances and security threats to our country evolve, the airports should be continually exploring new measures to enhance security and safety.

A PDM government, under my leadership, will review and implement innovative approaches and technologies that can be considered for at airports to strengthen security measures, such as:

1. Biometric Authentication- to verify the identity of passengers and airport personnel, enhancing security and streamlining the check-in and boarding processes.

2. Explosive Detection Systems- systems that use cutting-edge technologies such as computed tomography (CT) scanning to enhance the detection of explosives and other prohibited items in baggage and cargo.

3. Email Authentication Protocols- Implementations email authentication protocols such as SPF (Sender Policy Framework), DKIM (DomainKeys Identified Mail), and DMARC (Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance) to verify the authenticity of email senders and prevent email spoofing.

4. Email Threat Intelligence- Utilize email threat intelligence feeds and services that provide real-time information on emerging email threats, malicious domains, and known threat actors to enhance our email security defenses.

5. Cybersecurity Measures- to protect our airports infrastructure, systems, and data from cyber threats, and hacking attempts that could

compromise airport operations and passenger safety.

6. Drone Detection and Mitigation- to identify unauthorized drones flying near our airports premises and employing countermeasures to mitigate potential threats posed by rogue drones.

7. Smart Access Control Systems- utilizing biometrics, RFID technology, or mobile credentials to manage and monitor access to restricted areas within our airport, reducing the risk of unauthorized entry.

8. Enhance Emergency Response Training- emergency response training exercises and drills to prepare our airport staff, security personnel, and first responders to effectively respond to security incidents, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks.

9. Public Awareness Campaigns- Educating passengers and airport visitors about our country's security procedures, emergency protocols, and the importance of reporting suspicious activities to enhance overall security vigilance and community engagement in maintaining airport safety.

10. Collaboration with Law Enforcement – Our National Security Council to Work closely with both local and international law enforcement agencies, cybersecurity organizations, and industry partners to share threat intelligence, collaborate on investigations, and take legal action against malicious actors involved in email threats.

I believe that by integrating these new measures and technologies into existing security frameworks, our airports can further bolster their security posture, mitigate emerging threats, and ensure the continued safety and well-being of all individuals within airport environments.

There you have it, from the love I have for my country and my people, I am again giving this PNP government a blueprint for addressing present critical issues in our country, as I am not short of ideas or concepts that shows potential of fixing problems being faced. I just hope that they don't mess it up, or fumble as much, like they did with others.

To that end I am putting to the Premiere and his government that the Terms of Reference for the New Airport Development should be immediately reviewed, in order to ensure that the highest levels of security measures, such as those I have outlined, are included, thereby allowing the new airport to be not only "State of the Art" in appearance, but also state of the art in safety and security. If you are unable to get this done, simply leave it to me and my PDM team to get it done.

In conclusion, the security and safety at our airports play a vital role in protecting lives, preserving the integrity of our civil aviation, and upholding public confidence in air travel. A PDM government will ensure the constant investing in robust security measures, and will insist on the country staying vigilant against emerging threats, thereby allowing for the effective mitigation of risks, and the ability to ensure the safety and security of all stakeholders.

# Identifying alternative cancer treatment methods



Cancer is a health problem responsible for one in six deaths worldwide. In 2020, there was an estimated 19.3 million new cancer cases, and about 10 million cancer deaths globally. Cancer is a very complicated sequence of events, progressing gradually towards a generalised loss of growth control.

For many decades, there were only a few prominent options for cancer treatment. This included surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy, as single treatments or in combination.

Recently, however, many pathways involved in cancer therapy have improved dramatically, with combinatorial strategies, involving multiple targeted therapies or traditional chemotherapeutics, such as the taxanes and platinum compounds, being found to have a synergistic effect. New approaches, such as drugs, biological molecules, and immune therapies, are being used for treatment.

At present, over half of the world's ongoing medical treatment trials are focused on cancer treatments. A variety of factors, such as the type of cancer, its site, and severity, guide the selection of appropriate treatment options and its progress. The most widely used traditional treatment methods are surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy, while modern modalities include hormone therapy, anti-angiogenic, stem cell therapies, immunotherapy, and dendritic cell-based immunotherapy.

According to Dr Andre Williams, integrative oncologist at Teshuva Wellness, many patients are now opting to utilise non-conventional or alternate cancer treatment methods.

"Cancer is a complex disease, and its treatment requires a multi-modal approach. Conventional cancer treatments, including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and targeted therapy, have been the standard of care for many years. However, in recent years, there has been a growing interest in alternative cancer treatments, which offer a more holistic approach and often have fewer side effects," Dr Williams said.

"Many patients are opting to try the non-conventional or complementary methods of treat-

ments; however, the same treatment should not apply or be prescribed for everyone. We must assess the person, not just the disease. At Teshuva Wellness, we always take a look at the emotional and nutritional history of the person and select the appropriate tools, rather than just giving everyone the same treatment," Dr Williams added.

## WELLNESS STRATEGIES

Alternative cancer treatments are non-traditional approaches that are often used in conjunction with, or instead of, conventional treatments.

"Patients may seek alternative cancer treatments for a variety of reasons, including: a desire for a holistic approach to healing, the hope of avoiding potentially toxic treatments, or a dissatisfaction with conventional treatment options. Some alternative cancer treatments are rooted in traditional medicine practices from other cultures, while others are based on a variety of alternative health philosophies," Dr Williams said.

Dr Williams has been extensively trained as a conventional oncologist, and has received an international award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology, for his work in a developing country. He has also done further international training in proven nutrition and wellness strategies.

He believes the body was built to heal itself, and employs his wealth of experience to guide you towards complete wellness. "In 2016, when I started this journey, I knew that I was not happy with the limited treatment options I had to offer. I decided to become internationally certified in both the Gerson Therapy and the Gonzalez Protocol.

The Gerson Therapy is a decades-old approach to treating cancer and other chronic illnesses, using aggressive nutrition. The Gonzalez Protocol was pioneered by Dr Nicholas Gonzalez and similarly employs powerful, proven nutritional therapies, coupled with high doses of pancreatic enzymes and safe detoxification routines," Dr Williams said.

Dr Williams, who is also certified in Basic and Advanced Prolozone therapy techniques by the American Academy of Ozonotherapy, said a good

cancer treatment protocol includes nutrition, removal of toxic material, and support to assist the body to repair.

Dietary modifications involve making changes in a person's eating habits, to help boost immunity and reduce the risk of cancer. Some dietary modifications that have been shown to be effective include reducing the intake of processed foods and sugar and increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables. Additionally, some alternative cancer treatments recommend incorporating organic food and plant-based diets.

Herbal remedies are often used, and include natural plant-based medicines that are used in the prevention and treatment of cancer. Some of the popular herbal remedies used in cancer treatment include turmeric, garlic, and green tea, among others. These remedies contain natural compounds that have been shown to have anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties.

"Unfortunately, most traditional treatments focus on destroying the cancer rather than helping the body to rebuild itself. Depending on the case, patients are sometimes recommended to do chemotherapy; however, we also recommend that this type of treatment be accompanied by good nutrition," Dr Williams said.

## HOLISTIC SUPPORT

Jamaica, he said, is uniquely positioned to become a leader in cancer care as the majority of the cancer-fighting foods grow naturally in Jamaica. Some of these foods include soursop, moringa, breadfruit, turmeric, guinea hen weed and cassava.

"Natural foods provide numerous essential vitamins, and the plants grow without any needing maintenance. The thrust should be for Jamaicans to recognise that we can grow food without the added chemicals; organic foods that can help with in our fight against many diseases," he said. The most widely recommended conventional cancer treatment strategies include surgical resection of the tumours followed by radiotherapy with X-rays and or chemotherapy. Of these modalities, surgery is most effective at an early stage of the disease. Radiation therapy can damage healthy cells, organs, and tissues. Although chemotherapy has reduced morbidity and mortality, virtually all chemotherapeutic agents damage healthy cells, especially rapidly dividing and growing cells.

Drug resistance, a major problem with chemotherapy, is a phenomenon wherein cancer cells that initially were suppressed by an anti-cancer drug develop resistance to the drug. This is caused primarily by reduced drug uptake and increased drug efflux. Limitations of conventional chemotherapeutic modality, such as dosage selection difficulty, lack of specificity, rapid drug metabolism, and mainly harmful side effects.

"Many people are looking for one single treatment method or even a single supplement that is going to cure their illness. This is not a reasonable expectation. The body was created to repair itself, and healing requires the body's participation. Depending on the case, multiple methods may be used to heal the body, and recovery will depend entirely on the holistic support the body receives," Dr Williams said.

# Sheryl Lee Ralph's Unexpected nabs Daytime Emmy noms



Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph

Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is on cloud nine as her HIV/AIDS documentary *Unexpected* snagged two nominations in the 51st Daytime Emmy Awards.

A documentary about women of colour living with HIV/AIDS in the South, it was produced by Ralph and directed by Zeberiah Newman. *Unexpected* debuted on World Aids Day, December 1, 2023 via streaming platform Hulu. It is nominated in the category Outstanding Daytime Special alongside *Culture Quest – Ukraine* (CBS), *Disney Parks Magical Christmas*

*Day Parade* (ABC), 97th *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade* (NBC), and *Recipe for Change: Celebrating Black Men* (SpringHill).

*Unexpected Truth*, the theme song, is nominated for Outstanding Original Song. The other nominees in the category are *Shine* (*General Hospital* – ABC) and *We're Home* (from *Reconnecting Roots* – PBS).

In a post on her official Instagram page, Ralph wrote: "Our documentary short *Unexpected* has just been nominated for 2 Daytime Emmy Awards! Best Daytime Special and Best Song!

God is Good!

I am so grateful to my director Zeberiah Newman, and to the amazing women we profiled, CiCi Covin and Masonia Taylor, two black women living with HIV in the rural South, who have channelled their struggles into purpose and activism. Thank you to B Slade, who crafted the score *Unexpected Truth* for the film, we did it!!"

The post continued: "For decades I've dedicated my platform to shining a light on HIV awareness. And *Unexpected* is an important story about the health disparities, especially those affecting vulnerable communities, that we strive to tell."

Ralph is no stranger to receiving accolades. Earlier this year, she was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award in the category Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role in *Abbott Elementary*.

She won the award for the category in 2022. *Unexpected* premiered at the 2023 Essence Film Festival, won an Award of Excellence at both The Accolade Global Film Competition and The IMPACT Docs Awards, and was a Silver Winner at the Telly Awards. It has also screened at the SCAD Savannah Film Festival, DC Black Film Festival, Black Women Film Network, Detroit Black Film Festival, The Women's Film Festival, and Cleveland Film Festival. The Daytime Emmy Awards will be handed out on Friday, June 7, at Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles, California. It will air live on CBS.

# Chicago appeals court rejects R Kelly's challenge of 20-year sentence



The singer R Kelly was correctly sentenced to 20 years in prison on child sex convictions in Chicago, a federal appeals court ruled Friday.

Jurors in 2022 convicted the Grammy Award-winning R&B singer, born Robert Sylvester Kelly, on three charges of producing child sexual abuse images and three charges of enticement of minors for sex.

In his appeal, Kelly argued that Illinois' former and shorter statute of limitations on child sex

crime prosecutions should have applied to his Chicago case rather than current law permitting charges while an accuser is still alive.

He also argued that charges involving one accuser should have been tried separately from the charges tied to three other accusers due to video evidence that became a focal point of the Chicago trial.

Federal prosecutors have said the video showed Kelly abusing a girl. The accuser identified only as Jane testified for the first time that she was 14 when the video was taken.

The three-judge panel from the Chicago-based 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Friday's ruling noted that jurors acquitted Kelly on seven of the 13 counts against him "even after viewing those abhorrent tapes".

The appeals court also rejected Kelly's argument that he should not have been prosecuted since the allegations occurred while Illinois law required prosecution of child sex crime charges within 10 years. The panel labelled it an attempt by Kelly to elude the charges entirely after "employing a complex scheme to keep victims qui-

et".

In a written statement, Kelly's attorney, Jennifer Bonjean, said they plan to seek US Supreme Court review of the decision and "pursue all of his appellate remedies until we free R Kelly".

"We are disappointed in the ruling, but our fight is far from over," she said.

Prosecutors in Kelly's hometown of Chicago had sought an even tougher sentence, asking for 25 years. They also wanted a judge to not let that time begin until after Kelly completed a 30-year sentence imposed in 2022 in New York for federal racketeering and sex trafficking convictions. Judge Harry Leinenweber rejected that ask, ordering that Kelly serve the 20 years from the Chicago case simultaneously with the New York sentence.

Kelly has separately appealed the New York sentence.

In arguments last month before the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals, attorney Jennifer Bonjean asked the panel to find that prosecutors improperly used a racketeering statute written to shut down organised crime to go after the singer.

# Sean Paul, Young Jonn collab hits US Afrobeats chart



Sean Paul

Hold On, a collaborative effort by Nigerian Afrobeats producer and recording artiste

Young Jonn, featuring dancehall artiste Sean Paul, makes its debut on Billboard's US Afrobeats Songs chart at #46.

The song is taken from Young Jonn's 16-track debut album *Jiggy Forever*, which was released on April 12 via Chocolate City Music. This is Sean Paul's first entry on the Afrobeats Songs chart.

Still on the US Afrobeats Songs chart, Tyla's *Jump* featuring Gunna and dancehall artiste Skillibeng remains at #3. The song spends its fourth week at #1 on the UK Afrobeats Songs chart, while darting from #13 to #8 on the UK Hip Hop Singles chart.

On the Official UK Singles chart, *Jump* rises from #43 to #38 in its fourth week. However, it makes its debut on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 at #87. And, finally, *Jump* continues its upward trajectory on the Billboard Hot R&B Songs chart, stepping up from #16 to #13.

*Find Me Here (Blessings Find Me)* by Trinidadian gospel and reggae artiste Sherwin Gardner receives a new lease on life. The song improves from #33 to #27 on the US Afrobeats Songs chart, while re-entering Billboard's Gospel Digital Song Sales chart at #10. It debuted and peaked at #2 more than three months ago.

YG Marley's *Praise Jah in the Moonlight*

creeps from #44 to #43 in its fifth week on Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay chart, while holding steady at #28 on Mainstream R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay. On Billboard's Canadian Hot 100 chart, it backtracks from #53 to #54.

Now onto the streaming and sales-driven Billboard Reggae Albums chart, Bob Marley and the Wailers continue their winning ways as *Legend* clocks 223 non consecutive weeks at #1.

Sean Paul's *Dutty Classics Collection* inches up to #2, while Shaggy's *Best of Shaggy: The Boombastic Collection* slides down to #3.

*World on Fire* and *Set in Stone* by Stick Figure are #4 and #5, *Greatest Hits* by UB40 is steady at #6, while *Wisdom* by Stick Figure is #7. *Welcome to Jamrock* by Damian "Jr Gong" Marley rises to #8, while *Exodus* and *Kaya* by Bob Marley and the Wailers are #9 and #10.

Over on the Foundation Radio Network (New York) Reggae chart, *Phyllis Dillon Tribute by Da Flame* spends a 5th week at #1.

*Praise Jah in the Moonlight* by YG Marley bolts from #7 to #5, *My Journey* by Shuga steps up from #11 to #9, and *Hold Me* by Morgan Heritage rises from #14 to #10.

This week's new entries are *Friends and Family* by Richie Stephens (#28) and *Let Me Help You* by Beres Hammond (#30).

# Britney Spears and Sam Asghari are officially divorced and single



FILE - Britney Spears and Sam Asghari appear at the Los Angeles premiere of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" on July 22, 2019. Spears has reached a divorce settlement with her soon-to-be-ex-husband Asghari.

Britney Spears and Sam Asghari are officially divorced and single.

The dissolution of the couple's marriage was finalized Friday by a Los Angeles County judge, nearly two years after the two were married.

The judgment comes hours after the 42-year-old pop superstar and the 30-year-old model and actor informed the court that they had reached a divorce settlement, and a week after Spears reached a court settlement with her father over lingering issues in her conservatorship.

The couple filed court papers Thursday and

Friday saying they had reached an agreement on dividing their assets. Few details were made public, but neither Spears nor Asghari will get future spousal support. Asghari had said in his initial petition that he would seek financial support. Any future disputes would need to be settled in private arbitration.

Spears and Asghari separated in July, and he filed for divorce in August. They had been dating for about seven years.

The two had no children together, so no custody agreement was necessary. Spears wrote in her memoir published last year that she and Asghari had a miscarriage early in a pregnancy about a month before they married.

Emails seeking details or comment from lawyers for both Spears and Asghari were not immediately returned.

Their marriage at her home in June 2022 in front of guests including Selena Gomez, Drew Barrymore, Paris Hilton and Madonna was seen as a triumphant milestone in her newly reclaimed life after she was freed a few months earlier from the court conservatorship that controlled her life and money for more than 13 years.

Spears has said little publicly of the split. In an Instagram post soon after the divorce filing, she said, "I'm not here to explain why because it's honestly nobody's business !!! But, I couldn't take the pain anymore honestly !!!"

In her memoir, "The Woman in Me," released two months after Asghari filed for divorce, Spears speaks only briefly and positively of Asghari. She describes him holding her hand while she addressed a judge remotely during a key hearing that helped end her conservatorship.

Like the vast majority of those who file for divorce in California, Asghari cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split.

It was the third marriage for Spears. She has two teenage sons with previous husband Kevin Federline, to whom she was married from 2004 to 2007, a time when intense media scrutiny led to emotional difficulty for her.

Spears was married for less than three days in 2004 to childhood friend Jason Alexander, who attempted to crash her wedding to Asghari and was later convicted of misdemeanor trespassing and battery.

# Experience Turks and Caicos Rolls Out Community Connect Meeting in North, Middle Caicos



The Middle Caicos Community Connect



North Caicos Community Connect

Experience Turks and Caicos rolled out the first two sessions of the Community Connect meetings in Middle and North Caicos on April 24th and 25th, 2024.

These meetings took place at the Conch Bar Community Centre and Horse Stable Beach Community Centre, respectively. The primary aim of these community meetings is to raise awareness among residents across the Turks and Caicos Islands about Experience Turks and Caicos, our forthcoming plans, and how these endeavors will benefit everyone across the islands.

The sessions featured a panel of speakers — Mr. Alvin Hegner, co-chair of Experience Turks and Caicos, Ms. Trina Adams, Chief Marketing Officer, Ms. Helycann Selver, the Local Representative for North and Middle Caicos, and Ms. Sasha Arthur, Regulatory Specialist for the Department of Tourism Regulations.

During both meetings, Mr. Hegner emphasised that it is open season for creativity, urging attendees to develop new products and businesses to attract funding from Experience Turks and Caicos and Invest TCI, as he stressed Experience Turks and Caicos' commitment to ensuring mutual benefits from the tourism industry. Mr. Hegner also emphasised the significance of having a local representative on the islands, offering residents a valuable resource for developing and enhancing their businesses.

Residents of North Caicos pose with the Experience Turks and Caicos Team following the Community Connect Meeting at Horse Stable Beach Community Centre on April 25th.

Ms. Selver, the Local Representative, presented plans for the islands under the Destination Development Unit such as enhancement works for Bambarra

Beach, voted the second best beach in the Caribbean by USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards, Wifi installations at the Bellfield Landing Terminal, hashtag and landing signage at Bambarra Beach and Bellfield Landing Terminal as well as the enhancement of the Cottage Pond in North Caicos and the Crossing Place Trail and Juniper Hole in Middle Caicos.

She also spoke about the recently launched Exquisite Turks and Caicos initiative designed to encourage immersive tourism. The program will offer up to \$5000 to assist businesses in developing their product or service to offer visitors a more enhanced experience.

Ms. Adams discussed marketing strategies aimed at increasing visitors from source markets and emphasised the importance of collaboration with local communities. She introduced the "Rooted in Community, Growing Together" campaign, which underscores shared ownership of the tourism future and the preservation of cultural and environmental heritage, among other aims.

Ms. Arthur from the DTR provided insights into the department's initiatives, including the TIDES program and new initiatives such as Rate Your Ride and a Do's and Don'ts video to assist the accommodation sector in preparing for site inspections.

Feedback from both communities was positive, with attendees expressing appreciation for the focus on the sister islands and the presence of a local representative to address their needs. They also provided suggestions for further marketing of the islands' unique aspects, cultural recognition, and improvements in infrastructure and services.

Mr. Osborne Delancey, District Commissioner for Middle and North Caicos, spoke about the opportunities for eco-tourism in the islands and his willingness to partner with Experience Turks and Caicos to make them a reality.

Apart from hosting the meetings, the Experience Turks and Caicos team took some time to visit Isaac Farms to learn about Mr. Courtney Missick's plans to develop agro-tourism on his farm and Keith "Spot" Missick's Spot On E-Bikes to enjoy the experience of riding the eco-friendly electronic bikes that are very popular with tourists.

Dates and venues for upcoming Community Connect Meetings will be announced in the coming weeks.

# Caribbean leaders reiterate call for removal of trade and economic embargo against Cuba



Caribbean leaders at the 23rd Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) in Venezuela last week. - CMC photo

CMC – Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders who attended the 23rd Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) in Venezuela have renewed their call for the lifting of the United States trade and economic embargo against Cuba.

According to the English version of the communiqué issued after the meeting, St Lucia's Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre said that Castries has consistently called for an immediate lifting of the sanctions against countries in the region.

"We have done it consistently in every single session of the United Nations and we will continue to do so until all the sanctions are lifted, and we want them to be eliminated against all countries," Pierre is quoted as informing the meeting held last Wednesday.

Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said,

"we cannot leave out the blockade against Cuba, which has affected millions of lives, and we as a world cannot sit back and allow a single country to impose this terrible act on a sister nation."

"I told the president that there is nothing that can prevent us from strengthening and deepening our solidarity, our love for the people of Cuba and the Cuban Revolution," he added.

The statement quoted Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne as saying that Cuba must be taken off the state sponsors of terrorism list, as the designation has no basis in reality and has caused great harm to the Cuban people.

According to the declaration adopted by the meeting, the delegates present said they wanted to "ratify our strong condemnation of the genocidal and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States of America against Cuba..."

"We demand the exclusion of Cuba from the spurious and arbitrary unilateral list of countries supposedly sponsoring terrorism prepared by the United States Department of State, which has a negative impact on all spheres of Cuban society and the well-being of its people."

The meeting also agreed on condemning the ongoing war in the Gaza and has condemned "the actions of Israel and all of the Western powers that have militarily, economically, and politically backed Israel and its genocidal assault on Gaza and called for the international community to take urgent measures to enforce a ceasefire".

"As a hemisphere, we must protest tirelessly against the genocide in Palestine," Prime Minister Browne added.

One of the key achievements of the summit was the revitalization of PetroCaribe, regarded as a key part of the economic agenda of ALBA 2030. PetroCaribe was an energy agreement launched in 2005 under the leadership of the late Venezuelan leader, Hugo Chávez, to provide fuel to countries in the Caribbean at a subsidized price, with a part of the price paid consisting of services rendered or agricultural exports to Venezuela from the countries.

The agreement signed by over a dozen Caribbean countries also helped fund social programmes in countries to address socioeconomic equality such as expanding access to education, sanitation, public services, housing, healthcare and others.

PetroCaribe was suspended in 2019 due to the heavy sanctions imposed on Venezuela's oil sector by the United States, resulting in a dramatic decrease in production.

"With Venezuela achieving important economic growth in recent years and a reactivation of oil production, it is now ready to relaunch the programme," the statement said.

The meeting also approved of the ALBA 2030 Strategic Agenda drafted by the executive secretary to serve as a "guide and document to address the coming years and consolidate the alliance in a comprehensive way, in a joint effort to strengthen the most important areas for development and wellbeing of our people."

The document, which reflects discussions and consultations with members of the bloc, outlines concrete plans in the economic, social, political, cultural, and communication realms to achieve the above goal.

# Jamaica secures US\$150m hurricane cushion

With little more than a month before the start of what is expected to be one of the most active hurricane seasons on record, the Jamaican Government has secured US\$150-million insurance coverage through its World Bank catastrophe bond programme.

The catastrophe bond will provide coverage against possible losses that could occur from disasters during the next four Atlantic hurricane seasons ending in December 2027.

In 2021, Jamaica became the first small island state to independently sponsor a catastrophe bond in the amount of US\$185 million to cover three hurricane periods spanning 2021 to 2023.

The Weather Channel reported recently that 24 named storms and 11 hurricanes are forecast for the 2024 hurricane season which starts on June 1 and ends November 30.

Forecasters say that this year's forecast is well above the 30-year average tally for hurricanes and storms.

In March, Finance and the Public Service Minister Dr Nigel Clarke signalled during a meeting of Parliament's Standing Finance Committee that the Government intended to secure insurance coverage against disasters for the next four hurricane seasons.

Jamaica, like its Caribbean neighbours, is exposed annually to tropical cyclone events that threaten

lives and livelihoods as well as the country's economic outlook.

## Multi-layered strategy

The World Bank states that the catastrophe bond forms part of a multi-layered disaster risk financing strategy reducing the fiscal burden of natural disasters while allowing the Jamaican Government to respond swiftly.

The cat bonds were issued under the World Bank's "capital at risk" notes programme, which can be used to transfer risks related to natural disasters and other risks from developing countries to the capital markets.

According to the World Bank, the bonds' parametric structure makes funds readily available to finance insurance payouts to Jamaica if a severe tropical cyclone event occurs.

It says payouts to Jamaica will be triggered when a named storm event meets the criteria for location and severity set forth in the bond terms. The cat bond attracted 15 global investors, providing the funding for catastrophe insurance to Jamaica for four hurricane seasons.

The finance minister said Jamaica is pleased to have sponsored the second catastrophe bond in the international capital markets protecting the country against natural disasters with the "much appreciated support and assistance of the World Bank".

"Consistent with our national natural disaster risk

financing policy, we seek to ensure the availability of fiscal resources to enable an immediate response to emergency expenditures that could arise from a direct hit by a high intensity hurricane. This catastrophe bond covers hurricane seasons 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 and complements other disaster risk financing instruments that we have in place," Clarke said.

Jorge Familiar, vice-president and treasurer of the World Bank, said the institution was proud to have partnered with Jamaica for the second time on a catastrophe bond transaction.

"Over recent years, Jamaica has done a very impressive job with its fiscal consolidation. Through its comprehensive disaster risk strategy, of which this cat bond renewal plays a critical part, Jamaica is proactively protecting its fiscal position against risk in a manner that could become a model for other countries vulnerable to natural catastrophe risk," said Familiar.

Lilia Burunciu, country director for Caribbean Countries, World Bank, said the need for the Caribbean to prepare for disaster impacts cannot be overstated, as it is one of the most vulnerable regions globally. Important to this process is having available resources and the World Bank is pleased to support Jamaica's catastrophe bond, which will help the country respond and rebuild quickly in the event of an impact," he said.

# 4 law officers serving warrant are killed, 4 wounded in shootout at North Carolina home, police say



Four law officers serving a warrant for a felon wanted for possessing a firearm were killed and four other officers were wounded in a shootout Monday at a North Carolina home, police said.

Some of the officers who rushed to the Charlotte neighborhood to rescue the first wave of downed officers were wounded as a second shooter began firing on them after they killed the wanted man, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Johnny Jennings said.

"Today we lost some heroes who were out simply trying to keep our community safe," Jennings said at a news conference.

After a three-hour standoff, the suburban Charlotte home was torn open. Armored vehicles smashed into it, ripping off windows and entire doorways that were left broken. Several armored vehicles were parked across yards, some with tree branches dangling off them.

The U.S. Marshals Task Force was fired on by the wanted suspect as they approached the house and the man was killed in the front yard, Jennings said. His name was not released, but the chief said he was wanted as a felon illegally possessing a weapon.

A second person then fired on officers from inside the home where a high-powered rifle was found, Jennings added.

A woman and a 17-year-old male were found in the home after the standoff. The two are being questioned, Jennings said.

The Marshal's Service confirmed one of its agents was killed. Two officers from the state Department of Adult Correction also were killed, said North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. The governor was in Charlotte and was speaking to the families of the officers killed and hurt. Their names have not been released.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer Joshua Eyer died a few hours later at the hospital, Jennings

said. Eyer was named the officer of the month for the force for April a few weeks ago, the chief said. "He certainly gave his life and dedicated his life to protecting our citizens," Jennings said.

One other member of the task force, which is made up of federal agents and other officers from across the region was injured.

Three other Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers who responded to the scene were shot while trying to rescue the wounded officers.

Neighbors said gunfire lasted for several minutes. WSOC-TV said their helicopter captured an armored vehicle driving through yards and knocking over recycling bins before officers removed a person with blood on their shirt who was then loaded into an ambulance.

After the home was cleared, the helicopter pilot said he couldn't show the front lawn of the home because the scene was too graphic and disturbing. "A lot of the questions that need to be answered, we don't even know what those questions are now," Jennings said, somberly briefing reporters less than four hours after the shooting. "We have to get a full understanding of why this occurred and also uphold the integrity of the investigation." Many roads in the area including Interstate 77 were closed so ambulances could get to hospitals faster. TV footage showed ambulances speeding to hospitals escorted by vehicles both in front and behind with their sirens wailing.

Rissa Reign was cleaning her house when she heard the first shots ring out. There was a pause, then a second set of shots and then a third. She stepped outside.

"When we came outside, there were no cops at all, then cops started rushing, rushing, rushing, rushing in," she said, adding armored SWAT trucks quickly followed and they "were going over the grass, everything, and they started shooting again."

The neighborhood, of one- and two-story, brick homes and small trimmed lawns, is very safe, said Alex Rivera, who lives on a street nearby.

"I see, like, 50 police cars zooming in, and then I hear gunshots," he said on the front porch of the house he shares with his cousin. "I was scared, because there was so much going on."

Another neighbor, William Cunningham, was moved to tears as he sat on his porch. He said he is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm but never expected such violence in his own neighborhood. "Bless those officers and bless their families," he said. "Nobody should get killed over a warrant."

Four Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools were placed on lockdown around afternoon dismissal, but that was lifted in the late afternoon, the district said. Police urged people to stay away from the neighborhood and asked residents to remain inside their homes until the all clear was given.

President Joe Biden was briefed on the shooting and spoke with Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles to express his condolences and support for the community.

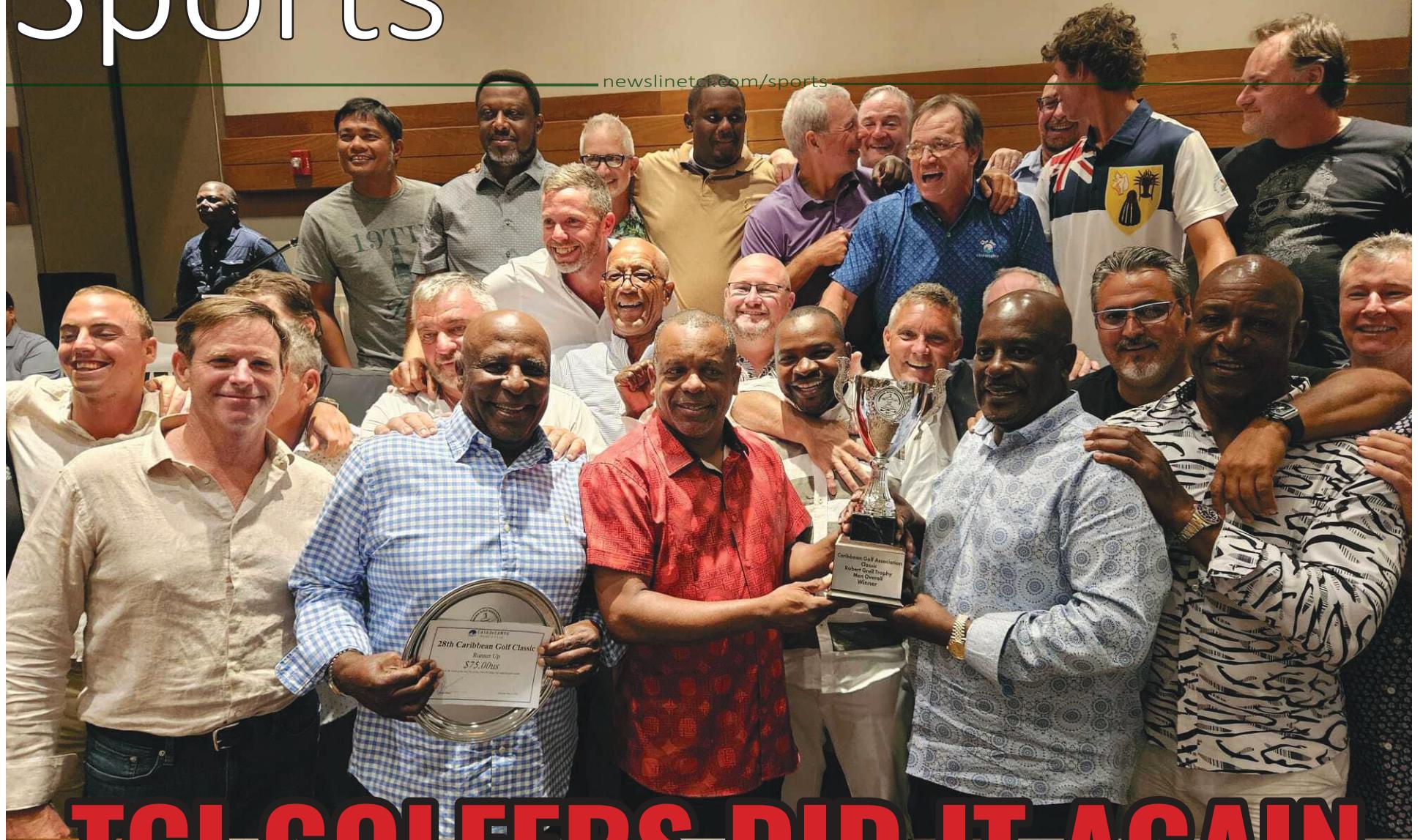
The last marshal shot and killed in the line of duty was in November 2018. Chase White was shot in Tucson, Arizona, by a man wanted for stalking local law enforcement officers, the agency said.

The Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force is headquartered in Charlotte and comprised of 70 federal, state and local agencies. Fugitive task forces are collaborations between agencies to find and arrest suspects in crimes.

In six years, the regional task force has apprehended more than 8,900 fugitives, the U.S. Marshals Service said on its website.

In March 2007, two Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police officers were killed while responding to a domestic dispute by someone not directly involved in the fight. Demeatrius Antonio Montgomery is serving a life sentence in the killings of officers Jeffrey Shelton and Sean Clark.





## TCI GOLFERS DID IT AGAIN

● Male, Female Golfers Top Caribbean Classic Golf Tournament



# US, Mexico withdraw joint bid for 2027 Women's World Cup

US Soccer president Cindy Parlow Cone said the decision by the USA and Mexico to withdraw their joint bid for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup will better enable them to stage a future event with greater global impact



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The United States and Mexico withdrew their joint bid for the 2027 Women's World Cup on Monday, just weeks before FIFA is due to vote to award the tournament at a meeting in Bangkok.

In a joint statement from the US and Mexico football federations, the two governing bodies said they would now switch focus towards mounting a successful bid for the 2031 tournament.

The shock decision comes as FIFA officials prepare to

hold a vote at the global governing body's Congress in Bangkok on May 17 to decide the 2027 hosts.

The US and Mexico withdrawal leaves two rival bids vying for the tournament -- a joint bid from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands and a solo bid from Brazil.

The end of the US-Mexico bid came after FIFA said earlier on Monday that the 2027 tournament hosts would for the first time be decided by an open vote when the FIFA Congress convenes in Thailand next month.

The US had been bidding to stage the women's football flagship event for the third time after hosting the tournament successfully on its own in 1999 and 2003. Had the US-Mexico bid for 2027 been successful, it would have meant another large-scale sporting event taking place in North America in what has become a crowded calendar for the region.

The United States, Mexico and Canada are already

gearing up to stage the men's 2026 World Cup, while Los Angeles is preparing to host the 2028 Olympics. The United States is also due to host next year's expanded FIFA Club World Cup, and is also staging this year's 16-team Copa America.

US Soccer said waiting until 2031 would give tournament organizers more breathing space to plan for the tournament while absorbing lessons from the region's staging of the 2026 men's World Cup.

"Hosting a World Cup tournament is a huge undertaking -- and having additional time to prepare allows us to maximize its impact across the globe," US Soccer President Cindy Parlow Cone said in a statement. "I'm proud of our commitment to provide equitable experiences for the players, fans and all our stakeholders."

"Shifting our bid will enable us to host a record-breaking Women's World Cup in 2031 that will help to grow and raise the level of the women's game both here at home as well as across the globe."

Mexico Football Federation chief Ivar Sisniega echoed Parlow Cone's position.

"After careful analysis we feel that moving our bid back to 2031 will allow us to promote and build up to the most successful Women's World Cup ever," Sisniega said.

"The strength and universality of our professional women's leagues, coupled with our experience from organizing the 2026 World Cup, means that we will be able to provide the best infrastructure as well as an enthusiastic fan base that will make all the participating teams feel at home and to put together a World Cup that will contribute to the continued growth of women's football."

Last year's women's World Cup was held in Australia and New Zealand.

The last time the tournament was held in North America was when Canada hosted in 2015.

The USA are the most successful nation in the women's game having won the World Cup on four occasions.

## PSG win record-extending 12th French league title



PSG's Kylian Mbappé gets away from Le Havre's Yoann Salmier during the French League One match between Paris Saint-Germain and Le Havre at the Parc des Princes in Paris on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Paris Saint-Germain won the French league in Kylian Mbappé's last season at the club after Monaco lost 3-2 at Lyon yesterday.

PSG have an unassailable 12-point lead over second-place Monaco, who have three games left.

The Ligue 1 triumph is PSG's third in a row and a

record-extending 12th overall.

Mbappé has been involved in six of them but comes off contract at the end of the season. He is expected to be signed by Real Madrid.

PSG are on course for a potential historic treble as they will play at Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday and face Lyon in the French Cup final on May 25.

In coach Luis Enrique's first season at the club, PSG produced one of the most dominant seasons in league history with just one loss in 31 games so far. PSG could have secured the title a day earlier but were held 3-3 by Le Havre on Saturday.

"Our fans are incredible. We were losing 1-0, 3-1, and they kept supporting us," Luis Enrique said after the draw. "We managed to draw later on and effectively win the league thanks to the supporters, thanks to their positive attitude."

That was quite a contrast with the past couple of seasons.

Last season, PSG supporters were boozing Lionel Messi even though the football great was the player who helped the club clinch an 11th league title

by scoring in a 1-1 draw with Strasbourg.

Two years ago, there was a similar disconnect between the supporters and the club. PSG supporters kept protesting at Parc des Princes by giving their team the silent treatment.

Now this season could be the most exciting of all. Lyon substitute Malick Fofana capitalised on a counterattack in the 84th minute to score the winner and snap Monaco's four-game winning streak. Monaco striker Wissam Ben Yedder scored twice while Lyon winger Said Benrahma notched a goal and an assist.

Lyon kept alive their European hopes while Monaco are only two points clear of Brest.

Brest made club history by qualifying for any European competition for the first time with a 5-4 win over Rennes.

In an emotional roller coaster for Brest, defender Lilian Brassier scored the winner in the seventh minute of stoppage time by heading home a free kick. Brest remained third – in the last automatic Champions League spot – and secured a top-six finish, which means a Europa Conference League playoff spot at least.

# Forbes wins college championships double at Penn Relays

Clemson University's Marie Forbes in action during the women's hammer throw at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Saturday.



PHILADELPHIA, USA — Jamaica's Marie Forbes of Clemson University was a double winner in the college section of the Penn Relays here at Franklin Field, winning the hammer throw and discus throw championships last weekend.

Forbes was one of three Jamaicans to win an individual college event at the three-day event, including University of Technology, Jamaica's (UTech) Raymond Richards and the University of Villanova's Roschell Clayton who won the high jump championships.

Forbes threw a season's best 63.49m to win the College Women's Hammer Throw Championship on Thursday and then returned on Saturday to win the College Women's Discus Throw Championship with 54.15m.

Damali Williams of Hampton University was fifth with 49.86m, Johnelle Johnson of Morgan State was 10th with 45.57m, and Shamella Donaldson of The University of the West Indies, Mona, 12th with 43.80m.

Richards cleared 2.17m to win the College Men's High Jump Championship, the third in a row by a Jamaican after Romaine Beckford, then of University of South Florida, won the last two times.

Multiple-time Big East champion and Villanova programme record holder Clayton jumped 1.83m to win the College Women's High Jump Championship, the first Jamaican to win the event, with her teammate Malaika Cunningham placing seventh

with 1.65m.

Clemson University's Courtney Lawrence was second in the College Men's shot put Championships with 18.92m while Danree Delancy of Howard University was 12th with 16.67m.

Krystal Soley of UTech finished second in the College Women's 100m Championship on Saturday, running 11.47 seconds (0.5m/s), while Oneka Wilson of Clemson was also second in the College Women's 100m Hurdles Championship in 13.17 seconds (0.2m/s).

Shantae Foreman of Clemson was third in the College Women's Triple Jump Championship with a personal best 12.81m (-1.3m/s) after starting the event just this season.

Former Cornwall College athlete Jordae Wilson of Johnson C Smith University was fourth in the college men's triple jump with 14.65m (1.0m/s).

Shania Scott of the University of Albany placed fourth in the college women discus throw with 48.25m, while Rochele Solmon of Hampton University was seventh with 45.31m.

Scott was also eighth in the college women's shot put with a best of 14.15m, Solmon threw 13.34m and Juliet Smith of St Johns University threw 12.43m.

Sean Kalawan of St Augustine was sixth in the College Men's 400m Hurdles Championship, running 51.68 seconds, and Devontie Archer of the University of South Florida was 12th in 52.76 seconds

## CARICOM should explore joint legislation to improve cricket governance – President Ali

President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali



CHAIRMAN of CARICOM and President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has signalled a call for common legislation in the region to streamline and strengthen the governance matrix for the Caribbean cricket brand.

This was his charge during the opening ceremony of the inaugural CARICOM Regional Cricket Conference, held at the Hyatt Regency, in Trinidad & Tobago on Thursday.

The president said that this legislation can promote enhanced quality, and advance the agenda of revitalising the West Indies cricket brand.

"We have to have common legislation across all

countries in the region, and the same level of governance reform," the president said in his virtual address.

He called for a revamp of the entire cricketing ecosystem, amid a slew of challenges that have eroded interest in the Caribbean franchise.

"We are losing fans. The loss of ownership, lack of talent, lack of responsibility..these are the things that are real and they require institutional rearrangement, governance rearrangement," the Guyanese leader explained.

According to him, many of these challenges were brought about by a lack of investment in talent and weak institutional support, among other elements.

He lamented that there is fierce competition from North America, and even hinted at a take-over of the sport as the Caribbean brand fades into the background.

"The global system of cricket conspired against us in their rules and regulations. We were known for fearsome fast bowling and elegant stroke play, real fast bowling, and then the system was changed. The rules were changed to deny us of this brand of cricket. And we allowed the rule to change without protest," the President said. As a result, President Ali called for greater financing for the sport, better management, both on and off the field, accelerated brand-building and more robust policies to support sporting facilities, especially within the school system.

He said that Caribbean cricket is teeming with excitement and thrills, and its incorporation with the rich cultural heritage offers an immersive experience for any audience.

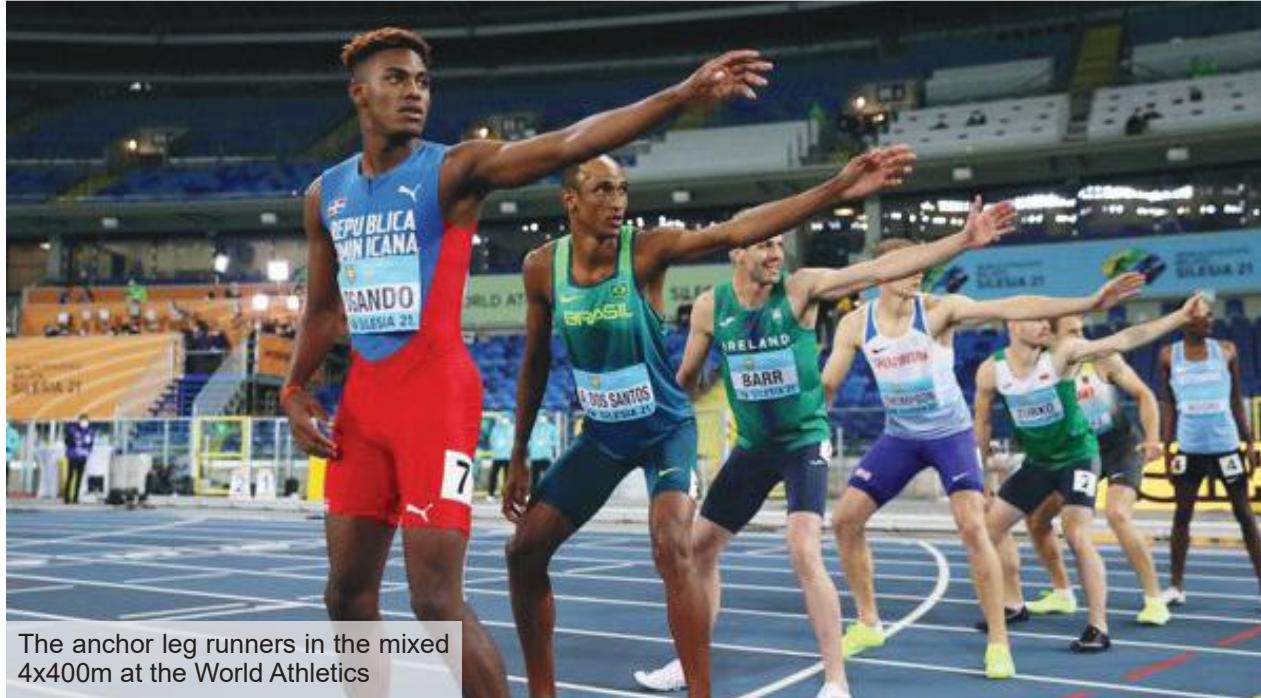
"We don't need to change this. We need to master this. We need to expand this as our brand," he urged.

The President continued, "Cricket is not only played on the field in this region, cricket is played in the hearts of our people, it is played to encourage positive living and we have to look at the entire cricketing ecosystem, if we are to address the issues of cricket in the region. Cricket is linked directly to our economies, linked to our tourism product."

The CARICOM Regional Conference is being held under the theme, "Reinvigorating West Indies Cricket – A Symposium for Strategic Collaboration and Innovation." It is being chaired by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and the CARICOM Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket, Dr the Hon. Keith Rowley, who also underscored the need to return Caribbean Cricket to its former glory.

"We do not intend to give up on cricket. We intend to defend cricket and we intend to play cricket at the highest level, and we will get back to the top," Dr Rowley affirmed. The symposium continues today as the regional leaders seek to address challenges facing West Indies cricket and explore viable solutions.

## BTC (C&W) is Title Sponsor for World Relays



The anchor leg runners in the mixed 4x400m at the World Athletics

In just a few days, athletes from over fifty countries will converge in The Bahamas for the BTC World Athletic Relays Bahamas 24.

C&W Communications, the parent company of BTC, is proud to be associated with this major event, which will see athletes from The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago competing for a place in the upcoming Olympic games in Paris.

Inge Smidts, CEO of C&W Communications, who

also serves as Chair of the BTC Board of Directors will be in the stands to witness the highly anticipated relays. Smidts says, this was an event that she simply could not miss. "We are proud to support our Caribbean athletes, and we wish them well as they vie for a spot in the Olympic games. The relays will be held one of in our markets, The Bahamas, and we are honoured to be the title sponsor of the event. The world relays represent

the spirit of relentless courage and the willingness to succeed of the Caribbean people and of our business. Through partnerships like this we demonstrate our unwavering commitment to connect communities and change lives."

In addition to its sponsorship of the event, Smidts says it was important that athletes, officials, and fans stayed connected during the games. "As a business we are focused on ensuring that our customers have access to faster, stronger, and more reliable connectivity, and we worked with our partners to make certain that athletes and guests remain connected.

We have offered e-sim cards, and we also worked with the major hotels to set up care centers to ensure that we address any connectivity concerns on the spot. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that BTC will provide free Wi-Fi at the stadium giving patrons and athletes the opportunity to share every riveting moment."

BTC has hosted a special event just for the Caribbean athletes, at the newly renovated Queen's Staircase in Nassau, a recently renovated historic landmark visited by thousands of tourists each day. This event gave athletes the opportunity to unwind, mingle, and to learn more about each other right before the competition.

This is the fourth time that BTC and its parent company C&W Communications have title sponsored the world relays. The BTC World Athletic Relays will be held at the Thomas A. Robinson Track & Field Stadium from May 4-5, under the theme, "Chase the Sun, from Paradise to Paris."

## TCIFA TD GIFTS OSETA JOLLY WITH FOOTBALLS:



Technical Director for the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA), Dane Ritchie, sprinkled some football magic at the Oseta Jolly Primary School on Wednesday, May 1, gifting the children with a donation of balls. The TCIFA said in a statement that it is all about supporting local schools and kicking off sports fever early on. The TCIFA said that by providing these balls, not only are they gearing up the students for some fun physical action, but also planting seeds of teamwork and healthy habits. "It's gestures like these that light up young hearts and ignite a fiery passion for sports that could last forever," the TCIFA said.

# TCI National Golf Team Successfully Defend their Caribbean Classics Trophy

BY Vivian Tyson Editor-in-Chief



The Turks and Caicos Islands National Golf Team has once again emerged victorious, defending their Caribbean Classic Championship in the Dominican Republic.

This remarkable feat saw them clinch victory in all three categories of the tournament. Mark Fulford won men's 4th flight, while Justin Simons came 3rd in the pros. The men's side also saw impressive performances from Arthur Lightbourne, Mervin Cox, and Simon Dobbs. Their individual excellence contributed significantly to the overall team victory.

Wendy Ayer, Christine Dickenson, Tazmaraa Gowans, and Andrea Todd, all secured podium finishes in their respective divisions on the female side.

According to Sean Wilson, head golf professional at the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club and member of the victorious bunch, the team approached the competition with confidence de-

spite the pressure of being reigning champions. He said the goal was clear: to retain the title, saying that they played with determination and enjoyment throughout the week-long event.

Wilson provided insights into the tournament format, which comprised three rounds of golf across three different courses at the Castle of Campo Resort.

With seven flights for both men and women, along with individual and team competitions, the event attracted participants from 12 Caribbean countries and international teams from the USA, Canada, Argentina, and other regions. The Turks and Caicos team boasted a total of 53 golfers, with approximately 12 women and 39 men. Their outstanding performance secured victories in the women's division (Jodi Munn Barrow trophy), men's division (Robert Grell trophy), and the overall competition (George Noon Trophy).

Reflecting on the significance of this achievement for Turks and Caicos, Wilson expressed hopes for the continued growth of golf within the country. He highlighted golf as a platform for international travel, competition, and educational opportunities, citing examples of local talents who have excelled both academically and professionally through golf scholarships. Wilson emphasized the importance of introducing golf to young Turks Islanders, envisioning it as a sport accessible to individuals of all athletic abilities. He endorsed initiatives by the Turks and Caicos Islands Golf Association to promote golf among youth, advocating for the inclusion of golf programs in schools and community outreach efforts.

For his part, Justin Simons, who is Assistant Golf Pro and Golf Instructor at the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club, said that this year's National Golf Team was stronger than last year's and was even more determined.

Simons, who is also a member of the team, highlighted the camaraderie among team members, emphasizing their dedication to practice and preparation.

According to Simons, the team's desire to defend their title motivated them to put in extra effort, despite their busy schedules. He expressed gratitude for their commitment and recognized their competitive spirit in representing their country.

While acknowledging his role as a small part of the team as a golf professional, Simons credited the collective strength and performance of the team, both in the men's and women's divisions. He expressed pride in their achievements and emphasized the significance of their success in elevating the profile of golf in Turks and Caicos. Simons sees golf as an opportunity to break the ice and introduce more people to the sport, especially considering its relatively lower popularity in the TCI. He hopes that the team's accomplishments will garner more attention and interest in golf within the community.

Mervin Cox, a senior member of the National Golf Team expressed immense pride in his country's overall success, with both the women's and men's teams clinching first place for two consecutive years.

Reflecting on the team's journey, Cox acknowledged that while golf has a longstanding history in other countries, it is relatively new to Turks and Caicos. Nevertheless, he believes that their performance speaks volumes about their capabilities as competitors on the international stage.

Cox highlighted the added pressure of being reigning champions, noting that other countries were eager to dethrone them. However, he emphasized the team's determination and resolve, affirming that they were not willing to relinquish their title easily.

Cox's remarks capture the spirit of resilience and determination that propelled the Turks and Caicos National Golf Team to victory, solidifying their status as formidable contenders in the world of golf.

The TCI has been participating in the regional competition since its inception some 30 years ago.